



Great Harmeston Solar Farm Environmental Statement

Technical Appendix 5.8

Detailed Landscape Character

Assessment – excluding LANDMAP



For simplicity, the Construction Phase considers the Proposed Development in isolation without the proposed cumulative schemes.

Operational Phase relates to effects at Year 1 and includes consideration of the operational cumulative schemes.

Residual Effects relate to Year 15, and the assessment includes consideration of the operational cumulative schemes.

Cumulative effects consider proposed cumulative schemes, i.e. those in planning, scoping, screening as appropriate.

All effects are adverse unless otherwise stated

Receptor	Sensitivity	Development Phase	Magnitude of Change	Significance of Effect	Comments
National Landscape Character Area					
NLCA 48: Milford Haven – as a whole / beyond the Site	Medium	Construction	Negligible	Negligible	Construction: Construction will introduce temporary plant, machinery and activities within a very small portion of the NLCA over approximately 9 months. As noted above, the majority of the existing landscape framework within the Site will be retained and protected during the construction stage, with no noteworthy landscape features, such as TPO trees or woodland being lost. As the area of NLCA affected will be of very limited direct extent, being contained within the existing boundary features on the Site, with limited visibility beyond the locality of the Site, the magnitude of change to the Milford Haven NLCA will be Negligible.
		Operational	Low	Minor	

Receptor	Sensitivity	Development Phase	Magnitude of Change	Significance of Effect	Comments
		Residual	Negligible	Negligible	<p>Operational: the long term temporary nature of the Proposed Development is unlikely to alter the pattern, scale, and its other characteristics to any significant degree. While it is acknowledged that there will be a change to the land use and character of the Site itself, the proposals would fit entirely within the existing established field boundary vegetation and the key characteristics of NLCA 48 would remain. The Proposed Development would only impact a very small area of the overall NLCA, and its character would therefore not be fundamentally altered.</p> <p>Residual: Year 15, any proposed planting would have matured and would contribute positively to the overall vegetation resource across the Site. There would be biodiversity benefits associated with the land being in fallow use, as opposed to managed agriculture.</p> <p>Cumulative: Scheme I, Alleston Solar Farm is located 10km from the Site at its closest point, and as such, it is not anticipated that cumulative effects would occur, primarily due to distance, intervening built form and rolling topography,</p>
		Cumulative - Year 1	Low	Minor	
		Cumulative - Year 15	Negligible	Negligible	
		Decommissioning	Negligible	Negligible	

Receptor	Sensitivity	Development Phase	Magnitude of Change	Significance of Effect	Comments
					<p>and the level of enclosure provided by existing vegetation.</p> <p>Scheme H, solar and BESS development known as White House Farm Solar Farm is located 1.8km to the north northeast of the Site at its closest point. Whilst the character of the Site and Scheme H would change, the physical change would be contained within the respective boundaries with the perceptual change also being geographically limited. At Year 1, the magnitude of change is assessed as Low. Reducing to Negligible by Year 15 as the landscape schemes associated with both sites mature and establish.</p> <p>Decommissioning: for the duration of the 40 year operational phase of the Proposed Development, the proposed planting would mature, and any existing vegetation within the Site would be retained and managed. The decommissioning phase would involve the removal of built form.</p>

Pembrokeshire County Landscape Character Assessment					
LCA 9 Johnston Lowlands – as a whole / beyond the Site	Medium	Construction	Low	Minor	<p>Construction: The nature of the construction works would introduce movement, temporary structures, facilities and a change of land use. However, any changes to the landscape character would be localised and confined to the Site. Key character-defining elements present within or adjacent to the Site, such as the broadleaved woodland and medium scale field pattern, would be protected during the construction phase. We assume the construction activities are occurring simultaneously across the whole of the Site at the same time.</p> <p>Operational: While it is acknowledged that there will be a change to the land use and character of the Site itself, the proposals would fit entirely within the existing established field boundary vegetation and the key characteristics of LCA would remain. Key characteristics of the LCA include the gently undulating landform, due to the nature of the development, with the solar panels constructed on metal tables with supports. They are able to follow existing contours, resulting in the undulating variations of the landform still able to be perceived. Overall, the Proposed Development would only impact a very small area of the overall</p>
		Operational	Low	Minor	
		Residual	Low	Minor	
		Cumulative – Year 1	Low	Minor	

		Cumulative - Year 15	Negligible	Negligible	<p>LCA, and its character would therefore not be fundamentally altered, with any adverse effects diminishing rapidly with distance from the Site.</p> <p>Residual: Year 15, any proposed planting would have matured and would contribute positively to the overall character of the Site, and reinforce key characteristics of the LCA, such as the presence of broadleaved woodland, and that much of the LCA is pastoral farmland, noting that parts of the Site are used for arable vegetation resource across the Site. There would be biodiversity benefits associated with the land being in fallow use, as opposed to managed agriculture.</p> <p>Cumulative: Whilst the character of the Site and the land where Scheme H is proposed would change, the physical change would be contained within the respective boundaries. It is also worth noting that a key characteristic of the host LCA is that views to the south are dominated by industrial and renewable energy developments, as well as pylons, noting renewable energy infrastructure is already a character defining element in the landscape.</p> <p>At Year 1, the magnitude of change is assessed as Low. Reducing to Negligible by Year 15 as the landscape schemes associated with both sites matures and establishes.</p>
		Decommissioning	Negligible	Negligible	

					Decommissioning: for the duration of the 40 year operational phase of the Proposed Development, the proposed planting would mature, and any existing vegetation within the Site would be retained and managed. The decommissioning phase would involve the removal of built form.
Authors Assessment of the Site					
The Site and its immediate environs	Medium	Construction	Medium	Moderate	<p>Construction: The nature of the construction works would introduce movement, temporary structures, facilities and a change of land use with any changes to the landscape character being localised and confined to the Site. Key character-defining elements present within the Site, such as the broadleaved woodland and medium scale field pattern, would be protected during the construction phase. We assume the construction activities are occurring simultaneously across the whole of the Site at the same time.</p> <p>Operational: While it is acknowledged that there will be a change to the land use and character of the Site itself, the proposals would fit entirely within the existing established field boundary vegetation and the key characteristics of host</p>
		Operational	High	Major	
		Residual	Medium	Moderate	
		Cumulative - Year 1	Not applicable	Not applicable	

		Cumulative – Year 15	Not applicable	Not applicable	<p>landscape would remain. Key characteristics of the host landscape such as the gently undulating landform, still being able to be perceived due to the table design of the panels which allow them to reflect the underlying topography.</p> <p>Residual: Year 15, any proposed planting would have matured and would contribute positively to the overall character of the Site, and reinforce key characteristics of the host landscape, such as the presence of broadleaved woodland, and conversion to pastoral farming. There would be biodiversity benefits associated with the land being in fallow use, as opposed to managed agriculture.</p> <p>Cumulative: N/A</p> <p>Decommissioning: for the duration of the 40 year operational phase of the Proposed Development, the proposed planting would mature, and any existing vegetation within the Site would be retained and managed, and help screen the on Site decommissioning activities. The decommissioning phase would involve the removal of above-ground built form.</p>
		Decommissioning	Low	Minor	