National Grid

Cotswolds VIP Project
Landscape and Visual Appraisal

Final report
Prepared by LUC
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National Grid

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Landscape and Visual Appraisal

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Chapter 1
Introduction

1.1 This Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) has been prepared by LUC on behalf of National Grid for the Cotswolds Visual Impact Provision (VIP) project. The purpose of the Proposed Project is to underground a section of 400kV overhead electricity transmission lines, to mitigate the visual impact of existing electricity infrastructure through part of the Cotswolds National Landscape (previously known as Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)). The Proposed Project is located immediately south of the B4632 and from Breakheart Plantation, runs in a south-westerly direction to the east of Cleeve Common Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), past Wontley, Drypool and Wood Farms, towards Dowdeswell Wood.

1.2 Landscape and visual appraisals are separate, although linked, processes. Appraisal of landscape effects considers effects on the landscape as a resource in its own right whereas appraisal of visual effects considers effects on visual amenity as experienced by people.

1.3 This appraisal considers the potential effects of the proposal on:

- the landscape as a resource in its own right (caused by changes to the constituent elements of the landscape, its specific aesthetic or perceptual qualities and the character of the landscape); and
- views and visual amenity as experienced by people (caused by changes in the appearance of the landscape).

1.4 The LVA has been undertaken by chartered Landscape Architects at LUC.

Chapter 2
Scope and Methodology

Scope

Effects assessed in full

2.1 This appraisal considers physical changes to the landscape as well as changes in landscape character. It also considers changes to areas designated for their scenic or landscape qualities and visual impacts of the Proposed Project as perceived by people.

2.2 All potential landscape and visual effects have been examined; including those relating to construction and operation. Operational effects are assessed at year 0 in winter to cover worst case and year 15 in summer to give an indication of the likely effectiveness of mitigation, which includes mitigation planting.

2.3 Above-ground heritage assets are considered as far as the contribution they make to landscape character and the nature and quality of views from publicly accessible locations, but effects on heritage assets as receptors in their own right, including effects on their setting, are addressed in a separate Archaeological Statement.

Study Area

2.4 The initial study area for the appraisal was set at 5km distance from the Proposed Project. However, after review of screened zones of theoretical visibility (refer to Figures 5 and 6 and the methodology within Appendix B) and following site visits, the study area was reduced to 3km, as it was deemed that views of the Proposed Project beyond 3km will be unlikely to give rise to notable effects. Following consultation two viewpoints were identified beyond the 3km distance.

2.5 The extent of the study area has been based on the Proposed Project including the area of proposed underground cable corridor located in between the Winchcombe Cable Sealing End Compound (CSEC) and the Whittington CSEC, including the permanent access roads to each CSEC and the line of the existing overhead lines (OHL) and pylons to be removed.

Appraisal Methodology

2.6 The key steps in the methodology for assessing landscape and visual effects has been as follows:

- the landscape of the study area was analysed and landscape receptors identified;
- the area over which the Proposed Project will potentially be visible was established through creation of a screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV);
- the visual baseline was recorded in terms of the different groups of people who may experience views of the development and the nature of their existing views and visual amenity;
- viewpoints were selected (including representative viewpoints, specific viewpoints and illustrative viewpoints), in consultation with the Cotswolds National Landscape;
- likely effects on landscape and visual resources were identified; and
- the level of landscape and visual effects were judged with reference to the sensitivity of the resource/receptor (its susceptibility and value) and magnitude of effect (a combination of the scale of effect, geographical extent and duration/reversibility).

2.7 The methodology used for the appraisal is set out in full within Appendix A.

Appraisal Guidance

2.8 This appraisal is conducted in accordance with the principles contained within the following documents:

- Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Assessment (2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition ('GLVIA3');
- Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals;
- Scottish Natural Heritage's (SNH's) 2014 document, 'Visual Representations of Windfarms: Good Practice Guidance Version 2.1; and
- Natural England (2014). An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment.

Data Sources

2.9 The following data sources have informed the appraisal:

- National Planning Policy Framework, December 2023;
- Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031, December 2017;
- Tewkesbury Borough Local Pan to 2011-2031, June 2022;
- Cheltenham Plan, July 2020;
- Cotswold District Local Plan 2011-2031, August 2018;
- Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan 2023-2025, February 2023;
- Cotswolds AONB Landscape Strategy and Guidelines, June 2016;
- Cotswolds Conservation Board Position Statement, Landscape Led Development, April 2021;
- National Landscape Character Assessment, Natural England, 2012-2014, including National Character Areas 107 and 106;
- The Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment, LDA on behalf of Cotswolds AONB Partnership, 2004;
- Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment, LDA on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council, 2006;
- Historic Landscape Characterisation, Gloucestershire County Council, September 2006;
- Ordnance Survey (OS) Maps 1:25000 and 1:50000; and
- LiDAR Digital Surface Model data, 1m grid.

Field Survey

2.10 Field survey work was conducted over a number of days under differing weather conditions between August 2023 and March 2024, and records were made in the form of field notes and photographs.

2.11 Field survey work included visits to the site, viewpoints and designated landscapes, and travel around the study area to consider potential effects on landscape character and on views.

Assumptions and Limitations

2.12 The following assumptions and limitations have been considered when assessing the effects of the Proposed Project:

- It is assumed that annual tree and scrub height growth is between approximately 0.3-0.5m per year.

Creation of Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Visualisations

2.13 The methodology for the production of zones of theoretical visibility plans and visualisations are set out in Appendix B with plans in Appendix F and Visualisations in Appendix G.

Chapter 3
Planning Policy and Legislation

3.1 A desk-based review of relevant legislation and planning policy relating to the landscape and visual amenity has been undertaken. This included a review of national and local policy.

National Planning Policy Framework (2023)

3.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out a general presumption in favour of sustainable development (paragraph 11) and guides the Local Planning Authorities in the production of Local Plans and in decision making.

3.3 In Section 14, the NPPF sets out its support for renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure, with subsequent paragraphs setting out how this can be achieved.

3.4 Paragraph 182 within Section 15 of the NPPF states:

> *'Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas, and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads. The scale and extent of development within all these designated areas should be limited, while development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas.'*

Local Planning Policy

3.5 The site spans over two separate local authority areas as shown on Figure 1, namely:

- Tewkesbury Borough Council; and
- Cotswold District Council.

Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031

3.6 The joint core strategy was adopted on December 2017, sets out a strategic planning framework for Gloucester City Council, Cheltenham Borough Council and

Tewkesbury Borough Council and covers northern parts of the site.

3.7 Policy SD6 of the joint core strategy in relation to landscape, states:

> *'1. Development will seek to protect landscape character for its own intrinsic beauty and for its benefit to economic, environmental and social well-being;*
>
> *2. Proposals will have regard to the local distinctiveness and historic character of the different landscapes in the JCS area, drawing, as appropriate, upon existing Landscape Character Assessments and the Landscape Character and Sensitivity Analysis. They will be required to demonstrate how the development will protect or enhance landscape character and avoid detrimental effects on types, patterns and features which make a significant contribution to the character, history and setting of a settlement or area;*
>
> *3. All applications for development will consider the landscape and visual sensitivity of the area in which they are to be located or which they may affect. Planning applications will be supported by a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment where, at the discretion of the Local Planning Authority, one is required. Proposals for appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures should also accompany applications.'*

3.8 Policy SD7 of the joint core strategy in relation to The Cotswolds AONB (now known as the Cotswolds National Landscape), states:

> *'All development proposals in or within the setting of the Cotswolds AONB will be required to conserve and, where appropriate, enhance its landscape, scenic beauty, wildlife, cultural heritage and other special qualities. Proposals will be required to be consistent with the policies set out in the Cotswolds AONB Management Plan.'*

3.9 Policy INF5 of the joint core strategy in relation to renewable energy and low carbon energy development, states [is this us?]:

> *'1. Proposals for the generation of energy from renewable resources, or low carbon energy development (with the exception of wind turbines), will be supported, provided the wider environmental, social or economic benefits of the installation would not be outweighed by a significant adverse impact on the local environment, taking into account the following factors:*
>
> *i. The impact (or cumulative impact) of the scheme, including any associated transmission lines, buildings and access roads, on landscape character, local amenity, heritage assets or biodiversity;*
>
> *ii. Any effect on a protected area such as The Cotswolds AONB or other designated areas such as the Green Belt;*
>
> *iii. Any unacceptable adverse impacts on users and residents of the local area, including emissions, noise, odour and visual amenity;*
>
> *2. Proposals are more likely to be supported when they demonstrate:*
>
> *i. That they have been designed and sited so as to minimise any adverse impacts on the surrounding area…'*

Tewkesbury Borough Local Plan to 2011-2031

3.10 The Tewkesbury Local Plan was adopted on 8 June 2022 and sets out the vision for the borough, providing a strategy in line with the joint core strategy.

3.11 Policy LAN2 of the local plan in relation to landscape character, states:

> *'All development must, through sensitive design, siting, and landscaping, be appropriate to, and integrated into, their existing landscape setting. In doing so, relevant landscape features and characteristics must be conserved and where possible enhanced, having regard to the Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment 2006 and the Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment 2003. All proposals which have potential for significant landscape and visual effects should be accompanied and informed by a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) to identify the sensitivity of the landscape, and the magnitude and significance of landscape and visual effects resulting from the development, using a suitably robust methodology.'*

Cheltenham Plan

3.12 The Cheltenham Plan was adopted in July 2020 and sets out the vision for the area, providing a strategy in line with the joint core strategy. The Plan makes reference to polices SD6 and SD7 of the joint core strategy in relation to landscape matters.

Cotswold District Local Plan 2011-2031

3.13 The local plan was adopted on 3 August 2018.

3.14 Policy EN5 of the local plan in relation to the Cotswolds AONB, states:

> *'1. In determining development proposals within the AONB or its setting, the conservation and enhancement*

of the natural beauty of the landscape, its character and special qualities will be given great weight.

2. Major development will not be permitted within the AONB unless it satisfies the exceptions set out in national Policy and Guidance.'

3.15 Policy EN7 of the local plan in relation to trees, hedgerows and woodlands, states:

'1. Where such natural assets are likely to be affected, development will not be permitted that fails to conserve and enhance:

a. trees of high landscape, amenity, ecological or historical value;

b. veteran trees;

c. hedgerows of high landscape, amenity, ecological or historical value; and/or

d. woodland of high landscape, amenity, ecological or historical value.

2. Where trees, woodland or hedgerows are proposed to be removed as part of development, compensatory planting will be required…'

Cotswolds National Landscape's statutory purpose as an AONB

3.16 The objective of AONB designation is to ensure that its statutory purpose is achieved as set out in Section 82 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) 2000, i.e. the conservation and enhancement of an area's natural beauty. Section 85 of the CRoW Act previously placed responsibilities on relevant authorities (as referred to by the CRoW Act 2000) to 'have regard' to the purpose of a National Landscape (an AONB). The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (LURA) introduced a change in responsibilities which became effective from 26th December 2023, as follows: '*Any relevant authority exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an area of outstanding natural beauty in England must seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty'*. The 'seek to further' duty replaces the previous requirement for relevant authorities to 'have regard' to the purpose of an AONB (National Landscape).

3.17 The amended Section 85 duty requires all public bodies, statutory undertakers (such as water and electricity companies including National Grid) and holders of public office to seek to further the AONB purpose when conducting functions in relation to or affecting land within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB). In implementing the recent amendment to the CRoW Act, the government has not yet provided guidance on how public bodies should exercise the 'seek to further' duty which replaces the previous duty to 'have regard' to the purpose of an AONB.

Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan 2023-2025

3.18 The management plan was adopted on 21 February 2023 and sets out the vision, outcomes and policies for the management of the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB) for the period 2023-2025. The management sets out fourteen outcomes and relevant polices to outline how the outcomes can be achieved.

3.19 The special qualities of the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB) are set out in their statement of Significance, which is set out below:

'The Cotswolds is a rich mosaic of historical, social, economic, cultural, geological, geomorphological and ecological features. The special qualities of the Cotswolds National Landscape are:

- *the unifying character of the limestone geology – its visible presence in the landscape and use as a building material;*
- *the Cotswold escarpment, including views from and to the National Landscape;*
- *the high wolds – a large open, elevated predominately arable landscape with commons, 'big' skies and long-distance views;*
- *river valleys, the majority forming the headwaters of the Thames, with high-quality water;*
- *distinctive dry stone walls;*
- *flower-rich grasslands particularly limestone grasslands;*
- *ancient broadleaved woodland particularly along the crest of the escarpment.*
- *variations in the colour of the stone from one part of the National Landscape to another which add a vital element of local distinctiveness;*
- *the tranquillity of the area, away from major sources of inappropriate noise, development, visual clutter and pollution;*
- *extensive dark sky areas;*
- *distinctive settlements, developed in the Cotswold vernacular with high architectural quality and integrity;*
- *an accessible landscape for quiet recreation for both rural and urban users, with numerous walking and*

riding routes, including the Cotswold Way National Trail;

- *significant archaeological, prehistoric and historic associations dating back 6,000 years, including Neolithic stone monuments, ancient drove roads, Iron Age forts, Roman villas, ridge and furrow fields, medieval wool churches and country estates and parks;*
- *a vibrant heritage of cultural associations, including the Arts and Crafts movement of the 19th and 20th centuries, famous composers and authors and traditional events such as the Cotswolds Olimpicks, cheese rolling and woolsack races.'*

3.20 Policy CC6 of the management plan in relation to developing a consistent, coordinated and landscape-led approach, states:

'CC6.1. Stakeholders across the Cotswolds National Landscape should take a consistent and coordinated approach to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the National Landscape, including its special qualities and increasing the understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities.'

3.21 In order to achieve Outcome 4 – landscape, policy CE1 of the management plan in relation to landscape states:

'CE1.1. Proposals that are likely to impact on, or create change in, the landscape of the Cotswolds National Landscape, should have regard to, be compatible with and reinforce the landscape character of the location, as described by the Cotswolds Conservation Board's Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Strategy and Guidelines. There should be a presumption against the loss of key characteristics identified in the landscape character assessment.

CE1.2. Proposals that are likely to impact on, or create change in, the landscape of the Cotswolds National Landscape, should have regard to the scenic quality of the location and its setting and ensure that views - including those into and out of the National landscape – and visual amenity are conserved and enhanced.

CE1.3. Conserving and enhancing landscape character should be a key objective of Environmental Land Management and rural development support mechanisms in the Cotswolds National Landscape…'

3.22 In relation to achieving Outcome 5 – local distinctiveness, Policy CE3 of the management plan, states:

'CE3.1. Proposals that are likely to impact on the local distinctiveness of the Cotswolds National Landscape should have regard to, be compatible with and reinforce this local distinctiveness. This should include:

- *being compatible with the Cotswolds Conservation Board's Landscape Character Assessment, Landscape Strategy and Guidelines and Local Distinctiveness and Landscape Change;*
- *being designed and, where relevant, landscaped to respect local settlement patterns, building styles, scale and materials and in accordance with design guidance prepared by local planning authorities;*
- *using an appropriate colour of limestone to reflect local distinctiveness…'*

3.23 In relation to achieving Outcome 7 – dark skies, Policy CE5 of the management plan, states:

'CE5.1. Proposals that are likely to impact on the dark skies of the Cotswolds National Landscape should have regard to these dark skies, by seeking to avoid and where avoiding is not possible, minimise light pollution.

CE5.2. Proposals that are likely to impact on the dark skies of the CNL should have regard to recognised standards and guidance, in particular, that published by the Institution of Lighting Professionals and the Commission for Dark Skies.

CE5.3. Measures should be taken to increase the area of dark skies in the Cotswolds National Landscape by removing, and where removal is not possible, minimising existing sources of light pollution.

CE5.4. Consideration will be given to seeking a formal dark sky designation for those parts of the Cotswolds National Landscape that are least affected by light pollution.'

3.24 In relation to Outcome 11 – development and transport, Policy CE10: Development and transport – principles of the management plan, states:

'CE10.1. Development and transport proposals in the CNL and its setting should have regard to – and help to deliver – the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the CNL. In doing so, they should have regard to – and be compatible with the Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan and guidance produced by the Cotswolds National landscape Board, including the:

(i) Cotswolds National Landscape – Landscape Strategy and Guidelines

(ii) Cotswolds National Landscape – Landscape Character Assessment

(iii) Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan

(iv) Cotswolds National landscape Local Distinctiveness and Landscape Change

(v) Cotswolds National Landscape Board's Position Statements…

…CE10.5. The cumulative impacts of development proposals on the natural beauty of the Cotswolds National Landscape should be fully assessed.

CE10.6. A landscape-led approach should be applied to development and transport proposals in the CNL and its setting, proportionate to the type and scale of development being proposed, whereby proposals:

a) address the natural beauty of the CNL as primary consideration at all stages of the development process (including design), from initial conception through to implementation

b) address all of the factors that contribute to the natural beauty of the area

c) address access to natural beauty including the character of the public rights of way network and its role within wider green infrastructure

d) reflect and enhance the character of the local area

e) avoid adverse effects where possible and, if adverse effects can't be avoided, minimise them and

f) deliver substantially more beneficial effects than adverse effects for the natural beauty of the CNL.'

3.25 In relation to achieving Outcome 13 – access and recreation, Policy UE2 of the management plan, states:

'UE2.1. A safe, pleasant, accessible, clearly waymarked and well-connected Public Rights of Way network should be maintained, enhanced and promoted across the Cotswolds National Landscape.

UE2.2. Improvements to rights of way must be undertaken in a way that minimises any adverse effects on the natural beauty of the National Landscape and on its special qualities. Innovative ways of providing named routes without introducing additional signage should be explored.

UE2.3. Open Access Land and other land including Country Parks, that is open to public access should be maintained, enhanced and promoted across the Cotswolds National Landscape. Where appropriate, more land should be made available for public access…'

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Strategy and Guidelines, June 2016

3.26 The Landscape Strategy and Guidelines are set out in Chapter 5 of the LVA, under Landscape Character.

Cotswolds Conservation Board Position Statement, Landscape Led Development, April 2021

3.27 The primary purpose of the position statement is to expand upon relevant policies in the Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan, as well as to help local authorities, developers and other stakeholders to positively contribute to, fulfil the requirements of and emulate best practice in the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB). Position statements are supplementary and subsidiary to the Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan.

3.28 The position statement states that *'a landscape-led approach to development is one in which development within the Cotswolds National Landscape and its setting is compatible with and, ideally, makes a positive contribution to the statutory purpose of AONB designation, which is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area. A landscape-led approach, at this level, is promoted in Policy CC1 of the Cotswolds AONB Management Plan 2018-2023.'*.

3.29 The position statement goes on to state that relevant authorities must have regard to the purpose of the AONB designation in their decision-making. Consideration of landscape and visual impacts is a key consideration when taking a landscape-led approach, however, this approach should also consider all of the factors that contribute to the natural beauty of the Cotswolds National Landscape. The statement sets out recommendations for the development management stage of projects as follows:

- *'Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs) should be undertaken for all development that requires an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).*
- *Landscape and Visual Appraisals (LVAs) should be undertaken for other development in the Cotswolds National Landscape and its setting that have the potential to cause adverse landscape and visual impacts.*
- *All LVIA and LVAs should be consistent with the guidance published by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Assessment.*
- *Where a LVIA or LVA identifies that a development in the Cotswolds National Landscape would have 'significant' or 'moderate-significant' effects, such*

development should be deemed to constitute 'major development'…

- *…LVIAs and LVAs should not compare the scale of the proposed development with the scale of the Cotswolds National Landscape as a whole or with the scale of its component landscape character types…*
- *…The Cotswolds National Landscape should be accorded the highest 'value' in the LVSCS* [landscape and visual sensitivity and capacity study]*and LVIA / LVA assessments, albeit with some consideration being given to the degree to which the criteria and factors used to support the case for AONB designation are represented in the specific study area.*
- *The area of landscape that needs to be covered in assessing landscape effects should include the site itself and the full extent of the wider landscape around it which the proposed development may influence in a significant manner.*
- *Great weight should be given to landscape and scenic beauty, in line with paragraph 172 of the NPPF.'*

3.30 The Proposed Project is deemed not to be EIA development, as set out in Chapter 4, therefore, elements of the above statement are not applicable to the LVA.

3.31 In relation to conserving and enhancing natural beauty, the position statement provides the following recommendations:

- Development proposals should (be required to) make a positive contribution to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Cotswolds National Landscape, over and above the baseline condition (i.e. delivering a net-benefit for natural beauty).
- Measures to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Cotswolds National Landscape (to deliver a net-benefit for natural beauty) should be integrated into the planning, design, implementation and management of a proposed development from the development's inception, particularly for major development.
- Where a net-benefit for natural beauty cannot be achieved on-site, consideration should be given to measures to enhance the natural beauty of the Cotswolds National Landscape off-site.

Historic Landscape Characterisation, 2006

3.32 The purpose of the report is to characterise the present landscape in terms of the visible evidence of the human processes which have formed it through time in order to inform a wide range of planning, conservation and management-led initiatives and strategies. The study identified a series of 57 landscape types sharing a common combination of identified attributes.

3.33 The site and its relationship with the historic landscape types is shown within the Archaeological Statement.

3.34 Whilst the report is useful background to understanding and appreciating the historic land uses and their relevance, the historic landscape types are not referenced further within the LVA.

Chapter 4
Consultation

4.1 Early consultation was undertaken with the local authorities in relation to the site and wider study area, as well as with the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB). A report was sent to relevant parties in October 2023 titled 'Proposed Approach to Landscape and Visual Appraisal' which is replicated in Appendix E, with responses and follow up correspondence set out below:

Table 4.1: Consultation Responses

Consultee	Comment Summary	Response/Action
John Mills, Planning and Landscape Lead, Cotswolds National Landscape 2 November 2023	Reference specific documents including the Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan 2023-2025, Cotswolds AONB Landscape Strategy & Guidelines, position statements, Gloucestershire Historic Landscape Character Assessment and NCA 107.	All documents have been referenced in the report.
	Requested a ZTV conveying visibility of existing pylons	ZTV provided up to 3km
	Requested a ZTV of undergrounding works, noting effects may be short-term adverse and there may be beneficial effects as a result of the removal of the pylons. At the very least, consideration should be given to how the route selection can help to minimise any potential landscape and visual effects during construction.	Email response provided explaining the temporary nature and phased approach, as well as the benefits of the Proposed Project.

Consultee	Comment Summary	Response/Action
	Acknowledgement that eight viewpoints are from the Cotswold Way, with consideration required as to how the visual receptors (i.e., walkers) move along the Cotswold Way and experience the visual effects at all eight viewpoints, rather than just at one viewpoint.	LVA considers the Cotswold Way as a receptor and the sequential effects along parts of the route, avoiding the assessment of fixed locations. Due to the length of the undergrounding within the study area, the Cotswold Way has been split into four sections.
	In addition to the LVA, National Grid should fully assess the potential impacts of the scheme on natural heritage (including biodiversity), cultural heritage (including historic environment) and tranquillity Including dark skies) as part of the wider assessment of the scheme.	Covered by others, with dark skies covered in Chapter 9.
	Scheme delivered to not result in deterioration of ancient and veteran trees, woodland, unimproved grassland and hedgerows.	Covered by others.
	The scheme should not just conserve the natural beauty, but enhance it, including through 20% biodiversity and key features of the landscape character types.	Biodiversity covered by others. Landscape features lost will be replaced, with opportunities for enhancement included, to reflect the guidelines for each landscape character type.
John Mills, Planning and Landscape Lead,	Requested a ZTV conveying visibility of existing pylons up to 5km to confirm any additional viewpoints.	Existing Pylon ZTV up to 5km provided.
Cotswolds National Landscape 27 November 2023	Requested a ZTV of undergrounding works.	Email response provided explaining the temporary nature and phased approach, as well as the benefits of the project.
Cotswold District Council	--	No response received.
Tewkesbury Borough Council	--	No response received.
Cheltenham Borough Council	--	No response received.
Gloucestershire County Council 19 October 2023	Confirmed that the project is for the district level councils to comment upon and forwarded to officers.	No action required.

4.2 A screening opinion request was submitted to relevant local authorities on 18th December 2023. It was confirmed by screening opinions issued by Tewkesbury Borough Council and Cotswolds District Council that an Environmental Impact Assessment was not required.

Chapter 5
Existing Conditions (Baseline)

The Site

5.1 The extent of the site is shown on Figure 1, consisting of an area of elevated land with a section of 400kV OHL with associated pylons crossing it. The northern part of the site rises steeply from the valley associated with the River Isbourne (to the south-west of Winchcombe), up through the steep sided slopes and woodland at Breakheart Plantation. The site then follows elevated, open and gently undulating, typically large scale agricultural land to the south-east of Cleeve Common, before crossing steep sided wooded valleys, namely Puckham Woods. Further to the south, the site crosses undulating farmland defined by native hedgerows with scattered trees, ending south of Ham Road to the north of Upper Colgate Farm. The site is criss-crossed by numerous public rights of way, including the Cotswold Way National Trail and Winchcombe Way long distance path.

Surrounding Area

5.2 The 3km study area is generally made up of predominantly elevated arable farmland and a pattern of large-scale regular fields extending across the area enclosed by a network of hedgerows, dry stone walls and post and wire fences. A pattern of geometric woodlands, coniferous shelterbelts and copses are found within or on the fringes of the valleys, where they provide a sense of enclosure and a backdrop to wide panoramas.

5.3 To the west, the land falls steeply towards Cheltenham and Bishops Cleeve, with the towns and villages situated on low lying and relatively level landscape. The town of Winchcombe lies to the north-east of the site, situated within the River Isbourne valley, with B-roads and railway line between Gloucestershire and Warwickshire occupying lower lying land further to the north. The A40 and A436 pass close to the southern site boundary which provide transport routes between Cheltenham and Oxford, with numerous minor roads providing links to smaller villages scattered within the agricultural landscape.

5.4 Cleeve Common is located to the north-west of the site, occupying steep ground used for recreational uses, including by the Cleeve Hill Golf Club. Belas Knap long barrow scheduled monument lies to the west of the site. A number of long distance footpaths cross the landscape within the study area.

5.5 The site passes close to ancient woodlands, including Dowdeswell Wood to the south-east. The site also passes close to ecological and historical designations.

Landscape Character

5.6 This section provides a description of landscape character (including constituent landscape elements) drawing on published studies where relevant.

5.7 Landscape character is defined as the *'distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another'*.[1] Landscape character type/area boundaries generally represent transitional zones. Where the Proposed Project study area is located close to the boundary between character areas, the 'key characteristics' of adjacent areas have also been considered.

5.8 Landscape Character Assessments are a method of identifying and describing variations in the character of the landscape, and '*seek to identify and explain the unique combination of elements and features (characteristics) that make landscapes distinctive*'[2]. They can be carried out at a number of scales, from national (National Character Areas), to regional and local (Landscape Character Types or Areas).

5.9 The principal sources of information related to the landscape character of the study area are:

- National Landscape Character Assessment, Natural England, 2012-2014;
- The Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment, LDA on behalf of Cotswolds AONB Partnership, 2004; and
- Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment, LDA on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council, 2006.

National Character

5.10 The site lies within National Character Area (NCA) 107: Cotswolds as shown on Figure 3. The key characteristics of relevance to the site and study area are as follows:

- *'Defined by its underlying geology: a dramatic limestone scarp rising above adjacent lowlands with steep combes, and outliers illustrating the slow erosion of escarpments. The limestone geology has formed the scarp and dip slope of the landscape, which in turn has influenced drainage, soils, vegetation, land use and settlement.*
- *Arable farming dominates the high wold and dip slope while permanent pasture prevails on the steep slopes of the scarp and river valleys with pockets of internationally important limestone grassland.*
- *Drystone walls define the pattern of fields of the high wold and dip slope. On the deeper soils and river valleys, hedgerows form the main field boundaries.*
- *Ancient beech hangers line stretches of the upper slopes of the scarp, while oak/ash woodlands are characteristic of the river valleys. Regular blocks of coniferous and mixed plantations are scattered across the open high wold and dip slope.*
- *Large areas of common land, important for unimproved calcareous grassland, are characteristic of the scarp…along the crest of the scarp to Cleeve Hill.*
- *The majority of the principal rivers flow south-eastwards forming the headwaters of the Thames with the exception of rivers in the west which flow into the River Avon and then the Severn Estuary.*
- *Rich history from Neolithic barrows, iron-age hill forts and Roman roads and villas to deserted medieval villages, grand country houses, cloth mills and Second World War airfields. The field patterns largely reflect both the medieval open field system, with fossilised areas of ridge and furrow, and later planned enclosures.*
- *Locally quarried limestone brings a harmony to the built environment of scattered villages and drystone walls, giving the area a strong sense of unity for which the Cotswolds are renowned…*
- *Prominent natural and built features in the landscape include…Cleeve Hill….'*

5.11 Western and northern parts of the study area are located within NCA 106: Severn and Avon Vales. The key characteristics of the NCA of relevance to the study area are as follows:

- *'A diverse range of flat and gently undulating landscapes strongly influenced and united by the Severn and Avon rivers which meet at Tewkesbury.*
- *Prominent oolitic limestone outliers of the Cotswold Hills break up the low-lying landscape in the south-east of the area at Bredon Hill, Robinswood Hill, Churchdown Hill and Dumbleton Hill.*
- *Woodland is sparsely distributed across this landscape but a well wooded impression is provided by frequent hedgerow trees, parkland and surviving traditional orchards. Remnants of formerly extensive Chases and*

[1] An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (2014) Christine Tudor, Natural England

[2] Natural England (2014). An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment, Christine Tudor, Natural England.

Royal Forests, centred around Malvern, Feckenham and Ombersley still survive.

- *Small pasture fields and commons are prevalent in the west with a regular pattern of parliamentary enclosure in the east. Fields on the floodplains are divided by ditches (called rhines south of Gloucester) fringed by willow pollards and alders.*
- *Pasture and stock rearing predominate on the floodplain and on steeper slopes, with a mixture of livestock rearing, arable, market gardening and hop growing elsewhere.*
- *Unimproved neutral grassland (lowland meadow priority habitat) survives around Feckenham Forest and Malvern Chase. Along the main rivers, floodplain grazing marsh is prevalent. Fragments of unimproved calcareous grassland and acidic grasslands are also found.*
- *The River Severn flows broadly and deeply between fairly high banks, north to south, while the Warwickshire River Avon meanders over a wide flood plain between Stratford, Evesham and Tewkesbury. The main rivers regularly flood at times of peak rainfall.*
- *Many ancient market towns and large villages are located along the rivers, their cathedrals and churches standing as prominent features in the relatively flat landscape.'*

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment

5.12 The site and study area are crossed by a number of landscape character types (LCT) as defined by The Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment, 2004, which are shown on Figure 3. Those within the site include:

- LCT 1: Escarpment Outlier;
- LCT 2: Escarpment;
- LCT 7: High Wold; and
- LCT 19: Unwooded Vale.

5.13 Each LCT is further broken down into landscape character areas (LCA), with those within the site or within the study area are listed below:

- LCA 1B: Langley Hill;
- LCA 2D: Cooper's Hill to Winchcombe.
- LCA 2E: Winchcombe to Dover's Hill;
- LCA 7C: Cotswolds High Wold Plateau; and
- LCA 19D: Vale of Evesham Fringe.

Landscape Character Types

5.14 The relevant key characteristics of LCT 1: Escarpment Outlier, are as follows:

- *Distinctive hills detached from the main Cotswolds escarpment and rising above the neighbouring vale;*
- *varied and sometimes steeply sloping topography;*
- *dramatic panoramic views from upper slopes possible over the Severn Vale to the Welsh borders and eastwards to the Cotswolds Escarpment;*
- *areas of rough grassland and scrub occur on some sections of the upper slopes and areas of steep landform;*
- *woodlands and belts of trees often occupy steeper slopes of the outliers and border the gullies of brooks draining radially into the vale;*
- *areas of woodland and hedgerows form interlocking patterns;*
- *lower, gentler slopes cloaked in improved pastures and arable farmland, divided up by a network of hedgerows and some dry stone walls;*
- *sparsely settled;*
- *hilltops often the site of prehistoric hillforts or other defensive enclosures; and*
- *hills criss crossed by footpaths often surrounded by dense vegetation link the hill tops to the vale villages.*

5.15 The relevant key characteristics of LCT 2: Escarpment, are as follows:

- *Steep exposed and elevated west facing scarp slope, partly cloaked in semi natural broadleaved woodland;*
- *generally poor soils and steep sloping relief of the escarpment not suited to arable farming, and primarily used for pasture or woodland;*
- *limited areas of Registered Common Land on upper scarp slopes merging into the more extensive areas on the High Wold;*
- *distinct sense of elevation with dramatic panoramic views over the Severn Vale to the Forest of Dean and beyond into Wales, the Malverns and the Shropshire Hills;*
- *continuity of escarpment face interrupted by a series of major valleys and embayments;*
- *gentler landform on lower slopes below the spring line;*
- *calcareous grasslands located on steeper scarp slopes;*

- *summit of the scarp slope marked by dramatic linear beech hangers;*
- *rock outcrops often mark the site of former quarries, except within the southern section of the escarpment;*
- *woodlands, hedgerows, scrub and isolated trees give the impression of a well treed landscape;*
- *small scale settlement generally confined to lower, shallower slopes of the escarpment, in sheltered locations, and adjacent to spring lines;*
- *many large towns and cities located at varying distances from, or in the vicinity of the foot of the escarpment;*
- *roads and tracks surrounded by dense vegetation and occupying holloways;*
- *numerous prehistoric sites, and more recent monuments and follies, are located on promontories and elevated sections of the escarpment; and*
- *intermittent historic parks and designed landscapes provide distinctive features on escarpment.*

5.16 The relevant key characteristics of LCT 7: High Wold, are as follows:

- *Broad, elevated, gently undulating plateau area dissected by a network of dry valleys with distinctive convex profile valley sides;*
- *expansive long distance views across the open plateau, and to distant hills beyond the Severn Vale;*
- *elevated areas of plateau surrounded by deeply incised valleys;*
- *predominantly arable land use with some improved pasture/grass leys, and very limited permanent pasture mainly confined to valley bottoms;*
- *large scale, regular fields mainly enclosed by dry stone walls, together with hedgerows with very occasional hedgerow trees, and post and wire fencing;*
- *small to moderate size geometric farm woodlands, many comprising small coniferous and broadleaved plantations and shelterbelts, and plantations bordering roads;*
- *settlement limited to small stone built villages and hamlets, generally within valleys, and isolated farmsteads and individual dwellings;*
- *network of mainly linear roads following ridge tops, and linking settlements;*
- *evidence of long period of occupation of the land;*
- *seasonal rotation of arable cropping patterns and improved grassland interrupts otherwise homogenous and simple land cover;*
- *remnants of once more extensive commons survive on the fringes of the escarpment;*
- *occasional active and disused limestone quarries located across the High Wold; and*
- *use of locally quarried stone for both walls and houses, frequently constructed in distinctive local vernacular.*

5.17 The relevant key characteristics of LCT 19: Unwooded Vale, are as follows:

- *Soft rolling landscape on the lower slopes of escarpment forming a transitional area between the adjacent escarpment and vale area, and with intermittent ridges and valleys in southern part of vale;*
- *stretches of the Cotswolds escarpment, as well as the escarpment outliers, provide a dramatic backdrop to many views across the vale;*
- *wide, open, sparsely settled agrarian landscape;*
- *small areas of wet meadow and narrow floodplain bordering numerous streams and rivers;*
- *well maintained hedgerows, some of great antiquity;*
- *numerous mature field and hedgerow oaks, riverside trees and small woodlands;*
- *quiet winding lanes link isolated farms and hamlets;*
- *remnants of ancient open fields and moated sites;*
- *varied mix of brick, timber and stone for buildings, and slate and thatch roofing, with Oolitic Limestone still prevalent within the vale villages in closer proximity to the Cotswolds Escarpment; and*
- *adjacent steep escarpment landform and associated woodlands generally limit views.*

Landscape Character Areas

5.18 LCA 1B: Langley Hill is described in more detail within the landscape character assessment, with key statements abbreviated below:

> *'Langley Hill is located to the west of Winchcombe and effectively defines the limits of the town….*
>
> *The hill rises in gentle, even slopes to its summit at 274 m AOD and…. form a steeper landform and are cloaked in broadleaved woodland and limited areas of calcareous grassland. The hill's lower slopes are formed from mudstone and siltstone and the gentle slopes are characterised by arable farming and improved pastures.*

The landscape is divided up into moderately sized irregular fields by hawthorn hedges and it is likely that, prior to enclosure, the hill was largely open and communally grazed by the local villagers although remnants of ridge and furrow on lower slopes mark the limits of the open common fields. Hedges are generally overgrown and gappy and give the landscape a neglected appearance. This is emphasised by areas of rough grassland and scrub encroachment in a number of fields on the upper slopes.

Small compact farms occupy sheltered positions on the mid slopes of the hill and are reached by narrow tracks. The hill is encircled by roads. However, public access to the summit is only possible by traversing footpaths such as the Wychavon Way.'

5.19 LCA 2D: Cooper's Hill to Winchcombe is described in more detail within the landscape character assessment, with key statements abbreviated below:

This stretch of the escarpment forms a dramatic backdrop to the towns of Gloucester, Cheltenham and Bishop's Cleeve and limits their eastward expansion…

…Woodland cover is less extensive than in the neighbouring Winchcombe to Broadway character area and is limited to narrow bands of broadleaved woodland at the scarp summit. There are fewer ancient woodlands also, indicating more extensive clearance possibly as a result of the pressure exerted on woodlands in this location by the large urban population of Cheltenham. An exception is Dowdeswell Wood, a large area of ancient woodland associated with parkland at Dowdeswell Court, and the large woodland complexes at Witcombe between Cooper's Hill and Birdlip. Land use is characterised by large unenclosed areas of rough grassland on upper slopes and improved pasture in moderately sized hedged enclosures bordering the vale…

As elsewhere on the escarpment, numerous important archaeological sites border the upper slopes, the most notable being those on Crickley Hill, Cleeve Common and Nottingham Hill…Despite the close proximity of large urban centres, settlement on the escarpment slopes is sparse and limited to scattered linear settlements bordering the many roads that link Cheltenham to villages on the High Wold, and Oxford further to the east.'

5.20 LCA 2E: Winchcombe to Dover's Hill is described in more detail within the landscape character assessment, with key statements abbreviated below:

'The escarpment between Winchcombe and Dover's Hill is broad and relatively high, rising from approximately 100 m AOD to over 200 m AOD in places…

Woodlands cloak much of the landscape, ancient broadleaved woods being the most dominant. Many are sizeable and stretch along the escarpment top, down to the mid and lower lopes, often along the line of brooks and gullies. Between these woodlands on the upper slopes, large unenclosed expanses of rough grassland predominate. On lower slopes, improved pastures, bounded by overgrown hedges reinforced with post and wire fencing is the most dominant land use. Calcareous grassland is not extensive…Orchards are also conspicuous on the lower slopes. Orchards were at one time more numerous here and in the vale below.

The upper escarpment slopes / High Wold transition are marked by numerous archaeological sites including Belas Knap…

…The escarpment is sparsely settled…'

5.21 LCA 7C: Cotswolds High Wold Plateau is described in more detail within the landscape character assessment, with key statements abbreviated below:

'*The Cotswolds High Wold plateau comprises the largest section of the High Wold extending immediately east of the head of the Miserden Valley near Birdlip north eastwards across the plateau to above Chipping Campden and west of Stow-on-the-Wold. The area embraces all the characteristics of the High Wold. Here, the influence of the underlying geology is particularly strongly expressed, from the dramatic, gently undulating, and expansive upland plateau landform, dissected by dry valleys, and light stony soil, through to the harmonious relationship between the network of limestone walls and buildings with their surroundings. The sense of scale and openness is particularly apparent, as well as the effects of an intensive managed agricultural landscape.*

Arable farming predominates although improved pastures grazed by cattle and sheep are also in evidence. Fields on the plateau tend to be large and geometric in shape; many are enclosed by dry stone walls and hedgerows, although hedge loss and dereliction of stretches of walls gives the landscape a neglected appearance in places. Indeed in many areas, weakened boundaries are reinforced with post and wire fencing. Silage bales wrapped in black plastic, and large industrial style sheds close to enclosure period farmhouses, are also a sign of modern agricultural practices and the intensification of agriculture on the High Wold.

Despite the predominantly managed character of the plateau, remnants of former agricultural practices still remain. Cleeve Common is a notable feature of the landscape and is recorded as common land as far back as the Saxon period although it may have been continuously grazed and open from as far back as the Neolithic period. The common represents the largest single area of unimproved limestone grassland in the AONB and has been designated as a SSSI for its botanical and geological importance…

…As is characteristic of the High Wold, woodland cover is not extensive and restricted to small deciduous plantations, walled corner copses and shelterbelts close to farms. Many were obviously planted at the time of the enclosures and are an integral part of the landscape. However, a significant number are modern coniferous plantations and offer little to landscape character…

Within the managed agricultural landscape small areas of rough grassland are apparent, sometimes made more visible by beech plantations. These 'islands' mark the site of upstanding Neolithic long barrows and Bronze Age round barrows and are a significant feature of the Cotswolds High Wold. These sites are scattered across the landscape but are most often located on sites that overlook neighbouring valleys or the escarpment. Many have been eroded and degraded; fine examples such as Belas Knap (Beacon Hill), however, are well-preserved and particularly evocative features. Other prehistoric sites, notably hillforts and boundary ditches such as those on Cleeve Common, are important remnants of the pre-enclosure landscape.

Settlement of the Cotswolds High Wold Plateau is sparse. Enclosure age farmsteads are located throughout the landscape, often some distance from villages and hamlets, and generally located within the shelter offered by valleys draining the plateau such as Notgrove, Shipton and Sevenhampton. A number of deserted medieval villages are also located on the plateau…

…Telecommunication masts dominate some sections of the High Wold close to the escarpment edge. The cluster of towers south of Cleeve Hill is particularly prominent, and similarly at Shab Hill north-east of Birdlip. The tall structures affect the perceived scale of the escarpment. Pylon lines are also intrusive features across this part of the High Wold, notably on the plateau to the east and south of Cheltenham.'

5.22 LCA 19D: Vale of Evesham Fringe is described in more detail within the landscape character assessment, with key statements abbreviated below:

'The Vale of Evesham is a broad landscape type that extends from the western slopes of Oxenton Hill in the south, along the northern stretch of the Cotswold escarpment towards Stratford-upon-Avon. Only small areas are located within the AONB…

…The landscape is typical of the vale and the gently undulating landform is cloaked in a patchwork of fields, boundaries being formed by neat, well-maintained hedgerows. Soils derived from the underlying geology are often heavy and wet. However, drainage and improvement allows mixed arable and pasture farming to prosper. Dairy farming is particularly conspicuous and cattle sheds are often large and visually obtrusive features of this relatively flat landscape. Less productive wet pastures are often located on the alluvial beds that lie adjacent to the many streams and rivers that flow northwards to the Avon. The principal river is the Isbourne that flows off the Winchcombe embayment.

Tree cover is typically limited to small deciduous woodlands and supplemented by occasional hedgerow, riverside and field trees. However, larger woodlands may be found fringing parkland such as those around Sudeley Castle, Stanway House and Toddington Manor. Orchards, prevalent elsewhere in the Vale of Evesham, are not numerous in the AONB indicating that many were removed and converted to farmland.

Broadway and Winchcombe are the largest towns in the landscape. The latter dominates the local skyline, along with Sudeley Castle, and occupies the head of the dramatic embayment overlooked by the Belas Knap long barrow. The road pattern is rural, and narrow winding lanes, bounded by hedgerows, grass verges and drainage ditches link numerous small villages and hamlets marking the base of the escarpment and the outliers. Farmhouses tend to be located at the end of short lanes off the main road network...

The dramatic slopes of the wooded escarpment and outliers form a distinctive backdrop to these landscapes and offer many excellent vantage points from which to observe its vast scale and unified landscape character.'

Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment, 2006

5.23 The site lies outside the assessment area of the Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment, however, it does cover some parts of the study area.

Unwooded Vale LCT

5.24 To the north of the site land to the north of Winchcombe lies within an area defined as 'The Vale of Evesham Fringe'

and within the Unwooded Vale LCT. The key characteristics of the LCT of relevance to the study area are as follows:

- *An irregularly, sometimes broadly undulating landscape that become more gentle in places, appearing almost flat;*
- *Medium to large scale hedged fields with a combination of both regular and irregular field pattern;*
- *Contrasting land uses with a combination of both arable and pastoral fields, with a dominance of improved pastures on heavier clays and arable farmland on free draining soils;*
- *Woodland cover is sparse and generally restricted to small copses. Where hedgerow trees are present, this can create the local impression of a well treed landscape;*
- *Surrounding escarpment and outliers form a backdrop to many views across the Vale;*
- *Relatively sparsely settled agrarian landscape with rural villages and scattered farms and dwellings;*
- *Varied mixed of building materials including brick, timber and stone, and slate and thatch roofing;*
- *Quiet lanes connecting settlements; and*
- *Area drained by a network of small streams flowing off the Cotswolds Escarpment.*

5.25 The Unwooded Vale LCT is then further broken down into landscape character areas, with study area being located within LCA VE 1A: Teddington and Great Vale. The land use within the LCA is described as:

> *'…diverse, combining both arable and pastoral fields with pockets of calcareous grassland, often creating a mosaic of textures and colours. Whilst fields are generally medium in scale, examples of larger and small scale enclosures are also evident.'*

5.26 Woodlands within LCA VE 1A: Teddington and Great Vale are described as very scarce, with field boundaries described as follows:

> *'Overall, low, regularly trimmed hedgerows predominate as the main field boundary, often gappy in places and reinforced with post and wire fences, although there are numerous examples of overgrown hedges that appear as tree lines within the landscape. Elsewhere, only remnant hedgerows provide boundary lines, dominated by post and wire fences with isolated areas of scrubby vegetation. Ditches and streams are also frequent along field boundaries, with trees often aligning watercourses. Am intermittent pattern of hedgerow trees is present, although some hedgerows are devoid of trees resulting in a more open character.'*

5.27 Winchcombe settlement is located within the LCA VE 1A: Teddington and Great Vale, described as commanding a spectacular setting overlooked by surrounding elevated land. The LCA is also described as having a range of recreational formal and informal recreational interests, including the Gloucestershire Way and the Wychavon Way, as well as Sudeley Castle.

Settled Unwooded Vale LCT

5.28 To the west of the site land lies within an area defined as the 'Severn Vale' and within the Settled Unwooded Vale LCT. The key characteristics of the LCT of relevance to the study area are as follows:

- *Soft, gently undulating to flat landscape, but with intermittent locally elevated areas that project above the otherwise flatter landform;*
- *Area drained by a series of east west aligned tributaries of the Severn, including the Cam, Frome and Chelt, and the Stratford Avon flowing into the Severn from the north;*
- *Mixed arable and pastoral land use enclosed by hedgerow network, in places forming a strong landscape pattern;*
- *Limited woodland cover with mature hedgerow trees and occasional orchards;*
- *Rural areas bordered by large urban and suburban areas and interspersed with commercial and industrial premises;*
- *Varied mix of buildings materials including brick, timber and stone, and slate and thatch roofing;*
- *Proliferation of modern 'suburban' buildings styles and materials;*
- *Major transport corridors pass through the Vale, frequently aligned north south, beyond which is a network of local roads and lanes linking villages and hamlets; and*
- *Widespread network of pylons and transmission lines.*

5.29 The Settled Unwooded Vale LCT is then further broken down into landscape character areas, with study area being located within LCA SV 6B: Vale of Gloucester. The landscape within the LCA is described as follows:

> *'The undulating landform encloses views in some areas whilst in other areas there are distant views beyond the vale landscape towards the Vale Hillocks, the Cotswolds*

Escarpment the Escarpment Outliers and distant views towards The Malverns.'

5.30 Woodlands are not characteristic within LCA SV 6B: Vale of Gloucester, with the land use and vegetation pattern of the LCA described as follows:

> *'There is a diverse mixture of land uses in the Vale of Gloucester which combine to create a colourful and textured landscape. Agricultural land use in the vale includes both arable cultivation and pasture in a patchwork of fields that are large to medium in scale and predominantly regular in shape. Grazing sheep and cattle are common features in the landscape…Horse grazing is frequently found on the outskirts of villages and farms…In the wider vale landscape, low hedgerows with scattered hedgerow trees form the common boundary treatment. While these hedgerows are generally well maintained, some are becoming either gappy or overgrown, and in other areas the hedgerow network is beginning to break down, with evidence of field amalgamation and hedgerow trees and scrubby vegetation marking the lines of former field boundaries.'*

5.31 Views towards pylons are common in LCA SV 6B: Vale of Gloucester, with the influence of settlements being strong in areas, contrasting with areas feeling deeply rural in places.

Urban LCT

5.32 The urban area of Cheltenham is located to the west of the site. The Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment has excluded urban areas from the study area, which was agreed with Gloucester County Council, therefore, the LCT is not considered further in the LVA.

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Strategy and Guidelines, June 2016

5.33 The Landscape Strategy and Guidelines presents a range of landscape strategies and guidelines for the 19 landscape character types to help manage change in a sustainable and positive way. The Proposed Project crosses three landscape character types, namely:

- LCT 2: Escarpment;
- LCT 7: High Wold; and
- LCT 19: Unwooded Vale.

5.34 Although LCT 1: Escarpment Outlier is within the study area, the Proposed Project does not fall within this LCT and therefore, its landscape strategies and guidelines have not been set out below.

LCT 2: Escarpment

5.35 The generic landscape sensitivity of LCT 2 is described as follows:

> *'The escarpment is a distinctive and dramatic landscape. The combination of its elevation, and the steep slopes rising from the lowlands, make it a highly visible feature and is therefore very sensitive to change, particularly where this would introduce built elements within the otherwise agricultural landscapes, or interrupt the balance of rough grassland, species rich calcareous grassland and broadleaved woodland on the upper escarpment slopes.*
>
> *The undulating lower escarpment slopes, at the junction of the vale, are visually less prominent than the upper escarpment slopes and generally more widely settled.'*

5.36 LCT 2 has several local forces for change, with 2.5 relating to *'the introduction of vertical elements such as…electricity pylons…on and adjacent to the escarpment'*. The potential landscape implications for LCT 2 of the introduction of *'vertical elements such as…electricity pylons'* are listed as follows:

- *Introduction of visually intrusive 'urban' or industrial features to the dramatic escarpment*
- *Loss of open character and 'natural' appearance*
- *Introduction of unnatural movement and loss of tranquillity*
- *Intrusion on the setting of scheduled monuments, listed buildings and designed landscapes*
- *Breaking up of escarpment skyline*
- *Impact on views to, from and along the escarpment*

5.37 The landscape strategies and guidelines for LCT 2 in relation to the introduction of *'vertical elements such as…electricity pylons'* on and adjacent to the escarpment are as follows:

- *'Conserve the open, remote character by objecting to the development of vertical elements on the skyline or where these would adversely affect views along the escarpment or from the neighbouring vales and Cotswolds LCTs*
- *Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views to, from and along the escarpment and across the adjacent LCTs*
- *Ensure alternative options have been fully considered*
- *Minimise impact by locating new communication masts on existing structures or by using existing masts*

- *Set masts against trees*
- *Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing cabling*
- *Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts.*
- *Consider other renewable energy and communication technologies*
- *Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken*
- *Seek to minimise size and number of road signs'*

LCT 7: High Wold

5.38 The generic landscape sensitivity of LCT 7 is described as follows:

> *'Despite its predominantly agricultural character, the wide, elevated, gently undulating plateau landscape retains a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity contributing to its high sensitivity. Wide panoramic views, a high degree of inter-visibility, and limited woodland cover also add to the sensitivity of the High Wold landscape to development, particularly tall vertical elements, such as telecommunication masts and wind turbines and to woodland creation and shelterbelt planting.*
>
> *The High Wold contains a large number of prehistoric monuments including funerary monuments dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age and defensive enclosures dating to the Iron Age. These are an important component of the landscape and highly sensitive to developments that may affect their landscape setting and material remains.'*

5.39 LCT 7 has several local forces for change, with 7.9 relating to *'the introduction of vertical elements such as…electricity pylons…particularly on prominent hill top, valley rim and escarpment edge locations'*. The potential landscape implications for LCT 7 of the introduction of *'vertical elements such as…electricity pylons'* are listed as follows:

- *'Introduction of visually intrusive 'urban' or industrial features to the rural open and expansive high wold landscape*
- *Introduction of unnatural movement and loss of tranquillity and sense of remoteness.*
- *Introduction lit elements to a characteristically dark landscape*
- *Intrusion on the setting of scheduled monuments, listed buildings and designed landscapes*
- *Breaking up of the skyline*
- *Loss of open character'*

5.40 The landscape strategies and guidelines for LCT 7 in relation to the introduction of *'vertical elements such as…electricity pylons'* particularly on prominent hill top, valley rim and escarpment edge locations are as follows:

- *'Conserve the open, remote character by objecting to the development of vertical elements on the skyline or where these would adversely affect views across and to the High Wold*
- *Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring LCTs and areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views to, from and across the High Wold.*
- *Ensure alternative options have been fully considered*
- *Minimise impact by locating new communication masts on existing structures or by using existing masts.*
- *Set masts etc against trees*
- *Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing overhead cables.*
- *Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts.*
- *Consider other renewable energy or communication technologies*
- *Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken*
- *Seek to minimise the size and number of road signs'*

LCT 19: Unwooded Vale

5.41 The generic landscape sensitivity of LCT 19 is described as follows:

> '*The sparsely settled and deeply rural Unwooded Vale landscape type is highly sensitive to change, particularly in agricultural areas not currently associated with development. Despite this, even in rural areas the screening effects of landform, farm woodlands, hedgerows and shelterbelts provide a framework in which some opportunities for small-scale development exist.*
>
> *Vale landscapes bordering upland areas with wide vantage points such as the Escarpment and Escarpment Outliers landscape types are particularly sensitive to the effects of large scale built development such as agricultural sheds and light industrial units as these are difficult to screen from elevated vantage points. These landscapes are also highly sensitive to development that*

may disturb the strong field patterns created by hedgerows as these are best perceived from higher ground.'

5.42 LCT 19 has several local forces for change, with 19.5 relating to *'the introduction of vertical elements such as…electricity pylons…particularly in locations that impact long views and panoramas'*. The potential landscape implications for LCT 19 of the introduction of *'vertical elements such as…electricity pylons'* are listed as follows:

- *'Introduction of visually intrusive 'urban' or industrial features to the open character of the Unwooded Vale and views across it from the neighbouring scarp landscapes and between areas of the AONB*
- *Introduction of unnatural movement and loss of tranquillity and sense of remoteness.*
- *Introduction lit elements to a characteristically dark landscape*
- *Intrusion on the setting of scheduled monuments, listed buildings and designed landscapes*
- *Breaking up of the skyline*
- *Loss of open character'*

5.43 The landscape strategies and guidelines for LCT 19 in relation to the introduction of *'vertical elements such as…electricity pylons'* particularly in locations that impact long views and panoramas are as follows:

- *'Conserve the open, agricultural character of the Unwooded Vale by objecting to the development of vertical elements where these would adversely affect views*
- *Ensure the development of vertical elements in neighbouring LCTs and areas beyond the AONB do not adversely affect views to and from the Unwooded Vale*
- *Ensure alternative options have been fully considered*
- *Minimise impact by locating new communication masts on existing structures or by using existing masts.*
- *Set masts etc against trees*
- *Bury cables underground and seek opportunities to bury existing overhead cables.*
- *Avoid use of visually prominent urban security fencing and CCTV masts.*
- *Consider other renewable energy and communications technologies*
- *Ensure full assessment of heritage setting impacts and appropriate measures undertaken*
- *Seek to minimise the size and number of road signs*
- *Undertake road clutter audits*
- *Double up road signs where possible and remove unnecessary road signs'*

Landscape Baseline

5.44 This section identifies the published landscape character areas that will be assessed, including reasons for their selection.

Landscape Value

5.45 GLVIA3 indicates that information contributing to understanding value might include information about areas recognised by statute (such as National Parks and AONBs), local planning documents which may show extent of and policies for local landscape designations, information on the status of individual or groups of features (such as Conservation Areas, listed buildings, Tree Preservation Orders, important hedgerows, historic landscapes or historic sites), art and literature which may indicate value attached to certain areas and material on landscapes of local or community interest such as local green spaces, village greens or allotments.

5.46 In this case the site falls within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), which indicates the high value of this landscape. Special qualities of the Cotswolds AONB within the Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan 2023-2025 are set out in Section 3 of the LVA.

Potential Landscape Receptors

5.47 Although the NCAs, Cotswold AONB LCTs and Gloucestershire LCTs provide a useful context, the LCA's from the AONB and Gloucestershire landscape character assessments provide a more suitable scale framework to assess effects on landscape character for the purposes of this LVA. To avoid double counting or duplicated assessments for the same landscapes, this LVA does not consider the National Character Areas or County Landscape Types further within the report.

5.48 The Proposed Project will have direct effects upon the following LCAs from The Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment, 2004 and therefore these have been considered further in this appraisal:

- LCA 2E: Winchcombe to Dover's Hill;
- LCA 7C: Cotswolds High Wold Plateau; and
- LCA 19D: Vale of Evesham Fringe.

5.49 Indirect effects are predicted upon the following LCAs from The Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character

Assessment, 2004 and they have therefore also been considered further in this appraisal:

- LCA 1B: Langley Hill; and
- LCA 2D: Cooper's Hill to Winchcombe.

5.50 Indirect effects are predicted upon the following LCAs from the Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment, 2006 and have therefore, been considered further in this appraisal:

- LCA VE 1A: Teddington and Great Vale; and
- LCA SV 6B: Vale of Gloucester.

Visual Baseline

5.51 This section identifies the visual receptors that are to be assessed and the viewpoints that are to be used to assess effects on receptors, including reasons for their selection.

Potential Visual Receptors

5.52 Potential visual receptors have been identified taking into consideration the visibility of the existing overhead line, as defined by the screened ZTV of existing pylons (refer to Figure 5) and observations made on site and also by the screened ZTV associated with the proposed CSECs (refer to Figure 6).

5.53 Visual receptors associated with the Proposed Project as a whole are listed below.

Community Receptors

5.54 The following community receptors are considered further in the appraisal:

- Scattered Community north of Postlip;
- Scattered Community south-east of Postlip;
- Scattered Community between Breakheart Plantation and West Down (part of Cleeve Common);
- Scattered Community between West Down (part of Cleeve Common) and Arle Grove;
- Scattered Community between Arle Grove and Dowdeswell;
- Whittington and surrounding scattered community;
- Upper and Lower Dowdeswell and surrounding scattered community; and
- Scattered community on the upper slopes of Ravensgate Hill.

5.55 There are a number of settlements and groups of properties from which views of existing pylons are afforded. However, views are not likely to be affected by elements of the Proposed Project other than the removal of pylons. Although beneficial effects are likely to occur as a result of the pylon removal, these residential receptors have not been appraised in detail, however, the Proposed Project will benefit the visual amenity of parts of the local community including the following residential receptors:

- Residents within Winchcombe to the north-east;
- Residents within Cheltenham to the west;
- Residents within Andover to the south-east;
- Residents within Greet to the north-east;
- Residents within Brockhampton to the east;
- Residents within Sevenhampton to the east; and
- Residents within western parts of Bishop's Cleeve to the north-west.

Recreational Receptors

5.56 The recreational receptors considered further in the appraisal all lie within the Cotswold National Landscape (an AONB), and include people engaged in outdoor recreation as follows:

- Users of the Cotswold Way National Trail;
- Users of the Winchcombe Way long distance path;
- Users of the Windrush Way long distance path;
- Users of the Wardens Way long distance path;
- Users of public rights of way west of Winchcombe, including Winchcombe Way long distance path and Gloucestershire Way long distance path
- Users of the Cheltenham Circular Footpath (ZCK61 and ZCK62 only);
- Users of Sabrina Way (National Bridleroute Network) which includes restricted byways ASM140 and ASM103;
- Users of public right of way AWB63 located to the south-east of Postlip Mill complex;
- Users of public right of way AWB24 located north and north-east of Postlip Mill complex;
- Users of public right of way AWB31;
- Users of public rights of way AWB22 and AWB23 to the south-west of the Postlip Mill complex;
- Users of bridleways KSE1 and KWH3;
- Users of public right of way KWH19;

- Users of public rights of way to the east, north and south-west of Lower Dowdeswell, including KD05, KD06, KD03, KD02 and KAN2;
- Users of elevated public rights of way north of the A436, including KD022, KD026, KD018, KD019, KD020 and KD021;
- Users of Cleeve Common, including areas of Common Land, public rights of way and golf course;
- Users of open access land at Longbarrow Bank;
- Visitors to Sudeley Castle and Gardens, publicly accessible Registered Park and Garden and visitor attraction;
- Visitors to Belas Knap Long Barrow, an English Heritage visitor attraction; and
- Visitors to the Kilkenny Nature Reserve.

5.57 It is assumed that, although Dowdeswell Woods Nature Reserve, Arle Grove Nature Reserve and Whittington Woods Nature Reserve are in proximity to the Proposed Project, their location within woodland will filter views of those users looking towards the site. Therefore, with limited to views towards the Proposed Project, they have not been considered further within the appraisal.

5.58 Although public rights of way ZCK14 and ZCK20 are located close to the site, a combination of falling topography and intervening vegetation and built form limit views towards the Proposed Project. Therefore, users of these routes have not been considered further in this appraisal.

Road Receptors

5.59 The following road receptors are considered further in the appraisal as follows:

- People travelling on the B4632;
- People travelling on Langley Road;
- People travelling on Sudeley Hill and Salt Way;
- People travelling on Corndean Lane;
- People travelling on the minor road south of Corndean Hall;
- People travelling on minor roads north-west of Whittington village;
- People travelling on Ham Road;
- People travelling on minor roads east of Whittington village;
- People travelling on the A40;
- People travelling on minor roads through and east of Lower and Upper Dowdeswell; and
- People travelling on the A436.

Selection of Representative Viewpoints

5.60 Viewpoints were selected to represent views from publicly accessible areas for the receptors identified above. They have been used to inform the assessment of visual effects on the potential receptors identified.

5.61 The selection of viewpoints was informed by consultation, field work and desk based research, including consideration of access and recreation across the local area, vantage points and the distribution of settlements. These viewpoints are representative of the range of views, viewing experiences and types of viewers which may potentially be affected by the project.

5.62 A total of 25 viewpoints were selected in consultation with officers at the Cotswolds National Landscape. Details of each viewpoint are provided in the table below:

Table 5.1: Viewpoint Locations

No.	Viewpoint Name	Grid Coords	Receptor represented
1	Bridleway (AWB16) near Langley Hill Farm	400784, 228597	Representative of views experienced by users of elevated public rights of way to the west of Winchcombe and experienced by scattered farmsteads and residential properties on elevated land.
2	B4632	400832, 227422	Representative of views experienced by drivers along the B4632, users of the public right of way and those accessing Hollingsworth & Vose paper mill.
3	Public right of way (AWB63)	401091, 226967	Representative of views experienced by users of the local footpath network and by those accessing residential properties.
4	Public right of way (AWB31)	401327, 226878	Representative of views experienced by users of the local footpath network.

No.	Viewpoint Name	Grid Coords	Receptor represented
5	Cotswold Way (AWB60) adjacent to Corndean Lane	401932, 226311	Representative of views experienced by walkers along the Cotswold Way National Trail.
6	Cotswold Way (AWB21) close to Woodbine House driveway	400874, 226232	Representative of views experienced by walkers along the Cotswold Way National Trail.
7	Cleeve Hill Trig Point	398584, 226377	Representative of views experienced by visitors to Cleeve Common and its summit, as well as by walkers along the Cotswold Way National Trail.
8	Warden's Way (ASU4)	403939, 227246	Representative of views experienced by walkers along the Warden's Way and by residents within properties to the south-east of Winchcombe, including Sudeley Park Cottages and Sudeley Lodge.
9	Sudeley Castle / Windrush Way	403066, 227535	Representative of views experienced by walkers along the Windrush Way and by those visiting Sudeley Castle.
10	Belas Knap Long Barrow	402091, 225443	Representative of views experienced by visitors to the English Heritage visitor attraction and by walkers along the Cotswold Way and Winchcombe Way long distance path.
11	Cleeve Common / Trig Point	399691, 224597	Representative of views experienced by walkers across Cleeve Common.
12	Cleeve Common / Sabrina Way / Bridleway (ASM68)	400908, 223719	Representative of views experienced by walkers and horse riders across Cleeve Common.
13	Restricted Byway / Sabrina Way (ASM140)	399395, 223663	Representative of views experienced by walkers along the publicly accessible route.
14	Minor Road north-west of Whalley Farm	399849, 221516	Representative of views experienced by drivers along the minor road network.
15	Cotswold Way / Minor Road	399278, 221895	Representative of views experienced by walkers along the Cotswold Way National Trail and by drivers along the minor road network.
16	Minor Road north-east of Whittington	402182, 221606	Representative of views experienced by drivers along the minor road network.
17	Ham Road / Public Right of Way (KWH19)	399312, 220994	Representative of views experienced by drivers along the minor road network and by walkers along the local footpath network.
18	Cotswold Way / Ham Road (KWH21)	399037, 221038	Representative of views experienced by walkers along the Cotswold Way National Trail and by drivers along the minor road network.
19	Cotswold Way (KWH21/KWH19)	399064, 220660	Representative of views experienced by walkers along the Cotswold Way National Trail and the local footpath network.
20	Cotswold Way / Ravensgate Common	397831, 218403	Representative of views experienced by walkers along the Cotswold Way National Trail and by

No.	Viewpoint Name	Grid Coords	Receptor represented
			those visiting the common land.
21	Public Rights of Way (KDO26/KDO22)	399271, 218691	Representative of views experienced by walkers along the elevated local footpath network north of Gloucester Road (A436).
22	Kilkenny Viewpoint and Nature Reserve	400345, 218458	Representative of views experienced by visitors to the viewpoint and nature reserve.
23	Public Right of Way (KD06) close to Upper Dowdeswell	400826, 219770	Representative of views experienced by walkers along the local footpath network and by residents within Upper and Lower Dowdeswell.
24	A40 south of Shipton	403720, 217801	Representative of views experienced by drivers along the A40.
25	Byway (KSE9) east of Sevenhampton	404295, 221651	Representative of views experienced by walkers along the byway and local footpath network and by elevated scattered properties east of Sevenhampton.

Chapter 6
The Proposed Project

The Proposed Project

6.1 The LVA considers landscape and visual effects of all elements of the Proposed Project, which will comprise:

- The removal of a section of OHL, including the permanent removal of 16 pylons (18 pylons will be removed in total, however, two will be replaced under Permitted Development);
- Underground cabling of approximately 7km in length.
- Two new CSECs at each end (north and south) and associated replacement terminal pylons (as mentioned above), to connect the new underground cables to the remaining existing overhead line;
- Associated temporary works to facilitate construction, including temporary/permanent access junctions and roads, a temporary haul road, construction compounds, material storage and welfare facilities; and
- Ancillary off-site infrastructure (including installation of arcing horns and shunt reactor installation/connection).

6.2 The majority of the works will be undertaken using Permitted Development rights under Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended), however, the CSECs require planning permission. The LVA considers works associated with both the Permitted Development and planning permissions.

6.3 The proposed works within the Winchcombe CSEC will comprise:

- Installation of a terminal pylon to connect the new underground cables to the remaining existing overhead line (note: the pylon is Permitted Development);
- CSEC infrastructure;
- Underground cabling from the Winchcombe CSEC towards the Whittington CSEC (note: this is Permitted Development);
- A permanent access road to the CSEC, including a bell-mouth and turning area;
- A hardstanding area where the overhead line meets with the new underground cables;

- A retaining wall;
- New screening comprising native trees, woodland and scrub planting; and
- Temporary bell-mouths with the B4632 and a classified road to facilitate construction.

6.4 The proposed works within the Whittington CSEC will comprise:

- CSEC infrastructure;
- Underground cabling from the Whittington CSEC towards the Winchcombe CSEC (note: this is Permitted Development);
- A permanent access road to the CSEC, including a bell-mouth with Ham Road and a turning area;
- A hardstanding area where the overhead line meets with the new underground cables;
- New screening comprising native trees, woodland and scrub planting; and
- Temporary bell-mouths on three classified roads to facilitate construction.

6.5 The LVA also considers temporary landscape and visual effects of construction works, including temporary construction compounds, haul roads, access tracks, trenching, cut and fill of land, temporary OHL diversion and removal of woodland, trees and hedgerows.

Construction

Sources of Construction Effects

6.6 Sources of construction effects as part of the planning consent include:

- Construction of a CSEC and associated permanent access to the south-east of Postlip Mills, including associated earthworks, laydown areas and bellmouth;

6.7 Sources of construction effects as part of permitted development include:

- Removal of 18no. existing pylons and associated conductors (overhead lines);
- Construction of a replacement 46.18m high terminal pylon to the south-east of Postlip Mills;
- Construction of a replacement 43.81m high pylon to the south of Ham Road;
- Temporary 5m wide haul road between the two CSEC, approximately 7.5km in length, incorporating temporary soil storage and drainage ditches. Where the haul road crosses existing roads, temporary give way road markings and signage will be provided to ensure access along roads are maintained. The haul road will remain in situ for the duration of the construction period;
- Up to 1.42m deep cable trenches located either side of the central haul road, varying in width between 2.2m and 3.4m wide. Material from the excavation will be temporarily stored adjacent to the trenches and backfilled ensuring topsoil is located at the top of the trench backfill material;
- Temporary access route from the B4632 including a bell mouth junction with associated visibility splays. Adjacent to the entrance, temporary security cabins, welfare facilities and wheel washdown area will be located to the west of the access road. The 7.5m wide temporary access route will cross agricultural land following the edges of field boundaries and woodland, requiring use of existing crossings (to be confirmed at detailed design) over the River Isbourne and passing through an area of woodland before linking with the haul road;
- Temporary access route from the A40 requiring closure of an existing layby, with bell mouth junction and associated visibility splays. The 7.5m wide temporary access route will cross agricultural land following the edges of field boundaries. The route will cross minor roads in four separate locations which will require temporary give way road markings and to ensure access along roads are maintained. The access route will link with the haul road to the north-west of Arle Grove Nature Reserve;
- Temporary site compound and car park and laydown area adjacent to the temporary access route from the A40;
- A number of temporary laydown areas and proposed material storage areas adjacent to the cable route;
- Removal of two areas of woodland within the construction corridor of the cable route, including at Breakheart Plantation and in proximity to Warrens Farm;
- Removal of two areas of woodland to accommodate temporary access routes from both the A40 and B4632;
- Removal of trees and hedgerows, as well as some stone walls where the cable route and temporary access routes cross field boundaries, or where temporary visibility splays require the removal of vegetation or walls at junctions and crossing points of existing roads; and
- Temporary re-routing of public rights of way.

Construction Mitigation

6.8 Throughout the design process, the aim has been to minimise construction effects of the Proposed Project, which has included consideration of temporary landscape and visual effects upon residents, recreational users and those using the local road network. The design process has been iterative, seeking to minimise landscape and visual effects wherever possible.

6.9 Some of the ways in which landscape and visual construction effects have been minimised are set out below:

- The location of the proposed CSECs has been carefully considered in order to minimise landscape and visual effects, which will also reduce overall construction effects;
- The proposed cable route has been located in order to reduce the effects upon existing vegetation, avoiding many areas of woodland and minimising breaks in existing field boundary hedgerows wherever possible;
- The proposed underground cable route has sought to minimise the number of times it crosses public rights of way and alternative walking routes will be made available during construction where necessary. This includes the Cotswold Way National Trail, Winchcombe Way long distance path and Sabrina Way (National Bridleroute Network);
- The proposed underground cable route has been located at the one of the narrowest points where crossing open access land and common land between Cleeve Common and West Down. Access across this common land will be maintained during construction;
- The location of the proposed underground cable route through Breakheart Plantation has sought to minimise woodland removal where possible by avoiding better quality trees, taking opportunities to route in areas where trees have been found with signs of ash dieback and minimising the width of the corridor as far as practicable, Furthermore, the curvature of the construction corridor aims to reduce the potential for views through the woodland, and provide the perception that there is continued woodland cover, especially from more oblique views towards the hillside and in views from the south;
- The construction corridor has been narrowed where crossing woodland to the west of Warren Farm in order to retain as much existing woodland as possible;
- The laying of underground cables will be phased across the cable route. Therefore, although the haul road and temporary access routes will be in place for the entire construction period, construction activity associated with the cable laying will be limited and localised and transient in nature as works will only be located in one place for a limited period of time; and
- All existing retained trees and hedgerows will be protected to the relevant British Standard through the construction period.

Operation

6.10 Upon completion, all development proposals will be in place as set out above. In summary, the permanent operational above ground components of the Proposed Project considered in this LVA include:

- The two CSECs with associated infrastructure and permanent access roads (part of the planning consent);
- Removal of 18no. existing pylons (permitted development);
- Two replacement terminal pylons (permitted development); and
- Link pillar boxes along the route of the underground cables (permitted development).

Operation Mitigation

6.11 Throughout the design process, the aim has been to minimise any adverse operation effects of the Proposed Project. The design process has been iterative, seeking to minimise landscape and visual effects wherever possible.

6.12 Some of the ways in which landscape and visual operation effects have been minimised are set out below:

- The material used for permanent access roads and within the CSECs will be dark and visually recessive in colour, to reduce their visual prominence;
- All buildings within CSECs will be dark and visually recessive in colour, to reduce their visual prominence; and
- Where practical, security fencing surrounding CSECs will be a dark recessive colour.

Landscape Mitigation Proposals

6.13 The project team have worked collaboratively as part of an iterative design and appraisal process to ensure that landscape features, landscape character, visual receptors and the special qualities of the National Landscape (AONB) have positively influenced the design and layout of the Proposed Project. This has resulted in embedded landscape and visual mitigation proposals that seek to minimise the landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Project wherever possible and deliver long-term benefits. The principal aims of the embedded

landscape and visual mitigation are shown on Figures 7 to 12, and are summarised as follows:

- To filter views towards the proposed Winchcombe CSEC, particularly from the local public right of way network including PRoW (AWB63), through provision of new native tree lined hedgerows and areas of native woodland and scrub planting;
- To provide visual enclosure to the proposed Whittington CSEC particularly when viewed from the Cotswold Way National Trail to the west and more distant views from the south, through provision of new native woodland, tree, scrub and hedgerows around the periphery of the CSEC;
- To provide a mosaic of new native woodland and scrub planting along edges and across the gap between the existing retained woodland within Breakheart Plantation, to reduce the visual gap within the woodland further and provide a woodland edge habitat for the benefit of local wildlife;
- To infill the gap within Warrens Farm plantation with new native woodland and scrub planting to reduce the visual gap within the woodland and provide a woodland edge habitat for the benefit of local wildlife;
- To replace all trees and hedgerows lost as a result of the cable route and temporary works to ensure the landscape character is maintained or enhanced with additional planting where possible;
- To reinstate all dry stone walls lost as a result of the cable route to their original condition;
- To restore all land used for laydown, construction compounds, car parking and material storage to its former agricultural use; and
- To provide long term management of existing and proposed vegetation to enable the landscape character of the area is restored and to ensure visual mitigation establishes.

Chapter 7
Appraisal of Landscape Effects

7.1 Landscape effects are considered during construction and during operation, at Year 0 and Year 15. Relevant mitigation is set out in Chapter 6, with landscape appraisal tables set out in Appendix C.

Effects upon Landscape Character During Construction

7.2 During construction there will be temporary adverse effects on the landscape, mainly due to the undergrounding works which are required to facilitate the removal of pylons from the Cotswold National Landscape (an AONB).

7.3 Despite the temporary nature of the works there will be direct, short-term Moderate to Major adverse landscape effects upon LCA 7C: Cotswolds High Wold Plateau as a result of the Proposed Project, with effects being reversible, with the exception of tree removal within Warrens Farm plantation. The effects will arise, due the high sensitivity of LCA 7C and the extent of the works across the LCA and the open nature of the plateau. In addition, Moderate adverse, direct, short-term landscape effects will occur upon LCA 2E: Winchcombe to Dover's Hill due to construction activity within the LCA, with effects being reversible, with the exception of tree removal within Breakheart Plantation.

7.4 There will be Minor adverse indirect effects upon LCA 1B: Langley Hill and LCA 2D: Cooper's Hill to Winchcombe due to the perception of construction activity from opposing valleys. Minor adverse direct effects upon the landscape character of LCA 19D: Vale of Evesham Fringe will also occur as a result of the construction of a permanent access road to the Winchcombe CSEC and also the perception of the construction of the CSEC and associated working areas.

7.5 It should be recognised that construction effects upon landscape character will be largely temporary and reversible and will affect limited parts of each LCA, with adverse landscape effects not extending further than the study area.

7.6 Construction effects upon landscape character within the study area but outside the National Landscape will be Negligible.

Effects upon Landscape Character During Operation

7.7 During operation, most of the landscape effects will be beneficial and will occur due to the removal of OHL and

associated pylons and reinstatement of land affected during construction, such as the cable swathe and temporary access roads. There will be some localised adverse impacts upon landscape character as a result of the introduction of the CSEC, permanent access tracks and two replacement pylons. However, these effects will be limited and localised when compared to both the effects of the existing pylons and the benefits of removing them.

7.8 Overall, effects upon landscape character at operation will be beneficial or neutral in nature, both directly and indirectly.

7.9 The greatest benefit to landscape character will be to LCA 7C: Cotswolds High Wold Plateau, where the existing pylons will be removed crossing the plateau, benefiting users of Cleeve Common, the Cotswold Way National Trail and numerous other recreational routes, as well as benefiting those visiting Belas Knap. The removal of pylons within this LCA will result in a Moderate to Major beneficial landscape effect at Year 0. With maturing planting, particularly surrounding the Whittington CSEC, this level of effect will increase to Major beneficial.

7.10 Within LCA 2E: Winchcombe to Dover's Hill there will be some Minor beneficial effects as a result of the removal of pylons, balanced against the removal of vegetation at Breakheart Plantation and the presence of the Winchcombe CSEC and replacement pylon. With the influence of maturing planting surrounding the CSEC and within Breakheart Plantation, a Moderate beneficial level of effect is predicted to the LCA at Year 15.

7.11 There will be indirect Minor benefits upon landscape character during operation at Year 0 as a result to all other LCAs within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB). In the longer-term, these beneficial effects will increase to Moderate to Minor as a result of the proposed landscape mitigation surrounding CSECs, as well as the restoration of field boundary hedgerows. Those LCAs outside the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB) will experience neutral or beneficial effects in the long-term due to the distance of these areas from the site.

Landscape Effects Summary

7.12 Table 7.1 below summarises the landscape effects as a result of the Proposed Project, which are set out in full within Appendix C.

Table 7.1: Summary of Landscape Effects

Receptor	Phase	Level of Effect
	Construction	Moderate adverse
LCA 2E: Winchcombe to Dover's Hill	Operation: Year 0	Minor beneficial
	Operation: Year 15	**Moderate beneficial**
LCA 7C: Cotswolds High Wold Plateau	Construction	Moderate to Major adverse
	Operation: Year 0	Moderate to Major beneficial
	Operation: Year 15	**Major beneficial**
LCA 1B Langley Hill	Construction	Minor adverse
	Operation: Year 0	Minor beneficial
	Operation: Year 15	**Moderate to Minor beneficial**
LCA 2D Cooper's Hill to Winchcombe	Construction	Minor adverse
	Operation: Year 0	Minor beneficial
	Operation: Year 15	**Moderate to Minor beneficial**
LCA 19D Vale of Evesham Fringe	Construction	Minor adverse
	Operation: Year 0	Minor beneficial
	Operation: Year 15	**Moderate to Minor beneficial**
LCA VE 1A Teddington and Great Vale	Construction	Negligible adverse
	Operation: Year 0	Negligible neutral
	Operation: Year 15	**Negligible neutral**
LCA SV 6B Vale of Gloucester	Construction	Negligible adverse
	Operation: Year 0	Negligible beneficial
	Operation: Year 15	**Negligible beneficial**

Chapter 8
Appraisal of Visual Effects

8.1 Visual receptors are set out in the Section 5, including those which have not been considered as part of this LVA. The visual receptors are considered in each appraisal scenario including construction, operation at Year 0 and operation at Year 15. Relevant mitigation is set out in Chapter 6, with visual appraisal tables set out in Appendix D.

8.2 Locations of visual receptors are shown on Figure 4 within Appendix F, with visualisations in Appendix G.

Visual Effects During Construction

8.3 There will inevitably be some adverse visual effects during the construction period upon visual receptors due to the extent and proximity of construction activity to some of the nearby scattered community, recreational routes and roads. Although these adverse effects have been reduced wherever possible, as set out in Section 6, the temporary visual effects are summarised below.

Construction Effects upon Communities

8.4 Due to the proximity of works associated with the underground cable route and the removal of vegetation within Breakheart Plantation, temporary, short term and reversible Moderate to Major adverse visual effects will occur upon scattered communities to the south-east of Postlip and between Breakheart Plantation and West Down. Effects of the installation of underground cables will be limited to a degree due to the phased approach to excavation and laying of the cables.

8.5 Due to the proximity of construction works associated with the Whittington CSEC and underground cable route, the scattered community between Arle Grove and Dowdeswell would experience some temporary, short-term Moderate visual effects.

8.6 All other visual effects during construction from community receptors will be Moderate to Minor adverse or lower.

Construction Effects upon Recreational Receptors

8.7 Temporary Moderate and Moderate to Major adverse visual effects will occur along the Cotswold Way National Trail where the undergrounding of the cables is located adjacent to the route, as well as where it lies adjacent to construction of the Whittington CSEC. However, these adverse visual effects

will be limited to short lengths of the trail. Similar adverse effects would occur to limited lengths of the Winchcombe Way long distance path as a result of construction activity. Whilst adverse effects are predicted upon these routes, they represent a worst case scenario. The phased nature of the undergrounding of the cables will in fact limit the adverse effects to short periods of time.

8.8 Due to a number of routes needing to be temporarily diverted due to works associated with the undergrounding of the cables, temporary Moderate to Major adverse effects are predicted during construction for users of Sabrina Way.

8.9 A number of public rights of way will be affected by the temporary construction works and the construction of the Winchcombe CSEC, mainly due to the proximity of the users to construction activity. In a number of cases, these footpaths will need to be temporarily diverted particularly in relation to works associated with the undergrounding of the cables. Temporary Major or Moderate to Major effects are predicted upon people walking along public rights of way numbers AWB63 and AWB31. The phased nature of the undergrounding of the cables will in fact limit the adverse effects to short periods of time. In some cases, only short lengths of the public footpaths will be adversely affected by construction activity, with most of the route remaining unaffected, therefore, the extent of adverse effects upon these public rights of way will be limited and localised.

8.10 Due to the proposed temporary haul roads to the Winchcombe CSEC some local public rights of way will be adversely affected, resulting in a Moderate level of effect. Elevated public rights of way to the west of Winchcombe will have views towards construction activity on the opposing valley, therefore, a Moderate temporary adverse visual effect is predicted.

8.11 Although a Major adverse visual effect is predicted from Cleeve Common, this will be limited to south-eastern areas of the common, with areas further to the north-west only glimpsing construction activities.

8.12 Moderate to Major adverse effects to public right of way KWH19 will occur due to the proximity of the Whittington CSEC to the route.

8.13 All other visual effects during construction from recreational receptors will be Moderate to Minor or lower.

Construction Effects upon Road Receptors

8.14 Due to the undergrounding of the cables either side of the road and the removal of vegetation within Breakheart Plantation, Moderate to Major adverse visual effects will occur during construction to people traveling on the minor dead-end road south of Corndean Hall. However, the phased nature of the undergrounding of the cables will limit the adverse effects of the cable undergrounding to short periods of time.

8.15 Due to the route of the underground cabling crossing select roads, including Ham Road and those to the north-west of Whittington village, vegetation and/or dry stone walls will be removed either side, allowing clear and unobstructed views towards construction activity, resulting in temporary Moderate to Major visual effects during construction.

8.16 All other visual effects during construction on road receptors will be Minor or less.

Visual Effects During Operation

8.17 During operation there will be notable visual benefits as a result of the removal of existing pylons crossing the landscape, particularly for local communities and the large number of recreational users within the Cotswolds National Landscape. There will be some localised adverse impacts upon visual receptors as a result of the introduction of the sealing end compounds, permanent access tracks and new pylons. This is particularly relevant to the public rights of way in proximity to the CSECs and new pylons. However, these adverse visual effects will be limited and localised, particularly when compared to beneficial effects associated with the removal of the existing pylons.

Operation Effects upon Communities

8.18 Due to the removal of the existing pylons, most communities are predicted to experience long-term visual benefits. Most notable benefits are to those properties closest to the existing pylons. In the longer-term, scattered communities south-east of Postlip and between Breakheart Plantation and West Down, will experience Moderate to Major visual benefits.

8.19 Some adverse visual effects will remain upon those communities closest to the proposed CSECs. However, over time, the proposed landscape mitigation surrounding the CSECs will filter direct views and all visual effects upon communities are predicted to be beneficial in the long-term.

Operation Effects upon Recreational Receptors

8.20 Due to the removal of the existing pylons, most recreational receptors are predicted to experience long-term benefits. Most notably, Moderate and Moderate to Major visual beneficial long term effects are predicted from Sabrina Way, Winchcombe Way and parts of the Cotswold Way National Trail. Long-term beneficial visual effects are also predicted to users of Cleeve Common, visitors to Belas Knap, as well as users of numerous recreational routes crossing the Cotswolds National Landscape. Overall, the Proposed Project provides

several visual benefits to users of the Cotswolds National Landscape.

8.21 There will be two Moderate to Major adverse visual effects at Year 0 from public rights of way, including AWB63 which lies adjacent to the Winchcombe CSEC and KWH19 which lies adjacent to the Whittington CSEC. Due to the proximity of these two routes, the adverse effects as a result of the proposed CSECs are unavoidable in the short-term. However, with the benefit of landscape mitigation surrounding each of the CSEC's, a Moderate to Minor adverse visual effect is predicted at Year 15. Similarly, due to the proximity of the Cotswold Way National Trail between Ham Road and Dowdeswell Wood will experience some long-term adverse effects, noting that this will only be along a limited stretch of the long distance route.

Operation Effects upon Road Receptors

8.22 Most visual effects upon people travelling along local roads during operation will be beneficial. However, some long-term Minor adverse visual effects will remain along limited parts of Ham Road due to the proximity to the Whittington CSEC.

Visual Effects Summary

8.23 Table 8.1 below summarises the visual effects as a result of the Proposed Project, which are set out in full within Appendix D.

Table 8.1: Summary of Visual Effects

Receptor	Level of Effect		
	Construction	Operation – Year 0	Operation – Year 15
Community Receptors			
Scattered Community north of Postlip	Moderate to Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Minor beneficial
Scattered Community south-east of Postlip	Moderate to Major adverse	Minor to Negligible beneficial	Minor to Negligible beneficial
Scattered Community between Breakheart Plantation and West Down (part of Cleeve Common)	Moderate to Major adverse	Moderate to Minor beneficial	Moderate to Major beneficial
Scattered Community between West Down (part of Cleeve Common) and Arle Grove	Moderate to Minor adverse	Moderate to Major beneficial	Moderate to Major beneficial
Scattered Community between Arle Grove and Dowdeswell	Moderate adverse	Minor to Negligible adverse	Minor to Negligible beneficial
Whittington and surrounding scattered community	Moderate to Minor adverse	Negligible beneficial	Minor beneficial
Upper and Lower Dowdeswell and surrounding scattered community	Minor adverse	Negligible beneficial	Negligible beneficial
Scattered community on the upper slopes of Ravensgate Hill	Moderate to Minor adverse	Minor neutral	Negligible beneficial
Recreational Receptors			
Users of the Cotswold Way National Trail – Winchcombe to Cleeve Common	Major adverse	Moderate to Minor beneficial	Moderate to Major beneficial
Users of the Cotswold Way National Trail – Cleeve Common to Ham Road	Moderate adverse	Moderate to Minor beneficial	Moderate beneficial
Users of the Cotswold Way National Trail – Ham Road to Dowdeswell Wood	Moderate to Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate to Minor adverse

Receptor	Level of Effect		
	Construction	Operation – Year 0	Operation – Year 15
Users of the Cotswold Way National Trail – Dowdeswell Wood to Ravensgate Hill	Moderate to Minor adverse	Negligible beneficial	Minor beneficial
Users of the Winchcombe Way long distance footpath – Winchcombe to Cleeve Hill Golf Course	Major adverse	Moderate beneficial	Moderate to Major beneficial
Users of Windrush Way long distance footpath	Minor adverse	Negligible adverse	Minor beneficial
Users of Warden's Way	Minor adverse	Negligible adverse	Minor beneficial
Users of public rights of way west of Winchcombe, including Winchcombe Way and Gloucestershire Way	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Minor beneficial
Users of the Cheltenham Circular Footpath (ZCK61 and ZCK62 only)	Moderate to Minor adverse	Negligible beneficial	Minor beneficial
Users of Sabrina Way	Moderate to Major adverse	Moderate to Major beneficial	Moderate to Major beneficial
Users of public right of way AWB63 located to the south-east of Postlip Mill complex	Moderate to Major adverse	Moderate to Major adverse	Moderate to Minor adverse
Users of public right of way AWB24 located north and north-east of Postlip Mill complex	Moderate to Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible neutral
Users of public rights of way AWB22 and AWB23 to the south-west of Postlip Mill complex	Moderate adverse	Moderate to Minor beneficial	Moderate to Minor beneficial
Users of public right of way AWB31	Moderate to Major adverse	Minor beneficial	Minor beneficial
Users of Public Right of Way KWH19	Moderate to Major adverse	Moderate to Major adverse	Moderate to Minor adverse
Users of Public Rights of Way to the east, north and south-west of Lower Dowdeswell, including KD05, KD06, KD03, KD02 and KAN2	Minor adverse	Minor neutral	Minor neutral
Users of elevated public rights of way north of the A436, including KD022, KD026, KD018, KD019, KD020 and KD021	Minor adverse	Minor neutral	Minor neutral
Users of Cleeve Common, including Common Land, public rights of way and golf course	Major adverse	Moderate beneficial	Moderate to Major beneficial
Users of Longbarrow Bank open access land	Minor adverse	Minor beneficial	Minor beneficial
Visitors to Sudeley Castle and Gardens	Moderate to Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Minor beneficial

Receptor	Level of Effect		
	Construction	Operation – Year 0	Operation – Year 15
Visitors to Belas Knap Long Barrow	Minor adverse	Moderate to Minor beneficial	Moderate to Minor beneficial
Visitors to the Kilkenny Nature Reserve and open access land	Minor adverse	Negligible neutral	Negligible neutral
Road Receptors			
People travelling on the B4632	Minor adverse	Negligible beneficial	Negligible beneficial
People travelling on Langley Road	Minor adverse	Negligible beneficial	Minor beneficial
People travelling on Sudeley Hill and Salt Way	Minor adverse	Minor beneficial	Minor beneficial
People travelling on Corndean Lane	Minor adverse	Minor beneficial	Minor beneficial
People travelling on the minor road south of Corndean Hall	Moderate to Major adverse	Moderate to Minor adverse	Negligible beneficial
People travelling on minor roads north-west of Whittington village	Moderate to Major adverse	Negligible beneficial	Moderate beneficial
People travelling on Ham Road	Moderate to Major adverse	Moderate to Minor adverse	Minor adverse
People travelling on minor roads east of Whittington village	Negligible adverse	Minor beneficial	Minor beneficial
People travelling on the A40	Minor adverse	Minor beneficial	Minor beneficial
People travelling on minor roads through and east of Lower and Upper Dowdeswell	Minor adverse	Minor neutral	Minor neutral
People travelling on the A436	Minor adverse	Negligible beneficial	Negligible beneficial

Chapter 9
Implications for the Cotswolds National Landscape

9.1 The site lies wholly within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB). The following tables consider how the Proposed Project may affect the special qualities of the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB).

Table 9.1: Implications for the Special Qualities of the Cotswolds National Landscape During Construction

Special Qualities	How, and to what extent, construction may affect Special Qualities
The unifying character of the limestone geology – its visible presence in the landscape and use as a building material	It is considered that construction activities will not affect this special quality, with the use of local building materials used where feasible.
The Cotswold escarpment, including views from and to the National Landscape	Construction activity has the potential to affect views within a localised area to and from the Cotswold escarpment, however, the majority of these effects will be temporary in nature and reversible and will affect a limited part of the wider designation. A limited part of woodland from Breakheart Plantation will be removed from a section of the escarpment to facilitate construction of underground cables. The underground cable route has been designed to minimise impacts on views and avoid trees of highest arboricultural and amenity value.
The high wolds – a large open, elevated predominately arable landscape with commons, 'big' skies and long-distance views	The route of the underground cabling has the potential to temporarily affect a limited part of the high wolds. The phased approach to underground cables will further limit the effects upon this special quality with most construction works located

Special Qualities	How, and to what extent, construction may affect Special Qualities
	at or below ground level. Effects will be temporary in nature and reversible.
River valleys, the majority forming the headwaters of the Thames, with high-quality water	Construction activity will not affect this special quality.
Distinctive dry stone walls	The route of the underground cabling has the potential to temporarily remove a number of sections of dry stone walls, albeit within a limited part of the wider designation and only limited extents of walls where the route of underground cables cross limited sections of field boundaries. Effects will be temporary in nature and reversible as dry stone walls will be replaced upon completion of construction to their original condition.
Flower-rich grasslands particularly limestone grasslands	There is the potential for the loss of small areas of grassland as a result of the underground cables crossing the agricultural landscape. Effects will be limited and temporary in nature and will be reinstated upon completion. No grasslands on site are considered ancient or irreplaceable.
Ancient broadleaved woodland particularly along the crest of the escarpment	No ancient broadleaved woodland will be directly affected by construction works. Where in proximity to ancient woodland, necessary offsets and tree protection will be installed to ensure the woodland will not be affected in any way. Therefore, construction activity will not affect this special quality.
Variations in the colour of the stone from one part of the National Landscape to another which add a vital element of local distinctiveness	Construction activity will not affect this special quality. Local materials will be used where feasible.
The tranquillity of the area, away from major sources of inappropriate noise, development, visual clutter and pollution	The sense of tranquillity and remoteness will be temporarily affected within the study area during the construction period, due to the excavation of trenches, as well as the presence of other construction activities, especially in proximity to the CSECs. Effects will be temporary in nature and reversible.
Extensive dark sky areas	Dark night skies will not be noticeably affected during the construction period, as night time working will be limited. Any construction lighting will be located and directed so as not to intrude into occupied residential properties, sensitive areas, sensitive ecology or constitute a road hazard. Localised temporary effects may occur at main construction compounds.
Distinctive settlements, developed in the Cotswold vernacular with high architectural quality and integrity	Construction activity will not affect this special quality.
An accessible landscape for quiet recreation for both rural and urban users, with numerous walking and riding routes, including the Cotswold Way National Trail	There will be some effects upon recreation within a localised area, which will include temporary diversions of public footpaths, including the Cotswold Way National Trail and south-eastern parts of Cleeve Common. However, all recreational routes will be kept open and useable during construction activity, with the phased approach to underground cables limiting the time period of footpath diversions. Effects will be temporary in nature and reversible.
Significant archaeological, prehistoric and historic	There will be some indirect effects upon views from

Special Qualities	How, and to what extent, construction may affect Special Qualities
associations dating back 6,000 years, including Neolithic stone monuments, ancient drove roads, Iron Age forts, Roman villas, ridge and furrow fields, medieval wool churches and country estates and parks	Belas Knap as the route of underground cables crosses the landscape to the west. Similarly, some indirect effects will occur upon Sudeley Castle, though views will be more distant at over 1km away. The Archaeological Statement notes that prior to trial trenching, there is no evidence that archaeological features of the highest level of significance will be affected.
A vibrant heritage of cultural associations, including the Arts and Crafts movement of the 19th and 20th centuries, famous composers and authors and traditional events such as the Cotswolds Olimpick Games, cheese rolling and woolsack races	Construction activity will not affect this special quality.

Table 9.2: Implications for the Special Qualities of the Cotswolds National Landscape During Operation

Special Qualities	How, and to what extent, the Proposed Project may affect Special Qualities
The unifying character of the limestone geology – its visible presence in the landscape and use as a building material	The Proposed Project will not affect this special quality.
The Cotswold escarpment, including views from and to the National Landscape	A limited part of the Breakheart Plantation will be permanently removed due to constraints associated with underground cables. However, the underground cable route has been designed to minimise impacts on views. Furthermore, woodland and scrub planting will be undertaken to reconnect the woodland. the Proposed Project will remove pylons from a section of the escarpment and where these previously cut through Breakheart Plantation. The Proposed Project will overall enhance views from and to the National Landscape, enhancing this special quality.
The high wolds – a large open, elevated predominately arable landscape with commons, 'big' skies and long-distance views	The Proposed Project will remove pylons from a part of the high wolds and therefore, will notably enhance this special quality.
River valleys, the majority forming the headwaters of the Thames, with high-quality water	The Proposed Project will not affect this special quality.
Distinctive dry stone walls	All dry stone walls lost will be replaced to their original condition.
Flower-rich grasslands particularly limestone grasslands	All disturbed agricultural land will be restored to its original use. Areas of grassland will be restored. Additional areas of grassland will be established surrounding CSECs.
Ancient broadleaved woodland particularly along the crest of the escarpment	The Proposed Project will not affect this special quality.
Variations in the colour of the stone from one part of the National Landscape to another which add a vital element of local distinctiveness	Local materials will be used where feasible.
The tranquillity of the area, away from major sources of inappropriate noise, development, visual clutter and pollution	The removal of pylons will greatly reduce visual clutter and modern infrastructure from the Cotswolds National Landscape. The addition of two CSECs to facilitate the removal of overhead lines will have a localised influence on tranquillity. On balance, it is considered that the Proposed Project

Special Qualities	How, and to what extent, the Proposed Project may affect Special Qualities
	will enhance this special quality.
Extensive dark sky areas	The Proposed Project will not affect this special quality with only task-specific low level lighting used when required in isolated locations at the CSECs. No permanent lighting is required.
Distinctive settlements, developed in the Cotswold vernacular with high architectural quality and integrity	The Proposed Project will not affect this special quality.
An accessible landscape for quiet recreation for both rural and urban users, with numerous walking and riding routes, including the Cotswold Way National Trail	The removal of pylons will enhance quiet recreation of rural recreation users including the Cotswold Way National Trail. The CSECs will not affect the accessibility to recreation. The project will enhance the experience of people engaged in recreation and have no effects on accessibility.
Significant archaeological, prehistoric and historic associations dating back 6,000 years, including Neolithic stone monuments, ancient drove roads, Iron Age forts, Roman villas, ridge and furrow fields, medieval wool churches and country estates and parks	The removal of the pylons will enhance the outlook from Belas Knap and Sudeley Castle. It is considered that there may be some localised benefits to this special quality. More details of these benefits are set out within the Archaeological Statement.
A vibrant heritage of cultural associations, including the Arts and Crafts movement of the 19th and 20th centuries, famous composers and authors and traditional events such as the Cotswolds Olimpicks, cheese rolling and woolsack races	The Proposed Project will not affect this special quality.

Summary of Implications for the Special Qualities During Construction

9.2 There are six special qualities of the Cotswolds National Landscape which will not be affected during construction of the Proposed Project. However, the remaining special qualities will be adversely affected over a temporary period, albeit within a limited and localised area of the designation and the majority of construction effects will be reversible.

9.3 The routeing of the underground cable has aimed to minimise the implications upon the special qualities of the national landscape, including minimising the number of public rights of way crossings, avoiding natural habitats of greatest value and crossing Cleeve Common at its narrowest point. A full list of construction mitigation is set out in Section 6.

Summary of Implications for the Special Qualities During Operation

9.4 As set out in Table 9.2, there are numerous special qualities which will be enhanced as a result of the removal of pylons crossing the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB).

Chapter 10
Summary and Conclusions

10.1 The overall effects of the Proposed Project would result in substantial improvement to landscape character and visual amenity within the Cotswold National Landscape (an AONB).

10.2 The existing overhead line has previously been identified as having a high level of adverse landscape and visual effects. The removal of this overhead line (including removal of 18no. pylons) and the subsequent restoration of this landscape would give rise to a number of notable beneficial landscape and visual enhancements, particularly within the open and expansive high wold plateau. Benefits to visual amenity include people using the Cotswolds Way National Trail and open access land at Cleeve Common and people visiting Belas Knap English Heritage site, amongst other tourist destinations and recreational routes.

10.3 Construction activities associated with the Proposed Project would typically have some short-term adverse effects on the character of the landscape and visual amenity of the high wold and associated escarpments of the Cotswolds National Landscape to the east of Cheltenham. These effects would arise due to a combination of construction activities, including those associated with the 400kV Cable (undergrounding and associated works and laydown areas) and proposed northern and Whittington CSECs. Some tree removal would be required to facilitate construction, most notably in Breakheart Plantation. With the exception of tree loss, construction effects would be short term, temporary and reversible. Tree removal would be minimised as much as possible and tree protection measures would be put in place to ensure that all trees to be retained are protected. Replacement tree, hedgerow and scrub planting would comprise a diverse and appropriate mix of species that would enhance and complement the landscape and ensure longevity of vegetation cover in the future. This would ensure that effects of construction would be mitigated as far as practicably possible in the medium to long term as planting matures.

10.4 The Proposed Project would sit within a highly valued area of landscape within the Cotswolds National Landscape to the east of Cheltenham. The landscape around the Winchcombe CSEC currently has some levels of human influence, most notably including the existing 400kV OHL, Postlip Mills and relatively busy B4632. The relatively well contained topography of the River Isbourne Valley, combined with existing woodland and tree cover and embedded

mitigation would limit the extent of the operational landscape and visual effects of the proposed Winchcombe CSEC. The landscape around the Whittington CSEC would be partially contained by topography and Dowdeswell Wood. The landscape around the Whittington CSEC also has some levels of human influence; most notably the existing 400kV OHL and also the busy A40 in the valley bottom of the River Chelt to the south. A combination of existing screening features together with embedded mitigation around the CSECs would help to limit the extent of operational landscape and visual effects. The replacement terminal pylon just outside the Winchcombe CSEC and the replacement pylon south of the Whittington CSEC would have no greater landscape effects than the pylons they would replace. The Winchcombe and Whittington CSEC elements of the Proposed Project would be viewed as much smaller features in the landscape than the overhead line section which they would replace. Although some tree cover would be permanently lost due to the 400kV Cable (Undergrounding) this would not have a notable effect on the character of the landscape. Over time the replacement of native trees and shrubs in a number of places would help to assimilate the structures into the landscape and screen them from many viewpoints.

10.5 The proposed Winchcombe CSEC would give rise to localised adverse effects on the visual amenity experienced by a limited part of the community to the south-east and people using the adjacent public right of way. The proposed Whittington CSEC would have a localised adverse effect on the visual amenity experienced by a short section of the Cotswold Way National Trail. These localised visual effects would reduce over time once landscape proposals around the CSECs mature; albeit some views would remain. The adverse effects would be balanced against the beneficial effects of overhead line removal.

Appendix A
Appraisal Methodology

A.1 This appendix sets out the methodology used for the LVA. The objectives of the LVA are to identify and assess the potential for landscape and visual effects arising as a result of the Proposed Project. The identification of landscape and visual effects is the result of applying professional judgement within an evidence-based appraisal process.

Approach to Appraisal

A.2 The methods and approach used to carry out the appraisal were informed by the 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment' (Third Edition) (GLVIA3)3. LVA is distinct from LVIA in that it is not a requirement of the EIA Regulations. In reference to LVA, GLVIA3 states that:

> *'The principles and processes of LVIA can also be used to assist in the 'appraisal' of forms of land use change or development that fall outside the requirements of the EIA Directive and Regulations. Applying such an approach in these circumstances can be useful in helping to develop the design of different forms of development or other projects that may bring about change in the landscape and in visual amenity.'*

A.3 Although an LVA describes effects, it is not required to determine 'significance', which is a term with specific meaning related to formal EIA processes. Instead, the LVA undertakes the following principal steps for assessing landscape and visual effects as follows:

- the landscape of the 3km study area has been analysed and landscape receptors identified;
- the area over which the Proposed Project will be visible has been established through creation of a Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility (SZTV);
- the visual baseline has been recorded in terms of the different groups of people who may experience views of the Proposed Project and the nature of their existing views and visual amenity;
- viewpoints have been selected (including representative viewpoints, specific viewpoints and illustrative viewpoints), in consultation with Cotswolds National Landscape.
- likely levels of effects on landscape and visual resources have been identified; and

- the level of landscape and visual effects have been judged with reference to the sensitivity of the resource/receptor (its susceptibility and value) and magnitude of effect (a combination of the scale of effect, geographical extent and duration/reversibility).

Method for Assessing Landscape Effects

A.4 Judging the landscape effects requires consideration of the nature of the landscape receptors (sensitivity) and the nature of the effect on those receptors (magnitude).

Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)

A.5 GLVIA3 states that the nature of landscape receptors, commonly referred to as their sensitivity, should be assessed in terms of the susceptibility of the receptor to the type of change proposed and the value attached to the receptor.

Susceptibility

A.6 In GLVIA3 susceptibility is defined as:

> *'the ability of the landscape receptor (whether it be the overall character or quality/condition of a particular type or area, or an individual element and/or feature, or a particular aesthetic and perceptual aspect) to accommodate the Proposed Project without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies'* (GLVIA3 para 5.40).

A.7 This appraisal of susceptibility focuses on the landscape's general ability to accommodate and remove large scale electricity infrastructure.

A.8 Table A.1 below sets out indicators of higher and lower susceptibility. These indicators have been used to judge susceptibility in this appraisal.

Table A.1: Indicators of landscape susceptibility

Factor	Indicators of lower landscape susceptibility		Indicators of higher landscape susceptibility
Indicators for assessing susceptibility to large scale electricity infrastructure, including pylons and Sealing End Compounds			
Landform	Smooth, regular and convex, or flat and uniform areas.	⇔	Distinctive, dramatic or rugged landform features such as scarps, or areas with strong topographical variety.
Land cover	Simple, uncluttered landscapes with sweeping lines and extensive areas of consistent ground cover such as brownfield sites or arable land	⇔	Complex, irregular or intimate landscape patterns, where naturalistic land cover and/or semi-natural habitats are more prominent.
Scale	Large scale landscape, which lacks 'human-scale' features		Small scale landscape with 'human-scale' landscape features.
Skyline	Landscapes that do not form a distinctive skyline or backdrop.		Open uninterrupted skylines which are a distinctive feature.
Prominent landscape features	Landscapes which have few visual foci.		Landscapes with strong visual features and focal points, such as distinctive landforms or man-made landmarks such as hilltop monuments.
Human influences	Landscapes characterised by overt man-made structures or land uses and/or the presence of road or rail infrastructure.	⇔	Landscapes that lack human influence (naturalistic landscape) or which are more traditional settled and farmed landscapes with a strong rural character.
Vertical infra-structure	Landscapes which are already affected by vertical built structures such as communication masts or other pylons and other man-made features.	⇔	Areas with no or limited vertical built structures, or areas which are affected by visual clutter.

Factor	Indicators of lower landscape susceptibility		Indicators of higher landscape susceptibility
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity	Vibrant / active landscape with over man-made features, and presence of visual and audible factors.	⟺	Remote and tranquil landscapes or areas that provide opportunities to experience a sense of relative wildness or perceived naturalness.

A.9 Judgements on susceptibility of receptors (which may include individual features or areas) are recorded as **high, medium or low** according to Table A.2.

Table A.2: Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors

Susceptibility	Definition
High	The landscape receptor is less able to accommodate large scale electricity infrastructure, such as pylons and Sealing End Compounds, without undue negative consequences for landscape character. Attributes that make up the character of the landscape offer limited opportunities for accommodating such features.
Medium	The landscape receptor has some ability to accommodate large scale electricity infrastructure, such as pylons and Sealing End Compounds, without undue negative consequences for landscape character. Attributes that make up the character of the landscape offer some opportunities for accommodating such features.
Low	The landscape receptor is more able to accommodate large scale electricity infrastructure, such as pylons and Sealing End Compounds, without undue negative consequences for landscape character. Attributes that make up the character of the landscape are more resilient to being changed by these features.

Value

A.10 Value of receptors is determined with reference to:

- A review of designations and the level of policy importance that they signify (such as landscapes designated at international, national, or local level); and
- Application of criteria that indicate value (such as landscape quality, scenic quality, rarity, representativeness, conservation interests, recreation value, perceptual aspects, associations e.g. with artists or writers).

A.11 Judgements on value are recorded as of national value, local value and community value according to Table A.3.

Table A.3: Definitions of Landscape Value

Value	Definition
National Value	Areas or features designated at a national level e.g. National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty/National Scenic Areas, or important features of these with national policy level protection. and/ or Landscapes that have national significance against the value criteria set out in Para A10.
Regional/District Value	Areas or features designated at a county or local level e.g. local authority designated landscapes or important features of designated landscapes. and/ or Landscapes that have Regional/ District-wide significance against the value criteria set out in Para A10.
Community Value	Areas or features that are not formally designated but are nevertheless locally valued by the local community. and/ or Landscapes that have local significance against the value criteria set out in Para A10.

A.12 It should be noted that whilst landscape designations at a national level are likely to be accorded the highest value, it does not necessarily follow that such landscapes all have a high susceptibility to all types of change. There may be a complex relationship between the value attached to a landscape and its susceptibility to change. Therefore, the rationale for judgements is clearly set out for each receptor based on the principles established in Tables A.1-A.3.

Nature of Effects (Magnitude)

A.13 The nature of the effect on each landscape receptor (magnitude) is reported in terms of its size and scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility.

Size and Scale

A.14 For landscape character areas/types, the size/scale of change depends on the degree to which the character of the landscape is changed through removal of existing landscape components or addition of new ones. Of particular concern is how the changes affect the 'key characteristics' of the landscape.

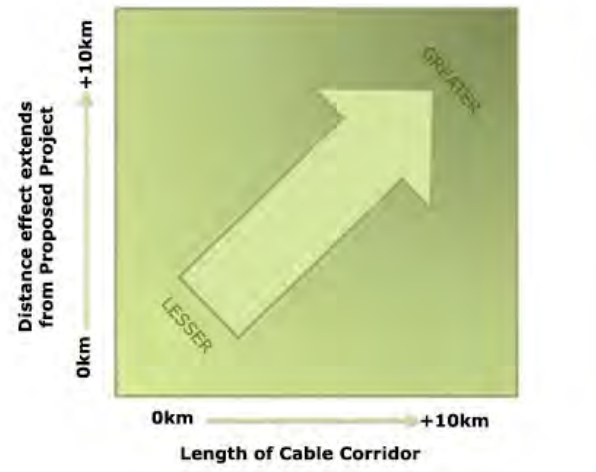
A.15 In this appraisal size/scale is described as being imperceptible, small, medium or large, with reference to the definitions set out in Table A.4.

Table A.4: Scale of Landscape Change

Size/Scale	Definition
Large	Loss of landscape elements and features or addition of new ones which result in obvious changes to landscape characteristics and character.
Medium	Loss of landscape elements and features or addition of new ones which result in discernible and distinct changes to landscape characteristics and character.
Small	A perceptible but small change to landscape characteristics and character as a result of the loss of landscape elements and features or addition of new ones.
Imperceptible	A barely perceptible/imperceptible change to landscape character and characteristics.

Geographical Extent

A.16 Geographical extent is the extent over which the landscape effect will be felt and is often influenced by sense of enclosure. For the purposes of this appraisal, it is described as where changes are perceived only locally, with limited effects on wider landscape character (small extent), where changes are perceived across a wider area (medium extent) or where changes have a widespread influence on perception of the landscape, and perceived across a wide area (large extent). This is judged on both the length of the undergrounding and the distance the effect extends from the proposal, as shown in the diagram below.



Assessing geographical extent of effect on landscape

Duration

A.17 Duration is reported as short term (0-3 years), medium term (3-15 years) or long term (over 15 years). Longer term effects will result in higher overall effects.

Reversibility

A.18 Reversibility is reported as reversible, partially reversible or not reversible, and is related to whether the change is likely to be reversed in, for example, a generation[3]. For example, effects arising from presence of construction traffic will cease at the end of construction and are therefore classed as reversible, while restoration of a landscape to something similar to but not the same as the original may be recorded as 'partially reversible' and the presence or removal of built structures is not likely to be reversed in the long term and are therefore classed as 'not reversible'.

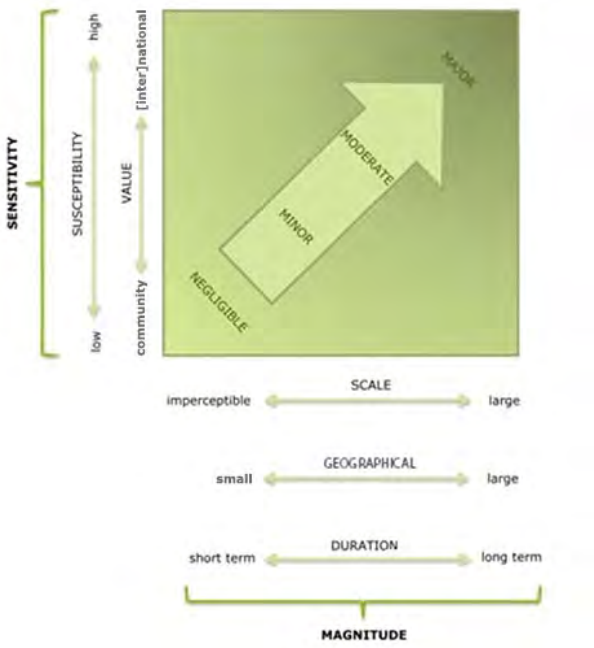
Judging the Levels of Effect

A.19 The evaluations of the individual aspects set out above (susceptibility, value, size and scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility) were considered together to provide an overall profile of each identified effect. An overview was then taken of the distribution of judgements for each aspect to

[3] The term of years, roughly 30 among human beings, accepted as the average period between the birth of parents and the birth of their offspring [http://www.dictionary.com/browse/generation]

make an informed professional appraisal of the overall level of each effect, drawing on guidance provided in GLVIA3. A numerical or formal weighting system was not applied. Instead, consideration of the relative importance of each aspect was made to feed into the overall decision.

A.20 Levels of effect were identified as negligible, minor, moderate or major moderate or major (or intermediate levels such as minor-moderate and moderate-major). The following diagram indicates how these various components are combined to inform the overall level of effect.



A.21 The main levels of effect may be defined as shown in Table A.5.

Table A.5: Levels of Landscape Effect

Level	Effect Description
Major	The Proposed Project will result in an obvious change in landscape characteristics and character, likely affecting a landscape with a moderate or high susceptibility to that type of change, and/ or affecting a nationally valued landscape. The effect is likely to be long term and affect a relatively large area.
Major-Moderate	An intermediate category between the major and moderate levels.
Moderate	The Proposed Project will result in a noticeable change in landscape characteristics and character, likely affecting a landscape with a moderate susceptibility to that type of change. This level of effect may also occur for example when a smaller scale of effect acts on a more highly susceptible or widely valued landscape, or a larger scale of effect acting on lower susceptibility or more locally valued landscape. This level of effect may also occur when a large scale of effect occurs over a relatively short period or over a small area.
Moderate-Minor	An intermediate category between the moderate and minor levels.
Minor	The Proposed Project will result in a small change in landscape characteristics and character, likely affecting a low or medium susceptibility landscape or landscape valued at a community/ local level over a long term. This level of effect may also occur for example when a medium scale of effect is of short duration or confined to a small area.
Negligible	The Proposed Project will not result in a noticeable change in landscape characteristics/character.

Direction of Effect

A.22 The direction of effect (positive, negative, or neutral) is determined in relation to the degree to which the proposal fits with landscape character and the contribution to the landscape that the development makes. Effects are assumed to be adverse unless stated otherwise.

Assessing Visual Effects

A.23 Visual effects are experienced by people at different locations around the 3km study area. Visual receptors are the people who will be affected by changes in views of visual amenity at different places, and they are usually grouped by what they are doing at that place (residents, motorists, recreational users etc.).

A.24 Judging the significance of visual effects requires consideration of the nature of the visual receptors (sensitivity) and the nature of the effect on those receptors (magnitude).

Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)

A.25 GLVIA3 states that the nature of visual receptors, commonly referred to as their sensitivity, should be assessed in terms of the susceptibility of the receptor to change in views/visual amenity and the value attached to particular views.

Susceptibility

A.26 The susceptibility of visual receptors to changes in views/visual amenity is a function of the occupation or activity of people experiencing the view and the extent to which their attention is focussed on views (GLVIA3, para 6.32). This is recorded as high, medium or low according to Table A.6.

Table A.6: Susceptibility of Visual Receptors

Susceptibility	Receptor Group
High	Communities where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents; people engaged in outdoor recreation (including users of public rights of way (PRoW) and National Cycle Routes whose interest is likely to be focussed on the landscape); visitors to heritage assets or other attractions where views of surroundings are an important contributor to experience.
Medium	Travellers on road, rail or other transport routes.
Low	People engaged in outdoor sport or recreation which does not involve or depend upon appreciation of views of the landscape; people at their place of work whose attention is not on their surroundings.

Value

A.27 Recognition of the value of a view is determined with reference to:

- planning designations;
- recorded as important in relation to heritage assets (such as designed views recorded in citations of Registered Parks and Gardens or views recorded as of importance in Conservation Area Appraisals); and
- the value attached to views by visitors, for example through appearances in guidebooks or on tourist maps, provision of facilities for their enjoyment and references to them in literature and art.

A.28 Judgements on value of views are recorded as of national value, local value and community value according to **Error! Reference source not found.**.

Table A.7: Definitions of Value Attached to Views

Size/Scale	Definition
National Value	Views identified in the Cotswolds National Landscape management plan or National landscape character assessments. Designed views recorded in citations for historic parks and gardens or views from historic landscape features (e.g. scheduled monuments). Views from National Trails, Long Distance Trails, Recreational Routes, National Cycle Network (NCN), used in guidebooks to the UK, or marked on OS maps (as a blue viewpoint symbol).
Local Value	Views identified in local designation documents or local authority landscape/townscape assessments. Views recorded as of importance in Conservation Area Appraisals. Views from the District's PRoW (that are not National Trails, 'Recreational Routes' or NCN).
Community Value	Views that are not documented as important in national or local documents but nevertheless are valued at a community level. This might include views from local green spaces, informal local footpaths or roads.

Nature of Effects (Magnitude)

A.29 The nature of the effect on visual receptors (magnitude) is reported in terms of its size and scale, geographical extent, and duration/reversibility.

Size and Scale

A.30 The size/scale of change depends on:

- the scale of the change in view with respect to the loss or addition of features in the view and changes in its composition, including the proportion of the view occupied by the Proposed Project;
- the degree of contrast or integration of any new features or changes in the landscape with the existing or remaining landscape elements and characteristics in

terms of form, scale and mass, line, height, colour and texture;

- the nature of the view of the Proposed Project, in terms of whether views will be full, partial or glimpses.

A.31 The appraisal of effects assumes winter conditions, this revealing greatest visibility with minimal screening by vegetation and deciduous trees.

A.32 In this appraisal size/scale is described as being imperceptible, small, medium or large, with reference to the definitions set out in Table A.8.

Table A.8: Scale of Visual Change

Size/Scale	Definition
Large	Large change in view, perhaps where the Proposed Project is in close proximity in a direct line of vision, or affecting a substantial part of the view, or providing contrast with the existing view.
Medium	Clearly perceptible change in view, perhaps where the Proposed Project is relatively close but at an oblique angle or further away in the direct line of vision, creating a noticeable change to baseline conditions.
Small	Small change in view, perhaps where the Proposed Project is at a distance or oblique angle, or where there is little change to baseline conditions.
Imperceptible	Change in view which is barely perceptible.

Geographical Extent

A.33 This records the extent to which the changes will be visible from each receptor e.g. whether there are only a few locations from where the Proposed Project can be glimpsed, or changes are experienced by few people (small extent), whether there are several locations where similar views can be gained, or changes are experienced by a moderate number of people (medium extent), or whether there are many locations where similar views can be gained, or changes are experienced by a large number of people (large extent).

Duration

A.34 The duration is reported as short term (0-3 years), medium term (3-15 years) or long term (over 15 years). Longer term effects will generally result in higher overall effects.

Reversibility

A.35 Reversibility is reported as reversible, partially reversible or not reversible, and is related to whether the change is likely to be reversed in, for example, a generation[4]. For example, effects arising from presence of construction traffic will cease at the end of construction and are therefore classed as reversible, while restoration of a landscape to something similar to but not the same as the original may be recorded as 'partially reversible' and the presence or removal of built structures are not likely to be reversed in the long term and are therefore classed as 'not reversible'.

Judging the Levels of Effect

A.36 As for landscape effects, the evaluations of the individual aspects set out above (susceptibility, value, size and scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility) were considered together to provide an overall profile of each identified effect. An overview was then taken of the distribution of judgements for each aspect to make an informed professional appraisal of the overall level of effect, drawing on guidance provided in GLVIA3.

A.37 A numerical or formal weighting system was not applied, instead consideration of the relative importance of each aspect was made to feed into the overall decision. Levels of effect were identified as negligible, minor, moderate or major (or intermediate levels such as minor-moderate and moderate-major).

A.38 The matrix diagram above indicates how these various components are combined to inform the overall level of effect.

A.39 The main levels of effect may be defined as shown in Table A.9.

Table A.9: Levels of Visual Effect

Level	Effect Description

[4] The term of years, roughly 30 among human beings, accepted as the average period between the birth of parents and the birth of their offspring [http://www.dictionary.com/browse/generation]

Major	The Proposed Project will result in an obvious change in the view, likely affecting a visual receptor with a high susceptibility to that type of change, and/or affecting a valued view. The effect is likely to be long term and affect a relatively large part of the receptor or affect a large number of people.
Major-Moderate	An intermediate category between major and moderate levels.
Moderate	The Proposed Project will result in a noticeable change in the view, likely affecting a visual receptor with a moderate susceptibility to that type of change, or locally valued. This level of effect may also occur when a smaller scale of effect acts on a more widely valued view, or a larger scale of effect acting on a view valued at a more local level. This level of effect may also occur when a large scale of effect occurs over a relatively short period or over a small area.
Moderate-Minor	An intermediate category between moderate and minor levels.
Minor	The Proposed Project will result in a small change in a relatively lower value view, or one with lower susceptibility to change. This level of effect may also occur when a larger scale of effect is of short duration or affects a small part of the visual receptor/ affects few people.
Negligible	The Proposed Project will not result in a noticeable change in views.

Direction of effect

A.40 The direction of effect (beneficial, adverse or neutral) is determined in relation to the contribution to the view that the Proposed Project makes, even if it is in contrast to the existing character of the view. Effects are assumed to be adverse unless stated otherwise.

Appendix B

Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Visualisation Methodology

B.1 This appendix outlines the methodologies for the production of the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), Viewpoint Photography and Visualisations.

ZTV Mapping

B.2 Evaluation of the theoretical extent to which the Proposed Project will be visible within a 3km radius, was undertaken by establishing a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) using ArcPro 3.0.3 software. This software (Spatial Analyst/Visibility tool) enables the calculation of the theoretical visibility of the Proposed Project from their surroundings.

B.3 The terrain model used was LiDAR Digital Surface Model (DSM) data (1m grid, obtained from the UK Government in September 2023). The DSM accounts for screening objects, including vegetation and buildings.

B.4 Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account.

Visualisations

Viewpoint Photography

B.5 Photographs were taken in December 2023 and March 2024, in compliance with Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19[1]. The camera used for the photography was a Nikon D780 full frame digital SLR with a fixed 50mm focal length lens.

B.6 A tripod with vertical and horizontal spirit levels was used to provide stability and to ensure a level set of adjoining images. A panoramic head was used to ensure the camera rotated about the no-parallax point of the lens in order to eliminate parallax errors between the successive images and enable accurate stitching of the images. The camera was moved through increments of 15 degrees and rotated through a full 360 degrees at each viewpoint. 16 photographs were taken for each 360 degree view.

B.7 The Ordnance Survey coordinates of each viewpoint location were recorded with a GPS device and a photograph of the tripod position was taken in accordance with Landscape Institute guidance.

B.8 Weather conditions and visibility were considered an important aspect of the field visits for the photography. Where possible, visits were planned around clear days with good

visibility. Viewpoint locations were visited at times of day to ensure, as far as possible, that the sun lit the scene from behind, or to one side of the photographer. South facing viewpoints can present problems particularly in winter when the sun is low in the sky and the sun is directly in the view, causing glare.

Photograph Stitching, Wireframes and Photomontages

B.9 PTGui© software was used to stitch together the adjoining images to create wider panoramic images of the development site and wider landscape.

B.10 43D Topos© software was used to create an accurate and dependable Digital Terrain Model (DTM) of the site and surrounding topography using Ordnance Survey Terrain 5 height data. The Existing pylon locations and proposed CSEC locations were added to the model as control points.

B.11 Viewpoints were micro-sited using hi-resolution aerial photography alongside the GPS photography positions and on-site tripod photographs. Views were then created within the 43D Topos model which replicated the camera parameters and perspective geometry of the baseline photography.

B.12 Views were exported from the 43D Topos model and accurately aligned with the Panoramic Photography using the topography and control points. These model exports informed the removal of the existing pylons within relevant views using Adobe Photoshop© software.

B.13 The Proposed new route alignment and cable route information was provided to LUC in both 2D and 3D AutoCAD (DWG) format and the CSEC layout provided as a 3D model (OBJ format). The 3D content was geo-referenced and added to a DTM model created in Blender© software along with the visualisation viewpoint camera positions. Blender was used to render the proposed pylons and CSECs from those viewpoint locations where new proposals were visible. The next stage required the Blender view renders to be composited with the baseline photography using Adobe Photoshop© software to create the visualisations. Adobe InDesign© software was used to present the figures. In order to illustrate the wider landscape and visual context the first image of each figure presents the baseline panorama, followed by the visualisation at 90 degree horizontal field of view. For baseline only views, the position of the CSECs, proposed removal of existing pylons extent and vegetation removal have been indicated on an image with a 90 degree horizontal field of view.

B.14 The visualisations do not show any benefits of the proposed landscape mitigation and therefore, represents a Year 0 scenario. The visualisations show the removal of large areas of woodland including Breakheart Plantation and Warrens Farm Plantation, however, they do not show the removal of field boundaries which the underground cabling route would remove on a temporary basis, prior to its replacement. The visualisations do not take account of any vegetation lost or replaced as a result of the removal of the 400kV overhead line.

Appendix C
Landscape Appraisal Tables

C.1 The following tables provide a summary of the baseline landscape, sensitivity and nature of effects during construction and operation of the Proposed Project upon landscape character as set out in Chapter 5. Effects are assumed to be adverse unless stated otherwise.

Table C.1: LCA 2E: Winchcombe to Dover's Hill

Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
The LCA is considered to have a high susceptibility to the Proposed Project due to the prominence of the steep sided and wooded slopes of the River Isbourne valley. The LCA is currently influenced by electrical infrastructure. The LCA is located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, is considered to be of national value. The sensitivity of the LCA is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Construction activity within the LCA will include construction of temporary access route from the B4632 including associated vegetation removal, construction of the Winchcombe CSEC including earthworks and erection of a replacement terminal pylon and construction of the haul road with associated cable trenches. The haul road and cable trenches will lead to the removal of a swathe of woodland within Breakheart Plantation. Existing pylons will also be removed from this LCA. Laydown areas will be located adjacent to the construction of the CSEC and further to the south-east and south-west adjacent to the underground cable route. Some indirect effects will occur where construction activity is perceptible from elevated ground further to the east of the site. The scale of landscape change is considered to be **medium**. The geographical extent of the Proposed Project is considered to be **medium**, as although changes will be perceived over the adjacent valley, it will not affect the wider linear LCA. Effects will be **short-term, direct** and **reversible** with the exception of tree removal within Breakheart Plantation. The overall effect of the construction work on the landscape character of LCA 2E: Winchcombe to Dover's Hill is considered to be **Moderate adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
The temporary access route from the B4632 will be reinstated, including any replacement tree, hedgerow and woodland planting. The cable route with associated haul road and laydown areas will be reinstated and all existing pylons removed to the south of the Winchcombe CSEC (with the exception of the replacement terminal pylon). The Winchcombe CSEC will incorporate native planting around its periphery. The gap within Breakheart Plantation will be partially planted with native woodland and scrub to provide connectivity and to visually enclose the gap in the wooded escarpment. Although trees cannot be planted over the cables, hedgerows can be replaced and linear strips of shallow rooting native shrubs can be planted. At Year 0, it is predicted that a **small** beneficial scale of landscape change to the LCA is likely to occur, as although there are benefits to the removal of the existing pylons, the planting surrounding the Winchcombe CSEC and within Breakheart Plantation will have not yet matured. With the influence of maturing planting, a **medium** beneficial scale of landscape change is predicted to the LCA at Year 15. The geographical extent of the Proposed Project is considered to be **medium**. Effects will be **long-term, direct** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project upon the LCA during operation is considered to be **Minor beneficial** at Year 0, which will increase to **Moderate beneficial** at Year 15.

Table C.2: LCA 7C: Cotswolds High Wold Plateau

Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
The LCA is considered to have a high susceptibility to the Proposed Project due to the open and elevated nature of the plateau. The LCA is currently influenced by electrical infrastructure and the LCA notes that '*Pylon lines are also intrusive features across this part of the High Wold, notably on the plateau to the east and south of Cheltenham*' The LCA is located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, is considered to be of national value. The sensitivity of the LCA is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Construction activity within the LCA will include construction of temporary access route from the A40 including associated vegetation removal, construction of the Whittington CSEC including localised earthworks, the temporary pylon diversion, the erection of a replacement pylon and construction of the haul road with associated cable trenches. The haul road and cable trenches will necessitate the removal of some limited areas of trees, hedgerows and woodland. Laydown areas, material storage areas and a site compound will be located adjacent to the construction of the cable route, CSEC and along the temporary access route. The scale of landscape change during construction is considered to be **medium to large**. The geographical extent of the Proposed Project is considered to be **medium to large**, due to the open nature of the plateau. Effects will be **short-term, direct** and **reversible** with the exception of tree removal within Warrens Farm Plantation. The overall effect of the construction work the landscape character of LCA 7C: Cotswolds High Wold Plateau is considered to be **Moderate to Major adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
The temporary access route from the A40 will be reinstated, including any replacement tree, hedgerow and woodland planting, as well as dry stone walls. The temporary pylon diversion will be dismantled. The cable route with associated haul road and laydown areas will be fully reinstated and all existing pylons removed to the north-east of the Whittington CSEC. Proposed link pillar boxes will be located along the underground cable route in discrete locations. The Whittington CSEC will incorporate native planting around its periphery as well as replacement stone walls to their original condition. At Year 0, it is predicted that a **medium-high** beneficial scale of landscape change to the LCA is likely to occur. There will be notable benefits from the removal of the existing pylons. Benefits will include the enhancement of the sense of tranquillity and remoteness and remove notable vertical infrastructure from the skyline and broad vistas. However, the planting surrounding the Whittington CSEC will have not yet matured. With the influence of maturing planting surrounding the Whittington CSEC, a **high** beneficial scale of landscape change is predicted to the LCA at Year 15. The geographical extent of the Proposed Project is considered to be **medium to large**. Effects will be **long-term, direct** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project upon the LCA during operation is considered to be **Moderate to Major beneficial** at Year 0, which will increase to **Major beneficial** at Year 15.

Table C.3: LCA 1B Langley Hill

Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
The LCA is considered to have a high susceptibility to the Proposed Project due to the prominence of the steep sided and undulating slopes of Langley Hill. The LCA is currently influenced by electrical infrastructure. The LCA is located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, is considered to be of national value. The sensitivity of the LCA is considered to be **high**.

Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
This LCA will be indirectly affected by the perception of construction activity will be possible from elevated locations to the south of the LCA, limited in part by intervening vegetation and within context of existing pylons and other buildings and roads that exert an influence on existing landscape character. Elements of construction activity that will likely be perceptible from this LCA include highway works associated with a temporary access route from the B4632 with associated vegetation removal, construction of the Winchcombe CSEC including earthworks and erection of a replacement pylon and construction of the haul road with associated cable trenches. The haul road and cable trenches will lead to the removal of a swathe of woodland within Breakheart Plantation, which will be perceptible from certain parts of this LCA towards the skyline of LCAs to the south (LCA 2E and LCA 7C). Laydown areas adjacent to the underground cable route will also likely be perceptible on rising land, though this will be limited by the network of intervening vegetation. The perception of construction activity from areas further north in the LCA will be restricted by landform and areas of woodland. The scale of landscape change is considered to be **small**. The geographical extent of the Proposed Project is considered to be **medium to small**, as changes will be perceived over the adjacent valley to the south of the LCA only. Effects will be **short-term, indirect** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work the landscape character of 1B Langley Hill LCA is considered to be **Minor adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
On completion, the temporary access route (outside this LCA) from the B4632 will be reinstated, including any replacement tree, hedgerow and woodland planting. The cable route (outside this LCA) with associated haul road and laydown areas will be fully reinstated and all existing pylons removed to the south of the Winchcombe CSEC. The Winchcombe CSEC will incorporate native planting around its periphery. Removed woodland within Breakheart Plantation will be partially replaced with native woodland and scrub which will reduce the appearance of fragmentation and help to visually enclose the gap in the wooded escarpment. At Year 0, it is predicted that a **small** beneficial scale of landscape change to the LCA is likely to occur, as there will be benefits associated with the perception of the removal of the existing pylons outside the LCA but the planting surrounding the Whittington CSEC will have not yet matured. With the influence of maturing planting within Breakheart Plantation and surrounding the Winchcombe CSEC a **small to medium** beneficial scale of landscape change is predicted to the LCA at Year 15. The geographical extent of the Proposed Project is considered to be **medium**. Effects will be **long-term, indirect** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project upon the LCA during operation is considered to be **Minor beneficial** at Year 0, which will increase to **Moderate to Minor beneficial** at Year 15

Table C.4: LCA 2D Cooper's Hill to Winchcombe

Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
The LCA is considered to have a high susceptibility to the Proposed Project, due to the prominence of steep sided slopes which are wooded in places. The LCA is currently influenced by electrical infrastructure. The LCA is located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, is considered to be of national value. The sensitivity of the LCA is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
The perception of construction activity from the northern part of the LCA will largely be obscured by landform. Construction activity will be largely imperceptible from areas of the LCA in the north, as land falls away steeply to the west towards Bishop's Cleeve and Cheltenham. However, construction activity to the south will be perceived from nearby southern parts of the LCA including the construction of the Whittington CSEC and access roads, though perception will be largely restricted by intervening vegetation, including Dowdeswell Wood. The construction of the Whittington CSEC including the temporary pylon

diversion and temporary access road from the A40, and the construction of the haul road with associated cable trenches and temporary laydown areas are likely to be perceptible from a distance from elevated roads and footpaths to the south of the Whittington CSEC. The scale of landscape change is considered to be **small to medium**. The geographical extent of the Proposed Project is considered to be **medium to small** as topography will generally limit the perception of construction activity from much of the LC and the temporary pylons will be seen in the context of an existing overhead line. Effects will be **short-term, indirect** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work the landscape character of LCA 2D Cooper's Hill to Winchcombe is considered to be **Minor adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
On completion, the temporary pylon diversion will be dismantled and the temporary access roads, laydown areas and cable route with associated haul road will be reinstated. Existing pylons will also have been removed and the working areas and temporary construction access routes reinstated. The presence of the Whittington CSEC may be perceived from elevated locations to the south of the LCA, balanced against the perception of removal of existing pylons on the skyline. At Year 0, it is predicted that a **small** beneficial scale of landscape change to the LCA is likely to occur, as there will be benefits associated with the perception of the removal of the existing pylons outside the LCA and the Whittington CSEC will not be greatly perceptible due to intervening vegetation. However, the proposed mitigation planting around the Whittington CSEC will not have matured. With the influence of maturing planting surrounding the Whittington CSEC, a **small to medium** beneficial scale of landscape change is predicted to the LCA at Year 15. The geographical extent of the Proposed Project is considered to be **medium to small**. Effects will be **long-term. indirect** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project upon the LCA during operation is considered to be **Minor beneficial** at Year 0, which will increase to **Moderate to Minor beneficial** at Year 15

Table C.5: LCA 19D Vale of Evesham Fringe

Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
The LCA is considered to have a medium susceptibility to the Proposed Project, as it is gently undulating and relatively low-lying in comparison to adjacent escarpment and high wold plateau landscapes. The LCA is currently influenced by electrical infrastructure to the south-west of Winchcombe. The LCA is located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, is considered to be of national value. The sensitivity of the LCA is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
This LCA will be directly affected by the construction of a permanent access road to the Winchcombe CSEC. It will also be indirectly affected due to the perception of construction activity from small parts of the LCA within the valley to the south. This will be limited in part by intervening vegetation and buildings. Elements of perceptible construction activity will include the construction of the Winchcombe CSEC including localised earthworks, the removal of existing pylons and the erection of a replacement terminal pylon and construction of the haul road with associated cable trenches. The haul road and cable trenches will lead to the removal of a swathe of woodland within Breakheart Plantation, which will be perceptible from certain areas within the LCA on the skyline. Laydown areas adjacent to the underground cable route may also be perceptible, though this will be limited by the network of intervening vegetation and landform. The perception of construction activity further to the north of the LCA will be restricted by landform and areas of woodland. The scale of landscape change is considered to be **small**. The geographical extent of the Proposed Project is considered to be **medium to small**, as a combination of topography and intervening vegetation will limit perception of construction activity and only a small part of the LCA will be directly affected. Effects will be **short-term, direct** and **not reversible**.

The overall effect of the construction work the landscape character of LCA 19D Vale of Evesham Fringe is considered to be **Minor adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
On completion, the cable route with associated haul road and laydown areas will be fully reinstated. The presence of the Whittington CSEC and permanent access road may be perceived from small parts of the LCA balanced by the fact that all existing pylons will be removed from the skyline of adjacent LCAs to the south (LCA 2E and LCA 7C). The Winchcombe CSEC will receive native planting around its periphery. The removed woodland from within Breakheart Plantation will be partially replaced with native woodland and scrub which will reduce fragmentation and help to visually enclose the gap in the wooded escarpment. At Year 0, it is predicted that a **small** beneficial scale of landscape change to the LCA is likely to occur, as there will be benefits associated with the perception of the removal of the existing pylons outside the LCA. However, the proposed mitigation planting within Breakheart Plantation and around the Winchcombe CSEC will have not yet matured. With the influence of maturing planting within Breakheart Plantation and surrounding the Winchcombe CSEC, a **small to medium** beneficial scale of landscape change is predicted to the LCA at Year 15. The geographical extent of the Proposed Project is considered to be **medium to small**. Effects will be **long-term, direct** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project upon the LCA during operation is considered to be **Minor beneficial** at Year 0, which will increase to **Moderate to Minor beneficial** at Year 15

Table C.6: LCA VE 1A Teddington and Great Vale

Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
The LCA is considered to have a medium susceptibility to the Proposed Project as it is broadly undulating and relatively low-lying in comparison to nearby escarpment and high wold plateau landscapes of the adjacent National Landscape. The LCA is located not located within any landscape designation and is therefore considered to be of community value. The sensitivity of the LCA is considered to be **medium**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
There will be no direct effects upon the LCA as a result of construction activity. There will be no indirect effects associated with the Winchcombe CSEC or temporary access road, with no views possible towards these elements of construction. However, some distant, limited glimpses may be possible towards, the removal of trees within Breakheart Plantation on the distant skyline. The scale of landscape change is considered to be **imperceptible**. The geographical extent of the Proposed Project is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **short-term, indirect** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work the landscape character of VE 1A Teddington and Great Vale LCA is considered to be **Negligible adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Limited indirect glimpses of the Breakheart Plantation removal will be possible, balanced against the removal of the existing pylons on the skyline. An **imperceptible** neutral scale of landscape change to the LCA is likely to occur at Year 0 and Year 15. The geographical extent of the Proposed Project is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project upon the LCA during operation is considered to be **Negligible neutral** at Year 0 and Year 15.

Table C.7: LCA SV 6B Vale of Gloucester

Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
The LCA is considered to have a medium susceptibility to the Proposed Project, as it is relatively flat and low-lying in comparison to nearby escarpment and high wold plateau landscapes of the adjacent National Landscape. The LCA is located not located within any landscape designation and is therefore considered to be of community value. The sensitivity of the LCA is considered to be **low**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
There will be no direct effects upon the LCA as a result of construction activity. There will be very few indirect effects as a result of construction activity due to intervening landform; these indirect effects will relate to some distant, glimpses of activity relating to the removal of the overhead line The geographical extent of the Proposed Project is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **short-term, indirect** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work the landscape character of SV 6B Vale of Gloucester LCA is considered to be **Negligible adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
The removal of the existing pylons on the skyline will provide some very limited indirect landscape effects. An **imperceptible** beneficial scale of landscape change to the LCA is likely to occur at Year 0 and Year 15. The geographical extent of the Proposed Project is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project upon the LCA during operation is considered to be **Negligible beneficial** at Year 0 and Year 15.

Appendix D

Visual Appraisal Tables

D.1 The following tables provide a summary of the baseline views, sensitivity and nature of effects during construction and operation of the Proposed Project upon visual receptors as set out in Chapter 8. Effects are assumed to be adverse unless stated otherwise.

Community Receptors

Table D.1: Scattered Community north of Postlip

Baseline
The scattered community to the north of Postlip comprises a relatively small number of isolated properties. Some properties lie either side of the access track to Postlip Mill to the south of the B4632 which benefit from an open aspect over adjacent agricultural fields and have foreground views towards existing pylons. Direct views towards the site from these properties are limited by vegetation aligning River Isbourne, buildings at Postlip Mills and other areas of woodland within the landscape. Other properties lie to the east of Postlip; located off a minor road to the south of the B4632. At least two of these properties have open views to the south, which includes the site and the existing pylons on the skyline. Some views are obscured by mature vegetation aligning the River Isbourne as well as vegetation within property boundaries. Further north, a number of isolated and scattered properties are located on steeply rising land to the west of Winchcombe. Much of this part of the community have full or partial views to the south across the valley and towards the site. The pylons crossing the landscape are a notable feature in views from the community as is the presence of the commercial buildings and activity at Postlip paper mill. An example of a view from this community is represented by Viewpoint 1.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Communities are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape within the National Landscape. The receptors are of community value, however, as they are located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (National Landscape) (an AONB), they are considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of the community is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Construction of the Winchcombe CSEC and replacement terminal pylon will be glimpsed through intervening vegetation from some lower lying parts of the community, as will the works associated with the underground cable route, including the removal of woodland through Breakheart Plantation. The construction of the haul road and construction traffic running along it will be more noticeable, including removal of vegetation along the B4632. The scale of change is predicted to be **medium to small**. The geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **short-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon residents within this community is considered to be **Moderate to Minor adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15

Upon completion of the Proposed Project, there will be some limited glimpses of the Winchcombe CSEC and the replacement terminal pylon. The gap in Breakheart Plantation will be evident, in particular from more elevated parts of the community; albeit these are typically more distant, and the Proposed Project will be seen in context of the nearby commercial paper mill. There will also be some visual benefits from this scattered community in relation to the removal of existing pylons to the south of the CSEC and replacement terminal pylon. On balance, at Year 0 an adverse **small** scale of change in views will occur, which with the benefit of mitigation planting this will become a beneficial **small** scale of change at Year 15. The geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation upon the community is considered to be **Minor adverse** at Year 0 and **Minor beneficial** at Year 15.

Table D.2: Scattered Community south-east of Postlip

Baseline
The scattered community to the south-east of Postlip comprises a relatively small number of isolated and clustered properties. The closest cluster of properties are located in a low lying isolated position surrounded by woodland, connected to the B4632 via a 0.75km track which passes through Postlip Mill complex. The primary outlook of one of these properties is to the south-east where glimpses of the site will be possible. An existing pylon lies directly to the west. Other scattered properties are located on the elevated scarp sloes to the south-east of Postlip, just north of Breakheart Plantation. Outward views are possible to the north-west, including towards the site. However, views are typically filtered by intervening vegetation surrounding the scattered community and along local roads including vegetation aligning both sides of Corndean Lane. A small number of scattered properties are located on elevated ground to the east of the Postlip and south of Winchcombe, often accessed via private drives or minor roads to the south of Sudeley Hill. Due to the elevated nature of these properties, many benefit from open panoramic views. An example of a view from this community is represented by Viewpoint 9.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Communities are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape within the National Landscape. The receptors are of community value, however, as they are located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (National Landscape) (an AONB), they are considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of the community is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Construction of the Winchcombe CSEC and replacement terminal pylon will be typically glimpsed through intervening vegetation from much of the scattered community; however, there will be some close views from the parts of the community closest to Postlip. Due to the elevated nature of parts of the community there will be some views towards the haul road and trenches associated with the underground cable route will be visible on the hillside. The removal of a section of Breakheart Plantation will be more visible from a small proportion of the community closest to Postlip but less so from elsewhere. From the majority of the scattered community the scale of change is considered to be **small;** however, in terms of the cluster of properties that lie closest to Postlip and the Winchcombe CSEC and underground cable route the scale of change during construction is considered to be **medium to large.** Effects will be **short-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon the community is in the worst case considered to be **Moderate to Major adverse**; elsewhere it will be **Negligible adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Upon completion of the Proposed Project, all land will be restored and the pylons to the south of Winchcombe CSEC and replacement terminal pylon will be removed, including one adjacent to the closest property. There will be some limited glimpses towards Winchcombe CSEC and the gap in Breakheart Plantation. This will be balanced against the removal of

pylons on higher ground to the south and in context of existing pylons to the north of the CSEC. Embedded landscape mitigation surrounding Winchcombe CSEC and reinstated planting within the gap in Breakheart Plantation will in time mature and help to soften and filter views of the infrastructure and gap in the woodland.

The geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**.

The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Minor to Negligible beneficial** for much of the community at Years 0 and 15.

Table D.3: Scattered Community between Breakheart Plantation and West Down (part of Cleeve Common)

Baseline
The scattered community between Breakheart Plantation and West Down (part of Cleeve Common) comprises a small number of isolated and clustered properties including two isolated properties close to the eastern edge of the site. One lies on relatively level ground to the south of Breakheart Plantation and is surrounded by agricultural buildings limiting some outward views. The existing pylons are a notable detractor in views. The other property lies within the site on sloping ground to the east of Cleeve Common, surrounded by woodland on three sides. Outward views are typically limited to those to the south. The existing pylons cross the landscape close to the east. A cluster of properties lie to the west of the site on relatively open sloping ground to the south of Cleeve Common. The cluster of buildings have numerous outward views mostly focussed to the east and towards the site due to the surrounding landform. The existing pylons are notable man-made features, visible on the skyline.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Communities are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape within the National Landscape. The receptors are of community value, however, as they are located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (National Landscape) (an AONB), they are considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of the community is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Construction of the haul road and trenches associated with the underground cable route will be notable in views from parts of this scattered community. In places views will be limited by intervening woodland and field boundary vegetation. The removal of woodland within the Breakheart Plantation will also be visible from a localised part of the scattered community. The scale of change overall is considered to be **medium to large**. The geographical extent of the property is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon this scattered community will be **Moderate to Major adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Upon completion of the Proposed Project, the land will be restored and the existing pylons will be removed. However, at Year 0, proposed planting within Breakheart Plantation will have yet to mature. On balance, at Year 0 an overall beneficial **medium to small** scale of change in views will occur. With the benefit of planting maturing at Breakheart Plantation and the maturation of replacement planting along field boundaries. A beneficial **medium to large** scale of change is predicted to occur at Year 15. The geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Minor to Moderate beneficial** at Year 0 and **Moderate to Major beneficial** at Year 15.

Table D.4: Scattered Community between West Down (part of Cleeve Common) and Arle Grove

Baseline

The scattered community between West Down (part of Cleeve Common) and Arle Grove comprises a small number of isolated properties, some of which lie close to the existing overhead line. Some of these properties are located on slopes and in locally low ground with areas of steep woodland and plantation woodland partially surrounding them. One of the properties within this area of scattered community is located on open sloping agricultural land further to the south (not the north-east of Arle Grove) and is relatively isolated from the other properties and roads.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Communities are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape within the National Landscape. The receptors are of community value, however, as they are located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (National Landscape) (an AONB), they are considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of the community is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Construction of the haul road and trenches associated with the underground cable route will be visible on higher ground to the west, limited by landform and often seen in context of the existing pylons in the foreground. The scale of change is considered to be **small to medium**. The geographical extent of the property is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon this community will be **Moderate to Minor adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Upon completion of the Proposed Project, the land will be restored and the existing pylons will be removed. An overall beneficial **medium to large** scale of change is predicted to occur at Year 0 and Year 15. The geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation upon this community is considered to be **Moderate to Major beneficial** at Year 0 and Year 15.

Table D.5: Scattered Community between Arle Grove and Dowdeswell Wood

Baseline
The scattered community between Arle Grove and Dowdeswell Wood comprises a small number of isolated and clustered properties, some of which lie close to the existing overhead line. To the north of Ham Road and just east of the overhead line, one relatively isolated property is located on open sloping agricultural land. Agricultural buildings limit some views to the west and south-west, together with surrounding vegetation. Further to the west of the existing overhead line are a small number of scattered properties at the edge of the high wold plateau. These properties are likely to have views towards existing pylons on the skyline; however, a combination of topography and intervening field boundary hedgerows with some scattered trees filter these views. There is a cluster of properties on sloping ground to the south-west of the site. These are generally set within woodland located predominantly to the north and views are typically focussed to the south across the steep sided River Chelt valley. Views of the overhead line to the north-east are possible and there are also views of the overhead line crossing the valley to the south.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Communities are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape within the National Landscape. The receptors are of community value, however, as they are located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (National Landscape) (an AONB), they are considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of the community is considered to be **high**.

Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Construction of the Whittington CSEC, the replacement pylon and temporary overhead line diversion as well as the haul road and trenches associated with the underground cable route will be possible and seen in context of the existing pylons. Views towards construction activity further to the north will be limited by landform and intervening vegetation. Construction traffic along the temporary haul road will be visible from parts of the community, limited in places by field boundary tree lined hedgerows and surrounding vegetation. The overall scale of change is considered to be **medium**. The geographical extent of the property is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon this scattered community overall will be **Moderate adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Upon completion of the Proposed Project, with the exception of the Whittington CSEC and replacement pylon the land will be restored to agricultural use and the existing pylons to the north of the CSEC will be removed. Some views towards the Whittington CSEC are predicted to be possible from parts of the community, limited and filtered in places by agricultural buildings and intervening landform and vegetation. On balance, a **small** scale of change is predicted to occur at Year 0. With the benefit of mitigation planting surrounding the Whittington CSEC, views of the Proposed Project will be more filtered, therefore, an overall **small** beneficial scale of change is predicted at Year 15. The geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Minor to Negligible adverse** at Year 0 and **Minor to Negligible beneficial** at Year 15.

Table D.6: Whittington and surrounding scattered community

Baseline
Whittington village and surrounding scattered community include a number of properties located along the minor road to the north-west of Whittington village to the east of the existing overhead line. Views towards the site are limited by intervening field boundary vegetation and areas of woodland including Dowdeswell Wood and Arle Grove Nature Reserve. In addition, many views from properties are limited by garden vegetation.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Communities are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape within the National Landscape. The receptors are of community value, however, as they are located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (National Landscape) (an AONB), they are considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of the community is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Construction of the Whittington CSEC, replacement pylon and temporary overhead line diversion as well as the haul road and trenches associated with the underground cable route will be glimpsed to the west, seen in context of the existing pylons and limited by intervening vegetation. Construction traffic along the temporary haul road will be visible, limited in part by field boundary hedgerows and vegetation surrounding the buildings. The scale of change is considered to be **medium**. The geographical extent of the property is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon this community will be **Moderate to Minor adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Upon completion of the Proposed Project, the temporary haul road will be removed and land restored to agricultural use. Limited glimpses towards the Whittington CSEC and replacement pylon are predicted over intervening vegetation, including over Dowdeswell Wood; albeit the replacement pylon will be seen in the same way that the existing is. Existing pylons to the north will be removed on the skyline. On balance, an **imperceptible** beneficial scale of change is predicted at Year 0. With

the benefit of mitigation planting surrounding the CSEC and replacement planting along the length of the underground cable route, at Year 15, the scale of change is considered to be beneficial and **small**. The geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation upon the community is considered to be **Negligible beneficial** at Year 0 and **Minor beneficial** at Year 15.

Table D.7: Upper and Lower Dowdeswell and surrounding scattered community

Baseline
The scattered community surrounding Upper and Lower Dowdeswell comprises isolated and clusters of properties along the minor roads between the A40 and A436, located on rising land on the southern side of the River Chelt valley. Outward views to the north from the small settlements and surrounding scattered community are often limited due to the network of intervening woodland, trees and field boundary vegetation. Dowdeswell Wood filters most direct views towards the site from the properties, with some existing pylons visible on the skyline.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Communities are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape within the National Landscape. The receptors are of community value, however, as they are located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (National Landscape) (an AONB), they are considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of the community is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Construction of the Whittington CSEC, replacement pylon and temporary overhead line diversion, as well as the haul road and trenches associated with the underground cable route will be glimpsed above intervening woodland within Dowdeswell Wood. Some glimpses of construction traffic along the temporary haul road may be possible to the north of the A40. The scale of change is considered to be **small**. The geographical extent of the properties is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon the community will be **Minor adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Upon completion of the Proposed Project, the temporary haul road and temporary overhead line diversion will be removed and restored. Limited glimpses towards the Whittington CSEC and replacement pylon are predicted over intervening vegetation, including over Dowdeswell Wood. Existing pylons to the north of the CSEC will be removed from the skyline and the replacement pylon will be seen in the same way that the existing is. On balance, an **imperceptible to small** scale of change is predicted at Year 0 and Year 15. With the benefit of mitigation planting surrounding the CSEC, at Year 15, the scale of change is considered to be beneficial and **imperceptible**. The geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation upon the community is considered to be **Negligible beneficial** at Year 0 Year 15.

Table D.8: Scattered community on the upper slopes of Ravensgate Hill

Baseline
The scattered community on the upper slopes of Ravensgate Hill comprises a small number of isolated and clustered properties, located on elevated land on the southern side of the River Chelt valley. Dowdeswell Wood filters some direct

views towards the site, with existing pylons located both in the foreground and also visible on the distant skyline. Vegetation surrounding the scattered community also limits outward views towards the opposing valley side.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Communities are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape within the National Landscape. The receptors are of community value, however, as they are located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (National Landscape) (an AONB), they are considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of the community is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Views towards the construction of the Whittington CSEC, replacement pylon and temporary pylon diversion from Ravensgate Hill will be visible, albeit from a distance of over 2.5km, seen as a limited part of wider panoramic views and limited by intervening foreground vegetation. Some limited glimpsed views of construction works will also be possible of excavation, construction compounds and the haul road associated with the underground cabling on the skyline. The scale of change is considered to be **small to medium**. The geographical extent of the community is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon this scattered community is considered to be **Moderate to Minor adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Once completed, views towards the Whittington CSEC and replacement pylon from Ravensgate Hill will be visible, with the CSEC partially on the skyline in the distance, seen in context of existing pylons being retained in the foreground. The underground cable route will be restored and not be visible. The other pylons on the skyline beyond the CSEC will have been removed, providing some visual benefits. At Year 0, the scale of change is considered to be **small**. With the benefit of mitigation planting surrounding the CSEC and replacement planting along the length of the underground cable route, at Year 15, the scale of change is considered to be beneficial and **imperceptible**. The geographical extent is considered to be **medium**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation upon this scattered community is considered to be **Minor neutral** at Year 0 and **Negligible beneficial** at Year 15.

Recreational Receptors

Table D.9: Users of the Cotswold Way National Trail – Winchcombe to Cleeve Common

Baseline
From Winchcombe, the trail rises up from the River Isbourne valley to Corndean Lane, then rises steeply before reaching the plateau adjacent to Belas Knap Long Barrow. The trail then crosses open and relatively level agricultural land of the high wold, directly under the existing overhead line before descending steeply through Breakheart Plantation. The trail continues run along escarpment slopes through agricultural land where it then passes through Postlip and begins its ascent through Elder Grove woodland to Cleeve Common. The trail passes directly through the site close to Breakheart Plantation. Views towards the existing overhead line and site are possible from elevated locations including from the trig points and promoted viewpoint at the top of Cleeve Hill (within Cleeve Common). Views from the route are represented by Viewpoints 5, 6, 7 and 10.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Users of the trail are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape. The Cotswold Way is of national value as a nationally promoted trail and is located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of users of the Cotswold Way National Trail is considered to be **high**.

Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
In views from the east, glimpses towards construction of the Winchcombe CSEC, replacement terminal pylon and underground cable route will be possible, including the removal of parts of Breakheart Plantation where the trail rises up the hill (refer to Viewpoint 5). Once the Cotswold Way National Trail ascends to the open plateau of the high wold, glimpses of the haul road and trenches associated with the cable undergrounding will begin to be possible over intervening vegetation, limited in part by areas of woodland (refer to Viewpoint 10). Views of the cable undergrounding activities will intensify as the users of the trail become closer to construction activity and will form a substantial part of the view where it crosses the route. Further to the west of the trail, glimpses towards construction of the CSEC, replacement terminal pylon and cable undergrounding will be possible from select locations (refer to Viewpoint 6), however, from the far west, intervening woodland and landform will serve to obscure most direct views towards construction activities. The exception to this is where the trail rises up to the trig point and promoted viewpoint from the top of Cleeve Common where long distance panoramic views are possible, and some construction activity will be visible. Due to the proximity of the trail to construction activities, a **large** scale of change is predicted. The trail is considered to have a high number of users, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **large**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon users of this section of the trail is considered to be **Major adverse**. However, it should be noted that the effects upon eastern and western parts of this stretch of the Cotswold Way National Trail will be less.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Upon completion, the land occupied by the underground cabling will be restored, although at Year 0, replacement planting will yet to have matured. Views towards the Winchcombe CSEC will be limited by surrounding woodland and hedgerows, with views towards the replacement terminal pylon balanced against the benefit of the removal of other pylons crossing the landscape and in context with existing pylons beyond. A **small to medium** beneficial scale of change will occur at Year 0. With the benefit of maturing planting, including at Breakheart Plantation, a **medium to large** beneficial scale of change is predicted at Year 15. The geographical extent is considered to be **large**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Moderate to Minor beneficial** at Year 0, which will increase to **Moderate to Major beneficial** at Year 15.

Table D.10: Users of the Cotswold Way National Trail – Cleeve Common to Ham Road

Baseline
From Cleeve Common the trail heads southwards across agricultural land and common land, where most views towards the existing overhead line are limited by intervening landform, until the trail joins the local minor road network (west of Warrens Farm). The trail then follows the network of minor roads, broadly parallel to the existing overhead line in the east and from here some open views are possible towards the site. South of Arle Grove the trail runs through agricultural land where it is mostly enclosed by field boundary hedgerows on both sides and therefore views out are typically filtered. Views from the trail are represented by Viewpoint 15.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Users of the trail are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape. The Cotswold Way is of national value as a nationally promoted trail and is located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of users of the Cotswold Way National Trail is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Views towards construction activity associated with the cable undergrounding will be possible from a section of the trail south-east of Warrens Farm, including views towards construction compounds. The temporary overhead line diversion will also be visible albeit in the context of existing views of overhead lines. Although parts of the trail are enclosed by hedgerows

further to the south, construction activity will be directly adjacent to the trail. A **medium** scale of change is predicted during construction. The trail is considered to have a high number of users, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **large**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon users of the trail is considered to be **Moderate adverse**, noting that these effects will only relate to southern most parts of this stretch of the Cotswold Way National Trail.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Upon completion, the land occupied by the underground cabling will be restored, although at Year 0, replacement planting will yet to have matured. The removal of the pylons to the east of the trail will be a noticeable change to the view. A **small to medium** beneficial scale of change will occur at Year 0. With the benefit of maturing planting, a **medium** scale of change is predicted at Year 15. The geographical extent is considered to be **large**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Moderate to Minor beneficial** at Year 0, which will increase to **Moderate beneficial** at Year 15.

Table D.11: Users of the Cotswold Way National Trail – Ham Road to Dowdeswell Wood

Baseline
This very short length of the overall trail passes close to the site and offers panoramic views across the opposing valley to the south. It follows a partly metalled farm track between Ham Road and Dowdeswell Wood. A hedgerow lines the western edge of the trail, with open views through and over a post and wire fence into the field to the east. Views from the trail are represented by Viewpoints 18 and 19.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Users of the trail are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape. The Cotswold Way is of national value as a nationally promoted trail and is located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of users of the Cotswold Way National Trail is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Construction of the Whittington CSEC and replacement pylon will be visible in the east of the field. Construction compounds will be in the foreground. The temporary overhead line diversion will also be visible albeit in the context of existing views of overhead lines. Due to the proximity of the trail to construction activities, the scale of change is considered to be **large**. The trail is considered to have a high number of users, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **large**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon users of the trail is considered to be **Moderate to Major adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Although the Whittington CSEC will be relatively close to the trail, outward views towards the valley to the south will not be affected. Benefits will arise associated with the removal of pylons in views to the north. As mitigation planting surrounding the CSEC will not yet be visually effective, a localised **medium to large** scale of change will occur at Year 0. With the benefit of landscape mitigation surrounding the CSEC, this will reduce to a **medium to small** scale of change at Year 15 of operation. The geographical extent is considered to be **large**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Moderate adverse** at Year 0, which will reduce to **Moderate to Minor adverse** at Year 15.

Table D.12: Users of the Cotswold Way National Trail – Dowdeswell Wood to Ravensgate Hill

Baseline
From Dowdeswell Wood, the trail falls steeply towards the A40 in the valley bottom and is located on the edge of the woodland. Beyond the A40, the trail begins to rise and passes through Lineover Wood where outward views, including towards the site are limited. As the trail deviates to the east, it runs along the top of the escarpment at Ravensgate Hill. Open and panoramic views are possible across the opposing valley including views across Cheltenham, as well as towards the site. Views from the trail are represented by Viewpoint 20.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Users of the trail are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape. The trail is of national value and located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of users of the Cotswold Way National Trail is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Views towards the construction of the CSEC and replacement pylon from Ravensgate Hill will be visible, albeit from approximately 2.5km and seen as a limited part of wider panoramic views. Views of construction works will also be possible including excavation, construction compounds and the haul road associated with the underground cabling, as well as woodland removal on the skyline. The temporary overhead line diversion will also be visible albeit in the context of existing views of overhead lines. Limited glimpsed views of the construction haul road from the A40 and construction activity associated with the cable undergrounding will be possible. The scale of change is considered to be **medium**. The trail is considered to have a high number of visitors, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **large**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon users of the trail is considered to be **Moderate to Minor adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Once completed, views towards the CSEC and replacement pylon from Ravensgate Hill will be visible, with the CSEC seen below the skyline, viewed in context with existing pylons in the foreground. The underground cable route will not be visible. The other pylons on the skyline will have been removed, providing some visual benefits. At Year 0, the scale of change is considered to be **imperceptible beneficial**. With the benefit of mitigation planting surrounding the CSEC and replacement planting along the length of the underground cable route, at Year 15, the scale of change is considered to be **small and beneficial**. The geographical extent is considered to be **large**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Negligible beneficial** at Year 0 and **Minor beneficial** at Year 15.

Table D.13: Users of the Winchcombe Way long distance footpath – Winchcombe to Cleeve Hill Golf Course

Baseline
From Winchcombe, the trail follows crosses gently undulating land west of Beesmoor Brook, before rising steeply past farmsteads and linking with Corndean Lane. The path then follows the route of the Cotswold Way to Belas Knap and across agricultural land before continuing south-west towards Wontley Farm and then west to cross central parts of Cleeve Common. Views from the route are represented by Viewpoint 10.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)

Users of the footpath are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape. The footpath is of national value, with those parts of the route closest to the site located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, are considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of footpath users is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Between Winchcombe and Corndean Lane, only limited glimpses of construction activity would be possible by walkers at an oblique angle to direction of travel. Once the footpath ascends to the open plateau of the high wold, glimpses of the haul road and trenches associated with the cable undergrounding will begin to be possible over intervening vegetation, limited in part by areas of woodland (refer to Viewpoint 10). Views of the cable undergrounding activities will intensify as the users of the footpath become closer to construction activity and will form a substantial part of the view where it crosses the route. Further to the west of the footpath, views of construction activity will still be possible as walkers cross Cleeve Common. The footpath is considered to have a moderate number of users, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **medium**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon users of the Winchcombe is considered to be **Major adverse**. However, it should be noted that the effects upon eastern and western parts of the Winchcombe Way will be less.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Upon completion, the land occupied by the underground cabling will be restored, although at Year 0, replacement planting will yet to have matured. The removal of pylons will be of benefit to users of the footpath. A **medium** beneficial scale of change will occur at Year 0. With the benefit of maturing planting, a **medium to large** beneficial scale of change is predicted at Year 15. The geographical extent is considered to be **medium**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Moderate beneficial** at Year 0, which will increase to **Moderate to Major beneficial** at Year 15.

Table D.14: Users of Windrush Way long distance footpath

Baseline
The Windrush Way provides a connection between the Cotswold Way at Winchcombe to the Oxfordshire Way 22km to the south-east. There is very limited visibility of the site from the footpath in proximity to Winchcombe, however, some oblique views are possible close to Beesmoor Brook as the route passes close to Sudeley Castle. Beyond the castle, there are limited on no views towards the site due to steep and wooded intervening hills. Views from the footpath are represented by Viewpoint 9.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Users of the footpath are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape. The footpath is of national value, with those parts of the route closest to the site located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, are considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of footpath users is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Glimpses of construction of the CSEC and replacement pylon, as well as glimpses of the haul road and trenches associated with the cable undergrounding, including the removal of woodland within Breakheart Plantation, will be possible at an oblique angle to the direction of travel and seen above intervening vegetation. However, at a distance of over 2km, the scale of

change is predicted to be **small**. Most views from the recreational path will remain unaffected, with only a short section of approximately 0.5km anticipated to have views of construction activity. The Windrush Way is considered to have a moderate number of users, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **medium**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon users of Windrush Way is considered to be **Minor adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Once completed, some glimpses of the CSEC and replacement terminal pylon will be possible over intervening vegetation and seen at an oblique angle and in context with existing pylons beyond. No evidence of the underground cables will be visible, although the gap in Breakheart Plantation will be glimpsed from higher ground. The removal of pylons on higher ground will be benefit the view by users of the route. At Year 0 an adverse **imperceptible** scale of change in view will occur. With the benefit of mitigation planting a beneficial **small** scale of change will occur at Year 15. The geographical extent is considered to be **medium**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Negligible adverse** at Year 0 and **Minor beneficial** at Year 15.

Table D.15: Users of Warden's Way

Baseline
The Warden's Way provides a 22km walking connection between Winchcombe and Bourton on the Water. There is very limited visibility of the site where in proximity to Winchcombe, however, some oblique views are possible close to Beesmoor Brook as the route passes close to Sudeley Castle. As the route rises to the south-east of the castle crossing agricultural land, views across the valley become open and panoramic and include views towards the site. Views from the footpath are represented by Viewpoints 8 and 9.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Users of the footpath are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape. The footpath is of national value, with those parts of the route closest to the site located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, is considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of footpath users is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Glimpses of construction of the CSEC and replacement terminal pylon, as well as glimpses of the haul road and trenches associated with the cable undergrounding, including the removal of woodland within Breakheart Plantation, will be possible particularly from higher land. However, at a distance of over 2km and above, the scale of change is predicted to be **small**. The recreational route is considered to have a moderate number of users, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **medium**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon users of Warden's Way is considered to be **Minor adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Once completed, some glimpses of the CSEC and replacement terminal pylon will be possible over intervening vegetation. No evidence of the underground cables will be visible, although the gap in Breakheart Plantation will be glimpsed. The removal of pylons on higher ground will provide benefits to those using the route. At Year 0 a beneficial **imperceptible** scale of change in view will occur. With the benefit of mitigation planting a beneficial **small** scale of change will occur at Year 15.

The geographical extent is considered to be **medium**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Negligible beneficial** at Year 0 and **Minor beneficial** at Year 15.

Table D.16: Users of public rights of way west of Winchcombe, including Winchcombe Way and Gloucestershire Way

Baseline
A number of footpaths and bridleways, including the Winchcombe Way and Gloucestershire Way cross sloping agricultural land to the west of Winchcombe, providing connections to the wider countryside. Numerous open and panoramic views are possible from these routes, limited where in proximity to Langley Hill by woodland. Views from the footpath are represented by Viewpoint 1.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Users of the footpath are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape. Some of the footpaths are of national value, with others being of local value, however, all are located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, are considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of footpath users is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
From most locations, views towards the construction of the CSEC will not be possible, with the exception being from two bridleways. From most footpath routes, views towards the haul road and trenches associated with the underground cable route will be visible on the hillside, including the removal of a section of Breakheart Plantation. The scale of change is considered to be **medium**. As some of the footpaths are considered to be recreational routes and will have a moderate number of users, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **medium**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon users of the public rights of way is considered to be **Moderate adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Upon completion of the Proposed Project, there will be some limited glimpses of the CSEC and the replacement terminal pylon in context with pylons being retained. The gap in Breakheart Plantation will be evident. However, the removal of pylons on the opposing valley will be a notable change to the view. On balance, at Year 0 an adverse **small** scale of change in view will occur, which with the benefit of mitigation planting will become a beneficial **small** scale of change at Year 15. The geographical extent is considered to be **medium**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Minor adverse** at Year 0 and **Minor beneficial** at Year 15.

Table D.17: Users of the Cheltenham Circular Footpath (ZCK61 and ZCK62 only)

Baseline
Although the Cheltenham Circular Footpath surrounds Cheltenham, only select parts of the path will have views towards the site, which include part of ZCK61 and ZCK62, located on elevated land to the south. Due to the elevated nature of these parts of the path open and panoramic views are possible including views across Cheltenham, as well as towards the site. Views from the Cheltenham Circular Footpath are represented by Viewpoint 20.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)

Users of the path are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape. The path is of national value and located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of the route is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Views towards the construction of the CSEC, replacement pylon and temporary overhead line diversion will be visible, albeit from a distance of between 1.5km and 2.6km and seen as a limited part of wider panoramic views and in the context of the existing overhead line. Views of construction works will also be possible of excavation, construction compounds and the haul road associated with the underground cabling, as well as woodland removal on the skyline. Limited glimpsed views of the construction haul road from the A40 and construction activity associated with the cable undergrounding will be possible. The scale of change is considered to be **medium**. The path is considered to have a moderate number of users, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **medium**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon users of the route is considered to be **Moderate to Minor adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Once completed, views towards the CSEC and replacement pylon will be possible, with the CSEC seen below the skyline. The underground cable route will not be visible. The other pylons on the skyline will have been removed, providing visual benefits. At Year 0, the scale of change is considered to be **imperceptible beneficial**. With the benefit of mitigation planting surrounding the CSEC and replacement planting along the length of the underground cable route, at Year 15, the scale of change is considered to be **small and beneficial**. The geographical extent is considered to be **medium**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Negligible beneficial** at Year 0 and **Minor beneficial** at Year 15.

Table D.18: Users of Sabrina Way

Baseline
Sabrina Way is part of the national bridle route network and extends between Gloucestershire to Derbyshire. The route passes through the site via a restricted byway (ASM140) and continues along a minor road on the approach to the Cleeve Hill Common car park before following the western edge of Cleeve Common. Views from the route are represented by Viewpoints 12 and 13.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Users of Sabrina Way are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape. The route is of national value and is located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, is considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of Sabrina Way users is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
There are no views towards construction of the CSECs and replacement pylons from the route. Views of the cable undergrounding will affect a substantial part of the view where physically crossing the area. However, this will be restricted to an approximate 2.5km stretch of the Sabrina Way, with only a 0.1km being physically affected by the Proposed Project. The scale of change is predicted to be **large** during construction, as a result of the Proposed Project. Sabrina Way is considered to have a moderate number of users, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **medium**.

Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon people using the Sabrina Way is considered to be **Moderate to Major adverse**. However, this is considered to be worst case, with effects further away from either side of the Proposed Project being considerably less.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
The underground cabling will not be visible upon operation, with the removal of pylons providing benefits to those using the route, albeit for a short section. A beneficial **medium to high** scale of change in view will occur at Years 0 and 15. The geographical extent is considered to be **medium**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Moderate to Major beneficial** at Years 0 and 15.

Table D.19: Users of public right of way AWB63 located to the south-east of Postlip Mill complex

Baseline
The footpath provides a link from public routes at Postlip Mill to Corndean Lane and crosses sloping agricultural land, as well as following farm and property access tracks where closest to the site. Due to the proximity of northern parts of the footpath to the site, clear open views are possible into the site, however, field boundary vegetation and woodland interspersed within fields limits views from the route further to the south. Open panoramic views are possible from southern parts of the footpath across the River Isbourne valley. Views from the footpath are represented by Viewpoints 3 and 5.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Users of the footpath are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape. The footpath is located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, is considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of footpath users is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Construction of the Winchcombe CSEC and a replacement terminal pylon will appear immediately in the foreground of the view for users of the footpath to the north, including construction compounds. Further to the south, away from the CSEC some glimpsed views towards construction of the CSEC, replacement terminal pylon and underground cable route will be visible, including the removal of parts of Breakheart Plantation. Due to the proximity of the footpath to construction activities, the scale of change is considered to be **large**. Although the footpath is considered to have few users, it is also used as an access track by scattered local community so is anticipated to be used frequently and therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **small to medium**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon users of public right of way AWB63 is considered to be **Moderate to Major adverse**, noting that effects may be less further to the south of the route.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
The proximity of the Winchcombe CSEC and replacement terminal pylon to northern parts of the footpath will bring about a **large** scale of change at Year 0 of operation, which will reduce further to the south of the route and will be balanced against the notable removal of pylons located on higher ground. However, with the benefit of some landscape mitigation surrounding the CSEC, this will reduce to a **medium to small** scale of change at Year 15 of operation and will bring about some benefits to southern parts of the route where removal of pylons has taken place and planting reinstated at Breakheart Plantation. The geographical extent is considered to be **small to medium**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**.

The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Moderate to Major adverse** at Year 0, which will reduce to **Moderate to Minor adverse** at Year 15, with some beneficial effects to southern parts of the footpath.

Table D.20: Users of public right of way AWB24 located north and north-east of Postlip Mill complex

Baseline
The public right of way provides a connection between the B4632 and the south-western edge of Winchcombe, passing along the access track to Postlip Mill and then following the course of the River Isbourne through a linear woodland. Views towards the site are limited by intervening buildings associated with the mill and by vegetation aligning the river.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Users of the footpath are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape. The footpath is located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, is considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of footpath users is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Oblique glimpses of the haul road will be possible to the west of the footpath, in context of passing traffic to Postlip Mill. Some limited glimpses towards the construction of the Winchcombe CSEC and replacement terminal pylon will be possible, limited by intervening buildings and vegetation, in context of the mill in the foreground. The scale of change is therefore considered to be **medium to small**. The footpath is considered to have few users and influenced by uses at the mill, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon users of public right of way AWB64 is considered to be **Moderate to Minor adverse**, with some parts of the route to the east having no view of construction activities.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation, Years 0 & 15
With the haul road removed and land reinstated, views towards the Proposed Project will be limited by intervening buildings and vegetation in the foreground. There will be some benefits to the removal of existing pylons further to the south. The scale of change is therefore considered to be **small** at Year 0 of operation. With the benefit of additional mitigation surrounding the Winchcombe CSEC, views by users of the route will be further limited, therefore, the scale of change is considered to be **small to imperceptible**. The geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Minor adverse** at Year 0, which will reduce to **Negligible neutral** at Year 15

Table D.21: Users of public rights of way AWB22 and AWB23 to the south-west of Postlip Mill complex

Baseline
These footpaths provide links along and between the River Isbourne to the Cotswold Way National Trail and cross sloping agricultural land. Views towards the site are limited by areas of intervening vegetation and by rising topography further to the south.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Users of the footpaths are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape.

The footpaths are of local value, however, are located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, are considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of footpath users is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Most construction activity associated with the Winchcombe CSEC, replacement terminal pylon and cable undergrounding will not be visible due to intervening woodland. However, the temporary access route to the CSEC from the B4632 will temporarily affect the location of the footpaths close to Postlip Mill and glimpses of the replacement terminal pylon will be possible over intervening woodland. Due to these direct but temporary interventions to the footpaths, a **large** scale of change is predicted. The footpaths are considered to have few users and therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon users of public rights of way AWB22 and AWB23 is predicted to be **Moderate adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
With the temporary access route removed and land restored, only glimpses of the replacement terminal pylon will be possible balanced against the removal of pylons on higher ground to the east and south-east and in context of existing pylons in the background. The scale of change is predicted to be beneficial and **medium to small**. The geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Moderate to Minor beneficial** at Years 0 and 15.

Table D.22: Users of public right of way AWB31

Baseline
The footpath provides a link between the River Isbourne to a minor road adjacent to Breakheart Plantation and crossing sloping farmland interspersed by some areas of small woodland. Due to the elevated nature of the footpath, panoramic views are possible across the River Isbourne valley. Views from the footpath are represented by Viewpoint 4.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Users of the footpath are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape. The footpath is located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, is considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of footpath users is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
The southern part of the footpath will be affected by the underground cable route and therefore, a temporary diversion will be necessary. Views towards construction work from northern parts of the footpath will be limited, however, glimpses of the Winchcombe CSEC and replacement terminal pylon will be possible over intervening vegetation. Due to the proximity of the footpath to construction activities, a **large** scale of change is predicted. The footpath is considered to have few users and therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon users of public right of way AWB31 is considered to be **Moderate to Major adverse**, noting that effects may reduce further to the north of the route.

Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
The parts of the route affected by the underground cable route will be restored. Glimpsed views towards the Winchcombe CSEC and replacement terminal pylon will be possible from select locations along the footpath to the east and north, mostly filtered by intervening vegetation. There will be benefits from the removal of the existing pylons to the south of the CSEC. The scale of change is therefore considered to be **small and beneficial** at Year 0 and Year 15. The geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Minor beneficial** at Year 0 and Year 15.

Table D.23: Users of Public Right of Way KWH19

Baseline
This relatively short length of footpath provides a link from Ham Road to the Cotswold Way National Trail and follows a metalled farm access track which is bounded by a mature hedgerow on its eastern edge. Existing overhead powerlines follow much of the course of the footpath. Outward views are limited by the hedgerow adjacent to the footpath, however, some glimpses over the opposing valley are possible. Clear views into the site are possible. Views from the route are represented by Viewpoint 17.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Users of the footpath are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape. The footpath is of local value, however, is located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of footpath users is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Construction of the Whittington CSEC and replacement pylon, will be visible in the foreground for users of the footpath, including views towards construction compounds. Glimpses to construction of the underground cables will be possible beyond Ham Road to the north. The temporary overhead line diversion will also be visible albeit in the context of existing views of overhead lines. Due to the proximity of the footpath to construction activities, the scale of change is considered to be **large**. The footpath is considered to have few users, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon users of public right of way KWH19 is considered to be **Moderate to Major adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
The proximity of the Whittington CSEC and will bring about a **large** scale of change at Year 0 of operation, balanced against the notable removal of pylons located further to the north and in the context of the existing overhead line to the south. The replacement pylon will be viewed in the same way as the existing pylon it will replace. However, with the benefit of landscape mitigation surrounding the Whittington CSEC, this will reduce to a **medium to small** scale of change at Year 15 of operation. The geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Moderate to Major adverse** at Year 0, which will reduce to **Moderate to Minor adverse** at Year 15.

Table D.24: Users of Public Rights of Way to the east, north and south-west of Lower Dowdeswell, including KD05, KD06, KD03, KD02 and KAN2

Baseline
A number of public rights of way radiate from Lower Dowdeswell, crossing surrounding sloping agricultural land, providing access between minor roads and nearby villages. Some routes pass through areas of woodland and vegetation surrounding Lower Dowdeswell, which limits user's outward views. Where crossing open agricultural land, views towards the site are limited by Dowdeswell Woods. Views from the route are represented by Viewpoint 23.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Users of the footpaths are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape. The footpaths are of local value, however, are located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of footpath users is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Views towards the construction of the Whittington CSEC and replacement pylon and temporary overhead line diversion will be mostly filtered by Dowdeswell Wood, however, some limited glimpses may be possible from select areas of the footpath network. Limited glimpsed views of the construction haul road and construction activity associated with the cable undergrounding will be possible. The temporary overhead line diversion will also be visible albeit in the context of existing views of overhead lines. The scale of change is considered to be **small**. The footpaths are considered to have few users, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon users of the public rights of way is considered to be **Minor adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Views towards the Whittington CSEC and replacement pylon will be mostly filtered by Dowdeswell Wood, however, some limited glimpses may be possible from select areas of the footpath network. Some limited benefits as a result of the removal of pylons. The scale of change is considered to be **small**. The geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Minor neutral** at Years 0 and 15, noting that the Proposed Project will not be visible from parts of the footpath routes.

Table D.25: Users of elevated public rights of way north of the A436, including KD022, KD026, KD018, KD019, KD020 and KD021

Baseline
A number of elevated public rights of way pass criss-cross the agricultural landscape to the north of the A436 and to the south and west of Upper Dowdeswell. Some views from these footpaths are limited by large swathes of woodland, however, due to the elevated nature of the routes, some open and panoramic views are possible towards the opposing valley to the north, including towards the site. Views from the route are represented by Viewpoint 21.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Users of the footpaths are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape.

The footpaths are of local value, however, are located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of footpath users is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Views towards the construction of the Whittington CSEC and replacement pylon and temporary overhead line diversion will be mostly filtered by Dowdeswell Wood, however, some glimpses may be possible from select areas of the footpath network. Limited glimpsed views of the construction haul road and construction activity associated with the cable undergrounding will be possible. The temporary overhead line diversion will also be visible albeit in the context of existing views of overhead lines. The scale of change is considered to be **small**. The footpaths are considered to have few users, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon users of the public rights of way is considered to be **Minor adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Views towards the Whittington CSEC and replacement pylon will be mostly filtered by Dowdeswell Wood, however, some limited glimpses may be possible from select areas of the footpath network. Some limited benefits as a result of the removal of pylons. The scale of change is considered to be **small**. The geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Minor neutral** at Years 0 and 15, noting that the Proposed Project will not be visible from parts of the footpath routes.

Table D.26: Users of Cleeve Common, including Common Land, public rights of way and golf course

Baseline
Cleeve Common is a large area of common land to the east of Cheltenham occupying high sloping ground, predominantly to the west of the site, although it does occupy parts of the site. The common is crossed by numerous public rights of way and promoted long distance paths including the Winchcombe Way and the Cotswold Way National Trail, as well as crossed by a number of other informal footpath routes and bridleways. The Cleeve Hill Golf Club occupies parts of the common to the north. The common is designated as a SSSI and includes three scheduled monuments. Two trig points are located within the common, including at 317m AOD (Viewpoint 7) and 330m AOD (Viewpoint 11). Views towards the existing overhead line and site are possible from elevated locations including from the trig point and promoted viewpoint at the top of Cleeve Hill (within Cleeve Common). Views from the common are represented by Viewpoints 7, 11 and 12.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Visitors to the common are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape. The common is of national value, being designated for its ecological and historic value. It is located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB) and there is a promoted viewpoint marked on the OS map at a high point, therefore, is considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of visitors to the common is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Glimpses of construction of the Winchcombe CSEC and replacement terminal pylon are predicted from limited areas of the common, limited by intervening woodland. Some limited glimpses of the haul road and trenches associated with the cable undergrounding, will be possible from northern parts of the common. However, views of the cable undergrounding further to the south-east of the common will affect a substantial part of the view where physically crossing the area. Therefore, the scale of change is predicted to be **large** as a result of the Proposed Project. Cleeve Common is considered to have a large number of users, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **large**.

Effects will be **short-term, direct** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon visitors to Cleeve Common are considered to be **Major adverse**. However, this will be limited to south-eastern areas of the common, with areas further to the north only glimpsing construction activities.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Once completed, the underground cabling will not be visible, with all land restored, albeit at Year 0, replacement vegetation will not yet have matured. Some glimpses of the Winchcombe CSEC and replacement terminal pylon will be possible from select areas of the common balanced against the benefit of the removal of other pylons crossing the landscape on the high wold and in context with lower lying existing pylons beyond the CSEC to the north. The removal of pylons will provide benefits to the visual amenity of people using the common at Year 0, albeit the mitigation planting to replace vegetation lost will not be mature. At Year 0 a beneficial **medium** scale of change in view will occur. With the benefit of replacement planting and removal of pylons a beneficial **medium to high** scale of change will occur at Year 15. The geographical extent is considered to be **large**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Moderate beneficial** at Year 0 and **Moderate to Major beneficial** at Year 15.

Table D.27: Users of Longbarrow Bank open access land

Baseline
A relatively small area of open access land to the south-east of Winchcombe occupying high sloping ground (just outside the study area). The Wardens Way long distance path borders the open access land to the north and the historic Salt Way borders the land to the east. There is an informal layby for parking next to the open access land along Salt Way. Views from the open access land are typically open and panoramic in nature and include long distance views towards the site to the east.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Visitors to the open access land are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape. The open access land is of national value, being located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, is considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of visitors to the open access land is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Limited long-distance glimpses of construction work will be possible, including towards the CSEC, replacement terminal pylon and underground cabling. The scale of change is considered to be **small**. The open access land is considered to have few users, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon users of the road is considered to be **Minor adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Once completed, the underground cabling will not be visible. Some long-distance glimpses towards the top of the gantries within the CSEC and replacement terminal pylon will be possible but backclothed against landform and vegetation so not readily visible. The removal of pylons from the distant skyline will have some benefits to views. The scale of change is considered to be **small** beneficial at both Years 0 and 15. The geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Minor beneficial** at Years 0 and Year 15.

Table D.28: Visitors to Sudeley Castle and Gardens

Baseline
Sudeley Castle and Gardens lies to the south-east of Winchcombe and is open to paying visitors. Most of the house and gardens are inward facing with limited outward views. However, some outward views are possible to the south-west of the complex, in proximity to the staff car parking areas, including towards the site. Views from the castle and gardens are represented by Viewpoint 9.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Visitors to the castle are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape. The castle and gardens are of national value, being part of a registered park and garden and located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, are considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of the castle and garden visitors are considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Glimpses of construction of the Winchcombe CSEC and replacement terminal pylon, as well as glimpses of the haul road and trenches associated with the cable undergrounding, including the removal of woodland within Breakheart Plantation, will be possible. However, at a distance of over 2km, the scale of change is predicted to be **small**. The castle and gardens is considered to have a large number of users, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **large**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon visitors to the castle and gardens are considered to be **Moderate to Minor adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Once completed, some glimpses of the Winchcombe CSEC and replacement terminal pylon will be possible over intervening vegetation, in the context of pylons that will be retained to the north. No evidence of the underground cables will be visible, although the gap in Breakheart Plantation will be glimpsed. The removal of pylons from the skyline on higher ground will provide benefits to those visiting the Sudeley Castle and Gardens. At Year 0 an adverse **small** scale of change in view will occur. With the benefit of mitigation planting a beneficial **small** scale of change will occur at Year 15. The geographical extent is considered to be **large**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Minor adverse** at Year 0 and **Minor beneficial** at Year 15.

Table D.29: Visitors to Belas Knap Long Barrow

Baseline
Belas Knap is a neolithic chambered long barrow designated as a scheduled monument and publicly accessible being adjacent to the Cotswold Way National Trail and Winchcombe Way long distance footpath. Outward views from the long barrow are limited by mature woodland to the east and south-west. Some glimpsed views are possible towards the site through intervening field boundary vegetation. The existing overhead line on the high wold plateau is visible on the skyline from Belas Knap. Views from the long barrow are represented by Viewpoint 10.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Visitors to the long barrow are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape.

The long barrow is of national value, being designated for its historic value and located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, is considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of visitors to Belas Knap long barrow is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
There will be no views towards construction of either the northern or Whittington CSEC, the replacement pylons or temporary overhead line diversion. Glimpses of the haul road and trenches associated with the cable undergrounding will be possible over intervening vegetation, limited in part by areas of woodland. The scale of change during construction is predicted to be **small** as a result of the Proposed Project. Belas Knap Long Barrow is considered to have a moderate number of visitors, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **medium**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon visitors to Belas Knap Long Barrow is considered to be **Minor adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
The underground cabling will not be visible upon operation, with the removal of pylons providing benefits to those visiting the long barrow. A beneficial **small to medium** scale of change in view will occur at Years 0 and 15. The geographical extent is considered to be **medium**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Moderate to Minor beneficial** at Years 0 and 15.

Table D.30: Visitors to the Kilkenny Nature Reserve and open access land

Baseline
Kilkenny Nature Reserve is a small nature reserve and area of open access land located on higher ground to the south of the A436. Some panoramic views are possible from select areas of the reserve, including towards the site. The OS indicates a promoted viewpoint from the reserve. Views towards the site are limited in part by Dowdeswell Wood. Views from the route are represented by Viewpoint 22.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Visitors to the reserve and user of the open access land are considered to have a high susceptibility to visual change with the focus likely to be on the landscape. The nature reserve is of local value, however, is located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB) and the OS depicts a promoted viewpoint, therefore, is considered to be of high value. The sensitivity of visitors to the nature reserve and user of the open access land is considered to be **high**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Views towards the construction of the Whittington CSEC and replacement pylon will be filtered by Dowdeswell Wood, however, some glimpses may be possible from select areas of the reserve. Limited glimpsed views of the construction haul road and construction activity associated with the cable undergrounding will be possible. The temporary overhead line diversion will also be visible albeit in the context of existing views of overhead lines. The scale of change is considered to be **small**. The nature reserve/ open access land is considered to have a moderate number of visitors, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **medium**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon users of the public rights of way is considered to be **Minor adverse**.

Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Views towards the Whittington CSEC and replacement pylon will be filtered by Dowdeswell Wood, however, some limited glimpses may be possible from select areas of the reserve/open access land, balanced against the removal of pylons from the skyline. The replacement pylon will be viewed in the same way as the existing pylon it will replace. There will be some limited benefits as a result of the removal of pylons. The scale of change is considered to be **small**. The geographical extent is considered to be **medium**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Negligible neutral** at Years 0 and 15.

Road Receptors

Table D.31: People travelling on the B4632

Baseline
The road provides a link between Winchcombe and Cheltenham and passes to the north of the site at its closest point. Views towards the site are limited by the topography and vegetation aligning the road. With any views limited to fleeting oblique glimpses where gaps in vegetation arise. Views from the route are represented by Viewpoint 2.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Users of the road are considered to have a medium susceptibility to visual change. The road is of no greater than community value, however, is located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, on balance is considered to be of medium value. The sensitivity of road users is considered to be **medium**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
A temporary haul road with associated bell mouth will be located off the B4632, necessitating the removal of roadside hedgerows. Some limited glimpses will be possible towards the construction of the CSEC, replacement terminal pylon and underground cabling, including the removal of a section of Breakheart Plantation. The scale of change is considered to be **small to medium**. The road is considered to have a moderate number of users, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **medium**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible** with the exception of tree removal within Breakheart Plantation. The overall effect of the construction work upon users of road is considered to be **Minor adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
The haul road will have been removed, with roadside vegetation restored. Some limited fleeting glimpses towards the top of the gantries within the CSEC and replacement terminal pylon will be possible, balanced against the removal of pylons on higher ground and in context of existing pylons in the foreground. The scale of change is considered to be **imperceptible** at both Years 0 and 15. The geographical extent is considered to be **medium**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Negligible beneficial** at Years 0 and 15.

Table D.32: People travelling on Langley Road

Baseline

The road provides a link between Winchcombe and the B4632 for numerous farmsteads, occupying an elevated location above Langley Brook. Views towards the site are possible at an oblique angle to the direction of travel, limited in part by vegetation aligning the road.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Users of the road are considered to have a medium susceptibility to visual change. The road is of no greater than community value, however, is located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, on balance is considered to be of medium value. The sensitivity of road users is considered to be **medium**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Some glimpses will be possible towards the construction of the CSEC, replacement terminal pylon and underground cabling, including the removal of a section of Breakheart Plantation. Glimpses of the temporary haul road will also be seen. The scale of change is considered to be **small to medium**. The road is considered to have a few users, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible** with the exception of tree removal within Breakheart Plantation. The overall effect of the construction work upon users of road is considered to be **Minor adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Some fleeting glimpses towards the top of the gantries within the CSEC and replacement terminal pylon will be possible, balanced against the removal of pylons on higher ground. Removal of a section of Breakheart Plantation visible on the skyline. The scale of change is considered to be **imperceptible** beneficial at Year 0. With the benefit of replacement planting within Breakheart Plantation, a **small** beneficial scale of change is predicted at Year 15. The geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Negligible beneficial** at Years 0 and **Minor beneficial** at Year 15.

Table D.33: People travelling on Sudeley Hill and Salt Way

Baseline
Sudeley Hill extends from Winchcombe and past Sudeley Castle before rising steeply up towards Round Hill to the north-east of the site where it merges with Salt Way (an ancient routeway). Some limited views are possible through gaps in vegetation aligning Sudeley Hill, however, most of the road has very limited or no view towards the site. Long distance, elevated open views are afforded to the east from a short section of the Salt way, just outside the study area, where there is an informal layby for parking next to Longbarrow Bank open access land.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Users of the road are considered to have a medium susceptibility to visual change. The road is of no greater than community value, however, is located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, on balance is considered to be of medium value. The sensitivity of road users is considered to be **medium**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Limited glimpses of distant construction work will be possible, including towards the CSEC, replacement terminal pylon and underground cabling, as well as the removal of a section of Breakheart Plantation. The scale of change is considered to be **small**. The road is considered to have few users, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **small**.

Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon users of the road is considered to be **Minor adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Glimpses towards the top of the gantries within the CSEC and replacement terminal pylon will be balanced against the removal of other pylons on the skyline. The scale of change is considered to be **small** beneficial at both Years 0 and 15. The geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Minor beneficial** at Years 0 and 15.

Table D.34: People travelling on Corndean Lane

Baseline
Corndean Lane is a steep winding minor road which extends from the south-western edge of Winchcombe to Charlton Abbots. Glimpse views towards the site are typically restricted by roadside vegetation. Views from the route are partially represented by nearby Viewpoint 5.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Users of the road are considered to have a medium susceptibility to visual change. The road is of no greater than community value, however, is located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, on balance is considered to be of medium value. The sensitivity of road users is considered to be **medium**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Limited glimpsed views of construction work will be possible, including towards the CSEC, replacement terminal pylon and underground cabling, as well as the removal of a section of Breakheart Plantation. The majority of views will be typically screened by roadside vegetation aligning the road. The scale of change is considered to be **small to imperceptible**. The road is considered to have few users, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible** with the exception of tree removal within Breakheart Plantation. The overall effect of the construction work upon users of the road is considered to be **Minor adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Glimpsed views towards the CSEC and replacement terminal pylon will be balanced against the removal of other pylons crossing the landscape. The scale of change is considered to be **small to imperceptible** beneficial at both Years 0 and 15. The geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Minor beneficial** at Years 0 and 15.

Table D.35: People travelling on the minor road south of Corndean Hall

Baseline
This minor road provides a link between Corndean Lane to the east and residential properties to the west and crosses the site. The route is heavily wooded on the southern side and enclosed by woodland and field boundary vegetation to the north, with limited outward views. Views from the route are partially represented by nearby Viewpoint 6.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)

Users of the road are considered to have a medium susceptibility to visual change. The road is of no greater than community value, however, is located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, on balance is considered to be of medium value. The sensitivity of road users is considered to be **medium**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
The route for the underground cabling will cross the road and will require a swathe of vegetation removal either side of the road. Clear and unobstructed views will be possible towards construction activity at this point. A **large** scale of change is predicted to a limited part of the road. The road is considered to have few users, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible** with the exception of tree removal within Breakheart Plantation. The overall effect of the construction work upon users of the road is considered to be **Moderate to Major adverse**. However, parts of the road will have very limited views towards construction activities.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
At Year 0, gaps in vegetation will be apparent as a result of the cable undergrounding, with proposed replacement mitigation planting not yet visual effective. The overhead line which currently crosses the road will be removed from views. A **medium** scale of change is predicted at Year 0 to a limited part of the road. With the benefit of mitigation planting either side of the road, and the removal of pylons crossing the road an **imperceptible** beneficial scale of change is predicted at Year 15. The geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Moderate to Minor adverse** at Year 0 and **Negligible beneficial** at Year 15.

Table D.36: People travelling on minor roads north-west of Whittington village

Baseline
A number of minor roads, lanes and byways cross the agricultural landscape to the north-west of Whittington, including in two locations where the site crosses unnamed minor roads between Warrens Farm Plantation and Arle Grove woodland. Views towards the site are generally limited by field boundary vegetation aligning both sides of the road. Views from the route are represented by Viewpoints 13, 14 and 15.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Users of the roads are considered to have a medium susceptibility to visual change. The roads are of no greater than community value, however, they are located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, on balance are considered to be of medium value. The sensitivity of road users is considered to be **medium**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
The route for the underground cabling will cross two minor roads and as such will require some roadside vegetation and drystone wall removal. Clear and unobstructed views will be possible towards construction activity at these points. A **large** scale of change is predicted to select parts of the roads. The roads are considered to have few users, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon people using the roads is considered to be **Moderate to Major adverse**. However, parts of the road away from the crossing points will have very limited views towards construction activities.

Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
At Year 0, gaps in vegetation will be apparent as a result of the cable undergrounding, with proposed replacement mitigation planting not yet visual effective. Drystone walls will have been rebuilt to their original condition and the overhead line which currently crosses the road will be removed from views. An **imperceptible** beneficial scale of change is predicted at Year 0. With the benefit of mitigation planting maturing either side of the roads, and the removal of pylons crossing the landscape a **medium** beneficial scale of change is predicted at Year 15. The geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Negligible beneficial** at Year 0 and **Moderate beneficial** at Year 15.

Table D.37: People travelling on Ham Road

Baseline
Ham Road is a narrow minor road between Cheltenham and Whittington. Views towards the site by users of the road are limited to an approximate 0.5km stetch, with other parts of the road having no view towards the site due to topography or intervening vegetation and woodland. Views from the route are represented by Viewpoints 17 and 18.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Users of the road are considered to have a medium susceptibility to visual change. The road is of no greater than community value, however, is located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, on balance is considered to be of medium value. The sensitivity of road users is considered to be **medium**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Drystone walls and vegetation will be removed on both sides of the road. The underground cable route will be visible on both sides of the road, with construction of the Whittington CSEC in the foreground in a field to the south of Ham Road. The temporary overhead line diversion will also be visible albeit in the context of existing views of overhead lines. A **large** scale of change is predicted along a section of the road. The road is considered to have few users, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon users of the roads is considered to be **Moderate to Major adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
At Year 0, land to the north will be restored with pylons removed (including removal of the temporary overhead line diversion). However, due to the proximity of the Whittington CSEC and with mitigation planting not yet mature, a **medium** scale of change is predicted in Year 0. With the benefit of maturing mitigation, direct views of the Whittington CSEC will be filtered, however, some glimpses will be possible along the access road. A **small to medium** scale of change is predicted at Year 15. The geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Minor to Moderate adverse** at Year 0 and **Minor adverse** at Year 15.

Table D.38: People travelling on minor roads east of Whittington village

Baseline

Minor roads, lanes and byways to the east of Whittington cross agricultural land and provide local access for local communities to nearby main roads and settlements. Views from users of the roads towards the site are typically limited by vegetation aligning the routes and seen at a distance of over 2km. Long distance, elevated open views are afforded to the east from a short section of an unnamed road between Charlton Abbots and the Salt Way at Roel Gate crossroads. An informal layby for parking is found adjacent to a Scheduled Monument locally known as 'Roel Camp' (Camp S of Bespidge Wood, near Sudeley. Examples of views from these routes are represented by Viewpoint 16.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Users of the roads are considered to have a medium susceptibility to visual change. The roads are of no greater than community value, however, they are located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, on balance are considered to be of medium value. The sensitivity of road users is considered to be **medium**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Due to the distance of the roads, construction activities, including construction of the Whittington CSEC, will be barely perceptible due to intervening vegetation and the distance of the roads from the site. The temporary overhead line diversion will be distantly visible in the context of the existing overhead line which is to be removed. An **imperceptible** scale of change is predicted. The roads are considered to have few users, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon users of the roads is considered to be **Negligible adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
The Whittington CSEC will be barely perceptible by users of the roads and the replacement pylon will be viewed in the same way as the existing pylon it will replace, however, the removal of the pylons north of the CSEC will bring about a **small** beneficial scale of change at Years 0 and 15. The geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Minor beneficial** at Years 0 and 15.

Table D.39: People travelling on the A40

Baseline
The A40 follows the River Chelt valley where closest to the site. No views are possible towards the site from the road due to intervening topography and woodland. Views from the route are represented by Viewpoint 24.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Users of the road are considered to have a medium susceptibility to visual change. The road is of no greater than community value, however, is located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, on balance is considered to be of medium value. The sensitivity of road users is considered to be **medium**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
A haul road will be constructed from the A40 through a woodland and across fields towards the Proposed Project. Some vegetation will need to be removed to facilitate the construction of the haul road. A **small** scale of change is predicted.

The road is considered to have a large number of users, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **large**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon users of the roads is considered to be **Minor adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Views towards the Whittington CSEC and replacement pylon will be filtered by Dowdeswell Wood and the replacement pylon will be viewed in the same way as the existing pylon it will replace. There will be some limited benefits as a result of the removal of pylons to the north of the CSEC. The scale of change is considered to be **small**. The geographical extent is considered to be **large**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Minor beneficial** at Years 0 and 15.

Table D.40: People travelling on minor roads through and east of Lower and Upper Dowdeswell

Baseline
A number of minor roads criss-cross the agricultural landscape between the villages of Lower and Upper Dowdeswell. Due to the elevated nature of the roads, users have some limited and intermittent views towards the site. An example of views from these roads is represented by Viewpoint 23.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Users of the roads are considered to have a medium susceptibility to visual change. The roads are of no greater than community value, however, they are located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, on balance are considered to be of medium value. The sensitivity of road users is considered to be **medium**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Views towards the construction of the Whittington CSEC, replacement pylon and temporary overhead line diversion will be mostly filtered by Dowdeswell Wood, however, some limited glimpses may be possible from select areas of the road network. There will be limited glimpsed views of the construction haul road from the A40 and construction activity associated with the cable undergrounding. The scale of change is considered to be **small**. The roads are considered to have few users, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon users of the roads is considered to be **Minor adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Views towards the Whittington CSEC and replacement pylon will be mostly filtered by Dowdeswell Wood, however, some limited glimpses may be possible from select areas of the road network. The replacement pylon will be viewed in the same way as the existing pylon it will replace. There will be some limited benefits as a result of the removal of pylons to the north of the CSEC. The scale of change is considered to be **small**. The geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Minor neutral** at Years 0 and 15.

Table D.41: People travelling on the A436

Baseline

The main road passes approximately 2.5km south of the site at its closest point, located on locally elevated land. Although most views towards the site are obscured by intervening vegetation aligning the road, some fleeting views are possible, particularly from the south-east.
Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
Users of the road are considered to have a medium susceptibility to visual change. The road is of no greater than community value, however, is located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, on balance is considered to be of medium value. The sensitivity of road users is considered to be **medium**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Views towards the construction of the Whittington CSEC and replacement pylon will be mostly filtered by Dowdeswell Wood, however, some glimpses may be possible. The temporary overhead line diversion will be distantly visible in the context of the existing overhead line which is to be removed. There will be limited glimpsed views of the construction haul road from the A40 and construction activity associated with the cable undergrounding. The scale of change is considered to be **small**. The road is considered to have a large number of users, therefore, the geographical extent is considered to be **large**. Effects will be **short-term** and **reversible**. The overall effect of the construction work upon users of the road is considered to be **Minor adverse**.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Views towards the Whittington CSEC and replacement pylon will be mostly filtered by Dowdeswell Wood, however, some limited glimpses may be possible. The replacement pylon will be viewed in the same way as the existing pylon. There will be benefits as a result of the removal of pylons north of the CSEC. The scale of change is considered to be **imperceptible** beneficial. The geographical extent is considered to be **small**. Effects will be **long-term** and **not reversible**. The overall effect of the Proposed Project during operation is considered to be **Negligible beneficial** at Years 0 and 15.

Appendix E

Proposed Approach to Landscape and Visual Appraisal

E.1 The 'Proposed Approach to Landscape and Visual Appraisal' report was produced by LUC and was sent to relevant parties in October 2023 as set out in Section 4 of the report.

12508 Cotswold VIP Project – Proposed Approach to Landscape and Visual Appraisal

Introduction

The following provides an approach to the landscape and visual appraisal (LVA) for the proposed scheme to underground a section of overhead line within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the planning application for the construction of two sealing end compounds (SEC) required to facilitate the transition from the overhead line to the underground cable.

The purpose of the note is to provide sufficient information about the project and proposed approach to the LVA to obtain feedback from the local authority officers and statutory bodies prior to the submission of the planning application in early 2024.

This LVA will be prepared by LUC on behalf of National Grid for the Cotswolds VIP project.

The purpose of the LVA is to consider effects on:

- the landscape as a resource in its own right (caused by changes to the constituent elements of the landscape, its specific aesthetic or perceptual qualities and the character of the landscape); and
- views and visual amenity as experienced by people (caused by changes in the appearance of the landscape).

Subject to EIA Screening, the undergrounding of the cables is being treated as permitted development, with the two SEC (and associated access) requiring planning permission. However, the LVA will consider the landscape and visual effects of all elements of the proposed project, which are set out in more detail below.

Study Area

Informed by the extent and scale of the two proposed SEC's and underground cabling in between, the LVA will comprise a 3km buffer on either side of the proposed project. The study area is shown on Figures 1 and 2.

Based on professional judgement and experience of assessing transmission infrastructure, effects on landscape character and visual amenity are unlikely to occur beyond the study area. However, more distant visual receptors and representative viewpoints beyond 3km may be considered where there is the potential for visual effects to arise beyond the study area. This could include highly sensitive viewpoints in nationally designated landscapes, or locations where the topography allows more far-reaching views of the proposed project. The location of these viewpoints will be informed by Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping, which indicates the areas from which the proposed project would be theoretically visible, supplemented by field work and agreed with consultees. All viewpoints are currently proposed within 3km of the proposed scheme.

Existing Conditions

A desk-based review of existing information has been undertaken, including Ordnance Survey (OS) maps, the relevant Local Development Plans and National and Local Landscape Character Assessment. This has been supplemented by field work observations in August 2023. Additional field work will be carried out upon provision of feedback.

Landscape Baseline

The proposed project and most of the study area falls within the Cotswolds AONB. The LVA will consider the potential for the proposed project to affect the special qualities of the AONB as set out in the Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan 2023-2025, and the overall purposes of the national designation.

The following will provide local planning policy over the study area:

- Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031;
- Tewkesbury Borough Local Plan to 2011-2031;
- Cheltenham Plan; and
- Cotswold District Local Plan 2011-2031.

The principal sources of information concerning landscape character within the study area will be taken from:

- National Landscape Character Assessment, Natural England, 2012-2014;
- The Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment, LDA on behalf of Cotswolds AONB Partnership, 2004; and

- Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment, LDA on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council, 2006.

The site and wider study area are crossed by numerous public rights of way including the Cotswold Way National Trail and Wincombe Way long distance path and features areas of common land at Cleeve Common. Numerous ecological and heritage designations, both at a national and local scale are located within the study area which have the potential to influence the sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors.

Visual Baseline

There are a number of visual receptors in the study area including those listed below:

- Residents within nearby scattered farmsteads and properties aligning nearby roads/tracks;
- Residents within nearby settlements including Winchcombe, Cheltenham, Charlton Kings, Whittington and Dowdeswell;
- People engaged in outdoor recreation such as those using National Trails and other promoted routes, Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and National Cycle Network (NCN) routes, or those at hill summits and promoted viewpoints i.e. Cleeve Hill;
- People at promoted tourist destinations and recreation areas such as Cleeve Common, Belas Knap Long Barrow and those visiting local nature reserves including Dowdeswell Woods, Prestbury Hill Butterfly Reserve, Arle Grove Nature Reserve
- People engaged in other sporting activities, including those using Cleeve Hill Golf Club; and
- People travelling along the road network, including numerous minor roads crossing close to the site.

Table 1 - Preliminary LVA Viewpoints and Figures 1 and 2 set out a preliminary list of proposed representative viewpoints to be assessed in the LVA. The viewpoint list has been based upon the results of the Preliminary Screened Zones of Theoretical Visibility (Figures 1 and 2) and site visits.

Table 1 – Preliminary LVA Viewpoints

Viewpoint No.	Viewpoint Name	Grid Coordinates	Reason for Selection	Visualisation (Type 3)
1	Bridleway (AWB16) near Langley Hill Farm	400784, 228597	Representative of views experienced by users of elevated public rights of way to the west of Winchcombe and experienced by scattered farmsteads and residential properties on elevated land.	Yes
2	B4632	400832, 227422	Representative of views experienced by drivers along the B4632, users of the public right of way and those accessing Hollingsworth & Vose paper mill	No
3	Public right of way (AWB63)	401091, 226967	Representative of views experienced by users of the local footpath network and by those accessing residential properties.	No
4	Public right of way (AWB31)	401327, 226878	Representative of views experienced by users of the local footpath network.	No
5	Cotswold Way (AWB60) adjacent to Corndean Lane	401932, 226311	Representative of views experienced by walkers along the Cotswold Way.	Yes
6	Cotswold Way (AWB21) close to Woodbine House driveway	400874, 226232	Representative of views experienced by walkers along the Cotswold Way.	Yes

Viewpoint No.	Viewpoint Name	Grid Coordinates	Reason for Selection	Visualisation (Type 3)
7	Cleeve Hill Trig Point	398584, 226377	Representative of views experienced by visitors to Cleeve Common and its summit, as well as by walkers along the Cotswold Way.	Yes
8	Warden's Way (ASU4)	403939, 227246	Representative of views experienced by walkers along the Warden's Way and by residents within properties to the south-east of Winchcombe, including Sudeley Park Cottages and Sudeley Lodge.	Yes
9	Sudeley Castle / Windrush Way	403066, 227535	Representative of views experienced by walkers along the Windrush Way and by those visiting Sudeley Castle.	Yes
10	Belas Knap Long Barrow	402091, 225443	Representative of views experienced by visitors to the English Heritage visitor attraction and by walkers along the Cotswold Way and Winchcombe Way.	Yes
11	Cleeve Common / Trig Point	399691, 224597	Representative of views experienced by walkers across Cleeve Common.	Yes
12	Cleeve Common / Bridleway (ASM68)	400908, 223719	Representative of views experienced by walkers and horse riders across Cleeve Common.	Yes
13	Restricted Byway (ASM140)	399395, 223663	Representative of views experienced by walkers along the publicly accessible route.	Yes
14	Minor Road north-west of Whalley Farm	399849, 221516	Representative of views experienced by drivers along the minor road network.	No
15	Cotswold Way / Minor Road	399278, 221895	Representative of views experienced by walkers along the Cotswold Way and by drivers along the minor road network.	Yes
16	Minor Road north-east of Whittington	402182, 221606	Representative of views experienced by drivers along the minor road network.	No
17	Ham Road / Public Right of Way (KWH19)	399312, 220994	Representative of views experienced by drivers along the minor road network and by walkers along the local footpath network.	No
18	Cotswold Way / Ham Road (KWH21)	399037, 221038	Representative of views experienced by walkers along the Cotswold Way and by drivers along the minor road network.	No
19	Cotswold Way (KWH21/KWH19)	399064, 220660	Representative of views experienced by walkers along the Cotswold Way and the local footpath network.	No
20	Cotswold Way / Ravensgate Common	397831, 218403	Representative of views experienced by walkers along the Cotswold Way and by those visiting the common land.	Yes
21	Public Rights of Way (KDO26/KDO22)	399271, 218691	Representative of views experienced by walkers along the elevated local footpath network north of Gloucester Road (A436).	Yes

Viewpoint No.	Viewpoint Name	Grid Coordinates	Reason for Selection	Visualisation (Type 3)
22	Kilkenny Viewpoint and Nature Reserve	400345, 218458	Representative of views experienced by visitors to the viewpoint and nature reserve.	No
23	Public Right of Way (KD06) close to Upper Dowdeswell	400826, 219770	Representative of views experienced by walkers along the local footpath network and by residents within Upper and Lower Dowdeswell.	Yes

Methodology

Landscape and visual appraisals are distinct, but interconnected, processes and the assessment will describe potential landscape and visual effects separately. The LVA will consider potential effects on:

- Landscape as a resource in its own right (caused by changes to the constituent elements of the landscape, its specific aesthetic or perceptual qualities and the character of the landscape); and
- Views and visual amenity as experienced by people (caused by changes in the appearance of the landscape).

Legislation and Guidance

The LVA will be carried out in line with the following guidelines:

- Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Assessment (2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition ('GLVIA3');
- Landscape Institute (2019) Advice Note 01/11 Photography and photomontage in landscape and visual impact assessment; and
- Landscape Institute (2019) Technical Guidance Note 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals.

Field Surveys

Further to the field work already undertaken during the summer, surveys will be undertaken during winter months to fully understand the maximum level of visibility as part of the landscape and visual baseline. Visual site surveys will be undertaken for agreed viewpoints, which represent a variety of receptor types and at a range of distances from the Project. Further field work will be undertaken within the wider study area. Surveys will include viewpoint photography to assist in the creation of visualisations/photomontages. Where possible all viewpoint photography will be captured when trees are not in leaf (i.e., a worst case). Photography may be carried out before leaf fall but that assessment will be informed by winter site visits.

Judging Levels of Effect

Judging the landscape and visual effects requires consideration of the nature of the receptor and the nature of the effect on the receptor. GLVIA3 states that the nature of receptors, commonly referred to as their sensitivity, should be assessed in terms of the susceptibility of the receptor to the type of change proposed, and the value attached to the receptor. Sensitivity judgements would be recorded as high, medium or low. The nature of the impact on each receptor, commonly referred to as its magnitude, should be assessed in terms of size and scale; geographical extent; duration and reversibility. Magnitude of change would be recorded as high, medium, low or negligible.

Judgements of sensitivity and magnitude are then combined to form a judgement regarding the overall level of effect. Levels of landscape or visual effect would be categorised as major, moderate, minor or negligible / no effect. The nature of effects would be described as positive (beneficial), neutral or negative (adverse).

This determination requires the application of professional judgement and experience to balance the many different variables which need to be considered, and which are given different weight according to site-specific and location-specific considerations. Judgements of the potential landscape and visual effects which may arise from the project, either individually or cumulatively when considered in combination with other existing, consented or proposed developments, are made on a case by case basis.

Cumulative Assessment

It has been assumed that there are no relevant cumulative developments of a similar type to that proposed within the study area and therefore no cumulative assessment is required as part of the LVA. However, this should be agreed with consultees prior to undertaking the LVA.

Existing developments form part of the existing baseline environment and will be considered in the primary assessment of the LVA.

Viewpoints and Visualisations

Table 1: Preliminary LVA Viewpoints and Figures 1 and 2 set out a list of indicative preliminary viewpoints to be used in the LVA. Photomontages will be used to consider and illustrate changes to views during operation of the project. Type 3 visualisations would be prepared in accordance with the Landscape Institute's TGN 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals. A number of the viewpoint locations will be illustrated with visualisations as indicated in Table 1.

Proposed Project

The assessment of landscape and visual effects will be based on the following elements of proposed project:

- Temporary construction compounds, haul roads, access tracks, trenching, cut and fill of land and removal of woodland, trees and hedgerows;
- Construction of two SEC with associated infrastructure and access roads, one to the south of Postlip paper mill and the other south of Ham Lane;
- Undergrounding of the overhead lines between the two sealing end compounds, including removal of associated pylons; and
- Erection of additional pylon towers to accommodate transition from overhead line to undergrounding.

As previously stated, it should be recognised that the undergrounding of the cables and associated additional pylons to facilitate this, are classed as permitted development. Only the SEC with their associated temporary construction activities and permanent access roads require planning permission. However, the LVA will consider the landscape and visual effects of all elements of the proposed project.

Mitigation Measures

The mitigation measures will focus upon the following:

- Reinstatement of landscape features where they are lost through either temporary works or the undergrounding of cables; and
- Appropriate landscape mitigation surrounding the SEC to reduce potential visual effects as well as being in keeping with local landscape character;

Potential Effects

Potential landscape and visual effects that may arise during the construction and operation of the proposed project, and therefore included within the LVA, are noted below.

Landscape Effects

- Effects during construction on landscape features and landscape character;
- Effects during operation on landscape features and landscape character; and
- Effects on the special qualities of the Cotswold AONB.

Visual Effects

- Effects on the views and visual amenity of communities i.e. people within settlements and scattered communities;
- Effects on views experienced by walkers and cyclists using PRoWs, NCN routes, promoted tourist and/or recreational routes, hill summits, visitors to promoted viewpoints/tourist destinations and recreation areas; and
- Effects on people travelling along the road network.

Figures 1 and 2 – Preliminary Screened Zones of Theoretical Visibility

Cotswolds VIP Project
for National Grid

LUC

Figure 1: Preliminary Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility for Northern Sealing End Compound (Maximum Height: 12.705m) with Viewpoints

- Survey boundary
- Indicative 3km study area
- Proposed location of scheme (Maximum height 12.705m)
- ! Viewpoint

1: Bridleway (AWB16) near Langley Hill Farm

2: B4632

3: Public right of way (AWB63)

4: Public right of way (AWB31)

5: Cotswold Way (AWB60) adjacent to Corndean Lane

6: Cotswold Way (AWB21) close to Woodbine House driveway

7: Cleeve Hill Trig Point

8: Warden's Way (ASU4)

9: Sudeley Castle / Windrush Way

10: Belas Knap Long Barrow

11: Cleeve Common / Trig Point

12: Cleeve Common / Bridleway (ASM68)

13: Restricted Byway (ASM140)

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (screened)

- Gantry structure visible

The ZTV indicates the theoretical visibility of the development gantries in the north of the site at maximum height (12.705m) from a viewing height of 2m above ground level. The terrain model used was LiDAR Digital Surface Model (DSM) data (1m grid, obtained from the UK Government in September 2023). The DSM accounts for screening objects, including vegetation and buildings.
Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcPro 3.0.3 software

0 0.3 0.6 km

Map scale 1:25,000 @ A3

Cotswolds VIP Project
for National Grid

LUC

Figure 2: Preliminary Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility for Southern Sealing End Compound (Maximum Height: 14.725m) with Viewpoints

- Survey boundary
- Indicative 3km study area
- Proposed location of scheme (Maximum height 14.725m)
- ! Viewpoint

12: Cleeve Common / Bridleway (ASM68)

13: Restricted Byway (ASM140)

14: Minor Road north-west of Whalley Farm

15: Cotswold Way / Minor Road

16: Minor Road north-east of Whittington

17: Ham Road / Public Right of Way (KWH19)

18: Cotswold Way / Ham Road (KWH21)

19: Cotswold Way (KWH21/KWH19)

20: Cotswold Way / Ravensgate Common

21: Public Rights of Way (KDO26/KDO22)

22: Kilkenny Viewpoint and Nature Reserve

23: Public Right of Way (KD06) close to Upper Dowdeswell

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (screened)

- Gantry structure visible

The ZTV indicates the theoretical visibility of the development gantries in the south of the site at maximum height (14.725m) from a viewing height of 2m above ground level. The terrain model used was LiDAR Digital Surface Model (DSM) data (1m grid, obtained from the UK Government in September 2023). The DSM accounts for screening objects, including vegetation and buildings. Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcPro 3.0.3 software

0 0.3 0.6 km

Map scale 1:25,000 @ A3

Appendix F
Figures

F.1 The figures are listed below:

- Figure 1 – Site area and site location
- Figure 2 – Landscape designation and heritage assets
- Figure 3 – Landscape character
- Figure 4 – Visual receptors
- Figure 5 – Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility of existing pylons to be removed with viewpoints
- Figure 6 – Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility for Cable Sealing End Compound gantry structure with viewpoints
- Figure 7 – Drawing Location Plan and Boundary Treatment (1 of 2)
- Figure 8 – Drawing Location Plan and Boundary Treatment (2 of 2)
- Figure 9 – Winchcombe CSEC Indicative Landscape Proposals
- Figure 10 – Breakheart Plantation Indicative Landscape Proposals
- Figure 11 – Warrens Farm Plantation Indicative Landscape Proposals
- Figure 12 – Whittington CSEC Indicative Landscape Proposals

Cotswolds VIP Project
for National Grid

LUC

Figure 1: Site area and site location

- Planning application boundary
- Works boundary
- 1km from project
- 3km from project
- Local authority boundary
- Proposed pylon removal
- Retained pylon
- Proposed replacement pylon
- Proposed underground cable centreline
- Proposed location of cable sealing end compound
- Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB)

Tewkesbury District

Cheltenham District

Cotswold District

0 1 2 km

Map scale 1:50,000 @ A3

0 5 10 km

Cotswolds VIP Project
for National Grid

LUC

Figure 2: Landscape designation and heritage assets

- Planning application boundary
- Works boundary
- 1km from project
- 3km from project
- Proposed pylon removal
- Retained pylon
- Proposed replacement pylon
- Proposed underground cable centreline
- Ancient Woodland Inventory
- Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB)
- Registered Park and Garden
- Scheduled monument
- CRoW Access Land
- Conservation Area
  - 1: Brockhampton
  - 2: Dowdeswell
  - 3: Whittington
  - 4: Winchcombe

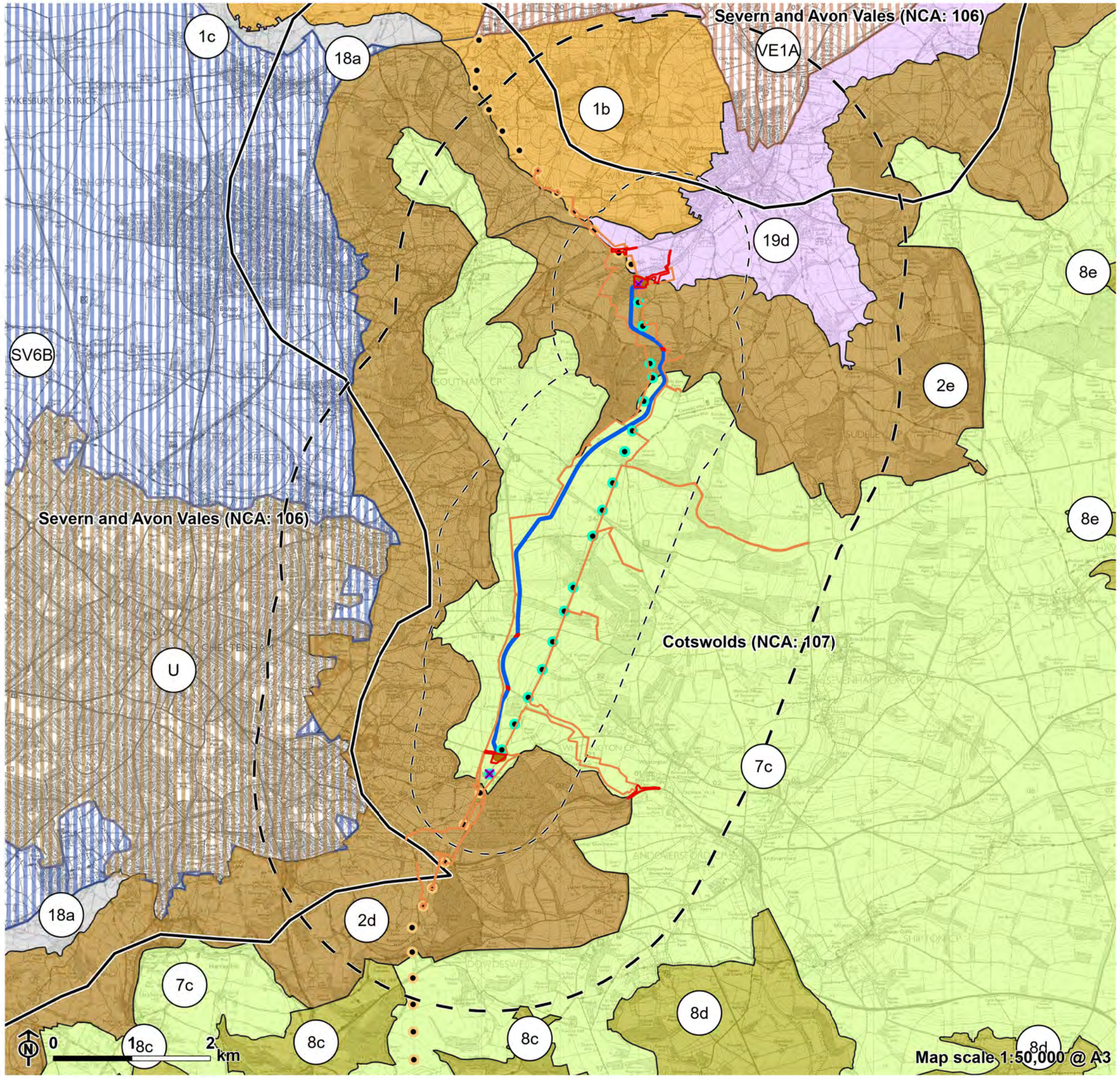
N 0 1 2 km

Map scale 1:50,000 @ A3

Cotswolds VIP Project
for National Grid

LUC

Figure 3: Landscape character



- Planning application boundary
- Works boundary
- 1km from project
- 3km from project
- Proposed pylon removal
- Retained pylon
- Proposed replacement pylon
- Proposed underground cable centreline
- National Character Area boundary

Cotswolds National Landscape Character Assessment

- 1. Escarpment Outliers
  - 1b - Langley Hill
  - 1c - Oxenton and Dixton Hills
- 2. Escarpment
  - 2d - Cooper's Hill to Winchcombe
  - 2e - Winchcombe to Dover's Hill
- 7. High Wold
  - 7c - Cotswolds High Wold Plateau
- 8. High Wold Valley
  - 8c - Upper Churn Valley
  - 8d - Upper Coln Valley
  - 8e - Upper Windrush Valley
- 19. Unwooded Vale
  - 19d - Vale of Evesham Fringe
- 18. Settled Unwooded Vale
  - 18a - Vale of Gloucester Fringe

Gloucestershire Various Vales Landscape Assessment

- Settled Unwooded Vale
  - SV6B: Vale of Gloucester
- Unwooded Vale
  - VE1A: Teddington and Greet Vale
- Urban
  - U: Cheltenham

Cotswolds VIP Project
for National Grid

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Figure 4: Visual receptors

- Planning application boundary
- Works boundary
- 1km from project
- 3km from project
- Proposed pylon removal
- Retained pylon
- Proposed replacement pylon
- Proposed underground cable centreline
- Sudeley Castle Registered Park and Garden
- CRoW Access Land
- A Road
- B Road
- National Cycle Network
- Cotswold Way National Trail
- Public Right of Way within 3km of project
- Cheltenham Circular Footpath
- Gloucestershire Way
- Sabrina Way
- Wardens Way
- Winchcombe Way
- Windrush Way

N 0 1 2 km

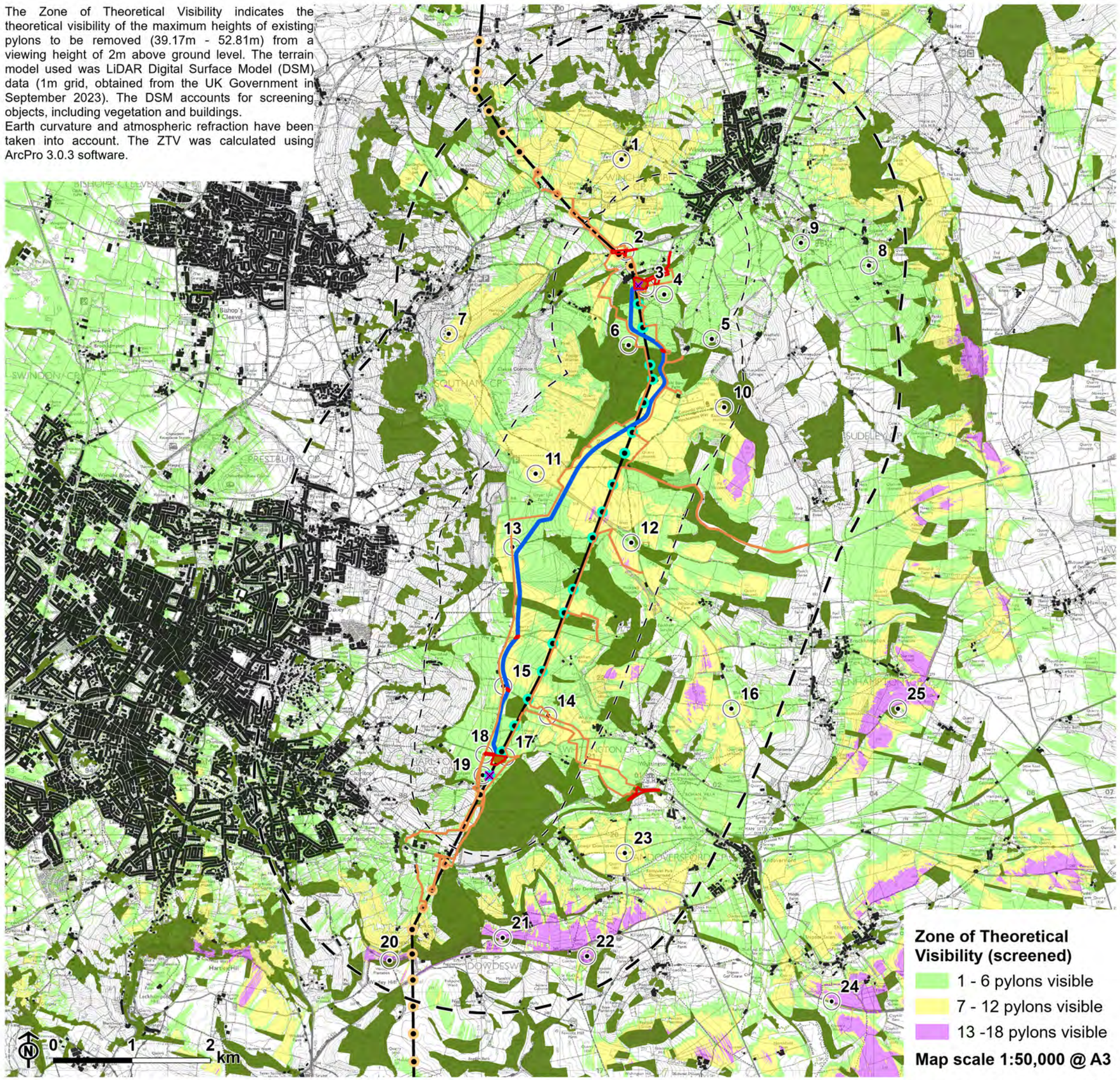
Map scale 1:50,000 @ A3

Cotswolds VIP Project
for National Grid

LUC

Figure 5: Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility of existing pylons to be removed with viewpoints

The Zone of Theoretical Visibility indicates the theoretical visibility of the maximum heights of existing pylons to be removed (39.17m - 52.81m) from a viewing height of 2m above ground level. The terrain model used was LiDAR Digital Surface Model (DSM) data (1m grid, obtained from the UK Government in September 2023). The DSM accounts for screening objects, including vegetation and buildings.
Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcPro 3.0.3 software.



- Planning application boundary
- Works boundary
- 1km from project
- 3km from project
- Proposed pylon removal
- Retained pylon
- Proposed replacement pylon
- Existing overhead line
- Proposed underground cable centreline

Indicative screening feature

- National Forest Inventory Woodland
- Building
- Viewpoint

1: Bridleway (AWB16) near Langley Hill Farm

2: B4632

3: Public right of way (AWB63)

4: Public right of way (AWB31)

5: Cotswold Way (AWB60) adjacent to Corndean Lane

6: Cotswold Way (AWB21) close to Woodbine House driveway

7: Cleeve Hill Trig Point

8: Warden's Way (ASU4)

9: Sudeley Castle / Windrush Way

10: Belas Knap Long Barrow

11: Cleeve Common / Trig Point

12: Cleeve Common / Sabrina Way / Bridleway (ASM68)

13: Restricted Byway / Sabrina Way (ASM140)

14: Minor Road north-west of Whalley Farm

15: Cotswold Way / Minor Road

16: Minor Road north-east of Whittington

17: Ham Road / Public Right of Way (KWH19)

18: Cotswold Way / Ham Road (KWH21)

19: Cotswold Way (KWH21/KWH19)

20: Cotswold Way / Ravensgate Common

21: Public Rights of Way (KDO26/KDO22)

22: Kilkenny Viewpoint and Nature Reserve

23: Public Right of Way (KD06) close to Upper Dowdeswell

24: A40 south of Shipton

25: Byway (KSE9) east of Sevenhampton

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (screened)

- 1 - 6 pylons visible
- 7 - 12 pylons visible
- 13 -18 pylons visible

Map scale 1:50,000 @ A3

The ZTV indicates the theoretical visibility of the gantry structures (North height 12.705m, South height 14.725m) from a viewing height of 2m above ground level. The terrain model used was LiDAR Digital Surface Model (DSM) data (1m grid, obtained from the UK Government in September 2023). The DSM accounts for screening objects, including vegetation and buildings.
Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcPro 3.0.3 software

Cotswolds VIP Project
for National Grid

LUC

Figure 6: Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility for Cable Sealing End Compound gantry structure with viewpoints

- Planning application boundary
- Works boundary
- 1km from project
- 3km from project
- Proposed pylon removal
- Retained pylon
- Proposed replacement pylon
- Proposed underground cable centreline
- Proposed location of cable sealing end compound

Indicative screening feature

- National Forest Inventory Woodland
- Building
- Viewpoint

1: Bridleway (AWB16) near Langley Hill Farm

2: B4632

3: Public right of way (AWB63)

4: Public right of way (AWB31)

5: Cotswold Way (AWB60) adjacent to Corndean Lane

6: Cotswold Way (AWB21) close to Woodbine House driveway

7: Cleeve Hill Trig Point

8: Warden's Way (ASU4)

9: Sudeley Castle / Windrush Way

10: Belas Knap Long Barrow

11: Cleeve Common / Trig Point

12: Cleeve Common / Sabrina Way / Bridleway (ASM68)

13: Restricted Byway / Sabrina Way (ASM140)

14: Minor Road north-west of Whalley Farm

15: Cotswold Way / Minor Road

16: Minor Road north-east of Whittington

17: Ham Road / Public Right of Way (KWH19)

18: Cotswold Way / Ham Road (KWH21)

19: Cotswold Way (KWH21/KWH19)

20: Cotswold Way / Ravensgate Common

21: Public Rights of Way (KDO26/KDO22)

22: Kilkenny Viewpoint and Nature Reserve

23: Public Right of Way (KD06) close to Upper Dowdeswell

24: A40 south of Shipton

25: Byway (KSE9) east of Sevenhampton

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (screened)

- Gantry north structure theoretically visible
- Gantry south structure theoretically visible

Map scale 1:50,000 @ A3

0 1 2 km