

SP MANWEB

Reinforcement to the North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network



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Environmental Statement Appendix 8.1
Historic Environment Assessment Methodology

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**Reinforcement to the North Shropshire
Electricity Distribution Network**

APPENDIX 8.1

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Environmental Statement

DCO Document 6.8.1

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The Planning Act 2008

**The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure)
Regulations 2009**

Regulation 5(2)(a)

Reinforcement to the North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network

**Environmental Statement: Appendix 8.1 – Historic Environment Assessment
Methodology**

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APPENDIX 8.1:

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 This section outlines the technical methods applied to determine what changes to the baseline were likely to occur as a result of the Proposed Development and sets out the significance criteria which were used in the historic environment assessment.

Legislative and policy background

1.1.2 The legislative and policy background is presented in Chapter 8 'Historic Environment' (**DCO Document 6.8**).

Assessment guidance and methods

1.1.3 The historic environment assessment was undertaken in broad accordance with the method set out in DMRB Volume II Section 3 Part 2 HA 208/07¹, which complies with the requirements of the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)².

1.1.4 The following guidance documents were considered directly relevant to the historic environment assessment and were reviewed and applied to the assessment:

- Historic England Good Practice Planning Advice Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment³, (henceforth referred to as 'GPA 2');
- Historic England Good Practice Planning Advice Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets⁴, (henceforth referred to as 'GPA 3');
- Historic England Seeing the History in the View⁵;

¹Highways Agency (2007), Design Manual for Roads and Bridges Volume 11, Section 3 Part 2 Ha 208/07

²Department for Energy and Climate Change, July 2011

³Historic England (2015), Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2, Managing Significance in Decision; Taking in The Historic Environment

⁴Historic England (2015), Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3, The Setting of Heritage Assets

⁵Historic England (formerly English Heritage) (2012), Seeing the History in the View: A Method for Assessing Heritage

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- Historic England Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance⁶; and
 - Codes, Standards and Guidance documents by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, the regulatory body for the archaeological profession, including:
 - Standard and guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology and the historic environment⁷;
 - Code of Conduct⁸, and
 - Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment⁹.

1.1.5 Other relevant guidance included:

- The Holford Rules – Guideline for the Routeing of New High Voltage Overhead Transmission Lines¹⁰; and
- The Planning Inspectorate (2015), Cumulative Effects Assessment¹¹.

Scope of Assessment and Definitions

Heritage assets

1.1.6 A heritage asset is defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF as:

‘a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority

Significance within Views

⁶ Historic England (formerly English Heritage) (2008), Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment

⁷ Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014), Standard and Guidance for Commissioning Work or Providing Consultancy Advice on Archaeology and the Historic Environment

⁸ Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014), Code of Conduct

⁹ Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014), Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment

¹⁰ In 1959, Lord Holford, then advisor to the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB), developed a series of planning guidelines in relation to amenity issues, which have subsequently become known as the ‘Holford Rules’. The Holford Rules form the basis for the decision-making process of siting overhead transmission lines

¹¹ The Planning Inspectorate (2015), Advice Note Seventeen: Cumulative effects assessment relevant to nationally significant infrastructure projects

(including local listing)'.

Designated assets

1.1.7 Designated heritage assets are defined by the NPPF as:

'A World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area designated under the relevant legislation.'

1.1.8 Registered Parks and Gardens and Registered Battlefields are not subject to specific legal protection.

1.1.9 Table A8.1.1, which is adapted from Table 1 of Shropshire Council’s Historic Environment SPD, presents the relevant policy and legislation for relevant designated assets within the study area.

Table A8.1.1 – Designated Heritage Assets and Relevant Legislation and Policy				
Type of designated Heritage Asset	Asset Grade	Asset Significance	Relevant Legislation	Protected in planning process
Conservation Areas	n/a	National or Regional	Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	Section 18 of NPPF, specifically paragraphs 184, 189-190, 192-197
Listed buildings	Grade I Grade II* Grade II	National ↓ in descending order of interest	Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	Shropshire Council Core Strategy, Policies CS6 and CS17

Table A8.1.1 – Designated Heritage Assets and Relevant Legislation and Policy

Type of designated Heritage Asset	Asset Grade	Asset Significance	Relevant Legislation	Protected in planning process
Registered Parks and Gardens	Grade I Grade II* Grade II	National ↓ in descending order of interest	National Heritage Act 1983	
Registered Battlefields	n/a	National	National Heritage Act 1983	
Scheduled Monuments	n/a	National	Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	

Non-designated assets

1.1.10 Non-designated heritage assets include assets recorded on national or county heritage databases (e.g. Historic Environment Records, HER) or equivalent, and other heritage assets which can be demonstrated to hold heritage significance in relation to the terms defined within the Framework.

1.1.11 The NPPF¹² states that non-designated assets are a material consideration in the planning process (paragraph 197).

¹² Revised National Planning Policy Framework, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (July 2018)

Objectives

1.1.12 The objectives of this historic environment assessment were to:

- Identify from existing sources and fieldwork, the known (and potential) historic environment resource within the proposed Study Area, describing individual heritage assets to a level where the reader can determine their form, nature, location and relationships;
- Provide an assessment of the significance of identified heritage assets;
- Assess the impact on the identified heritage assets and their settings during the construction and operation stages of the Proposed Development, and identify those assets for which the Proposed Development would give rise to likely significant environmental effects;
- Examine potential cumulative effects which could arise where the Proposed Development is seen in conjunction with other existing, consented or proposed developments;
- Make recommendations on the need for, and scope of, further investigative work in the formulation of a strategy where the nature or significance of the resource is not sufficiently well-defined to permit a suitable mitigation strategy. The need for such additional targeted work will depend upon the results of the initial studies;
- Recommend avoidance, archaeological mitigation and, if appropriate, enhancement measures, to generate an acceptable strategy that ensures the preservation, recording and management of the cultural heritage resource; and
- Reassess any significant adverse effects following mitigation and summarise any residual likely significant effects.

Assumptions and Limitations

1.1.13 A number of assumptions and limitations were made in relation to the information presented in this chapter:

- Access to private land and properties was not sought. The

assessment was therefore based on judgements made from nearby publicly accessible land;

- All assessment work applied a precautionary principle and a realistic worst-case scenario was assessed in determining the likely magnitude of potential effects on heritage assets:
 - e.g. particularly those assets which possess height (e.g. buildings with upper floors);
 - e.g. visual effects were determined in relation to the Order Limits to take account of the flexibility for micro-siting of wood poles (from indicative positions) within the Order Limits, as permitted within the DCO;
- Given the type of development being proposed it is assumed that predicted effects would be adverse (negative) unless otherwise stated;
- There was uncertainty over the location, extent, interpretation or significance of some of the known heritage assets and some of the new sites discovered by recent field survey as part of this assessment; and
- Historic environment ‘viewpoints’ were used to assist in the understanding of effects on important heritage assets and their settings as part of larger programme of field assessment. Single viewpoints and their settings cannot capture the totality of potential impacts on setting and should not therefore be considered in isolation from the full assessment (Appendix 8.2 (**DCO Document 8.6.2**)).

1.2 ASSESSMENT METHOD

1.2.1 The following sections provide a detailed description of the assessment methodology. This builds on the work previously undertaken and consultation feedback.

1.2.2 Historic England’s GPA3¹³ recommends a stepped approach to assessment:

¹³ Historic England (2015), Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3; The Setting of

- Step 1: identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected;
- Step 2: assess whether, how and to what degree these settings contribute to the significance of the heritage asset(s);
- Step 3: assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful, on that significance;
- Step 4: explore the way to maximise enhancement and avoid or minimise harm; and
- Step 5: make and document the decision and monitor outcomes.

Desk Top Collection of Baseline Data

1.2.3 Existing heritage databases were consulted in order to identify known heritage assets that may be affected by the Proposed Development having regard to the guidance listed above at 1.1.4.

1.2.4 Primary data was collected from those sources holding data within the study area, as outlined in Table A8.1.2.

Table A8.1.2 – Sources of Historic Environment Data			
Asset Type	Source	Data type	Data in Study Area
Designated	Historic England (National Heritage List for England)	List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest – ArcGIS shapefiles and full descriptions	✓
		Register of Historic Battlefields	✗
		Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England	✓
		Schedule of Ancient Monuments of England – ArcGIS shapefiles and full descriptions	✓

		World Heritage Sites	✘	
	Shropshire Council	Local Plans – Conservation Area designation plans and Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans	✓	
Non-Designated	British Museum	Portable Antiquities Database	✓	
	Council for British Archaeology	Defence of Britain Database	✓	
	Countryside Agency	Heritage Coasts	✘	
	English Nature	Ancient Woodland	✓	
	Historic England	National Mapping Programme (NMP)		✘
		National Monuments Register (NMR) Events database of archaeological works		✓
		NMR Aerial Photographs: oblique and vertical		✓
		NMR Monarch database of registered archaeological sites		✓
	Shropshire Council	Cartographic Sources, including Historic Ordnance Survey editions and Pre-Ordnance Survey maps, including tithe and or estate maps		✓
		Grey literature reports of relevant previous archaeological investigations		✓
		Historic Environment Record (HER): ArcGIS shapefiles and long descriptions of archaeological sites and events		✓

		Historic Farmsteads Characterisation Project data	✓
		Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) data	✓
		Place Plans	✓
	SP Manweb	Project-specific Lidar data	✓

1.2.5 Data was collated from the above sources within the Study Area with the exception of aerial photographs and historic maps which were confined to a 100m buffer to either side of the Proposed Development, and Lidar data which was confined to the footprint of the Proposed Development itself. The Study Area is defined below in paragraphs 1.2.12 to 1.2.17.

1.2.6 Secondary data sources included:

- Background information on the general development of the historic environment;
- Historic England Archive, including photographs and records; and
- Regional Research Frameworks

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

1.2.7 Computer generated ZTV maps were not produced, on account of the fact that it was considered that these would be unreliable, given the pattern of visibility relative to the height of a Trident pole, the local undulating terrain and vegetation cover. Field survey, therefore, was used to gain understanding of visibility of the Proposed Development.

Field Reconnaissance and Condition Survey

1.2.8 A reconnaissance and condition survey took place within the footprint of the Proposed Development in July and August 2018. The primary purpose of this work was to identify those heritage assets which might be subject to direct and indirect physical effects by the Proposed Development.

1.2.9 The fieldwork included: a) ground truthing assets recorded in heritage

databases, b) identifying and recording new heritage assets (i.e. those not recorded in existing heritage databases), c) identifying the extent of setting surrounding heritage assets, d) recording extant boundaries, e) determining potential impacts on the setting of assets resulting from the Proposed Development, and f) identifying the locations or viewpoints which were most representative of views of key assets to/from the Proposed Development

- 1.2.10 A viewpoint assessment schedule, including how they were selected and what they represent, is provided in Appendix 8.4 (**DCO Document 6.8.4**).
- 1.2.11 Invasive archaeological fieldwork did not take place as part of this assessment.

Spatial Scope of the Assessment

- 1.2.12 The historic environment assessment focused on those areas which were likely to experience significant effects, as per the requirements of the EIA Regulations (Schedule 4 Part 1 Para 20)¹⁴.
- 1.2.13 For heritage assets recorded within existing heritage databases, the study area was determined in relation to their significance (Table A8.1.3). These study areas appear on Figure 8.1 (**DCO Document 6.14**).

Table A8.1.3 – Study Area for Heritage Assets (by asset significance) to either side of the Order Limits for the Proposed Development, as applicable			
Asset Significance	1km from OL	2km from OL	5km from OL
Low	✓		
Medium	✓	✓	
High and very high	✓	✓	✓

- 1.2.14 The primary purpose of the study areas was to establish the impact of the Proposed Development on the setting of heritage assets that are unlikely

¹⁴ The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) (2009), Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (as amended).

otherwise to be impacted physically by the Proposed Development.

- 1.2.15 A distance of 1km, 2km and 5km from the Order Limits for low, medium and higher significance assets respectively was selected as these were considered to be the likely maximum distances at which significant effects would be generated by the Proposed Development for assets of each significance level. These distances also took account of a) the nature and duration of each component of the Proposed Development, especially the scale and form of the Trident design and sub-station extensions, b) the type, significance and setting of heritage assets, and c) the general form and nature of the local landscape.
- 1.2.16 Significant effects are unlikely to result beyond 2km of wood pole electrical infrastructure. The 5km buffer was applied to 'capture' potential significant visual effects which might arise in exceptional circumstances – e.g. heritage assets with large settings, assets in elevated locations with views of long sections of the Proposed Development and assets with views of the Proposed Development on the skyline.
- 1.2.17 Throughout this chapter, the term 'Study Area' means the combined area of the above three study areas, unless otherwise stated. The Study Area assessed the whole Project Development.

Approach

- 1.2.18 There is currently no methodology consistently adopted by the Historic Environment profession for assessing impacts on heritage assets as part of an environmental impact assessment (EIA). The only EIA guidance available for assessing impacts to heritage assets was produced by the Highways Agency, and is presented in the revised Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB), Volume 11 Section 3 Part 2 HA208/07¹⁵.
- 1.2.19 Whilst this guidance has been endorsed by Historic England for use on road schemes, it provides a suitable framework that is equally applicable to other

¹⁵ Highways Agency (2007), Design Manual for Roads and Bridges Volume 11, Section 3, Part 2, Ha 208/07

linear projects, including energy connections, in that it promotes a method of approach to assessment that is consistent with EIA best practice and that advocated by NPS EN-1. For instance, the guidance has been used for many years on other SP Manweb projects, most recently the North Wales Wind Farms Connector Order 2016.

- 1.2.20 In the absence, therefore, of any industry-accepted methodology for electricity infrastructure, the Historic Environment impact assessment for the Proposed Development was carried out broadly in accordance with the methodology laid out in DMRB. In places, the proposed assessment methodology diverged from DMRB, as not all elements of DMRB were applicable to the Proposed Development. Where a departure from the approach set out in the DMRB took place this is explained in the assessment text.
- 1.2.21 The DMRB considers all components of the historic environment and provides a staged approach for determining the significance of effects of the Proposed Development on the historic environment by a) establishing the historic environment baseline to determine the heritage significance of assets that may be affected, including any contribution made by setting to that significance, and b) assessing the magnitude of effect of the Proposed Development on that heritage significance.

Significance of Heritage Assets

- 1.2.22 The concept of heritage ‘significance’ has effectively replaced ‘importance’ or ‘sensitivity’, when discussing archaeological or built heritage assets, despite the term (significance) not appearing in any of the primary legislation relating to scheduled monuments, listed buildings or conservation areas.
- 1.2.23 The significance of a heritage asset is defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF as:
- ‘The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset’s physical presence, but also from its setting’.*

Determining significance

1.2.24 GPA2¹⁶ gives advice on the assessment of significance. It advises understanding the nature, extent, and level of significance of a heritage asset. In order to do this, GPA2 advocates considering the heritage values an asset may hold, as identified in Historic England's Conservation Principles.

Conservation Principles

1.2.25 Historic England's Conservation Principles provide a comprehensive framework for the sustainable management of the historic environment. It sets out a method for thinking systematically and consistently about the heritage values that can be ascribed to a place.

1.2.26 The significance of a heritage asset lies at the core of 'Conservation Principles'. Significance is a collective term for the sum of all the heritage values attached to a place, be it an archaeological site, built heritage or an historic landscape.

1.2.27 The ways people value historic places can be grouped into four categories:

- Evidential value: the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity;
- Historical value: the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present - it tends to be illustrative or associative;
- Aesthetic value: the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place; and
- Communal value: the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.

1.2.28 These four values essentially cover the heritage 'interests' given in the glossary of the NPPF, which comprise archaeological, architectural, artistic and historic interest. Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas are designated

¹⁶ Historic England (2015), Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2, Managing Significance in Decision; Taking in The Historic Environment

for their special architectural and historic interest. Scheduling is predominantly, although not exclusively, associated with archaeological interest.

1.2.29 Archaeological interest is defined by the NPPF as:

'There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially may hold, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point. Heritage assets with archaeological interest are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them.'

1.2.30 In determining an asset's significance, this assessment factored in these four values by attributing an overall value score in the range low, medium and high for each asset. These scores contributed to the judgement as to whether an asset's significance was towards the upper or lower end of its significance score, as shown below in Table A8.1.4. For example, a scheduled monument with high value scores was generally judged as having significance at the upper end of high, while one with low value scores was generally judged as having significance at the lower end of high.

Setting

1.2.31 As defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF:

'Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.'

1.2.32 Setting is defined by Annex 2 of the NPPF as:

'the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.'

1.2.33 Therefore, setting can contribute to, detract from or be neutral with regards to heritage values, and so change to setting has the potential to diminish, enhance or leave unchanged the significance of a heritage asset through

change to its values.

Assessing whether, how and to what degree setting makes a contribution to the significance of an asset

1.2.34 GPA3 advocates the clear articulation of ‘what matters and why’. The assessment considered whether, how and to what degree setting made a contribution to the significance of heritage assets. This was based on a combination of physical attributes and the experience of the asset, based on the checklist given on page 9 of GPA3, including the following factors:

- Character, integrity, appearance and the way in which these are appreciated;
- Reasons for designation, and degree to which those reasons contribute to appreciation and significance of the asset;
- Relationships with other heritage assets, group value and shared settings, including a consideration of formal design, intended sight lines and vistas and inter-visibility with other heritage assets and natural features;
- ‘Key’ (principal/critical) views towards, from, across and within the heritage asset;
- Topography/ landscape situation;
- Asset scale, i.e. prominence/ dominance and character;
- Landscape character, degree of alteration within setting, and existing impacts; and
- Capacity to absorb change to setting (i.e. sensitivity).

1.2.35 A key consideration in determining the contribution that setting makes to the significance of a heritage asset is distance from the asset. Significance of setting generally weakens with distance and is strongest where there is a good visual relationship with the designated asset.

1.2.36 The contribution that the immediate and wider setting makes to the

significance of each asset was assessed in the range low, medium and high for each asset. These scores contributed to the judgement as to the sensitivity to change of each asset's setting and therefore contributed to the determination of impact ratings. For example, a particular level of change to setting was generally deemed as having greater impact on an asset if its setting had been scored as having a high contribution to significance, than the same level of change to an asset's setting if its contribution to significance was scored low. Change to a setting resulted in adverse, beneficial or neutral impacts to the significance of an asset.

- 1.2.37 Following the detailed consideration of setting, the assessment employed the impact assessment methodology outlined below to assess potential effects of the Proposed Development on the significance of heritage assets, taking account of the predicted relative scale of the Proposed Development. Assets that would be subject to neutral or negligible effects were discounted from further assessment.
- 1.2.38 While all assets can experience change in their setting, this assessment adopted a proportionate approach, and one whereby the main focus has been designated assets, non-designated registered assets and other significant non-designated assets (generally, those of at least medium value) and specifically those assets which are close enough to the Proposed Development to experience a significant degree of visual intrusion.

Determining Significance of Effect

- 1.2.39 Government planning guidance advises that the significance of heritage assets may be affected by direct physical change or by change in their setting. Being able to properly assess the nature, extent and significance of a heritage asset, and the contribution of its setting, is very important to understanding the potential impact and acceptability of development proposals.
- 1.2.40 The EIA Regulations require that the significance of the overall effect of a development, taking into consideration the significance of a receptor and the degree or magnitude of benefit or damage, is defined in the ES.

- 1.2.41 The likely significance of effect arising from the Proposed Development on each of the heritage assets identified during the baseline assessment is a function of the significance of the asset and the magnitude of change likely to arise from it (i.e. the effect of the Proposed Development on the significance of the asset).
- 1.2.42 These three sub-topics, significance of heritage assets, magnitude of effect and significance of effect, were determined against criteria laid out in a series of tables and matrices (adapted from those provided by the DMRB). These three sub-topics are described in turn below and presented in Tables A8.1.4 to A8.1.6.
- 1.2.43 Table A8.1.4, which is adapted from DMRB, sets out the criteria for assessing the significance of heritage assets that were applied in the assessment.

Table A8.1.4 – Criteria for Assessing the Significance (Importance) of Heritage Assets	
Significance of Heritage Asset	
Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Heritage Sites (including nominated sites); Assets of acknowledged international significance; Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged international research objectives; Other buildings of recognised international significance; Historic landscapes of international value, whether designated or not; and Extremely well-preserved historic landscapes with exceptional coherence, time-depth, or other critical factor(s).
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheduled monuments (including proposed sites) Non-designated assets of Schedulable quality and significance; Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged national research objectives;

Table A8.1.4 – Criteria for Assessing the Significance (Importance) of Heritage Assets	
Significance of Heritage Asset	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade I, II and II* listed buildings; • Grade I, II and II* Registered Parks and Gardens; • Other listed buildings that can be shown to have exceptional qualities in their fabric or historical associations not adequately reflected in the listing grade; • Conservation Areas containing very important buildings; • Non-designated structures of clear national significance; • Non-designated historic landscapes of outstanding interest; • Non-designated historic landscapes of high quality and significance, and of demonstrable national value; • Well-preserved historic landscapes, exhibiting considerable coherence, time-depth or other critical factor(s). • Non-designated assets located within scheduled monuments even if not currently included in the Scheduling citation (i.e. where the HER record of a scheduled monument is essentially a component of the parent record for the scheduled monument); • Non-designated assets which have direct relationships with a scheduled monument but extend more widely than the scheduled monument.
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated or non-designated assets that contribute to regional research objectives;

Table A8.1.4 – Criteria for Assessing the Significance (Importance) of Heritage Assets

Significance of Heritage Asset	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic (non-listed) buildings that can be shown to have exceptional qualities in their fabric or historical associations; • Conservation Areas containing buildings that contribute significantly to its historic character; • Historic townscape or built up areas with important historic integrity in their buildings, or built settings (e.g. including street furniture and other structures); • Non-designated historic landscapes that would justify special historic landscape designation, landscapes of regional value; and • Averagely well-preserved historic landscapes with reasonable coherence, time-depth or other critical factor(s).
<p style="text-align: center;">Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated and non-designated assets of local significance; • Assets compromised by poor preservation and/ or poor survival of contextual associations; • Assets of limited value, but with potential to contribute to local research objectives; • ‘Locally listed’ buildings; • Historic (non-listed) buildings of modest quality in their fabric or historical association; • Historic townscape or built-up areas of limited historic integrity in their buildings or built settings (e.g. including street furniture and other structures); • Robust non-designated historic landscapes;

Table A8.1.4 – Criteria for Assessing the Significance (Importance) of Heritage Assets	
Significance of Heritage Asset	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic landscapes with significance to local interest groups; and • Historic landscapes whose value is limited by poor preservation and/ or poor survival of contextual associations.
Negligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assets with very little or no surviving archaeological interest; • Buildings of no architectural or historical note; buildings of intrusive character; and • Landscapes with little or no significant historical interest.
Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buildings with some hidden (i.e. inaccessible) potential for historic significance.

- 1.2.44 Scheduled Monuments are considered of national importance and were therefore graded of high significance.
- 1.2.45 Listed buildings and registered parks and gardens were each assigned to one of three levels, which in descending order of interest were Grade I, Grade II* and Grade II. All listed buildings and registered parks and gardens were considered of national importance. For the purposes of the EIA assessment, they were all considered of high significance, but it does not follow that their significance is equal. Professional judgement was used when considering the precise significance of assets on a case-by-case basis.
- 1.2.46 Conservation areas vary considerably in their make-up, there being varying densities of buildings and some containing more important buildings than others. Therefore, depending on the particular circumstances, individual conservation areas and their constituent parts and settings were determined

to be either of medium or high significance. This was determined by professional judgement.

Magnitude of Effect

1.2.47 The assessment of the magnitude of effect considered the extent to which a heritage asset may be changed or affected by the Proposed Development by reason of its location or design.

1.2.48 Table A8.1.5, which is adapted from DMRB, sets out the thresholds and criteria for assessing the magnitude of impacts to heritage assets that were applied in this assessment.

Table A8.1.5 – Criteria for Assessing Magnitude of Impact to Heritage Assets	
Magnitude of Impact	Example
Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to most or all key archaeological materials, such that the resource is totally altered; • Change to key historic building elements, such that the resource is totally altered or lost; • Comprehensive changes to the setting of historic buildings; and • Change to most or all key historic landscape elements, parcels or components; extreme visual effects; gross change of noise or change to sound quality; fundamental changes to use or access; resulting in total change to historic landscape character unit.
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to many key archaeological materials, such that the resource is clearly modified; • Considerable changes to setting that affect the character and significance of the asset; • Change to many key historic building elements, such that the resource is significantly modified;

Table A8.1.5 – Criteria for Assessing Magnitude of Impact to Heritage Assets

Magnitude of Impact	Example
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to the setting of an historic building, such that it is significantly modified and its significance is affected; and • Changes to many key historic landscape elements, parcels or components, visual change to many key aspects of the historic landscape, noticeable differences in noise or sound quality, considerable changes to use or access; resulting in moderate changes to historic landscape character.
Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to key archaeological materials, such that the asset is slightly altered; • Slight change to setting that affects its significance; • Change to key historic building elements, such that the asset is slightly different; • Change to setting of an historic building, such that it is noticeably changed and its significance is affected; and • Changes to few key historic landscape elements, parcels or components, slight visual changes to few key aspects of historic landscape, limited changes to noise levels or sound quality; slight changes to use or access: resulting in limited changes to historic landscape character.
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very minor changes to archaeological materials, or setting; • Slight changes to historic building elements or setting that hardly affect it; and

Table A8.1.5 – Criteria for Assessing Magnitude of Impact to Heritage Assets

Magnitude of Impact	Example
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very minor changes to key historic landscape elements, parcels or components, virtually unchanged visual effects, very slight changes in noise levels or sound quality; very slight changes to use or access; resulting in a very small change to historic landscape character.
No Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change to archaeological assets; • No change to fabric or setting of historic buildings; and • No change to elements, parcels or components of the historic landscape; no visual or audible changes; no changes arising from in amenity or community factors.

1.2.49 In some cases, impacts were allocated to the upper or lower end of a particular magnitude of impact category by the historic environment assessor(s) using their professional judgement.

1.2.50 The following parameters were considered in determining the magnitude of impact:

- Impacts arising at the construction or operation stages;
- Beneficial, adverse or neutral impacts;
- Direct and indirect impacts;
- Extent/scale of impacts;
- Duration, timing, frequency and reversibility of impacts, and
- Cumulative effects.

1.2.51 Temporary impacts may be short, medium or long-term, are always reversible and will mostly occur in the construction phase of the Proposed Development.

1.2.52 Irreversible impacts are described as permanent, and occur in the

construction, operational and decommissioning phases.

- 1.2.53 Direct impacts are those that arise as straightforward consequences of a project. This could include physical change to an asset or its setting including visual impacts.
- 1.2.54 Indirect impacts are impacts that arise via a complex route, where the connection between the project and the impact is complicated, unpredictable or remote. Indirect impacts are not necessarily less damaging than direct impacts.
- 1.2.55 Assessed impacts considered:
- Conservation Principles (see paragraph 1.2.31); and
 - Change through alteration to setting and the contribution made by setting to the significance of the asset (see paragraph 1.2.25). Detailed consideration of setting was employed for any assets where setting was a major contributor to their significance.
- 1.2.56 Cumulative effects occur when incremental effects arise cumulatively with other relevant developments.
- 1.2.57 Relationships between assets were considered in the assessment where such relationships contributed to the significance of a heritage asset.

Significance of Effect

- 1.2.58 The significance of potential effects or changes to heritage assets is determined by the 'heritage value' of the asset/ asset group and the magnitude of change that might affect the significance of that asset or group.
- 1.2.59 Table A8.1.6 illustrates how information on the significance of the heritage asset and the magnitude of impact will be combined to arrive at an assessment of the level of effect arising from the Proposed Development.
- 1.2.60 The matrix in Table A8.1.6 is not intended to 'mechanise' judgement of the significance of effect but to act as a check to ensure that judgements regarding value, magnitude of impact and significance of effect are reasonable and balanced.

- 1.2.61 In order to allow for professional judgement, in some cases, the matrix allows a choice of level of effect to be made for the same combination of value and magnitude. In these cases, the individual attributes of a specific asset, along with any relevant site-specific factors and consideration of other influencing elements, was taken into account when considering the most appropriate significance of effect to use. Allocation of a heritage asset to a particular Level of Effect was ultimately based on professional judgement and the guidance set out in the GPA2.
- 1.2.62 A level of effect of moderate significance or above was considered a ‘significant’ effect. All effects that were considered to be significant are highlighted in bold in Table A8.1.6.

Table A8.1.6 – Criteria for Determining the Level of Effects						
		Magnitude of Effect				
		Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	No Change
Significance of Heritage Asset	Very High	Very Large	Large/ Very Large	Moderate/ Large	Slight	Neutral
	High	Large/ Very Large	Moderate/ Large	Moderate/ Slight	Slight	Neutral
	Medium	Moderate / Large	Moderate	Slight	Neutral/ Slight	Neutral
	Low	Slight/ Moderate	Slight	Neutral/ Slight	Neutral/ Slight	Neutral
	Negligible	Slight	Neutral/ Slight	Neutral/ Slight	Neutral	Neutral

Avoidance of Double Counting of Impacts

- 1.2.63 Impacts to the setting of particular heritage assets may begin in the construction phase but may extend into the operational phase. In order to avoid double counting of impacts, all impacts to setting of heritage assets was

assessed in the operation phase unless the impact occurred solely at the construction phase.

1.3 MITIGATION

Mitigation Hierarchy

1.3.1 Mitigation follows the following hierarchy:

- 1) Design principles;
- 2) Environmental measures;
- 3) Mitigation; and
- 4) Enhancement.

1.3.2 Table A8.1.7 describes the design principles and environmental measures that were incorporated into the Proposed Development with respect to the historic environment.

Table A8.1.7 – Rationale for incorporation of design principles and environmental measures		
1) DESIGN PRINCIPLES		
Receptor or Receptor Group	Potential Effect	Incorporated Measures
Designated Heritage Assets	Direct physical impacts from project infrastructure resulting in loss of fabric and significance to high/very high value assets.	Project infrastructure has been sited to avoid designated heritage assets.
	Change to setting due to introduction of new above-ground electrical infrastructure	Infrastructure has been designed and positioned to avoid or minimise impacts on

Table A8.1.7 – Rationale for incorporation of design principles and environmental measures

	potentially resulting in harm to heritage significance.	settings as far as reasonably possible.
Non-designated Heritage Assets	Direct physical impacts of project infrastructure could result in loss of archaeological interest.	The project has been designed to avoid or minimise physical impacts to known heritage assets as far as reasonably possible.
2) ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES		
Designated Heritage Assets	Change to setting due to introduction of new above-ground electrical infrastructure potentially resulting in harm to heritage significance.	During design development, the micro-siting of infrastructure has been (and will continue to be) informed by the historic environment baseline to avoid or minimise historic environment impacts as far as reasonably possible.
Non-designated Heritage Assets	Direct physical impacts from project infrastructure could result in loss of archaeological interest.	During design development, the micro-siting of infrastructure has been (and will continue to be) informed by the historic environment baseline to avoid or minimise historic environment impacts as far as reasonably possible.
	Change to setting due to introduction of new above-	During design development, the micro-siting of

Table A8.1.7 – Rationale for incorporation of design principles and environmental measures

	ground electrical infrastructure potentially resulting in harm to heritage significance.	infrastructure has been (and will continue to be) informed by the historic environment baseline to avoid or minimise historic environment impacts as far as reasonably possible.
3) MITIGATION		
Designated Heritage Assets	Change to setting due to introduction of project infrastructure potentially resulting in harm to heritage significance.	Measures to reduce or soften impacts to setting of designated assets are not required on account of none of the assessed effects on designated assets being - significant.
Non-designated Heritage Assets	Direct physical impacts from project infrastructure could result in loss of archaeological interest.	Archaeological investigation and recording techniques will be employed, as necessary, to ensure that known and any as yet unknown heritage assets with archaeological interest identified as being adversely affected by construction activity would be appropriately recorded.
	Change to setting due to introduction of project	Measures to reduce or soften impacts to setting of

Table A8.1.7 – Rationale for incorporation of design principles and environmental measures

	infrastructure potentially resulting in harm to heritage significance.	designated assets is not required on account of none of the assessed effects on non-designated assets being significant.
4) ENHANCEMENT		
Designated Heritage Assets	Enhancement of the significance of an asset due to changes in its setting resulting from the removal of existing overhead lines from the asset’s setting in locations where the project infrastructure will not fall within the asset’s setting.	No such enhancement effects are anticipated for this project, albeit that beneficial effects will be experienced locally by several assets on account of the undergrounding of LV overheads.

Iterative Design

1.3.3 An integral part of the iterative design and assessment process undertaken to date has been the consideration of minimising impacts through sensitive routing and design in accordance with the Holford Rules and in response to consultation. The aim has been to ensure that the Proposed Development avoids heritage assets and sensitive areas and achieves the optimum fit as part of an environmentally integrated design.

1.3.4 Throughout the remainder of the design process, the findings of the desk-based assessment, consultations and further survey work was used to refine the design and wherever possible seek to avoid impacts to heritage assets and their settings through the design of:

- Individual pole positions and their associated infrastructure, including

their materials and finish;

- Temporary and permanent access arrangements; and
- Temporary construction areas (in relation to historic environment assets).

Preservation in Situ

1.3.5 A guiding principle in all developments is that heritage assets constitute a finite and non-renewable resource that should be preserved, unless there are convincing and overriding reasons for their damage or destruction. In accordance with Paragraph 5.8.14 of NPS EN1, the more significant the asset, the greater consideration should be given to preserving it in its present form, condition and location. Designated assets carry the highest weighting in terms of preservation in situ. Avoidance mitigation would also be recommended where assets of lesser importance can be readily avoided.

Working Good Practice

1.3.6 Working good practice would be implemented where preservation in situ is not achievable, and where proposals would inevitably lead to the loss or partial loss of an asset.

1.3.7 Working good practice would encompass the standard range of archaeological investigation and recording techniques to ensure that where archaeology is identified as being at risk of being impacted by construction activity it is appropriately mitigated (i.e. preserved by record). Good practice measures have been incorporated into the draft Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) (**DCO Document 6.3.2**) and would be subject to Written Schemes of Investigation. These will be produced and agreed with the Historic Environment Advisors to Shropshire Council and, if appropriate, Historic England, and will follow appropriate guidance as issued by Historic England and ClfA (see paragraph 1.1.4).

Approach to Inter-Discipline Relationship Effects

1.3.8 The historic environment assessment has considered and identified the potential inter-relationship of effects that could occur during the construction,

operational and decommissioning phases of the Project. This includes the inter-relationship effects between different aspects of the environment that could lead to an additional or alternative assessment of the significance of a residual effect.

1.3.9 The principal potentially significant inter-relationship effects, or cross reference to survey results of mutual interest, that relate to the historic environment comprise the following:

- Construction/Operational Noise and Vibration, and Transport – indirect effects resulting from construction activities need to be determined in respect of heritage assets that could be sensitive to those effects resulting from increased traffic movement, noise, dust or vibration;
- Geology and Soils – Site investigation works can provide useful information regarding ground conditions that assists in predicting the likely presence or absence of as yet unknown heritage assets with archaeological interest, and should also be checked against the historic environment baseline to avoid any effects on designated heritage assets;
- Landscape and Visual Impact – landscape planting proposals can adversely affect buried archaeology. The assessment for EIA will ensure that areas of planting that form part of the application are assessed against historic environment baseline data. Also, the visualisations prepared to assist the LVIA can be useful in assessing effects on the settings of heritage assets. If planting has been proposed to soften landscape and visual impacts it can, in some cases, reduce predicted effects in relation to the settings of heritage assets; and
- Ecology – Intrusive archaeological field surveys could result in additional potential effects on biodiversity receptors. All intrusive archaeological works will be reviewed by an ecologist during the preparation of EIA, to ensure that no adverse effects would occur.

1.3.10 The inter-relationship effects that are relevant to the historic environment assessment will be assessed and reported in the ES.

1.4 CUMULATIVE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS

1.4.1 The cumulative assessment identified whether potential historic environment changes arising from the Proposed Development in conjunction with other developments would result in significant additional effects. Relevant developments to be considered within the cumulative assessment were agreed with Shropshire Council.

Approach

1.4.2 The assessment of cumulative historic environment effects followed a similar methodology to that described above for the main historic environment assessment, in that the degree of effect was determined by combining an evaluation of the significance of the heritage asset and the magnitude of change. The resulting effect is described in the ES as major, moderate, minor or negligible. The cumulative assessment considers the magnitude of change which would potentially arise from multiple developments.

1.4.3 Cumulative effects considered designated assets and important non-designated assets.

Defining the Study Area for Cumulative Assessment

1.4.4 The study area for the cumulative assessment took account of other developments which were either consented or under construction. The zones of influence for each development within the cumulative assessment was defined once the nature and location of the other developments was known. Where sufficient information was not available from the other developments then reasonable assumptions and judgments were made.

1.4.5 Cumulative effects were considered over a distance of up to 5km from the Proposed Development, although this was reviewed on a case-by-case basis for different types of heritage assets.

Baseline for the Assessment of Cumulative Effects

- 1.4.6 The baseline information for the Proposed Development included the baseline for the main historic environment assessment, amended if necessary to allow for the consideration of the other developments.

Predicting Cumulative Historic Environment Effects

- 1.4.7 When considering cumulative effects, the assessment (so far as available information allowed) considered factors such as magnitude, duration, reversibility and geographic scale in the same way as the main assessment of the Proposed Development.
- 1.4.8 Criteria and thresholds for historic environment value or sensitivity were set out earlier in this chapter.