



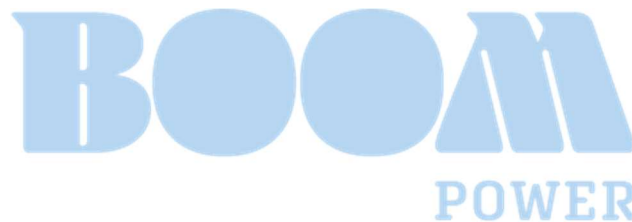
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Landscape and Visual Appraisal for:

Proposed Energy Reserve Facility on Land at Misslebrook, North Baddesley, Hampshire, SO52 9LY.



Report Reference: CE-MH2164-RP01-Final

Report Date: 9 January 2023

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Crestwood Report Reference: CE-MH2164-RP01-Final:

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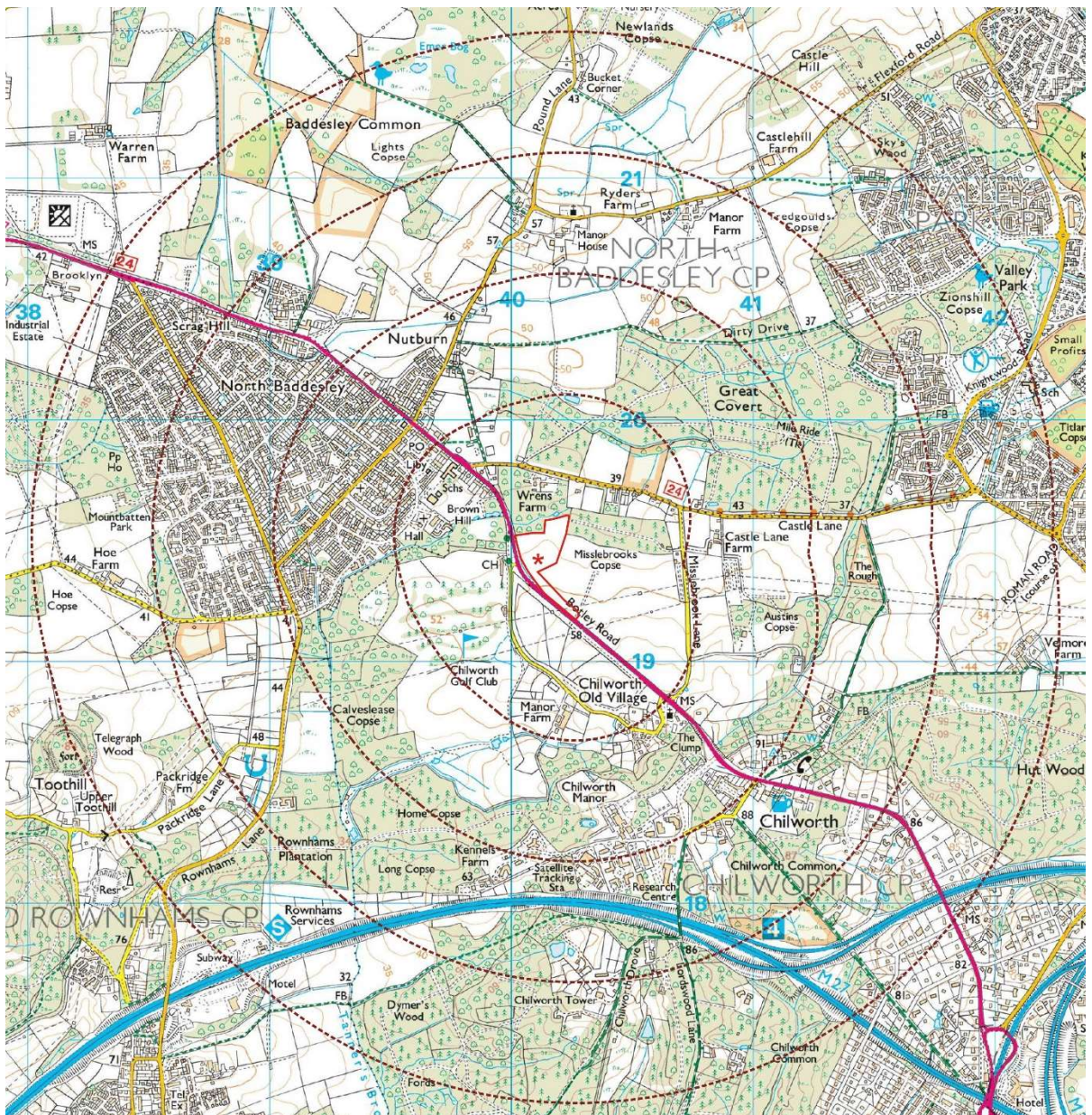
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 SITE LOCATION AND SCOPE OF WORKS

- 1.1.1 Crestwood Environmental Ltd ('Crestwood'), a Registered Practice of the Landscape Institute, were commissioned by Boom Development Ltd (The 'Client') to provide a Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) in relation to the proposed construction of a Battery Storage Facility ('the **Proposed Development**' – see below) on land at Misslebrook Lane ('The Site') (NGR: SU4019 3929) to accompany an application for planning permission.

Plate 1 *Site Location (* denotes location of proposed battery storage compound) with 500m distance intervals shown from edge of Site.*



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Plate 2 Overall Site Area and Immediate Site Context



(Image courtesy of Magic Maps)

1.1.2 Crestwood have therefore undertaken an LVA of the Proposed Development which included the following key tasks:

- A desktop review of the landscape planning context for the Site and immediate area.
- A desktop study and web search of relevant background documents and maps, including reviews of aerial photographs, LPA publications and other landscape character assessments.
- Collated information about any relevant landscape designations, such as National Parks, and those parks and gardens listed on English Heritage's national register.
- A field assessment of local site circumstances including a photographic survey of viewpoints towards the Site, undertaken by a suitably qualified Landscape Consultant in September 2022; and
- An analysis of the likely visibility and visual effects arising from the Proposed Development.

1.2 THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

1.2.1 The Proposed Development is set within a fenced compound measuring 100 x 80m overall and

comprises the following:

- 60no. Containerised Battery Units, and 10no. containerised transformers,
- A series of Inverters and Combiners.
- An internal access track within the fenced compound, extending to the existing gateway on the southern edge of the Site with the A27 Botley Road; and
- Perimeter fencing and pole mounted CCTV and flood lighting provision.

1.2.2 The proposed layout (which has undergone a number of design iterations following receipt of input from the landscape and other environmental assessments undertaken) is shown indicatively in Plate 3.

Plate 3 The Proposed Development Layout



1.3 METHODOLOGY

1.3.1 Landscape and visual assessment is comprised of a study of two separate but inter-linked components:

- **Landscape character** – which is the physical make-up and condition of the landscape itself. Landscape character arises from a distinct, recognisable, and consistent pattern of physical and social elements, aesthetic factors, and perceptual aspects; and
- **Visual amenity** – which is the way in which the Site is seen and appreciated; views to and from

the Site, their direction, character, and sensitivity to change.

- 1.3.2 This assessment is conducted with regard to the principles set out in Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment: Third Edition ('GLVIA3'), (Landscape Institute/Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment, 2013) and has been conducted by a suitably qualified Chartered Landscape Architect.
- 1.3.3 In this assessment, the initial Study Area extended to 2km in all directions from the edge of the Site, to help determine potential visibility and understand the wider sensitivity of the visual receptors and landscape. Accounting for the existing baseline situation, the extent of the initial Study Area was predicted to be the maximum distance where the Proposed Development could result in potentially Important, or Significant, landscape and visual effects, given the topography and sensitive receptors. The Study Area would have been extended, if appropriate, after this initial work.
- 1.3.4 Fieldwork was undertaken in September 2022 to further understand the potential for significant landscape and visual effects and, following this, the Study area was subsequently reduced, as it was clear that effects would be more localised. An assessment of Landscape and Visual effects is contained at Section 3.

2 BASELINE SITUATION

2.1 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL POLICY

General

- 2.1.1 An appreciation of the 'weight' to be attributed to any visual and landscape effects arising from development starts with an understanding of the planning context within which any such development is to be tested for its acceptability.
- 2.1.2 Strictly, in legal terms, there is no automatic right to a view. However, the enjoyment of a view could be an important part of the residential amenity of location (e.g. a neighbouring property), and its loss might therefore have an adverse impact on the residential amenity of that property (i.e. an environmental effect on humans).
- 2.1.3 It should be recognised that the landscape is dynamic, as is made clear within GLVIA3 (Para 2.13): *"Landscape is not unchanging. Many different pressures have progressively altered familiar landscapes over time and will continue to do so in the future, creating new landscapes. Today many of these drivers of change arise from the requirements for development to meet the needs of a growing and changing population and economy."*

National Planning Policy

- 2.1.4 It is stated in paragraph 10 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Communities and Local Government, July 2021) that *"at the heart of the framework is a presumption in favour of sustainable development"* and this is further elaborated on at paragraph 11.
- 2.1.5 Paragraph 126 of the NPPF also states that *"The creation of high-quality buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities."*

2.1.6 The NPPF also recognises at paragraph 174 that *“planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:*

a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan).

b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland.”

Local Policy

2.1.7 The Planning Statement provides further details on the full range of relevant planning policy and the following section briefly covers the key policies that apply to the Proposed Development from a landscape and visual perspective. The Site lies within the administrative area of Test Valley Borough Council.

Current Local Plan

2.1.8 The current Local Plan is the Test Valley Borough Revised Local Plan DPD – 2011 – 2029, adopted by the Council in January 2016. The Site is identified as being located in an area covered by the following policies:

Policy E3: Local Gaps

Policy COM2: Countryside

Policy E3: Local Gaps

2.1.9 Policy E3 states:

Policy E3: Local Gaps

Development within Local Gaps will be permitted provided that:

- a) it would not diminish the physical separation and/or visual separation; and
- b) it would not individually or cumulatively with other existing or proposed development compromise the integrity of the gap.

Policy COM2: Countryside

2.1.10 Policy COM2 states:

Policy COM2: Settlement Hierarchy

Within the boundaries of the settlements identified in the hierarchy (Table 7) and identified on inset maps 1 - 55 the principle of development and redevelopment will be permitted provided that it is appropriate to the other policies of the Revised Local Plan.

Development outside the boundaries of settlements in the hierarchy (as identified on map 1 - 55) will only be permitted if:

- a) it is appropriate in the countryside as set out in Revised Local Plan policy COM8-COM14, LE10, LE16- LE18; or
- b) it is essential for the proposal to be located in the countryside.

- 2.1.11 Chapter 6 'Site Selection' of the Planning Statement details the reasoning behind the site selection, particularly with reference to the requirement for this form of development to be located within the open countryside. As a result, Policies COM8-COM14, LE10, or LE16-LE18 do not apply.

2.2 LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS

- 2.2.1 No part of the Site lies within or near to a statutorily designated landscape (an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or National Park).
- 2.2.2 No part of the Site lies within or near to a non-statutorily, locally, designated landscape. The Site is not located in the Green Belt.

2.3 LISTED BUILDINGS, SCHEDULED MONUMENTS AND CONSERVATION AREAS

- 2.3.1 A formal assessment of the historical setting of these heritage features falls outside the scope of this report and the professional experience of the report author. Irrespective of this, to help ascertain whether there were potential landscape-related effects of the Proposed Development on heritage features the following was determined:
- The Site is not located within a Conservation Area. The nearest lies to the south-east at a distance of c. 400m, covering the extent of Chilworth Old Village is noted that within the Chilworth Old Village 'Conservation Area Policy' document, that an important view is identified extending from the northern edge of the conservation area, across the A27 and landscape to the east of the Site. The Site or any of the Proposed Development is not located within this view.
 - There are no Scheduled Monuments within the immediate Study Area, the nearest being 2.1km to the south-west at Toot Hill ('Toot Hill Camp', ref: 1001947), 1.95km to the east near Titlark Copse (Section of Roman Road', ref: 1001853), 1.95km to the south at Castle Hill ('Castle Hill', ref: 1001885) and 1.9km to the south at Chilworth Common ('The Ring Earthworks', ref: 1001941).
 - There are no Registered Parks and Gardens near to the Site or within the Study Area.
 - There are a number of Grade II Listed Buildings within the Study Area, a grouping of which lies to the south-east of the Site within Chilworth Old Village, the nearest being circa 470m from the Site boundary ('8 and 10', ref: 141115).

2.4 ANCIENT WOODLANDS

- 2.4.1 There are no Ancient Woodlands within the Site. Wrens Copse (Ancient Woodland) and Misslebrooks Copse (Ancient Replanted Woodland) lie immediately adjacent to the northern boundary of the Site. A number of ancient woodlands, and replanted ancient woodlands are located within the wider landscape within the Study Area.

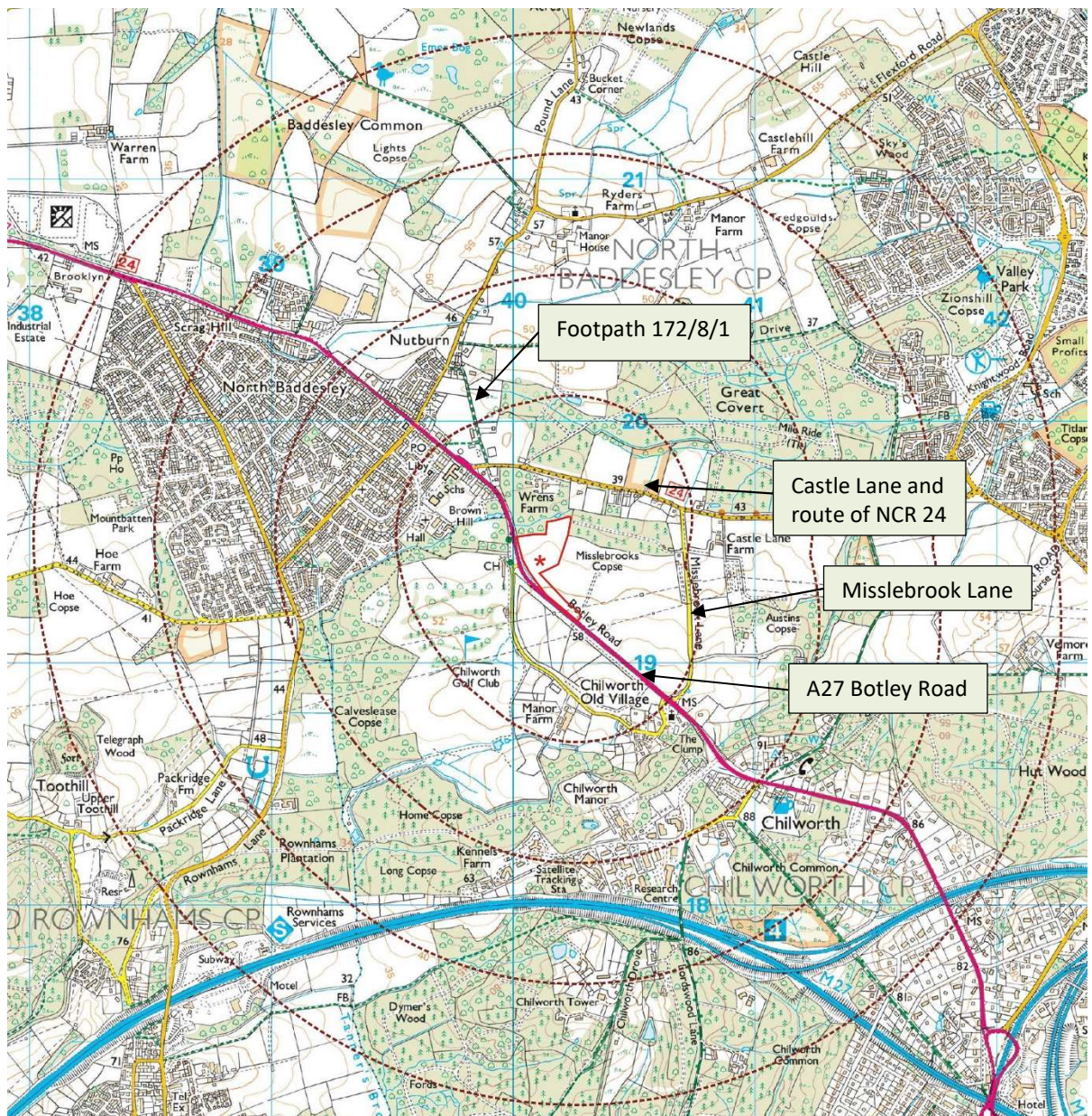
2.5 TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

- 2.5.1 There are no known Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) relating to the Site.

2.6 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY AND OPEN ACCESS LAND

- 2.6.1 There are no public rights of way (PRoWs) or permissive access within the Site. A small number of PRoWs lie near of the Site, the closet being Footpath 172/8/1 at a distance of circa 340m to the north-west, where it runs from Castle Lane in the vicinity of Wrens Copse, northwards. Bridleway 050/6/1 and Footpath 050/7/1 lie circa 1.35km to the east at their closest points, beyond a series of woodland copses and are considered unlikely to have any view of the Site or Proposed Development. There are no known locally promoted footpath routes near the Site.
- 2.6.2 There is no Access Land, or Common Land within the Site. An area of Access Land lies to the north of the Site, beyond Misslebrook Copse and Castle Lane, at a distance of circa 115m from the Site. Further areas of Access Land lies to the east beyond the woodland of Austins Copse, to the south within Chilworth Common and to the west beyond a Chilworth Golf Course and Calveslease Copse, none of which are closer than 1.25km to the Site.
- 2.6.3 The A27 Botley Road forms the southern and western boundary of the Site and runs between the village of North Baddesley and the suburban districts to the northern edge of the city of Southampton. In the vicinity of the Site, Misslebrook Lane, a local road, lies c. 450m to the east, running between the A27 and Castle Lane, a further local road that runs parallel but at a distance from, the northern Site boundary. To the south-east of the Site, beyond the A27 Botley Road, a further local road provides access to the village of Chilworth Old Village.
- 2.6.4 National Cycle Network Route 24 runs from Bath to Eastleigh in Hampshire, and in the vicinity of the Site, follows the route of Castle Lane, passing within circa 150,m of the Site at its closest point. It is noted that both Wrens Copse and Misslebrook Copse lies between the Site and this cycle route, limiting any visibility of the Proposed Development.
- 2.6.5 The local road and footpath network are shown at Plate 4 below.

Plate 4 Road and footpath network near the Site.



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2.7 LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

- 2.7.1 The overall Site falls in level in a northwards direction, from a level of c. 57.5m AOD on the southern boundary with Botley Road to a level of circa 42mAOD on its northern boundary with the adjacent woodland copse. Levels in the general vicinity of the Proposed Development within the western areas of the Site, in the general location of the Proposed Development, lie between 49.5m and 45.5m AOD.
- 2.7.2 The land within which the Site is located, is currently agricultural grassland, and consists of one single large field, roughly triangular in shape, and loosely subdivided by the route of a farm track that leads from the A27 Botley Road towards the woodland of Misslebrooks Copse. This woodland forms the northern boundary of the Site, with the remaining boundaries generally a mix of native hedgerows with hedgerows trees. The eastern boundary crosses the wider field that the Site is located within and is not delineated by any vegetation or physical features. The southern boundary to Botley Road consists of a native hedgerow that varies in height between 3-5m and has with several mature trees

present. At the north-west corner of the Site, in the vicinity of the adjacent golf course, there are frequent gaps in the boundary hedgerow, and the hedgerow where present is poorly managed, with a height varying between 1 and 2.5m.

- 2.7.3 The landform outside of the Site is varied, generally falling to the north-east but with a number of minor undulations, with levels generally between 35 – 50m AOD. To the south-west, levels are generally consistent with that of the Site itself at around 50-55m AOD before falling further to the west of the golf course. To the south and south-east, levels rise circa 30m to a point approximately 0.5km away in the vicinity of Baddesley Common. To the east, beyond Misslebrook Lane, levels are again consistent with that of the Site, with several undulations and shallow valleys denoting the route of minor water courses.
- 2.7.4 There are no dwellings or farmsteads within or immediately adjacent to the Site. To the south-east, beyond Botley Road lies the village of Chilwell Old Village, with a dedicated seat located near the parking area to the local church, orientated north across land to the east of the Site. To the north, beyond both Misslebrooks and Wrens Copse, several dwellings lie to the south of Castle Road. The village of North Baddesley lies c. 200m to the north-west of the Site at its closest point.
- 2.7.5 Adjacent roads include the A27 along the Site's western and southern boundaries, connecting the village of North Baddesley with the suburbs of the City of Southampton. Misslebrook Lane lies to the east at a distance of c. 450m and connects the A27 with Castle Lane to the north of the Site. The M27 Motorway lies to the south at a distance of c. 800m.
- 2.7.6 Adjacent land uses to the Site are varied. To the south of the A27 are several fields that are currently grassland, with recent planning permission for them to be used for equestrian purposes. To the east are several smaller pastoral fields and caravan storage areas. To the west is the Chilworth Golf Club, which extends to the south-west, and to the north are several larger fields under agricultural use. A line of high-voltage overhead power lines cross the Site and adjacent landscape in an east to west direction. A below ground water pipe (c. 600mm in diameter) is located crossing the north-west corner of the Site, between Wrens Copse and the location of the Proposed Development. The above are set amongst a landscape that contains a number of woodlands (both deciduous and mixed), that give the landscape a well vegetated appearance and limits visibility to relatively short distances.

2.8 LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENTS

- 2.8.1 The Site lies within the National Character Area (NCA) 128 'South Hampshire Lowlands' (Natural England, 2013). This NCA is summarised as *"... a low lying plain between the chalk hills of the Hampshire and South Downs and Southampton Water. Its highest point is an outlying chalk ridge – Portsdown Hill – but the bedrock geology is mostly open marine, estuarine and freshwater Tertiary deposits. The NCA is dominated by the city and port of Southampton and its adjoining towns and suburbs – 29 per cent of the area is urban. In the more rural areas, it is a mixture of farmland, particularly pasture, and woodland.*

Some 18 per cent of the land cover of the NCA is woodland, of which almost half is designated ancient woodland, a legacy of the Forest of Bere, a Royal Hunting Forest that once covered the area"

- 2.8.2 The key characteristics for this character area are listed as:
- Low-lying, undulating plain abutting the chalk downs to the north and the coastal plain and Southampton Water to the south. An underlying geology of open marine, estuarine and freshwater Tertiary gravels. Soils over much of the area are heavy and clayey with localised

pockets of more freely draining soils on higher land.

- Fast-flowing chalk rivers in wide, open valleys with water meadows and riparian vegetation that provide valuable wildlife habitats for species such as breeding and overwintering birds, otter, water vole, Atlantic salmon, brown trout and the endangered, native whiteclawed crayfish.
- Well-wooded farmed landscape (particularly to the east of Southampton) characterised by ancient woodland such as Botley Wood and West Walk, the remnants of the Royal Hunting Forest of Bere.
- Mixed agricultural landscape dominated by pasture with small pockets of horticulture and arable.
- An intimate and enclosed field pattern with many small and irregular fields generally bounded by mixed-species hedgerows or woodland.
- In parts, a very urban NCA dominated by the city and port of Southampton and other large towns such as Waterlooville and Havant. The more rural hinterland is characterised by small, loosely clustered, or dispersed settlements, intermixed with isolated farmsteads.
- Fragmented by major transport links, including the M3 to London and the M27 to Portsmouth which cross the NCA.

The Hampshire County Integrated Character Assessment

- 2.8.3 The Hampshire County Integrated Character Assessment (HCICA) provides a framework for more detailed local character assessments, generally undertaken at a District or Borough level. The HCICA identifies several Landscape Character Areas (LCA's) that are further sub-divided into several Landscape Character types (LCT's). The Site is located with LCA 2D – Romsey to Eastleigh Wooded Lowland Mosaic. The perceptual characteristics of this LCA are described as:

"In general, this is a landscape of short views across fields to layered wooded horizons and woodland edges. There is sense of elevation over adjoining valley character areas and longer distant views when on locally prominent areas such as Baddesley Common, and above the Test Valley."

- 2.8.4 In terms of the described LCT the Site is located within 'Lowland Mosaic Heath Associated,' which describes the tranquillity of this area as being affected by high levels of housing development and associated urban fringe character affecting rural areas. It also notes that "The wooded and typically small-scale fields with thick hedgerows provide intimacy and seclusion." With regards to 'Visibility,' the LCT states *"The predominance of small fields with thick treed hedged and significant presence of woodland imparts a strong sense of enclosure and intimacy."*

Test Valley Borough Landscape Character Assessment (2018)

- 2.8.5 At a more local level, the Test Valley Borough Landscape Character Assessment was undertaken by Test Valley Borough Council and updated in 2018. This assessment identifies 12 Landscape Character Types (LCT's) within the Borough, which are sub-divided into Landscape Character Areas (LCA's). The Site is identified as being located within LCT 2 'Pasture and Woodland Associated with Heathland' that describes the landscape of the area as:

"... an enclosed landscape with pockets of low intensity grazed pasture in a wellwooded setting. The character type includes the heathland edge around the New Forest and is closely associated with a

zone of former heathland, which still retains a heathy character. Parklands are a typical feature, characterised by landscape features such as scattered trees, rows of trees, wood pasture (in the case of old deer parks) exotic trees, ancient pollard trees and veteran trees. Woodlands and shelter belts often occur with these parklands."

- 2.8.6 More specifically, the Site is located within LCA 2B 'North Baddesley to Chilworth Woodland Mosaic' and is described as:

"North Baddesley and Chilworth Woodland Mosaic is a mix of large areas of woodland including plantations, predominantly along the northern edge of Southampton, with open areas of arable land, and rough grassland with heathland located to the west of Chandler's Ford. The areas of arable farmland have generally poor-quality hedgerows, with fields collectively forming larger open areas that are contained within the woodland framework."

- 2.8.7 Key valued characteristics of LCA2B relevant to the Site and Study Area are as follows:

- Pockets of gently undulating pasture and arable fields within a strong framework of hedgerows and woodland cover, including plantation.
- Remnant heathland and unimproved grassland.
- Wooded character of Chilworth.
- Woodland provides containment to golf courses and aids in reducing their potential landscape and visual impact.
- Woodland and generous woodland belts provide containment to suburban residential development extending from Southampton and Chandler's Ford.
- Views are generally short, mostly to the next field boundary or woodland edge with some long views in the vicinity of Ampfield looking southwards across open countryside and northwards and westwards in the vicinity of Chilworth Old Village to wooded ridges; and
- Pattern of fields separating Ampfield and Chandler's Ford / Valley Park / North Baddesley

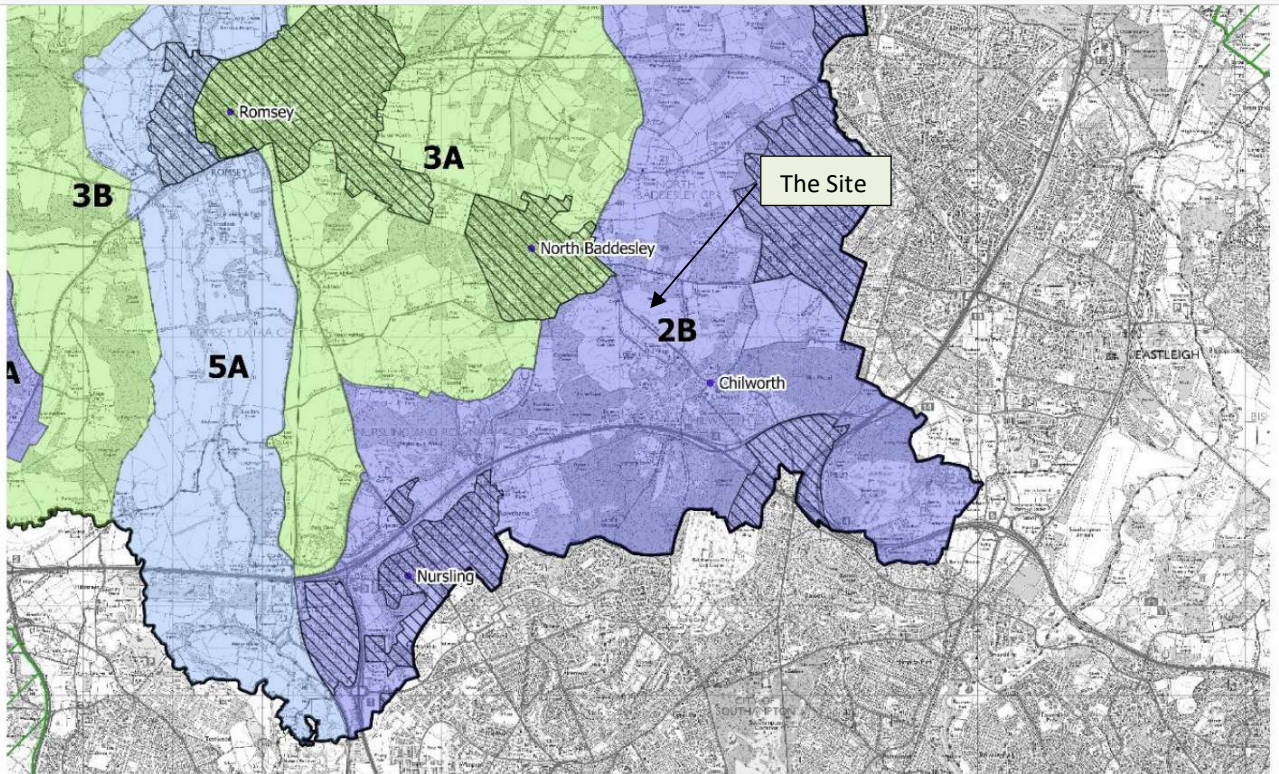
- 2.8.8 A number of key detractors within LCA2B are identified, including major motorway corridors (M27 and M271) and junctions, golf courses and electricity pylons crossing open fields running east-west in the central part of the area (including across the Site). In addition, several landscape issues are identified, relating to potential erosion of the 'rural gaps' (refer to Policy E3 of the Test Valley Borough Revised Local Plan (2016)), and the potential erosion of the rural character of the area from solar and other renewable energy development.

- 2.8.9 The Landscape Strategy for this LCA is described as:

"North Baddesley and Chilworth Woodland Mosaic retains strong elements of its wooded character and patches of heathland but these are being eroded. The area is also at risk from the cumulative effects of urban fringe facilities. The overall strategy is therefore to restore a dominant wooded and heathland character to the North Baddesley and Chilworth Woodland Mosaic through the conservation of existing habitats and new landscape opportunities and protect and enhance the key valued characteristics."

- 2.8.10 The location of the Site within LCA2B is shown at Plate 5.

Plate 5 Landscape Character Area 2B - 'North Baddesley to Chilworth Woodland Mosaic'



(Image courtesy of Test Valley Borough Council's website.)

- 2.8.11 The LCA further states *"The M27 with associated slip roads and junctions, and adjacent large scale commercial buildings have had an impact on levels of tranquillity within the adjacent area. Areas of woodland away from traffic noise still offer some sense of remoteness and tranquillity. The visibility of golf courses as well as residential development on the open landscape, has affected the sense of rural remoteness, with a more urban character."*

3 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL ANALYSIS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

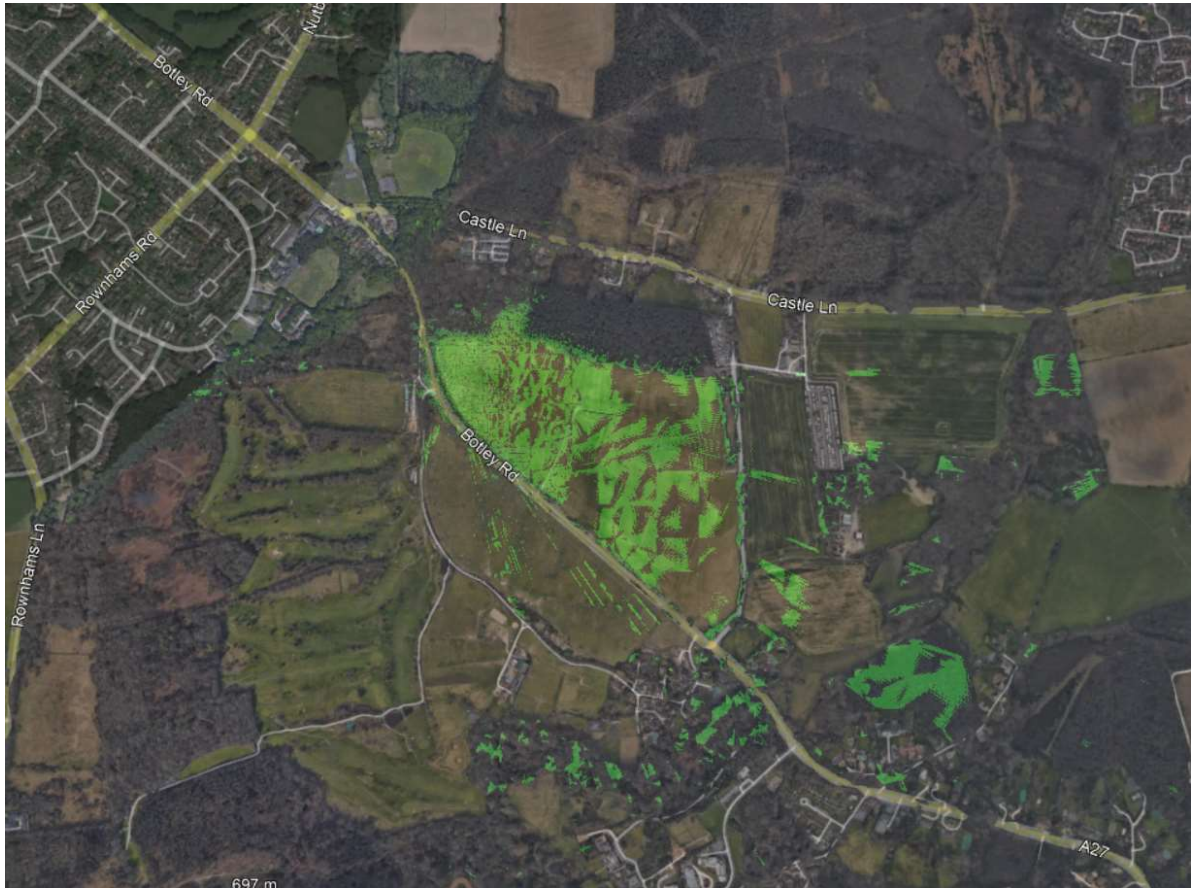
- 3.1.1 This section describes the views available to and from the Site, their distribution, character, and sensitivity to change. Crestwood have assessed the views available to and from the Site by the public through a combination of desk studies and fieldwork.
- 3.1.2 The fieldwork was undertaken during daylight hours in September 2022, a period when trees are generally in full leaf cover. Professional judgement has been used to gauge possible effects during winter months (i.e. worse-case visibility). No access was available to private locations to ascertain actual views from these locations.

3.2 VISIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 3.2.1 A Viewshed has been produced to indicate the approximate extent of visibility of the Proposed Development (not the wider Site area that is left undisturbed), based on the height of the tallest structures within the proposals, the containerised battery storage units with a height of c. 3.2m. The viewshed, is shown at Plate 6.

- 3.2.2 The viewsheds shown are a useful tool in helping to understand the general visibility of a site and considers other elements of screening such as hedgerows, trees, and other built forms in conjunction with general topographical level changes. More subtle variations in topography and varying degrees of screening provided by intervening vegetation are not considered in a viewshed but are considered during the site visit to understand the baseline for the assessment.

Plate 6 Viewshed of the Proposed Development, based on a general height of 3.5m

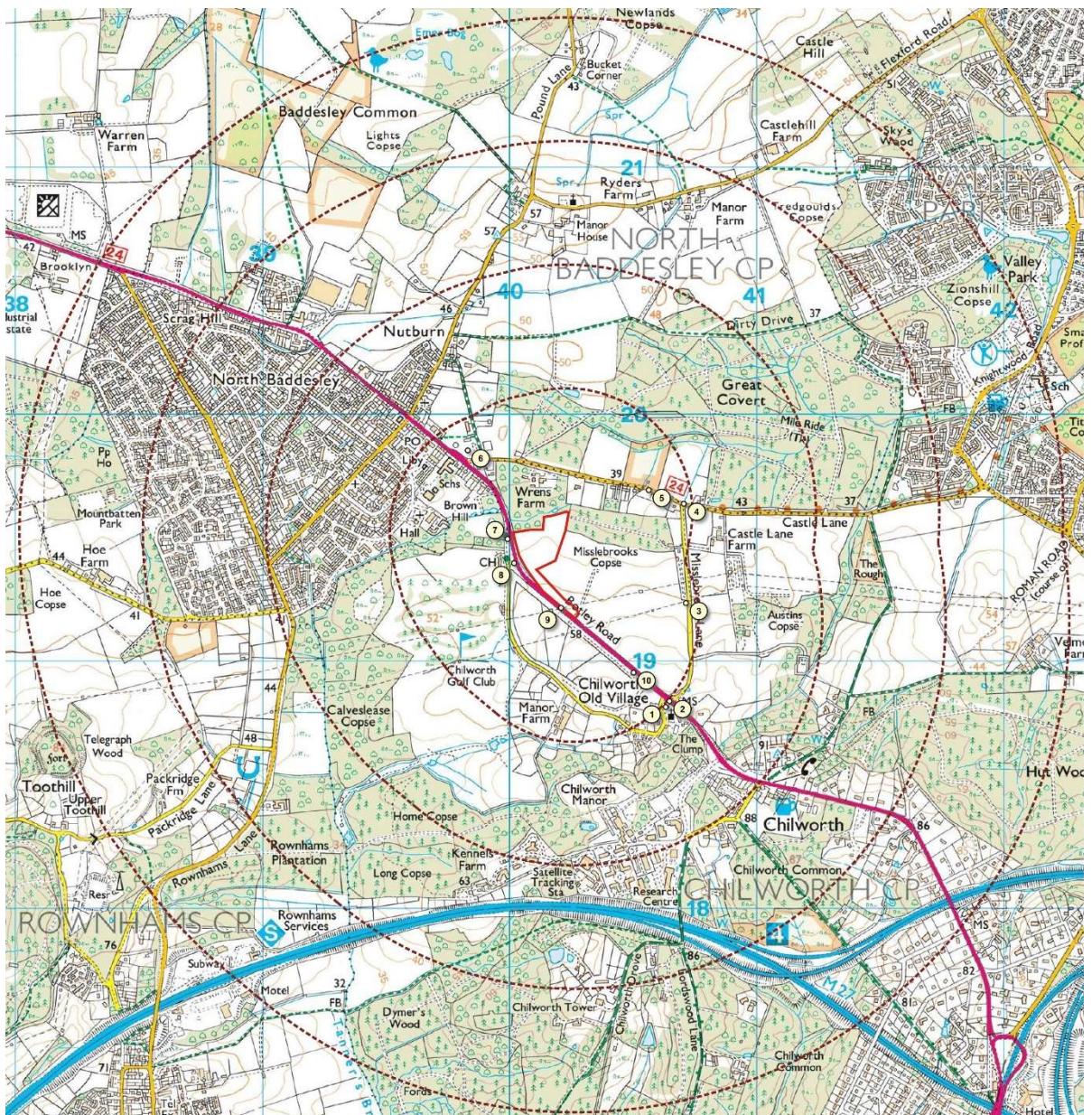


(Image courtesy of Google Earth)

- 3.2.3 Whilst the wider Site may be visible from a larger area, the illustrated viewshed demonstrates the restricted visibility of the Proposed Development itself, due to existing topographical changes within the Site and surrounding landscape and existing vegetation. The viewshed for the Site shows the potential for views are limited to the adjacent A27 Botley Road, and occasional locations along Misslebrook Lane, both are which are located immediately adjacent to the Site boundary. Limited visibility is available from the wider landscape, as demonstrated in the viewshed, with no locations identified as overlapping PRoWs or other public accessible locations, including the identified seating area and viewpoint at the church on the northern edge of Chilworth Old Village.
- 3.2.4 Fieldwork was undertaken in September 2022 to further understand the potential for material landscape and visual effects, with a Study Area of 2km being considered appropriate. As a result, the visibility in the field of the Proposed Development (not the wider Site itself) was considered as being considerably less.
- 3.2.5 The combination of the fieldwork and desktop review established that the topography of the landscape, the extent, location and proximity of established and mature woodlands, and varying degrees of roadside vegetation, would limit likely important (or material) adverse effects to a maximum distance of circa 0.25km from the Site.

- 3.2.6 Ten representative viewpoint locations were selected in the field and their locations are illustrated within Plate 7. Each viewpoint is illustrated from Plates 8 to 17.
- 3.2.7 From the seating area near the church at Chilworth Old Village (Viewpoint 1) there are views from this elevated position across the landscape to the east of the Site, towards the wider landscape to the north. Viewpoints 7, 8, 9 and 10 are representative of views obtained by users of the local road network when travelling south-east (Viewpoints 7 and 8) and north-west (Viewpoints 9 and 10) where a length of the A27 Botley Road forms the Site boundary. Viewpoints 4 and 5 are representative of users of the local road network and associated footpath to the north-east of the Site and are also on the route of the National Cycle Route 24. Viewpoints 2 and 3 are representative of users of Misslebrook Lane and its junction with the A27 Botley Road, near Chilworth Old Village. Viewpoint 6 is from within the public open space (Castle Activity Park) to the north-west of the Site, on the edge of North Baddesley and close to the route of Footpath 172/8/1'

Plate 7 Viewpoint Locations 1-10



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- 3.2.8 The selected views are contained at Viewpoints and are shown in Plates 8-17 below. These viewpoints

are described and assessed in Section 4.

Viewpoints (VP's)

RVP No.	Location	Grid Ref.	Distance / direction to the Site *	Reason for selection.
1	Seating Area	SU40631883	0.75km NW	Formal seating area at Chilworth Old Village, with elevated views across the landscape to the north
2	Roadside Footpath	SU40641883	0.74km NW	Roadside footpath in elevated position and orientated in the general direction of the Site.
3	Road	SU40711923	0.55km W	Field access gate on Misslebrook Lane with views westwards
4	Roadside Footpath	SU40711964	0.56 km SW	Junction of Castle Lane with Misslebrook Lane
5	Roadside Footpath	SU40571969	0.47km SW	From footpath along Castle Lane adjacent dwellings and area of open access land.
6	Recreation Ground	SU39811987	0.55km SE	Closest area of POS on urban edge
7	Road	SU40001948	15m E	On the A27 Bottley Road where Site is in close proximity
8	Road	SU40091930	31m NE	On the A27 Bottley Road at the junction with the entrance / exit to Chilworth Golf Course
9	Road	SU40191922	0.25km NW	On the A27 Bottley Road where road orientated roughly in the direction of the Site
10	Road	SU40461899	0.57km NW	On the A27 Bottley Road where road orientated roughly in the direction of the Site

* The distances as provided are to the main compound area of the Proposed Development, not the wider elements of the overall Site area i.e. the access track.

Plate 8 **Viewpoint 1**



Plate 9 **Viewpoint 2**



Plate 10 **Viewpoint 3**



Plate 11 **Viewpoint 4**



Plate 12 **Viewpoint 5**



Plate 13 **Viewpoint 6**



Plate 14 **Viewpoint 7**



Plate 15 **Viewpoint 8**



Plate 16 **Viewpoint 9**



Plate 17 **Viewpoint 10**



4 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL ASSESSMENT

4.1 ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

- 4.1.1 It is assumed that the Site would otherwise continue to be used as existing, should permission not be granted, as the 'do nothing' scenario.
- 4.1.2 The assessment is made against a baseline situation of the following assumptions:
- An Illustrative Landscape Masterplan (ref: CE-MH2164-ADW02 – Figure 2) has been prepared that details the locations and species of new tree and hedgerow planting in response to observations made elsewhere in this report relating to potential visual impacts. It is assumed that the proposed landscaping works are undertaken in the first appropriate period following the construction of the development.
 - The surrounding landscape context remains the same, including the predominant retention of main woodland blocks (both density and heights), boundary hedgerows and trees where present are retained.
 - The cable route between the Proposed Development and the point of connection to the wider electrical distribution network is installed below ground, and not a connection via overhead cables. This report does not assess the implementation of this route, noting that implementation will be minimal in terms of visual and landscape impacts both during and after construction periods; and
 - No large-scale developments such as housing, industrial or commercial are proposed and submitted for planning consent.
- 4.1.3 It is assumed that the recommended impact avoidance/mitigation measures are able to be implemented through the detailed design process, as there is no reason known at the time of assessment for these not to be able to be incorporated. This includes use of best practice landscaping construction, planting, and ongoing management/maintenance techniques to promote rapid establishment, prevent rapid deterioration and increase amenity, biodiversity, and other functions of the residual landscape. It is also assumed that a detailed tree and landscape management plan will be produced for approval (e.g. as a requirement by planning condition) and implemented in full. Outline proposals are described in the Impact Avoidance and Mitigation Measures section.
- 4.1.4 The fieldwork was undertaken during daylight hours during September 2022. No access was available to private locations to ascertain actual views from these locations. Professional judgement has been used to anticipate views based on publicly accessible locations and whether impacts are likely to be increased during winter months due to greater intervisibility due to seasonal loss of leaf cover.
- 4.1.5 The information used for the assessment of cumulative impacts was made using the information available for other developments in the locality at the time of the assessment.

4.2 PREDICTED POTENTIAL IMPACTS

- 4.2.1 Taking the assumptions in Section 4.1 into account, the predicted potential visual and landscape impacts are expected to relate to the construction period and in relation to residual presence of the new development (as perceived during the day and at night).
- 4.2.1 Potential sources of impact are identified below and, without consideration of being addressed, have the potential to adversely affect visual amenity and landscape character both from within and from

outside the Site:

- All of the mature hedgerows and hedgerow trees bounding and within the Site would be unaffected by the proposed development noting appropriate (fenced) standoff distances.
- Localised excavation would be required to install the underground cabling within the Site and the wider cable route to the main point of connection, and the bases for the structures within the Proposed Development area. The excavations outlined above are modest in size and scale, enabling future full agricultural use with minimal remediation.
- The effect on the agricultural land as one of the key landscape characteristics of the Site is assessed as being small within the wider landscape context.
- Temporary short-term effects resulting from construction (such as excavations, construction traffic, etc.) on the landscape character of the Site and surrounding area would be in line with or only marginally greater than the finished installed development.

4.3 IMPACT AVOIDANCE AND MITIGATION MEASURES

- 4.3.1 An iterative design and assessment process has been undertaken. Mitigation measures have been integrated prior to finalisation, such that this has been embedded into the proposals, whilst ensuring operational viability. These measures have been devised to avoid, minimise, or 'compensate' for identified important visual and landscape effects. The presentation of the assessment provided below has been abridged to allow ease of comprehension and 'accessibility' and to focus on the main effects without going into detail of the iterative design and assessment process undertaken to arrive at the proposals, at the time of writing, to provide a document that is proportionate to the Proposed Development and the effects.
- 4.3.2 The Proposed Development has had the following impact avoidance, reduction and mitigation measures incorporated to minimise adverse landscape and visual effects:
- Setting development back from the existing boundaries of the Site by a minimum depth of 5m to minimise impact on retained boundary vegetation.
 - Retaining existing field boundary hedgerow planting with hedgerow trees and providing enhancement through the incorporation of infill hedgerows where the existing is gapped, and the incorporation of tree planting within existing hedgerows along all boundaries.
 - Positioning the Proposed Development in a location that is easily accessible yet screened by existing topography and vegetation; and
 - Using existing access points to the Site from the A27 Botley Road via an existing gateway.
- 4.3.3 The assessment of effects (landscape and visual) assumes and refers to 'adverse' effects at all times unless specifically stated that the effect is beneficial.

4.4 METHOD OF ASSESSMENT OF VISUAL EFFECTS

- 4.4.1 It is noted that the assessment of visual effects is based on publicly accessible viewpoint locations. Views from private locations and residences have not been obtained. The assessment of visual effects uses professional judgement to ascertain levels of Importance of effect through levels of contribution of Sensitivity of the viewer (with reference to Susceptibility and Value), Magnitude of effects, and nature of effect (i.e. whether it is positive, negative, or neutral).

Magnitude of Visual Effects Criteria

Magnitude of Visual Effect	Visual Criteria
Very Large	Where the proposals become the only dominant feature in the view and to which all other elements become subordinate. Typically involves direct views at close range over a wide horizontal and vertical extent.
Large	Where the proposals would form a significant and immediately apparent element of the scene and would affect the overall impression of the view. Typically involves direct or oblique views at close range with notable changes over the horizontal and vertical extent.
Medium	Where proposals would form a visible and recognisable new development but where it is not intrusive within the overall view. Typically involves direct or oblique views at medium range with a moderate horizontal and/or vertical extent of the view affected.
Small	Where proposals constitute only a minor component of the wider view, which the casual observer could miss or where awareness does not affect the overall quality of the scene. Typically involves an oblique view at medium or long range or a direct view at long range with a small horizontal/vertical extent of the view affected.
Very Small	Where only a very small part of the development is discernible or that it is at such a distance that the effects are scarcely appreciated.

Sensitivity of Viewer Criteria

Visual Sensitivity	Visual Criteria
Very High	Nationally well recognised and advertised location for high visual amenity value Prominent location or vista with high visual amenity value that is recognised in published sources. Very high susceptibility to change as a very high level of attention focussed on the landscape and particular views.
High	Well-known area recognised regionally for high landscape value . Open areas of recognised public access where primary enjoyment is of the views of the landscape. High susceptibility to change as a high level of attention focused on the landscape and particular views.
Medium	Locations afford views of some value , but visual amenity not well recognised beyond locality. Moderate susceptibility to change as a moderate level of attention focussed on the landscape and particular views.
Low	Viewpoint context and location is of lesser value than similar views from nearby visual receptors that may be more accessible. Low susceptibility to change as low level of attention focussed on the landscape and particular views.
Very Low	Viewpoint context is such that views have a very low value . Expectations of visual amenity are very low. Activity at viewpoint is incidental to the view.

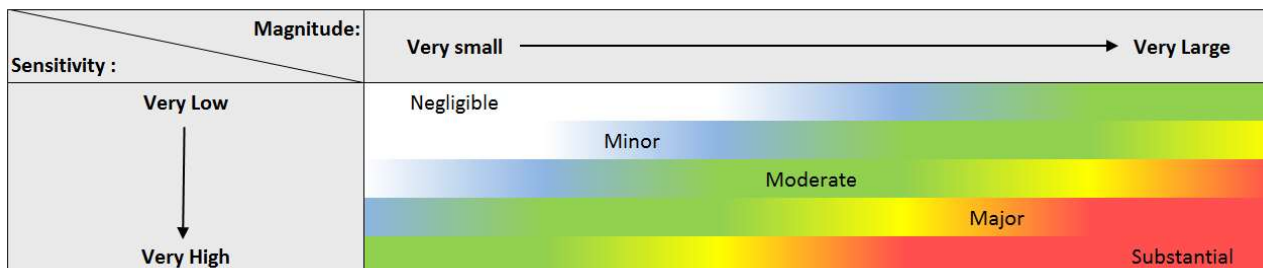
4.4.2 The derivation of levels of effect (indicating their Importance) generally follows a pattern by which the relationship between sensitivity and magnitude contributes to the level of Importance as shown in 4.4.2. This process is applied to a selection of representative viewpoints.

4.4.3 Where the Proposed Development would not be discernible within the view, the magnitude of

change and Importance of effect may be stated as None.

- 4.4.4 In general, Major or Substantial adverse effects are considered to be 'Important' or material planning considerations worthy of further attention. On balance, in overall planning terms, Important effects may not necessarily be considered unacceptable, 'in the round,' accounting for other factors.

Diagram 1 Overall Level of Effect



4.5 ASSESSMENT OF VISUAL EFFECTS

- 4.5.1 A number of representative viewpoints have been selected to demonstrate the types of effects that are anticipated and that have been assessed as part of the Proposed Development. These are from the following locations and are assessed on subsequent pages:

Representative Viewpoints

Viewpoint	Brief Description	Figure No.
Viewpoint 1	View from: Formal seating area at Chilworth Old Village, looking north-west.	Plate 8
Viewpoint 2	View from: Roadside footpath looking north-west.	Plate 9
Viewpoint 3	View from: Misslebrook Lane, looking west.	Plate 10
Viewpoint 4	View from: Roadside footpath at road junction between Misslebrook Lane and Castle Lane, looking south-west	Plate 11
Viewpoint 5	View from: Roadside footpath, looking south-west .	Plate 12
Viewpoint 6	View from: Recreation ground on urban edge of Botley, looking south-east.	Plate 13
Viewpoint 7	View from: A27 Bottley Road, looking south-east.	Plate 14
Viewpoint 8	View from: A27 Bottley Road#, looking east	Plate 15
Viewpoint 9	View from: A27 Bottley Road, looking north-west.	Plate 16
Viewpoint 10	View from: A27 Bottley Road, northwest.	Plate 17

Photolocation 1

- 4.5.2 Viewpoint 1 is from a seating area adjacent to the church on the edge of Chilworth Old Village, at a distance of circa 0.75km to the south-east of the Site (see Plate 8). This view represents those obtained by users of the seating area who use this area because of the views afforded of the wider landscape to the north and are considered as being **High** sensitivity visual receptors. Views are across a small area of grassland and the A27 Botley Road, where this elevated location and gaps within the roadside vegetation provide views of the wider landscape. A number of existing trees along the A27,

combined with roadside vegetation and the falling topography, limit any views of the Proposed Development from this location.

- 4.5.3 The sensitivity of the visual receptor is **High**, and the magnitude of effect during both construction and upon completion would be None. The overall level of effect would be Negligible – None and not considered to be of importance in terms of the level of adverse effect on views. It is considered that during winter months, when vegetation is without any meaningful leaf cover, there will be no change to the level of effect as assessed above.

Table 5 *Visual Effects on Viewpoint 1*

Visual Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude		Nature and Importance of Effect
Seating Area User	High	Construction Period	None	Negligible - None
		Upon Completion (at Year 1):	None	Negligible - None

Photolocation 2

- 4.5.4 Viewpoint 2 is taken from the highway footpath that runs alongside the A27 Botley Road in this location, at a distance of circa 0.74km to the south-east of the Site (see Plate 9). This view represents both road users and footpath users who traverse this area of elevated landscape, where views are orientated in the general direction of the Site. Views are across the road corridor, which is flanked along each edge by mature roadside vegetation including areas of scrub, hedgerow, and hedgerow trees. A gap within this area of vegetation provides a framed view of the landscape to the north-west, in the general direction of the Site. It is not considered that any of the Proposed Development will be visible, but it is likely that there will be occasional views during the construction period when works connecting the Proposed Development to the grid are undertake, and these will be limited to trenching and cabling operations.
- 4.5.5 Road users are considered to be **Low** sensitivity, and users of the associated footpath are considered as being **Medium** sensitivity. The magnitude of visual effect is considered to be **Very Small**. The overall level of effect would be Minor - Negligible at worse, and not considered to be of importance in terms of the level of adverse effect on views. It is considered that during winter months, when vegetation is without any meaningful leaf cover, there will be no change to the level of effect as assessed above.

Table 6 *Visual Effects on Viewpoint 2*

Visual Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude		Nature and Importance of Effect
Road User	Low	Construction Period	Very Small	Negligible - None
		Upon Completion (at Year 1):	None	None
Roadside Footpath	Medium	Construction Period	Very Small	Minor - Negligible
		Upon Completion (at Year 1):	None	None

Photolocation 3

- 4.5.6 Viewpoint 3 is taken at an existing field access gate along Misslebrook Lane, at a distance of c. 0.55km to the east of the Site (see Plate 10). This view represents users of the local road network to the east

of the Site where occasional views are afforded in the direction of the Site, albeit oblique to the direction of travel. Views are possible over the fields to the east of the Site and include existing electrical distribution infrastructure along with farming paraphernalia and waste. The change in view will include the Proposed Development, visible along its eastern edge and against a backdrop of existing vegetation that identifies the route of the A27, but only forms a minor component of the wider view.

- 4.5.7 Road users are considered to be **Low** sensitivity receptors and the magnitude of visual effect is considered to be **Small** and adverse in nature both during and after the construction period. The overall level of effect would be Minor, and not considered to be of importance in terms of the level of adverse effect on views. It is considered that during winter months, when vegetation is without any meaningful leaf cover, there will be no change to the level of effect as assessed above.

Table 7 *Visual Effects on Viewpoint 3*

Visual Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude		Nature and Importance of Effect
Road User	Low	Construction Period	Small	Minor (adverse)
		Upon Completion (at Year 1):	Small	Minor (adverse)

Photolocation 4

- 4.5.8 Viewpoint 4 is taken from a roadside footpath at the road junction of Castle Lane and Misslebrook Lane, circa 0.56km to the north-east of the Site (see Plate 11). Views are across the road junction and corridor, with established roadside vegetation and vegetation to adjacent residential dwelling's gardens, provide a degree of visual screening with only glimpse views possible to Misslebrook Copse beyond. This vegetation, combined with local topographical changes combine to limit any views of the Proposed Development from this location.
- 4.5.9 The sensitivity of the visual receptor is **Low**, and the magnitude of effect during both construction and upon completion would be None. The overall level of effect would be Negligible – None and not considered to be of importance in terms of the level of adverse effect on views. It is considered that during winter months, when vegetation is without any meaningful leaf cover, there will be no change to the level of effect as assessed above.

Table 8 *Visual Effects on Viewpoint 4*

Visual Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude		Nature and Importance of Effect
Road User	Low	Construction Period	None	None
		Upon Completion (at Year 1):	None	None
Roadside Footpath	Medium	Construction Period	None	None
		Upon Completion (at Year 1):	None	None

Photolocation 5

- 4.5.10 Viewpoint 5 is taken from the same roadside footpath at Viewpoint 4, but further eastwards in the vicinity of an area of open access land, circa 0.47km to the north of the Site (see Plate 12). From this location, there are open views across the road and pastoral field to the north of Misslebrook Copse,

which forms an established visual barrier between the Site and the viewpoint location.

- 4.5.11 Road users are considered to be **Low** sensitivity, and users of the associated footpath are considered as being **Medium** sensitivity. There will be no change in the view as a result of the Proposed Development and the magnitude of effect during both construction and upon completion would be None. The overall level of effect would be Negligible – None and not considered to be of importance in terms of the level of adverse effect on views. It is considered that during winter months, when vegetation is without any meaningful leaf cover, there will be no change to the level of effect as assessed above.

Table 9 Visual Effects on Viewpoint 5

Visual Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude		Nature and Importance of Effect
Road User	Low	Construction Period	None	Negligible - None
		Upon Completion (at Year 1):	None	None
Roadside Footpath	Medium	Construction Period	None	Negligible - None
		Upon Completion (at Year 1):	None	None

Photolocation 6

- 4.5.12 Viewpoint 6 is located within the area of Public Open Space on the south-eastern edge of the village of North Baddesley, at a distance of circa 0.55km to the north-west of the Site (see Plate 13). At this location there are views across the playing fields and play equipment in the direction of the Site. Roadside dwellings at the junction of the Castle Lane with the A27 are visible, along with elements of highways infrastructure. A number of mature trees within the POS and aligning the road corridors provide a high degree of tree cover, with the western edge of Misslebrook Copse being visible rising above the dwellings. The Site and Proposed Development will not be visible from this location.
- 4.5.13 Users of the POS and recreation grounds are considered to be **Medium** sensitivity. There will be no change in the view as a result of the Proposed Development and the magnitude of effect during both construction and upon completion would be **Minor** adverse at worse. The overall level of effect would be **Negligible – None** and not considered to be of importance in terms of the level of adverse effect on views. It is considered that during winter months, when vegetation is without any meaningful leaf cover, there will be no change to the level of effect as assessed above.

Table 10 Visual Effects on Viewpoint 6

Visual Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude		Nature and Importance of Effect
Public Open Space	Medium	Construction Period	None	Minor - Negligible
		Upon Completion (at Year 1):	None	Negligible

Photolocation 7

- 4.5.14 Viewpoint 7 is taken from the A27 where it runs in close proximity to the Site, at a distance of circa 15m east of the Site boundary (see Plate 14). This view is taken at the location where the existing roadside hedgerow is maintained to a low height and where there are framed views into the Site and the fields further to the east, through existing roadside vegetation. Elements of existing electrical

distribution infrastructure are visible crossing the rural landscape. This view is also representative of those experienced by road users upon exiting the Chilworth Golf Course. The change in view will be from an agricultural field to a series of containerised battery storage units within a fenced compound at fairly close range, along with areas of new planting.

- 4.5.15 Users of the local road network are transient and are considered to be **Low** sensitivity receptors who will experience a **Large** magnitude of change to the view as a result. The overall level of effect would be Moderate adverse. It is considered likely that views of the Proposed Development will increase in winter months due to a reduced level of leaf cover along the highways boundary, with the level of effect increasing as a result to Moderate-Major. However, proposed mitigation measures in terms of additional hedgerow, shrub and tree planting will increasingly filter views as the vegetation establishes, resulting in the Proposed Development becoming increasingly screened, particularly in summer months.

Table 11 Visual Effects on Viewpoint 7

Visual Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude		Nature and Importance of Effect
Road User	Low	Construction Period	Large	Moderate (adverse)
		Upon Completion (at Year 1):	Large	Moderate (adverse)

Photolocation 8

- 4.5.16 Viewpoint 8 is taken from the A27 at a distance of circa 30m to the south of the Site, at the location of an existing access gateway into the field that the Site forms a small section of (see Plate 15). Similarly to that as described for Viewpoint 7, views are rural in character and are possible over existing boundary vegetation alongside the road corridor, with glimpse views of the western edge of the larger host field in which the Site is located, with the woodland of Wrens Copse and Misslebrooks Copse visible beyond. The change in view will be from an area of an agricultural field to a series of containerised battery storage units within a fenced compound at fairly close range, along with areas of new planting. Vegetation to the existing gateway will also be 'thinned' to enable access into the field and connection to the compound via a new access track.
- 4.5.17 Users of the local road network are transient and are considered to be **Low** sensitivity receptors who will experience a **Medium** magnitude of change to the view as a result. The overall level of effect would be Moderate adverse during the construction, and **Moderate-Minor** upon completion. It is considered likely that views of the Proposed Development will increase in winter months due to a reduced level of leaf cover along the highways boundary, with the level of effect increasing as a result to Moderate. Proposed mitigation measures in terms of additional hedgerow, shrub and tree planting will increasingly filter views as the vegetation establishes, resulting in the Proposed Development becoming increasingly screened, particularly in summer months.

Table 12 Visual Effects on Viewpoint 8

Visual Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude		Nature and Importance of Effect
Road User	Low	Construction Period	Medium	Moderate (adverse)
		Upon Completion (at Year 1):	Medium	Moderate-Minor (adverse)

Photolocation 9

- 4.5.18 Viewpoint 9 is taken from the A27 at a distance of circa 0.25km to the south-east of the Site (see Plate 16) and is representative of views afforded road users when travelling westwards in the direction of the Site. Similar to that as described for Viewpoint 8, views are rural in character and are possible over existing boundary vegetation alongside the road corridor, with glimpse views of the western edge of the larger host field in which the Site is located, with the woodland of Wrens Copse and Misslebrooks Copse visible beyond. The change in view will include a view of the eastern edge of the battery compound set against the backdrop of the existing woodland and within areas of new planting.
- 4.5.19 Users of the local road network are transient and are considered to be **Low** sensitivity receptors who will experience a **Medium** magnitude of change to the view as a result. The overall level of effect would be Moderate adverse during the construction, and **Moderate-Minor** upon completion. It is considered likely that views of the Proposed Development will increase in winter months due to a reduced level of leaf cover along the highways boundary, with the level of effect increasing as a result to Moderate. Proposed mitigation measures in terms of additional hedgerow, shrub and tree planting will increasingly filter views as the vegetation establishes, resulting in the Proposed Development becoming increasingly screened, particularly in summer months.

Table 13 Visual Effects on Viewpoint 9

Visual Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude		Nature and Importance of Effect
Road User	Low	Construction Period	Medium	Moderate-Minor (adverse)
		Upon Completion (at Year 1):	Medium	Moderate-Minor (adverse)

Photolocation 10

- 4.5.20 Viewpoint 10 is taken from the A27 at a distance of circa 0.57km to the south-east of the Site (see Plate 17). Viewpoint 10 is similar in nature to that as described for viewpoints 8 and 9 and represents the transient views afforded users of the local road network to the south of the Site, when travelling in a westerly direction. Views are rural in character and are possible to the fields either side of the road corridor as a result of limited roadside vegetation being present and road itself being raised above the natural topography. Isolated trees or small tree groupings and remnant hedgerows are present at irregular intervals which provide varying degrees of screening of views in the direction of the Site. Electricity pylons are visible and are notable visual detractors in views.
- 4.5.21 Users of the local road network are transient and are considered to be **Low** sensitivity receptors who will experience a **Small** magnitude of change to the view as a result. The overall level of effect would be Moderate adverse during the construction, and **Minor** upon completion. It is considered likely that views of the Proposed Development will increase in winter months due to a reduced level of leaf cover along the highways boundary, with the level of effect increasing as a result to **Moderate-Minor**. Proposed mitigation measures in terms of additional hedgerow, shrub and tree planting will increasingly filter views as the vegetation establishes, resulting in the Proposed Development becoming increasingly screened, particularly in summer months.

Table 14 Visual Effects on Viewpoint 10

Visual Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude		Nature and Importance of Effect
Road User	Low	Construction Period	None	Negligible - None
		Upon Completion (at Year 1):	None	Negligible - None

Other Viewpoints

4.5.22 No farmsteads or private dwellings are located near the site.

4.5.23 Users of the Chilworth Golf Club are considered unlikely to have any views of the Proposed Development from the clubhouse, associated fairways or from the greens, given the limited scale of the Site and its position to the north and east of the A27 Botley Road. Minor topographical changes and existing vegetation within the golf course and along the roadside further limit any intervisibility. Users exiting the golf course on to the A27 are assessed as part of Viewpoint 7 (see above).

4.6 METHOD OF ASSESSMENT OF LANDSCAPE EFFECTS

4.6.1 Landscape Sensitivity is determined by the combination of landscape susceptibility (i.e. the inherent ability of a defined landscape receptor (e.g. landscape characteristics) to accommodate the specific Proposed Development without undue negative consequences) and landscape value.

4.6.2 Landscape value is the desirability of landscape characteristics (including scenic beauty, tranquillity, wildness, cultural associations, conservation interests etc.) and the acceptability of their loss to different stakeholders (i.e. valued for different reasons by different people and on different scales, e.g. local, national).

4.6.3 The level of landscape sensitivity is derived generally following the pattern shown below:

Landscape Sensitivity

Land. Susceptibility Land. Value	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Very High
Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Low or Medium	Medium
Low	Very Low	Low	Low or Medium	Medium	Medium or High
Medium	Low	Low or Medium	Medium	Medium or High	High
High	Low or Medium	Medium	Medium or High	High	Very High
Very High	Medium	Medium or High	High	Very High	Very High

4.6.4 The determination of magnitude of landscape effect is guided by the table as shown below:

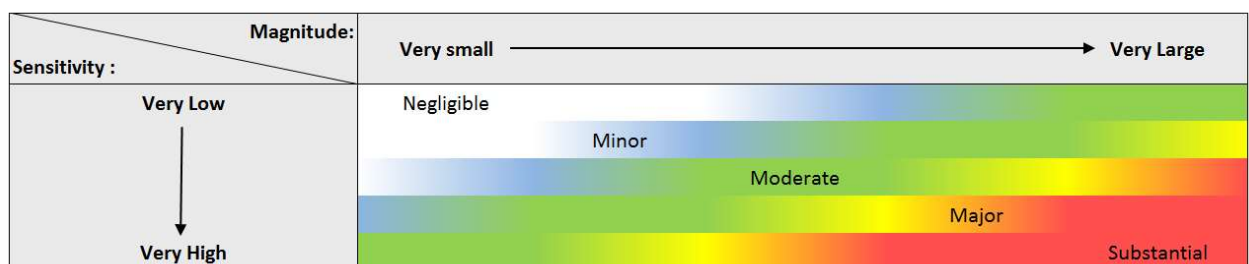
Magnitude of Landscape Effect

Magnitude of Landscape Effect	Landscape Criteria
Very Large	Typically, large scale changes and/or numerous changes to important landscape characteristics
Large	Typically, large scale changes to some landscape characteristics, or a high number of medium scale changes to the landscape characteristics

Medium	Typically, some medium scale changes to some landscape characteristics
Small	Typically, a low number of medium scale changes to landscape characteristics, or a number of small-scale changes to landscape characteristics
Very Small	Typically, occasional, small-scale changes to unimportant landscape characteristics

- 4.6.5 The effects on the landscape can apply at an individual level (e.g. to specific landscape elements or characteristics) and at the landscape character level. Both aspects are considered below.
- 4.6.6 Important changes to landscape character occur when the relative level of contribution of the existing key characteristics changes (either through reduction/increase or removal/addition) such that the landscape would be defined or classified differently at a given geographical scale.
- 4.6.7 For this Proposed Development and site, potential effects on landscape character would be limited to a maximum of 0.5km from the Site.
- 4.6.8 The derivation of levels of importance of effect generally follows a pattern by which the relationship between sensitivity and magnitude contributes to the level of effect as shown in Diagram 2. Major or Substantial levels of effect would be considered to be Important. On balance, in overall planning terms, Important effects may not necessarily be considered unacceptable.

Diagram 2 Overall Level of Effect



4.7 ASSESSMENT OF LANDSCAPE EFFECTS

Effects on Landscape Characteristics

- 4.7.1 The landscape elements present within the Site are limited to areas of agricultural grassland (low to medium value), with more valued elements relating to those present along the southern boundary e.g. hedgerow and hedgerow trees (high value). Overall, the Landscape Value is considered to be **Medium**. The Susceptibility of these site characteristics is considered to be Medium and when combined with a Medium Landscape Value, results in a Medium (at worse) Landscape Sensitivity. This change will be small within the local landscape context and would represent a Small Magnitude of change, resulting in a Minor adverse (not important or significant) but very long-term effect.
- 4.7.2 No hedgerows or trees would be removed, and the addition and establishment of new hedgerow and tree planting will have a beneficial effect on the landscape fabric and interconnectivity across the Site.

Effects on Landscape Character (within the Site)

- 4.7.3 The assessment of the landscape baseline found that the Site does not lie within any nationally or locally designated landscapes. The landscape character of the Site, accounting for all the prevalent characteristic landscape features, is assessed as having a Medium Susceptibility to change to the type of development proposed and when combined with the Medium Landscape Value, it is considered that the resulting Landscape Sensitivity is Medium overall.
- 4.7.4 The Proposed Development would result in a change of the Site from agricultural use through the inclusion of battery storage units and other associated elements, at Year 1. The low-level structures and consistency of the storage units, whilst clearly modern man-made elements, would not alter the overall landscape framework. It is considered that the Proposed Development would result in a Large magnitude of effect as a result of implementation. Overall, this would produce a Moderate-Major level of adverse effect on the landscape character at a Site level, for the duration of the Proposed Development being in place.

Effects on Landscape Character (near the Site)

- 4.7.5 The landscape sensitivity to the Proposed Development is considered to be Medium. When considering the wider local Landscape Character Areas, the size of the Site, the type and duration of the development and the limited area over which noticeable effects on landscape character would be exerted are considered, the magnitude of adverse effect is considered Very Small.
- 4.7.6 The Proposed Development would allow the retention of the pattern of the parcel of land as existing (not disrupting the existing wider pattern), would allow the retention (and supplementation) of hedgerows and a number of trees within the Site. Filtered views would remain.
- 4.7.7 The level of the effect on the wider landscape character is Negligible-Minor. The key characteristics would remain unchanged such that the effects of the Proposed Development on the landscape character would not be considered Important.

5 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 The assessment process combines objective methodology and elements of subjective professional judgement and has been conducted by a Chartered Landscape Architect with more than 20 years' professional experience in accordance with latest guidance.
- 5.1.2 The Site is located in a landscape that contains significant areas of woodland planting and is located on a north facing slope. The Site forms the western edge of a larger agricultural field that is bordered to the north by woodland, and to the south and west by the A27. These characteristics are fairly typical of the surrounding landscape and given the unremarkable nature of the landscape and activity associated with modern agriculture, along with the presence of overhead powerlines, the landscape character of the local context is assessed as being similar to the Site itself and of Medium value.
- 5.1.3 The landscape character of the Site is assessed as having an overall Medium sensitivity to the type of development proposed. The introduction of the battery storage containers and associated equipment into the Site would change the predominant land use; however the low-level of these structures, whilst clearly modern man-made features, would not alter the overall landscape framework. There would be a Moderate/Major level of adverse effect on the landscape character at

a site level that is borderline Significant. On the wider landscape character of the area, the Proposed Development is assessed as having a Negligible-Minor level of adverse effect.

- 5.1.4 As a consequence of limited areas of public access (e.g. no PRoW within or near the Site), the proximity to established semi-evergreen woodlands, the undulating topography of the area and with the Site being generally located on a north to north-west facing slope, it was found that intervisibility from the surrounding landscape was limited to a length of the A27 that immediately borders the southern boundary of the Site, and to a lesser extent from Misslebrook Lane to the east.
- 5.1.5 It is assessed that there would be Moderate adverse visual effects by users of the A27 (Viewpoint 7) where it runs close to the southern boundary (and similarly reflects the level of effect on vehicle users as they exit the adjacent golf course). Views are transient and likely to be filtered by established roadside vegetation with effects in winter months likely to increase to Moderate-Major adverse. The intervisibility between the Site and the A27 diminished with distance (Viewpoints 8-10) and the proposed mitigation measures in terms of additional hedgerow, shrub and tree planting will increasingly filter views as the vegetation establishes, resulting in the Proposed Development becoming increasingly screened, particularly in summer months.
- 5.1.6 In conclusion, it is therefore assessed that the landscape in the vicinity of the Site and the surrounding area has the capacity to accommodate the scale of development proposed. There are no overriding reasons relating to landscape or visual effects why the Proposed Development should not be approved.

6 REFERENCES:

- Department for Communities and Local Government, 2021. *National Planning Policy Framework*. s.l.:s.n.
- Landscape Institute/Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment, 2013. *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*. Third Addition ed. s.l.:Routledge.
- Natural England, 2013. National Character Area Profile. In: s.l.:s.n.