



# WESTHIDE SOLAR LVIA APPENDIX A-E

DECEMBER 2021

LANDMARK REF: 3352

# APPENDIX A: METHODOLOGY

## Scope

The purpose of the landscape and visual assessment (LVIA) process is to identify potential effects of a proposed development on the landscape character and visual amenity resources of the area in which the development is to be located.

'Landscape' is defined as 'an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.' (Council of Europe, 2000). This definition makes clear that landscape is more than a simple aesthetic or visual consideration. Landscape, and how it is understood and experienced by people, comprises an interconnected system of the living natural and cultural heritage, whether it is ordinary or outstanding, urban or rural, on land or in water. As such, any assessment of the effect of development on the landscape should also be based on the nature of the proposed development and the characteristics of the area in which it is proposed to be sited.

There is no single prescriptive approach to LVIA. The methodology described below has been developed from the Landscape Institute/Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment', Third Edition, 2013, and is informed by The Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage (2002) Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland (CAX 84) (Countryside Commission and Scottish Natural Heritage, April 2002), and supported by professional judgement and experience. The project specific methodology employed in this study is further defined by the nature of the development, the characteristics of the landscape setting and, where available, consultation with the local planning authority and key stakeholders.

A landscape and visual impact assessment comprises two interrelated parts:-

- A landscape impact assessment, which considers the potential changes to distinguishing landscape features and character. The term landscape is taken to encompass the whole external environment including the countryside and urban areas.
- A visual impact assessment, which considers the potential changes to views for local residents, walkers, horse riders, visitors and the setting of heritage features. Collectively these are described as 'receptors'.

# Scope

The scope of this assessment has been determined by desk study, familiarisation with the nature of the site, consideration of the proposed scheme and its possible effects, and consultations with the competent authority.

There are interactions between the LVIA and heritage assessment, in terms of the landscape setting of heritage assets and these are cross-referred as appropriate. A separate Heritage Desk Based Assessment has been carried out by Cotswold Archaeology. Where relevant this report also makes reference to the Arboricultural Impact Assessment by Hillside Trees.

# Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

The study area considered by this assessment was set by the theoretical extent within which the proposed development is likely to be visible within the surrounding landscape, as expressed by a 'Zone of Theoretical Visibility' (ZTV). The ZTV is a tool used to identify the likely (or theoretical) extent of visibility of a development within the specified radius. As a computer-generated calculation the ZTV does not take account of all intervening

surface features such as trees, hedges or structures. As such, a ZTV represents a worse case or precautionary assessment of likely visibility.

The ZTV is generated from a receptor height of 1.7 m (average eye level) and receiver height (in this case set as 3 m i.e. the maximum development height). Multiple receiver targets were placed within the site to best represent the layout and points that may be visible.

Further information on the terrain model and mapping used is displayed on the ZTV figure. Following the above approach, the ZTV for the proposed development was shown to extend up to 2.5km from the site. This was confirmed by site appraisal and professional experience of assessment for this type and scale of development. Beyond 2.5 km any landscape or visual effects of the development would be negligible.

# **Viewpoint Photography**

The viewpoint photographs presented in this VIA have been prepared in accordance with the Landscape Institute's Guidance Visual Representation of Development Proposals (LI TGN 06/19). Photographs have been taken using a Full Frame Sensor camera with 50 mm lens.

### **Data Trawl**

A data trawl of the study area was undertaken to collect baseline information, including landscape planning policy designations, published sources of landscape character and other relevant information.

# **Site Appraisal**

Following the data trawl and a preliminary desktop study, a site visit was made by Chartered Members of the Landscape Institute in order to undertake a landscape and visual appraisal in relation to the proposed development.

The visual appraisal considered all receptors with existing views towards the application site, together with any other receptors that do not have current views to the application site but may experience views of the proposed development if delivered.

Where possible, site appraisals are carried out in the winter months to identify views when the surrounding vegetation provides the least cover. Where the appraisal survey is undertaken when deciduous vegetation is in full leaf, i.e. providing maximum screening, the appraisal takes account of the likely nature of winter views, in order to consider the 'worst-case' scenario.

Although no private viewpoints were individually assessed, views from private properties have been considered based on the nearest publicly accessible viewpoint. This is generally the footpath or road immediately adjacent to the property.

# **Local Landscape Character Assessment**

Local landscape character has been assessed on site with reference to published guidance. The findings of the site assessment are summarised in the baseline section of the LVIA.



## **Assessment Stages**

The assessment for both landscape and visual impacts covers the following tasks:

- A baseline description of relevant planning designations, existing landscape character and views;
- An evaluation of the sensitivity of potential landscape resources and visual receptors;
- An evaluation of the magnitude of change (or impact) resulting from the proposed development; and
- Analysis of the importance of that change taking into account sensitivity, described using the term 'effect'.

To ensure a systematic and transparent approach consistent terms have been used throughout the assessment to define relative value, susceptibility, sensitivity, magnitude of impact and importance of effect. These criteria, developed from guidance in GLVIA3 and professional experience, are set out in Tables A1 – A9 below. These terms are always indicated in italics when used in the report text.

The values indicated by the tables and matrices have not been applied automatically. Professional judgement has been applied in all cases and a reasoned argument set out in the text to justify the analysis.

# **Landscape Assessment**

### Reporting the landscape baseline

Following desk based and site assessments the landscape baseline has been described and supported with illustrations where necessary. In accordance with GLVIA3 (paragraph 5.33) landscape assessment follows a similar process to landscape assessment, whereby:

- "individual elements and aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape" are identified and described, with a particular emphasis on any key characteristics that contribute to the distinctive character of the landscape; and
- "the condition of the landscape, including the condition of elements or features such as buildings, hedgerows or woodland" are identified.'

The landscape is described as it is at the time of assessment, but consideration is also given to the future baseline i.e. what it may be like in the future in the absence of the development proposed.

# **Landscape Sensitivity**

Sensitivity of the landscape receptor is assessed by combining the findings of landscape value with the susceptibility of the landscape to change.

#### Landscape Value

The value of the landscape takes into account aspects such as designations, landscape quality, scenic beauty, rarity, conservation and recreation interest, wildness and associations for example with literature or art. The criteria used to consider value are set out in Table A1 below.



Table A1: I	Table A1: Landscape Value		
Value	Description		
Very High	International or national designation, with the highest status of protection. Landscapes where buildings, open spaces and cultural heritage features make a special contribution. Important literary and artistic associations.		
High	Local designation with policy protection. Landscapes where buildings, open spaces and cultural heritage features make an important contribution. Important literary and artistic associations. Some literary or artistic associations.		
Medium	Valued at a community level with local policies to 'Conserve'. Landscapes in good condition with scenic and cultural qualities of local importance.		
Low	Landscapes of no particular value with local policies to 'Improve'. Landscapes which are not in good condition, where qualities are of little or no importance.		

## Landscape Susceptibility to change

The analysis of susceptibility considers how vulnerable the particular landscape is to change. Areas which are highly susceptible are most at risk of having their key characteristics altered, ultimately leading to a different landscape character. This may be due to their particular qualities, for example wildness or tranquillity that would be easily disturbed by the proposed development, or to relative openness and availability of views into which a feature that becomes widely visible may cause people's perception of the landscape to change. This is naturally related to the particular nature of the type of change or development in question.

Table A2: Landscape Susceptibility to Change		
Susceptibility	Description	
Very High	An area possessing a particularly distinctive sense of place, and/or in good condition, and/or highly valued for its scenic quality and/or landscape character. An area with little/ no ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue harm.	
High	An area with a clearly defined sense of place and/or character in moderate condition;. Little ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue harm. Key characteristics of the landscape are vulnerable to the proposal and it is likely that the development could not be accommodated without a significant change in character.	
Medium	An area with a weak sense of place, and/or with poorly defined character, and/or in poor condition, often not valued for its scenic quality. Some ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue harm.	
Low	Substantial ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue harm. The development is not likely to influence key characteristics and the landscape would accommodate the development with no change in character.	

The criteria descriptions of the resultant sensitivity ratings are as noted in Table A3.

Table A3: Lan	Table A3: Landscape Sensitivity		
Sensitivity	Description		
High	<ul> <li>Landscapes which by nature of their character would be unable to accommodate change of the type proposed. Typically these would be;</li> <li>Of high quality with distinctive elements and features making a positive contribution to character and sense of place.</li> <li>Likely to be designated, but the aspects which underpin such value may also be present outside designated areas, especially at the local scale.</li> <li>Areas of special recognised value through use, perception or historic and cultural associations.</li> <li>Likely to contain features and elements that are rare and could not be replaced.</li> </ul>		
Medium	Landscapes which by nature of their character would be able to partly accommodate change of the type proposed. Typically these would be;  • Comprised of commonplace elements and features creating generally unremarkable character but with some sense of place.  • Locally valued with policies to 'Conserve'  • Containing some features of value through use, perception or historic and cultural associations.  • Likely to contain some features and elements that could not be replaced.		
Low	Landscapes which by nature of their character would be able to accommodate change of the type proposed. Typically these would be;  • Comprised of some features and elements that are discordant, derelict or in decline, resulting in indistinct character with little or no sense of place.  • Not locally valued in policy terms  • Containing few, if any, features of value through use, perception or historic and cultural associations.  • Likely to contain few, if any, features and elements that could not be replaced.		



# Magnitude of change (impact) to the landscape

The magnitude of change to the landscape is assessed in terms of its size or scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced, and its duration and degree of reversibility.

#### Size or scale

The size and/or scale of change in the landscape takes into consideration the following factors:

- the extent/proportion of landscape elements lost or added;
- the contribution of that element to landscape character and the degree to which aesthetic/perceptual aspects are altered; and
- whether the effect is likely to change the key characteristics of the landscape, which are critical to its distinctive character.

The criteria used to assess the size and scale of change that will occur as a result of the proposed development, as described in Table A4, below:

#### **Nature of Effects**

The nature of effects may be positive or negative (beneficial or adverse), and direct or indirect. Direct effects are those which result directly from a development itself, whereas indirect or secondary effects may arise as a consequential change resulting from development.

#### **Geographical Extent**

The geographical extent relates to the area over which landscape changes are likely to be experienced. This could be at the site level, the immediate setting of the site, or wider landscape character type or area.

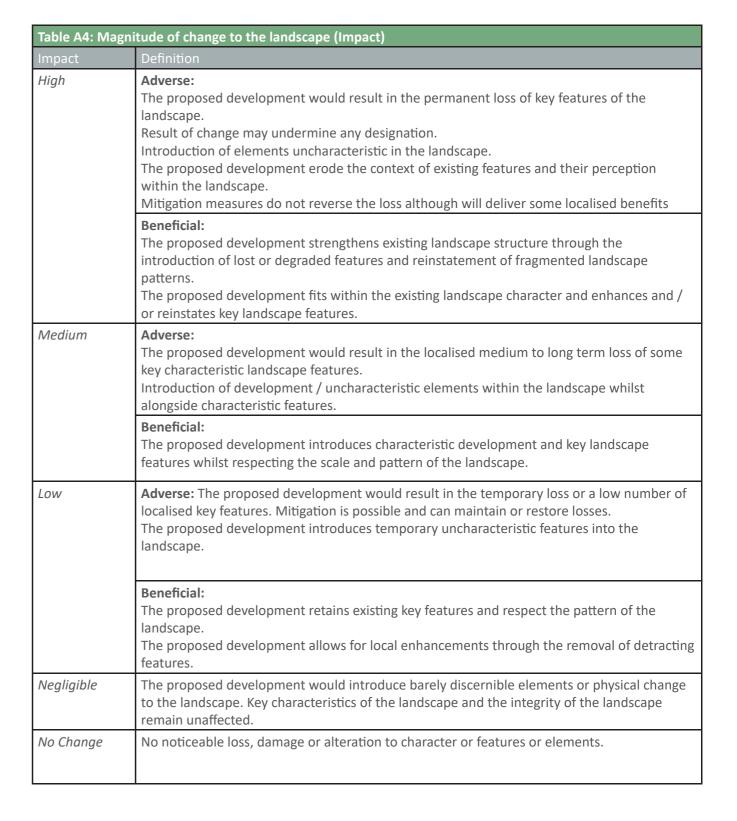
#### **Duration and Reversibility**

The following terminology is used to describe the duration of the changes:

- short-term: approximately up to 5 years;
- medium-term: 5-15 years; and
- long-term: over 15 years.

Changes may be temporary, permanent or reversible over time. For example, changes arising from construction activities may be limited solely to the construction period and therefore temporary only, or they may be permanent, arising for example, where construction activities necessitate some clearance of existing vegetation.

Changes may be reversible and the assessment therefore considers the practicality of changes being reversed, with an approximate timeframe for reversibility.





## **VISUAL ASSESSMENT**

# **Reporting the Baseline**

Visual receptors generally comprise users of public rights of way or other outdoor recreational facilities, and also vehicle travellers who may be visiting, or living or working within the study area and experience views at particular places.

All potential visual receptors of the proposed development have been considered in the visual assessment, and the selection of viewpoints has been made on the basis of securing publicly accessible, representative views, such as representing views of users of a particular footpath.

The terminology used to describe the approximate distance between the viewer and the application site is 'local' (under 0.5km); 'medium distant' (0.5-1.5km) and 'distant' (over 1.5km).

The type of view is also described, using appropriate terms such as 'glimpsed', 'fleeting' (i.e. in passing), 'filtered', 'oblique' (peripheral view), 'framed' and 'open'.

# Sensitivity of views

Sensitivity of the visual receptor is assessed by combining the findings of value of views and susceptibility of the visual receptor to change.

#### Value of Views

The value attached to views has regard to a number of factors, including:

- formal recognition through planning designations or heritage assets; and
- the popularity of the viewpoint, its appearance in guidebooks, literature or art, on tourist maps and the facilities provided for its enjoyment.

The assessment of the value of views is summarised in Table A5 below, in terms of High, Medium and Low value. These criteria are provided for guidance only and are not intended to be absolute.

Table A5: Value	Table A5: Value Attached to Views		
Value	Description		
High	Views from or to landscapes/viewpoints of national importance, or highly popular visitor attractions where the view forms an important part of the experience, or with important cultural associations.		
Medium	Views from or to landscapes/viewpoints of regional/district importance or moderately popular visitor attractions where the view forms part of the experience, or with local cultural associations		
Low	Views from or to landscapes/viewpoints with no designations, not particularly popular as a viewpoint and with minimal or no cultural associations.		

#### Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

The susceptibility of different types of people to changes in views is mainly a function of:

- the occupation or activity of the viewer at a given location; and
- the extent to which a person's attention or interest may therefore be focussed on a view and the visual amenity experienced at a given view.

The assessment of a visual receptor to change is specific to the proposed development. However the GLVIA3 offers the following generic guidance as a starting point for the assessment:



Table A6: Visual Receptor Susceptibility to Change		
Susceptibility Type of Receptor		
High	<ul> <li>Residents;</li> <li>People engaged in outdoor recreation, including users of public rights of way, whose attention is likely to be focussed on the landscape and on particular views;</li> <li>Visitors to heritage assets or other attractions where views of the surroundings are an important part of the experience;</li> <li>Communities where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents; and</li> <li>Travellers on scenic routes.</li> </ul>	
Medium	Travellers on road, rail or other transport routes (eg. scenic routes, where the view is moderately important to the quality of the journey).	
Low	<ul> <li>People engaged in outdoor sport or recreation, which does not involve appreciation of views;</li> <li>People at their place of work, where the setting is not important to the quality of working life; and</li> <li>Travellers, where the view is fleeting and incidental to the journey.</li> </ul>	

The Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment qualifies the above examples as follows:

"This division is not black and white and in reality there will be a gradation in susceptibility to change. Each project needs to consider the nature of the groups of people who will be affected and the extent to which their attention is likely to be focussed on views and visual amenity.' (page 114, paragraph 6.35)

# **Magnitude of Visual Change**

The magnitude of a visual change is assessed in terms of its size or scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced, and its duration and degree of reversibility.

#### Size and Scale of Effects

The size or scale of change in the view relates to the degree of contrast or integration likely to result from the proposed development, and is influenced by the relative time over which a view is experienced and whether it is a full, partial or glimpsed view.

The following criteria are used to assess the size and scale of change to the view or composition:

Table A7: M	Table A7: Magnitude of visual change (Impact)		
Impact	Description		
High	The proposed development will cause a dominant or complete change or contrast to the view, resulting from the loss or addition of substantial features in the view and will substantially alter the appreciation of the view.		
Medium	The proposed development will cause a noticeable change or contrast to the view, which would have some effect on the composition, resulting from the loss or addition of features in the view and will noticeably alter the appreciation of the view.		
Low	The proposed development, or a part of the proposed development, would be perceptible but not alter the overall balance of features and elements that comprise the existing view.		
Negligible	The proposed development would introduce barely discernible change to the view.		
No Change	No noticeable loss, damage or alteration to character or features or elements.		



### **Geographical Extent of Effects**

The geographical extent of effects relates to the area over which visual effects are likely to be visible.

#### **Duration and Reversibility**

The following terminology is used to describe the duration of the proposals:

short-term: under 1 year
medium-term: 1-15 years
long-term: over 15 years

Effects may be temporary, permanent or reversible over time. For example, visual effects arising from construction activities may be limited solely to the construction period and therefore temporary only, or they may be permanent, for example, where construction necessitates some clearance of existing vegetation.

Effects may be reversible, for example, restoration of a quarry following mineral extraction. The assessment therefore considers the practicality of effects being reversed with an approximate timeframe for reversibility.

## **OVERALL EFFECTS**

The overall level of effect is derived through consideration of Magnitude of Change (Impact) and Sensitivity of the receptor. The scale shown in Table A8, below, is used to guide this judgement.

Table A8: Arriving at the Level of Effects					
	Magnitude of Cha	Magnitude of Change (Impact)			
Sensitivity of Receptor	High	Medium	Low	Negligible	No change
High	Major	Moderate or Major	Minor or Moderate	Minor	Neutral/ No change
Medium	Moderate or Major	Minor or Moderate	Minor	Negligible or Minor	Neutral/ No change
Low	Minor or Moderate	Minor	Negligible or Minor	Negligible/ Neutral	Neutral/ No change

Important effects are defined as those which are Major or Moderate/Major, i.e. between Moderate and Major.

Identifying importance of effect relies upon reasoned argument and professional judgement. It is not an absolute concept and can only be defined in relation to each development and its location. This is addressed in witness evidence at the forthcoming inquiry.



Table A9: Imn	portance of effects
Importance	Definition Definition
Major adverse	The proposed development will cause substantial degradation of the landscape character/ landscape features/existing views. These adverse effects are key factors in the decision-making process. These effects are generally, but not exclusively, associated with sites or features of international, national or regional importance that are likely to suffer a most damaging impact and loss of resource integrity. However, a major change in a site or feature of local importance may also enter this category.
Moderate adverse	The proposed development will cause noticeable degradation of the landscape character/ elements/existing views. These adverse effects may be of note, but are not likely to be key decision-making factors. The cumulative effects of such factors may influence decision-making if they lead to an increase in the overall adverse effect on a particular resource or receptor.
Minor adverse	The proposed development will cause small degradation of the landscape character elements/ existing views. These adverse effects may be raised as local factors. They are unlikely to be critical in the decision-making process, but are important in enhancing the subsequent design of the project.
Negligible adverse	The proposed development will cause barely perceptible degradation of the landscape character/elements/ existing views.
Neutral	Beneficial effects balance out adverse effects such that there is no overall beneficial or adverse effect
No change	No effects or those that are beneath levels of perception, within normal bounds of variation or within the margin of forecasting error.
Negligible beneficial	The proposed development will cause barely perceptible improvement to the landscape character/elements/existing views.
Minor beneficial	The proposed development will cause a small improvement to the landscape character/ elements/ existing views.
Moderate beneficial	The proposed development will cause noticeable improvement to the landscape character/ elements/ existing views.
Major beneficial	The proposed development will cause substantial improvement in landscape character/ elements/existing views. In making a decision about the proposal this advantageous effect may be considered to compensate to some degree for other, non-landscape, adverse effects.

# APPENDIX B: PLANNING POLICY EXTRACTS

# **Table 1: Relevant landscape policies**

Policy ID	Content
Herefordshire Loc	cal Plan Core Strategy 2011 - 2031 (October 2015)
Policy SS6 - Environmental quality and local distinctiveness	Development proposals should conserve and enhance those environmental assets that contribute towards the county's distinctiveness, in particular its settlement pattern, landscape, biodiversity and heritage assets and especially those with specific environmental designations. In addition, proposals should maintain and improve the effectiveness of those ecosystems essential to the health and wellbeing of the county's residents and its economy. Development proposals should be shaped through an integrated approach to planning the following environmental components from the outset, and based upon sufficient information to determine the effect upon each where they are relevant:
	<ul> <li>landscape, townscape and local distinctiveness, especially in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty;</li> <li>biodiversity and geodiversity especially Special Areas of Conservation and Sites of Special Scientific Interest;</li> <li>historic environment and heritage assets, especially Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings;</li> <li>the network of green infrastructure;</li> <li>local amenity, including light pollution, air quality and tranquillity;</li> <li>agricultural and food productivity;</li> <li>physical resources, including minerals, soils, management of waste, the water environment, renewable energy and energy conservation.</li> <li>The management plans and conservation objectives of the county's international and nationally important features and areas will be material to the determination of future development proposals. Furthermore assessments of local features, areas and sites, defining local distinctiveness in other development plan documents, Neighbourhood Development Plans and Supplementary Planning Documents should inform decisions upon proposals.</li> </ul>
Policy LD1 - Landscape and townscape	<ul> <li>Development proposals should:</li> <li>demonstrate that character of the landscape and townscape has positively influenced the design, scale, nature and site selection, protection and enhancement of the setting of settlements and designated areas;</li> <li>conserve and enhance the natural, historic and scenic beauty of important landscapes and features, including Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, nationally and locally designated parks and gardens and conservation areas; through the protection of the area's character and by enabling appropriate uses, design and management;</li> <li>incorporate new landscape schemes and their management to ensure development integrates appropriately into its surroundings; and</li> <li>maintain and extend tree cover where important to amenity, through the retention of important trees, appropriate replacement of trees lost through development and new planting to support green infrastructure.</li> </ul>

Policy ID	Content
-	cal Plan Core Strategy 2011 - 2031 (October 2015)
Policy LD3 - Green infrastructure	Development proposals should protect, manage and plan for the preservation of existing and delivery of new green infrastructure, and should achieve the following objectives:  1. identification and retention of existing green infrastructure corridors and linkages; including the protection of valued landscapes, trees, hedgerows, woodlands, water courses and adjoining flood plain;  2. provision of on-site green infrastructure; in particular proposals will be supported where this enhances the network; and  3. integration with, and connection to, the surrounding green infrastructure network.
Policy LD4 - Historic environment and heritage assets	<ol> <li>Development proposals affecting heritage assets and the wider historic environment should:</li> <li>Protect, conserve, and where possible enhance heritage assets and their settings in a manner appropriate to their significance through appropriate management, uses and sympathetic design, in particular emphasising the original form and function where possible;</li> <li>where opportunities exist, contribute to the character and local distinctiveness of the townscape or wider environment, especially within conservation areas;</li> <li>use the retention, repair and sustainable use of heritage assets to provide a focus for wider regeneration schemes;</li> <li>record and advance the understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) and to make this evidence or archive generated publicly accessible and</li> <li>where appropriate, improve the understanding of and public access to the heritage asset.</li> <li>The scope of the works required to protect, conserve and enhance heritage assets and their settings should be proportionate to their significance. Development schemes should emphasise the original form and function of any asset and, where appropriate, improve the understanding of and public access to them.</li> </ol>
Policy SD1 – Sustainable design and energy efficiency	<ul> <li>Development proposals should create safe, sustainable, well integrated environments for all members of the community. In conjunction with this, all development proposals should incorporate the following requirements:</li> <li>ensure that proposals make efficient use of land - taking into account the local context and site characteristics;</li> <li>new buildings should be designed to maintain local distinctiveness through incorporating local architectural detailing and materials and respecting scale, height, proportions and massing of surrounding development, while making a positive contribution to the architectural diversity and character of the area including, where appropriate, through innovative design;</li> <li>safeguard residential amenity for existing and proposed residents;</li> <li>ensure new development does not contribute to, or suffer from, adverse impacts arising from noise, light or air contamination, land instability or cause ground water pollution;</li> <li>ensure that distinctive features of existing buildings and their setting are safeguarded and where appropriate, estored;</li> <li>where possible, on-site renewable energy generation should also be incorporated.</li> </ul>



# APPENDIX B: PLANNING POLICY EXTRACTS

# **Table 1: Relevant landscape policies**

Policy ID	Content		
Herefordshire Loc	al Plan Core Strategy 2011 - 2031 (October 2015)		
Policy SD1 – Sustainable design and energy efficiency Continued.	<ul> <li>create safe and accessible environments, and that minimise opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour by incorporating Secured by Design principles, and consider the incorporation of fire safety measures;</li> <li>ensuring designs can be easily adapted and accommodate new technologies to meet changing needs throughout the lifetime of the development; and</li> <li>utilise sustainable construction methods which minimise the use of non-renewable resources and maximise the use of recycled and sustainably sourced materials;</li> <li>All planning applications including material changes of use, will be expected to demonstrate how the above design and energy efficiency considerations have been factored into the proposal from the outset.</li> </ul>		
Policy SD2 – Renewable and low carbon energy generation	<ol> <li>Development proposals that seek to deliver renewable and low carbon energy will be supported where they meet the following criteria:</li> <li>the proposal does not adversely impact upon international or national designated natural and heritage assets;</li> <li>the proposal does not adversely affect residential amenity;</li> <li>the proposal does not result in any significant detrimental impact upon the character of the landscape and the built or historic environment and</li> <li>the proposal can be connected efficiently to existing national grid infrastructure unless it can be demonstrated that energy generation would be used on-site to meet the needs of a specific end user.</li> </ol>		

Policy ID	Content		
Herefordshire Gre	en Infrastructure Strategy, 2010 (not adopted)		
Access & Movement	<ul> <li>3.4.4</li> <li>At district level, access and movement features and assets consist of the following:</li> <li>A network of redundant transport routes cross the county including;</li> <li>The abandoned Hereford to Gloucester (via Ledbury) canal and a short section of abandoned canal north of Leominster.</li> </ul>		
	The main opportunities for the access and movement network to contribute to green infrastructure at a district level are:  • Manage redundant transport elements to best provide for alternative and recreational movement and for the dispersal of flora and fauna.		
	<ul> <li>The main opportunities for access and movement to contribute to green infrastructure at a local level are:</li> <li>The improvement of the local network of rights of way, paths and connecting open spaces that encourage non-mechanised transport that benefits the local environment.</li> <li>The creation of new networks of rights of way and connecting open spaces that build on and contribute to existing elements of green infrastructure, including historic routes and redundant transport networks.</li> </ul>		
Archaeology, Historical & Cultural	<ul> <li>3.4.7</li> <li>At district level, historical features and assets consist of the following:</li> <li>A network of historic routes including Roman roads, holloways, tram and railway lines, canals, tracks and paths.</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>3.4.9</li> <li>The main opportunities for the historic environment in the county are:</li> <li>Making historic sites and features accessible, bringing people into close contact with their heritage, whilst allowing interaction with the natural environment and promoting healthy activity.</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>The main opportunities for the historic environment at a district level are:</li> <li>Historic connections and transport routes between settlements should be preserved and enhanced, securing both the surviving heritage asset and the opportunity for migration of flora and fauna in addition to human movement.</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>The main opportunities for the historic environment at a local level are:</li> <li>Realise the potential that historic sites and features present as means for physical and intellectual access to the wider local environment.</li> </ul>		
Designated & Accessible Open Space	<ul> <li>3.4.15 The main opportunities for publicly accessible spaces at a district level are: <ul> <li>Identifying, enhancing and developing linear accessible public green spaces such as canal, riverside and roadside access, and along redundant transport routes and existing rights of way networks. </li> </ul></li></ul>		



# APPENDIX B: PLANNING POLICY EXTRACTS

# **Table 1: Relevant landscape policies**

Policy ID	Content		
National Planning	ational Planning Policy Framework (Adopted 2012, Updated July 2021)		
15. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment	174. 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;		
	176. 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		



# APPENDIX C: PUBLISHED LANDSCAPE CHARACTER EXTRACTS

Character Area	Content		
Herefordshire Lar	Herefordshire Landscape Character Assessment (Adopted 2004 - Updated 2009)		
LCT 'Estate Farmland'	CHARACTER DESCRIPTION  The majority of this land has historically been in the ownership of a few land owning families who have influenced the character of the landscape by laying it out in an ordered fashion.		
	This is a mixed farming, medium scale landscape where the medium to large sized fields are defined by hedgerows. The views are framed by tree groups associated with its planned character. These are often small, geometrically shaped plantation woodlands, possibly used in the past for shooting purposes, together with the tree features associated with large country house estates and ornamental parklands. This landscape type is similar to the Wooded Estatelands but it lacks the medieval parks and associated ancient woodland. Settlement is largely restricted to discrete clusters of dwellings and associated small estate villages.		
	KEY CHARACTERISTICS		
	Primary • hedgerows define the field boundaries		
	Secondary  mixed farming land use  planned woodland character  medium-framed views  clustered settlement pattern		
	<ul> <li>CONSERVATION/ENHANCEMENT</li> <li>Conserve the enclosure pattern of sub-regular hedged fields</li> <li>Conserve and restore parklands and the tree cover associated with country house estates</li> <li>Conserve and enhance tree cover along watercourses</li> <li>Conserve the integrity of estate villages</li> <li>Enhance tree cover through further planting of small scale plantations and tree belts</li> <li>Encourage the establishment of wide field margins for wildfire benefit</li> </ul>		

Character Area	Content
Herefordshire Land	dscape Character Assessment (Adopted 2004 - Updated 2009
LCT 'Diverside	CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

### LCT 'Riverside Meadows'

#### CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

These are linear, riverine landscapes associated with a flat, generally well defined, alluvial floodplain, in places framed by steeply rising ground. They are secluded pastoral landscapes, characterised by meandering tree lined rivers, flanked by riverside meadows which are defined by hedge and ditch boundaries. Settlement is typically absent. Throughout these landscapes, the presence of extensive areas of seasonally grazed waterside meadows has in the past provided a strong sense of visual and ecological unity. These are landscapes that accommodate a degree of annual flooding, a factor which has been reflected in the traditional patterns of land use, the lack of settlement and development (except for the occasional water mill), and the representation of species and habitats tolerant of such waterlogged conditions ...Tree cover is a notable element of Riverside Meadows, usually in a linear pattern along the hedge and ditch lines and to the banks of watercourses. Typically, species are alder and willow, the latter often pollarded. This Landscape Type is associated with large rivers, and in the case of Herefordshire, the Rivers Arrow, Clun, Frome, Leadon, Lodon, Lugg, Monnow, Teme and Wye.

#### KEY CHARACTERISTICS

#### Primary

- pastoral land use
- well defined linear patterns of willow and alder
- tree cover represented by stream side and hedgerow trees
- unsettled landscape

### Secondary

- wetland habitat
- river channel
- hedge and ditch boundaries

## CONSERVATION/RESTORATION/ENHANCEMENT

- Conserve, restore and enhance continuous linear tree cover along hedge lines, ditches and watercourses
- Conserve and restore wetland habitats and seek opportunities for further wetland habitat creation
- Conserve all areas of permanent pasture
- Seek to retain the strongly linear form of the landscape
- Discourage further drainage of waterside meadows
- Discourage built development
- Discourage construction works that would interrupt the linear unity of the landscape
- Seek opportunities to return arable areas to pasture
- Explore opportunities to return to traditional patterns and processes of natural fl ooding cycles
- Seek opportunities to restore natural river bank and bed features and resist further loss of river habitat



# APPENDIX C: PUBLISHED LANDSCAPE CHARACTER EXTRACTS

Character Area	Content		
Herefordshire Lan	Herefordshire Landscape Character Assessment (Adopted 2004 - Updated 2009)		
LCT 'Principal Settled Farmland	CHARACTER DESCRIPTION  The rolling, lowland area of Central Herefordshire is dominated by this Landscape Type. These are settled agricultural landscapes of dispersed, scattered farms, relic commons and small villages and hamlets. The mixed farming land use reflects the good soils on which they are typically found. Networks of small winding lanes nestling within a matrix of hedged fields are characteristic. Tree cover is largely restricted to thinly scattered hedgerow trees, groups of trees around dwellings and trees along stream sides and other watercourses. The composition of the hedgerow tree cover differs from that of Timbered Farmlands in its lower density and lack of oak dominance. This is a landscape with a notably domestic character, defined chiefly by the scale of its field pattern, the nature and density of its settlement and its traditional land uses. Hop fields, orchards, grazed pastures and arable fields, together make up the rich patchwork which is typical of Principal Settled Farmlands.		
	KEY CHARACTERISTICS  Primary  • hedgerows used for field boundaries  Secondary  • mixed farming land use		
	<ul> <li>CONSERVATION/RESTORATION/ENHANCEMENT</li> <li>Conserve and enhance the hedgerow pattern</li> <li>Conserve and enhance tree cover and wetland habitat along watercourses</li> <li>Seek opportunities to conserve remaining areas of permanent pasture</li> <li>Seek to maintain a balance of arable and pastoral land use</li> <li>Retain the integrity of a dispersed settlement pattern</li> <li>Strengthen patterns of tree cover associated with settlements</li> <li>Seek opportunities to maintain and increase traditional standard orchards</li> </ul>		

Character Area	Content	
National Character Area Profiles (2013)		
NCAP 100. Herefordshire Lowlands	<ul> <li>Gently undulating landscape with localised steep-sided hills in the centre and wide agricultural flood plains.</li> <li>Much of the area is underlain by Old Red Sandstone, with localised deposits of alluvium and glacial drift. There is also a small area of Silurian limestone and siltstone at Shucknall Hill. Fertile soils support intensive mixed agriculture, especially on the better drained glacial river terraces.</li> <li>Wide, meandering river valleys drain the area, including the Wye, a major ecological and recreational asset, and the Lugg, and the valleys of the rivers Frome and Arrow also offer rich habitats.</li> <li>Pasture with occasional wet meadows and permanent grassland along the rivers. Low hedgerows with sparse tree cover. Arable cultivation on lower-lying land.</li> <li>Localised traditional and bush orchards and occasional hop fields planted with windbreaks.</li> <li>Several historic parklands include Humphry Repton's landscape improvements at Garnons and Hampton Court, Capability Brown's landscape at Berrington Hall, Uvedale Price's Foxley and numerous medieval parks, many with important ancient and veteran trees.</li> <li>Timber-framed (black-and-white) buildings are characteristic with stone and red brick also used frequently as building materials.</li> <li>Dispersed rural settlement pattern throughout with scattered villages, hamlets, farmsteads and clustered settlements around commons. Historic market towns of Hereford and Leominster are the principal settlements.</li> <li>Tranquil and relatively undisturbed by major infrastructure aside from a few crossing A roads between Hereford, Hay-on-Wye and Leominster.</li> </ul>	

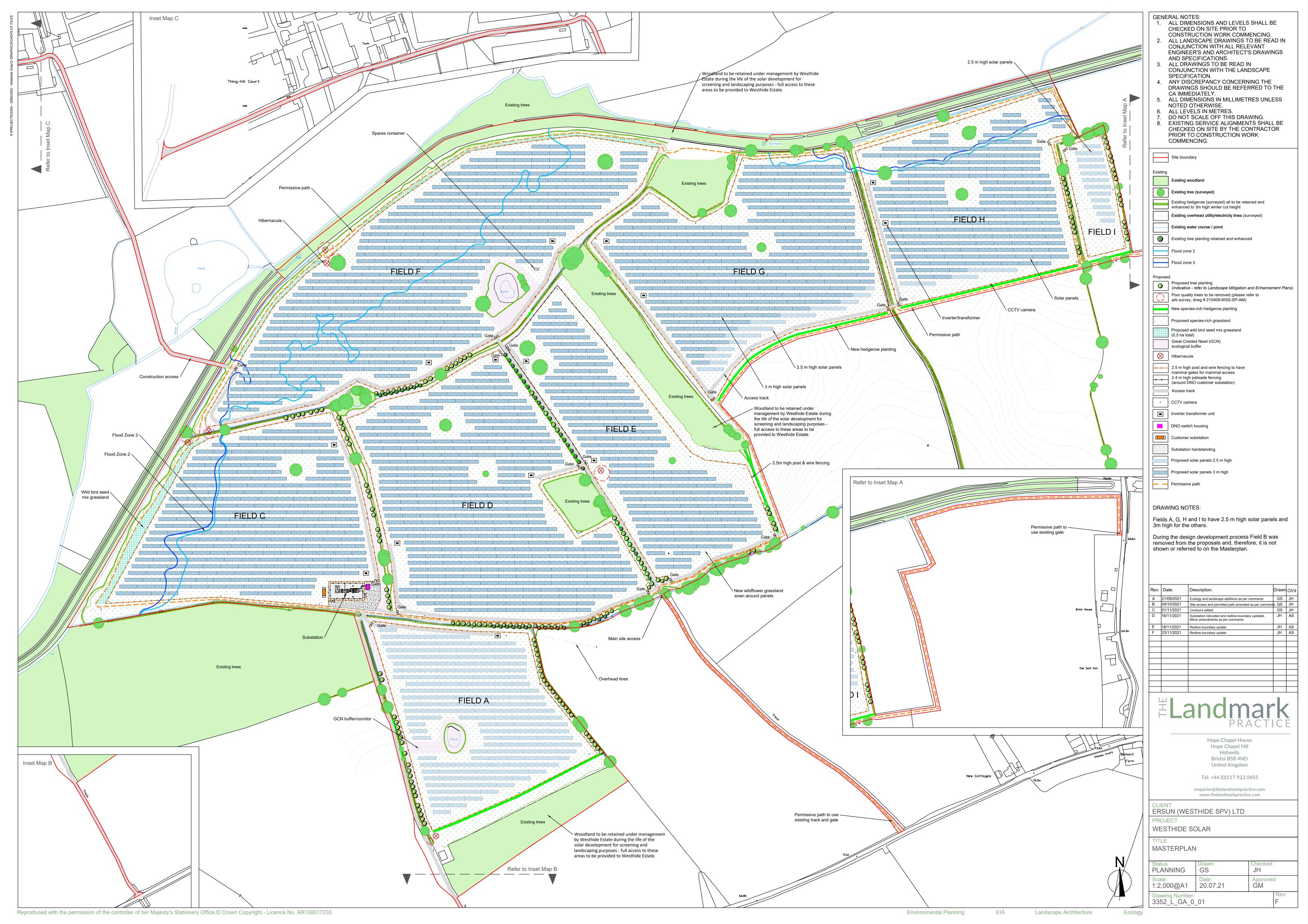




# WESTHIDE SOLAR LVIA APPENDIX D: MASTERPLAN

DECEMBER 2021

LANDMARK REF: 3352





# WESTHIDE SOLAR LVIA APPENDIX E: LANDSCAPE MITIGATION AND ENHANCEMENT PLANS

DECEMBER 2021

LANDMARK REF: 3352

