Uskmouth Battery Energy Storage System [BESS]

Landscape and Visual Appraisal

R02

13 April 2025

Prepared on Behalf of AW2 Energy Storage Limited

tir collective
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

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Document control

Document:	Landscape and Visual Appraisal
Project:	Uskmouth BESS
Client:	AW2 Energy Storage Limited
Job Number:	TC24293

Revision: 01	Status: First issue	
Date: 25 March 2025		
Prepared by: Jordan Crowson and Christine Jones CMLI	Checked by: Christine Jones CMLI	Approved By: Lee Morris CMLI
Description of revision: First issue		

Revision: 02	Status: Second issue	
Date: 13 April 2025		
Prepared by: Jordan Crowson and Christine Jones CMLI	Checked by: Christine Jones CMLI	Approved By: Lee Morris CMLI
Description of revision: Second issue		

Contents

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

1.1.1 Tir Collective is instructed by AW2 Energy Storage Limited to prepare this Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVApp), which relates to the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) development on land immediate south of Uskmouth Power Station, West Nash Road, Nash, NP18 2BZ, see **Figure LA.01** for the site location. The proposed BESS area is located in the central and eastern parts of the site with the proposed substation and cables located to the west which would extend northwest to connect the Uskmouth Power Station substation.

1.2 Scope of the Assessment

1.2.1 The proposed development would comprise the installation of a BESS, together with high voltage substation compound, transformer stations, inverters, site access, security measures, access gates, other ancillary infrastructure, landscaping and biodiversity enhancements. Two new access points would be created off the existing track that runs along the sites east, south and western boundaries. One would be located in the far northwest corner and the second would be located in the far southeast corner of the site.

1.2.2 A short underground cable route connects the proposed BESS with Uskmouth Power Station substation circa 900m to the northwest, via an existing access track.

1.2.3 This LVApp provides an assessment of the effects of the proposed development, on the landscape of the site and its context. The design of the proposed development and the identification of mitigation measures incorporated within the design to minimise adverse effects, is informed by the findings of the assessment process as it progressed. In this LVApp, effects on features identified as important to the scenic quality, or effects on the landscape character of the site and its setting are assessed. Effects on peoples' views of the site and its setting, or visual amenity, are also assessed.

1.2.4 For the purposes of assessing the landscape and visual effects of this proposal, study areas have been defined:

- The site extends to the redline boundary as shown on **Figure LA.01**. References to the "site" in the remainder of this report excludes the east underground cable route.
- The wider landscape context extends 3km from the site boundary.
- The visual study area extends 3km from the site boundary.
- The cumulative study area extends 1km from the site boundary.

1.2.5 The objectives of the assessment are to:

- Describe and evaluate the landscape of the site and surrounding landscape context and the visual amenity of people in the surrounding area, which might be affected by the proposed BESS development.
- Provide an input into the site layout, and to make recommendations for mitigation measures which can be incorporated into the development scheme.
- Examine the development proposals and analyse the potential effects on the landscape and visual amenity associated with the proposed BESS development.
- Provide an assessment of the landscape and visual effects of the proposed development with integral mitigation measures in place.

1.2.6 The LVApp is presented with separate sections dealing with effects on landscape, and effects on visual amenity. The LVApp is illustrated by plans and photographs (see **Appendix 1**), as follows:

- **Figure LA.01** Site Location
- **Figures LA.02** Designations
- **Figure LA.03** Public Access
- **Figures LA.04** LANDMAP
- **Figure LA.05** Topography
- **Figure LA.06** Site context
- **Figure LA.07** Site Photos
- **Figure LA.08** Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)
- **Figures LA.09** Context photos
- **Figures LA.10** Viewpoints

1.2.7 Detailed information is presented in Appendices as follows:

- **Appendix 2** Assessment methodology
- **Appendix 3** Assessment of effects
- **Appendix 4** Visualisations

1.3 Assessment Methodology

1.3.1 The methodology used for assessing the landscape and visual effects is based on the recommendations in **Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition**,

published by The Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment in 2013 (GLVIA3), as set out in **Appendix 2**.

1.3.2 The Landscape Institute has advised in relation to Landscape & Visual Appraisals outside a formal EIA process in its "Statement of Clarification 1/13"[1]:

> "In carrying out appraisals, the same principles and process as LVIA may be applied but, in so doing, it is not required to establish whether the effects arising are or are not significant given that the exercise is not being undertaken for EIA purposes. … The emphasis on likely 'significant effects' in formal LVIA stresses the need for an approach that is proportional to the scale of the project that is being assessed and the nature of its likely effects. The same principle – focussing on a proportional approach – also applies to appraisals of landscape and visual impacts outside the formal requirements of EIA".

1.3.3 The assessment process comprises a combination of desk studies and field surveys, with subsequent analyses, and involved:

- A review of landscape designations and planning policies for the landscape, and of other landscape studies relevant to the area, including national and local landscape character assessments;
- A survey of the site and landscape context study areas and inspection of views of the site from publicly accessible viewpoints, including a photographic survey. The surveys were carried out by a Chartered Landscape Architect on 6th February 2025 during dry weather with good visibility;
- Evaluation of the features and elements of the landscape and their contribution to the landscape character, context and setting, based on these studies;
- Analysis of the proposed development proposals and consideration of potential landscape and visual effects;
- Assessment of the susceptibility and sensitivity of the landscape to the changes likely to arise from the proposed development;
- Identification of the extent of theoretic visibility of the proposed development and viewers, their susceptibility and sensitivity, and view locations, supported by a viewpoint analysis; and
- Assessment of magnitude of change arising from the proposed development, the degree and nature of effects on the landscape and on visual amenity with the mitigation proposals in place.

[1] GLVIA Statement of Clarification 1/13 10-06-13 https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/technical/glvia3-panel/glvia3-clarifications/

Assessment and Mitigation

1.3.4 The effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or adverse, may vary in nature and degree through its lifecycle and, where feasible, mitigation measures are proposed to be incorporated in the design and operation of the development. The purpose of mitigation measures is first, to prevent or avoid the potentially adverse effects identified, and if that is not possible, to reduce the potential adverse effect. Where adverse effects are unavoidable, the purpose is to offset or compensate for the effect.

1.3.5 Details of the criteria for assessing landscape effects and visual effects are set out in those respective sections.

Guidance

1.3.6 In addition to GLVIA3, the following sources of guidance will be referred to:

- Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01 **Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition** (GLVIA3), published August 2024.
- Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note 02/21 **Assessing landscape value outside national designations**[2]
- Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note, **Visual Representation of Development Proposals**, September 2019[3]
- NRW LANDMAP assessment information and **Guidance Note 46: Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Assessments**[4]

1.3.7 Relevant policy, landscape character assessments and other contextual information sources will be referred to, including:

- Policies relevant to the landscape and visual amenity in national and local policy including the Newport Local Development Plan, January 2015.

Photography

1.3.8 Photographs have a special role in describing landscape character and illustrating key views. In order for photographs to be representative and to create an image that is as similar as possible to that which is seen with the human eye, the Landscape Institute (LI) advises using a lens with a focal length equivalent to 50mm for a 35mm Single Lens Reflex (SLR) camera, and

[2] https://landscapewpstorage01.blob.core.windows.net/www-landscapeinstitute-org/2021/05/tgn-02-21-assessing-landscape-value-outside-national-designations.pdf
[3] https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/visualisation/
[4] https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/planning-and-development/evidence-to-inform-development-planning/using-landmap-in-landscape-and-visual-impact-assessments-gn46/?lang=en

a horizontal field of view of a little under 40 degrees. The equipment used for the appraisal photography includes:

- A Canon EOS 5D Mark iii digital SLR camera with a full frame sensor;
- Canon 50mm EF 1:1.8 II lens; and
- Manfrotto tripod and panoramic head.

1.3.9 Photographs were taken with a focal length of 50mm.

1.3.10 Landscape photography includes wide angle or panoramic views requiring a sequence of photographs to be taken across the view. Where this approach is taken, a series of overlapping photographs are digitally spliced together in Photoshop CC using a cylindrical projection to provide a panorama approximating to the normal field of view in a landscape context. Where necessary, the contrast and brightness of individual photographs is slightly manipulated in order to create a consistent panorama without visible joins.

1.3.11 The viewpoint locations were established using a camera mounted GPS device and verified against Ordnance Survey grid reference and height above Ordnance Datum.

Weather

1.3.12 The weather is a factor affecting the assessment of, especially, visual impacts. The Met Office publish average statistics for weather patterns for the region, monthly and annual, for maximum and minimum temperatures, days of air frost, hours of sunshine, amount of rainfall - both generally and the number of days when rainfall is above 1mm. For Usk[5], the nearest Climate station to where the site is located:

- Rainfall above 1mm per day, which limits visibility is an average of 137.93 days. The England SW & Wales S District average is 160.38 days, about 44% of the year.
- The average number of days when air frost occurs, which can produce hazy conditions limiting visibility is 50.31 days. The England SW & Wales S District average is 37.13 days, about 10% of the year.
- There is an average of 1458.41 hours of sunshine per annum for the station, less than the England SW & Wales S District average of 1530.69 hours.

[5] The data quoted are those for Usk, England SW and Wales S, obtained from The Met Office website: Usk Location-specific long-term averages [accessed February 2025]

2.0 Landscape Policies and Designations

2.1 National Planning policy

Future Wales: The National Plan 2040

2.1.1 Future Wales: The National Plan 2040, published 24 February 2021, sets out the development plan for Wales, influencing "all levels of the planning system in Wales and will help shape Strategic and Local Development Plans."[6] The plan promotes development that enhances our wellbeing and our quality of life"[7] and embeds the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The plan sets out development policies for Wales, dividing it into 4 regions: The North, Mid Wales, The Southwest, and The Southeast, the site is located in the southeast region.

2.1.2 The key policies that are of relevance to the proposed development include:

- **Policy 9 – Resilient Ecological Networks and Green Infrastructure** aims "To ensure the… provision of green infrastructure, the Welsh Government will work with key partners to:

  […]

  identify opportunities where existing and potential green infrastructure could be maximised as part of placemaking, requiring the use of nature-based solutions as a key mechanism for securing sustainable growth, ecological connectivity, social equality and well-being.

  […]

  In all cases, action towards securing the maintenance and enhancement of… green infrastructure assets must be demonstrated as part of development proposals.

- **Policy 17 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy and Associated Infrastructure** states "The Welsh Government strongly supports the principle of developing renewable and low carbon energy from all technologies and at all scales to meet our future energy needs

  […]

  New strategic grid infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of energy should be designed to minimise visual impact on nearby communities."

- **Policy 18 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments of National Significance** states "Proposals for renewable and low carbon energy projects (including

[6] https://gov.wales/future-wales-national-plan-2040-0 (accessed February 2025)
[7] Page 4, Future Wales The National Plan 2040

repowering) qualifying as Developments of National Significance will be permitted subject to policy 17 and the following criteria:

1. …the proposal does not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the surrounding landscape (particularly on the setting of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty);

2. there are no unacceptable adverse visual impacts on nearby communities and individual dwellings;

[…]

11. there are acceptable provisions relating to the decommissioning of the development at the end of its lifetime, including the removal of infrastructure and effective restoration.

The cumulative impacts of existing and consented renewable energy schemes should also be considered."

Planning Policy Wales

2.1.3 Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 12 published 24 February 2024[8] sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. Its primary objective is to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development and improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, as required by the Planning (Wales) Act 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and other key legislation and resultant duties such as the Socio-economic Duty.

2.1.4 PPW translates The Welsh Government's commitment to sustainable development into the planning system, to be taken into account when preparing development plans, so that it can play an appropriate role in moving towards sustainability. The key policies that are of relevance to the development include:

- **Chapter 2 People and Places, paragraph 2.1** states that "Everyone engaged with or operating within the planning system in Wales must embrace the concept of placemaking… in order to achieve the creation of sustainable places and improve the well-being of communities."

  Paragraph 2.17 states … the creation of sustainable places and in recognition of the need to contribute to the well-being of future generations in Wales through placemaking, development plans and development proposals must seek to deliver developments that address the national sustainable placemaking outcomes."

[8] Planning policy Wales | GOV.WALES (accessed February 2025)

Paragraph 2.26 states "Planning authorities should ensure that social, economic, environmental and cultural benefits are considered in the decision-making process… to implement the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the Sustainable Development Principle." A key factor is environmental considerations, which are listed as:

- "will important features of the natural and built environment be protected and enhanced;

- are the environmental impacts of development on… amenity limited to acceptable levels;

[…]

- is environmental protection for people and natural resources, property and infrastructure maximised and environmental risks prevented or appropriately managed;

- […]

- will the causes and impacts of climate change be fully taken into account through location, design, build, operation…

- […]"

- **Chapter 3 Strategic and Spatial Choices paragraph 3.9** states "The special characteristics of an area should be central to the design of a development. The layout, form, scale and visual appearance of a proposed development and its relationship to its surroundings are important planning considerations."

  Paragraph 3.10 goes on to state "In areas recognised for their particular landscape or historic character and value, it can be appropriate to seek to promote or reinforce local distinctiveness. In those areas, the impact of development on the existing character, the scale and siting of new development… will be particularly important."

  Paragraph 3.60 addresses development in the countryside and states "All new development should be of a scale and design that respects the character of the surrounding area."

- **Chapter 5 Productive and Enterprising Places paragraph 5.7.1** states "Low carbon electricity must become the main source of energy in Wales."

  Paragraph 5.9.1 states "Local authorities should facilitate all forms of renewable and low carbon energy development…"

  Paragraph 5.9.20 states "Planning authorities should also identify and require suitable ways to avoid, mitigate or compensate adverse impacts of renewable and low carbon

energy development. The construction, operation, decommissioning, remediation and aftercare of proposals should take into account:

- the need to minimise impacts on local communities, such as from noise and air pollution, to safeguard quality of life for existing and future generations;
- the impact on the natural and historic environment;
- cumulative impact;

  […]

- grid connection issues where renewable (electricity) energy developments are proposed; and
- the impacts of climate change on the location, design, build and operation of renewable and low carbon energy development. In doing so, consider whether measures to adapt climate change impacts give rise to additional impacts.

Paragraph 5.9.21 goes on to state that "Prior to an application being submitted, developers for renewable and low carbon energy development should, wherever possible, consider how to avoid, or otherwise minimise, adverse impacts through careful consideration of location, scale, design and other measures".

- **Chapter 6 Distinctive & Natural Places, paragraph 6.0.2** states "The special and unique characteristics and intrinsic qualities of the natural and built environment must be protected in their own right, for historic, scenic, aesthetic and nature conservation reasons."

  Section 6.2 Green infrastructure, paragraph 6.2.4 states "Green infrastructure plays a fundamental role in shaping places and our sense of well-being, and is intrinsic to the quality of the spaces we live, work and play in. The planning system must maximise its contribution to the protection and provision of green infrastructure assets and network.

  […]"

  Further policy information on Green Infrastructure is referenced in the Green Infrastructure Statement, which is also produced by Tir Collective.

  Section 6.3 Landscape, **paragraph 6.3.3** states "All the landscapes of Wales are valued for their intrinsic contribution to a sense of place, and local authorities should protect and enhance their special characteristics, whilst paying due regard to the social, economic, environmental and cultural benefits they provide, and to their role in creating valued places."

In relation to trees, woodland and hedgerows **paragraph 6.4.37** sets out their importance for biodiversity and "connecting habitats for resilient ecological networks and make an essential wider contribution to landscape character, culture, heritage and sense of place…" It goes on to state "Planning authorities must promote the planting of new trees, hedgerows, groups of trees and areas of woodland as part of new development." **Paragraph 6.4.39** states "Planning authorities must protect trees, hedgerows, groups of trees and areas of woodland where they have ecological value, contribute to the character or amenity of a particular locality, or perform a beneficial green infrastructure function." **Paragraph 6.4.40** goes on to state "Where surveys identify trees, hedgerows, groups of trees and areas of woodland capable of making a significant contribution to the area, these trees should be retained and protected."

Paragraph 6.4.42 states "Permanent removal of trees, woodland and hedgerows will only be permitted where it would achieve significant and clearly defined public benefits. Where individual or groups of trees and hedgerows are removed as part of a proposed scheme, planning authorities must first follow the step-wise approach. Where loss is unavoidable developers will be required to provide compensatory planting… Replacement planting shall be at a ratio equivalent to the quality, environmental and ecological importance of the tree(s) lost and this must be preferably onsite, or immediately adjacent to the site, and at a minimum ratio of at least 3 trees of a similar type and compensatory size planted for every 1 lost."

Section 6.6 Water and flood risk, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and Development, paragraph 6.6.18 states "The provision of SuDS must be considered as an integral part of the design of new development and considered at the earliest possible stage when formulating proposals for new development."

Paragraph 6.6.19 goes on to state "Design for multiple benefits and green infrastructure should be secured wherever possible…"

2.2 Local Planning policy

2.2.1 The site and the study area wholly lie within the boundaries of Newport. Planning policy for the area consists of the Newport Local Development Plan (LDP) adopted in January, 2015[9].

2.2.2 Relevant policies relating to site and the proposed development are outlined below.

Newport Local Development Plan

- **SP1 Sustainability** states that" Proposals will be required to make a positive contribution to sustainable development by concentrating development in sustainable locations on

[9] Adopted LDP 2015 (accessed February 2025)

brownfield land within the settlement boundary. They will be assessed as to their potential contribution to:

[…]

ix) conserving, enhancing and linking green infrastructure, protecting and enhancing the built and natural environment;"

[…]

- **SP8 Special Landscape Areas** states "special landscape areas are designated as follows within which proposals will be required to contribute positively to the area through high quality design, materials and management schemes that demonstrate a clear appreciation of the area's special features:

  […]

  iii) Wentlooge levels

  iv) River Usk

  v) Caldicot Levels"

  […]

- **SP9 Conservation of the Natural, Historic and Built Environment** states "the conservation, enhancement and management of recognised sites within the natural, historic and built environment will be sought in all proposals."

- **GP2 General Development Principles – General Amenity states** "Development will be permitted where, as applicable:

  i) there will not be a significant adverse effect on local amenity, including in terms of noise, disturbance, privacy, overbearing, light, odours and air quality;

  ii) the proposed use and form of development will not be detrimental to the visual amenities of nearby occupiers or the character or appearance of the surrounding area;"

  […]

- **GP5 General Development Principles – Natural Environment** states "Development will be permitted where, as applicable:

  […]

  v) there would be no unacceptable impact on landscape quality;

  vi) the proposal includes an appropriate landscape scheme, which enhances the site and the wider context including green infrastructure and biodiversity networks;

vii)the proposal includes appropriate tree planting or retention where appropriate and does not result in the unacceptable loss of or harm to trees, woodland or hedgerows that have wildlife or amenity value."

- **GP6 General Development Principles – Quality of Design** states "Good quality design will be sought in all forms of development. the aim is to create a safe, accessible, attractive and convenient environment. in considering development proposals the following fundamental design principles should be addressed:

  i) context of the site: all development should be sensitive to the unique qualities of the site and respond positively to the character of the area;

  ii) access, permeability and layout: all development should maintain a high level of pedestrian access, connectivity and laid out so as to minimise noise pollution;

  iii) preservation and enhancement: where possible development should reflect the character of the locality but avoid the inappropriate replication of neighbouring architectural styles. the designer is encouraged to display creativity and innovation in design;

  iv) scale and form of development: new development should appropriately reflect the scale of adjacent townscape. care should be taken to avoid over-scaled development;

  v) materials and detailing: high quality, durable and preferably renewable materials should be used to complement the site context. detailing should be incorporated as an integral part of the design at an early stage;"

  [...]

- **GP7 General Development Principles – Environmental Protection and Public Health** states "Development will not be permitted which would cause or result in unacceptable harm to health because of land contamination, dust, instability or subsidence, air, heat, noise or light pollution, flooding, water pollution, or any other identified risk to environment, local amenity or public health and safety."
- **CE4 Historic Landscapes, Parks, Gardens and Battlefields** states "Sites included in the register of landscapes, parks and gardens of special historic interest and identified historic battlefields should be protected, conserved, enhanced and where appropriate, restored. attention will also be given to their setting."
- **T8 All Wales Coast Path** states "Development proposals should protect and enhance all Wales coast path. the provision of additional routes to link to the coast path will be encouraged."

2.3 Designations

2.3.1 Designations provide an indication of landscape value. They are areas that have been recognised for the scenic beauty and recreational potential of the landscape. Designations are shown on **Figure LA.02**.

National Parks and National Landscapes (formally AONB)

2.3.2 There are no National Parks or National Landscapes within or close to the 3km study area, these statutory designations are therefore excluded from further consideration within this LVApp.

Special Landscape Areas

2.3.3 SLAs are non-statutory designations applied by the local planning authority to define areas of high landscape importance within their administrative boundary.

2.3.4 Newport contains six SLAs. The nearest SLA is the **Caldicot Levels SLA**, circa 130m to the south of the site at its closest point, followed by the **River Usk SLA**, which is circa 340m to the west of the site at its nearest point. The **Wentlooge Levels SLA** is located circa 720m to the west.

Ancient Woodland

2.3.5 There are no Ancient Woodland within the site. The wider 3km study area contains two blocks of woodland. The closest block of ancient woodland is circa 2.2km to the northeast of the site at its nearest point. This is an area consisting of a small area of ancient semi natural woodland.

2.3.6 The nearest area of ancient woodland to the west is circa 2.3km from the site boundary at its nearest point. This is a block of Restored ancient woodland.

Historic and cultural landscape designations

2.3.7 The setting of historic and cultural designations is a consideration during the preparation of landscape and visual impact appraisals as these features inform the overall landscape character, quality and value of the area. The LVApp does not address the effects on heritage assets however it considers the contribution these features make to landscape value, character, and scenic quality.

2.3.8 Relevant historic and cultural designations are shown on **Figure LA.02**. There are no Registered Historic Parks and Gardens within the 3km study area. Registered Historic Parks and Gardens are therefore scoped out from further consideration in this LVApp.

2.3.9 There is one area of Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest within the 3km study area, the **Gwent Levels Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest** is located circa 730m to the southeast and 900m to the west, respectively.

Conservation areas and listed buildings

2.3.10 Relevant historic and cultural designations are shown on **Figure LA.02.** There is one small conservation area within the 3km study area, Waterloo is located circa 2.8km to the northwest of the site.

2.3.11 The nearest **listed building** to the site is the **Grade II West Usk Lighthouse** is located circa 1.4km to the west of the site.

2.3.12 Other listed buildings within the study area are located beyond 1.5km of the site.

Scheduled Monuments

2.3.13 There are no scheduled monuments within the 3km study area. Historic Monuments are therefore scoped out from further consideration in this LVApp.

Ecological designations

2.3.14 Ecological designations, although not specifically related to landscape amenity and not assessed within this report, are an indication of landscape value. Relevant ecological designations are shown on **Figure LA.02**.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

2.3.15 There are five SSSIs within the 3km study area. **Newport Wetlands SSSI** is located circa 150m to the south of the site at its nearest point. The Sever Estuary SSSI is located circa 400m to the west of the site at its nearest point. The Usk River SSSI is located circa 300m to the north of the site and Nash and Goldcliff SSSI is located circa 1.1km to the east and the St. Brides SSSI is located circa 1.1km to the west of the site at its nearest point.

National Nature Reserve (NNR)

2.3.16 There is one National Nature Reserve within the 3km study area. **Newport Wetlands NNR** is located 150m to the southwest at its nearest place.

Ramsar and Special Protection Area (SPA)

2.3.17 There is one Ramsar and SAC within the 3km study area. **The Severn Estuary is both a Ramsar and SAC,** is located circa 400m to the west of the site at its nearest point.

Public access

2.3.18 Public rights of way are shown on **Figure LA.03**. There are no Long Distance Footpaths within or immediately adjacent to the site. The **Wales Coastal Path** is located circa 150m to the south of the site at its closest point. The Wales Coastal Path is 1,400km long and follows the coastline of Wales.

Public rights of way

2.3.19 The network of public rights of way within 3km study area are limited. There are no public rights of way within or within circa 1km of the site due to limited public access to the site and surrounding areas. The closest public right of way is **NE:401/6/1** which is circa 1.1km to the east of the site, passing through open fields between West Nash Road and the village of Nash in an east-west alignment.

National Cycle Routes

2.3.20 National Cycle Routes (NCR) 4 runs through the 3km study area in a broadly east-west alignment, circa 1.7km to the northeast at its closest point. Route 4 is a 697.8km long route, connecting London to Fishguard in west Wales.

Access land

2.3.21 Within 1km of the site there is one area of access land, circa 700m to the west of the site at its nearest point. This area of open access consists of the western mudflats of the River Usk and Severn Estuary.

3.0 The proposed development

3.1.1 Details of the proposed development are provided on the planning application drawings and the Planning Supporting Statement accompanying the application. This section describes the main aspects of the proposed development which could potentially affect landscape and/or visual amenity. It also identifies features of the proposals which will assist in mitigating adverse landscape and visual impacts.

3.1.2 The proposed battery storage development of the site would comprise 168 battery units (also known as Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)) at 2.9m high, inverters, transformers and spare parts containers. To the west of the battery units a new HV substation with a maximum height of 12m is proposed with a 4.4m high O & M building, 2.9m high control room and 2.9m high containerised switchgears. The proposed development would be surrounded by 2.5m high security fencing and CCTV cameras.

3.1.3 Access to the battery storage area would be provided by an existing access track to the west and south of the battery storage area.

3.1.4 The landscape proposals for the scheme include species rich grassland verges around the site boundary with a dry grassed swale along the southern site boundary.

3.1.5 The southern site boundary would be enhanced with some areas of scrub planting in the southeast and southwest corners to help screen the lower elements from views to the south. Scrub planting would consist of native species and of local province.

Sources of Potential Effects on Landscape and Views

3.1.6 The main features of the proposed development which could potentially result in landscape and visual impacts are set out below.

Construction phase

3.1.7 The duration of the construction of the site is expected to be up to 14 months and would include the following:

- Temporary fencing/hoarding around the compound perimeter.
- The removal of grassland/scrub within the compound area.
- The installation of access tracks, battery storage units, transformers and storage containers on loose hardcore, perimeter fencing and CCTV cameras.
- Activities in relation to the construction of the proposed development, including deliveries, the movement of vehicles on site.
- The implementation of buffer planting, trees and scrub to assist in the integration of the proposals into its landscape context.

Operation

3.1.8 Completion and operational activities would include the following:

- The change of use in the site from grassland/scrub and storage to a battery storage site with a substation and access tracks. Areas around the compound would include tree, hedgerow and scrub planting. Around the site perimeter, planting is also proposed but majority of valuable grassland habitats would be retained.
- The introduction of battery storage and substation within the landscape, in the context of existing Power station, pylons and industrial buildings.
- Operational activities such as vehicle movement associated with routine inspections and maintenance of the proposed development.
- The establishment of landscape proposals such as newly planted scrub planting.

Mitigation measures

3.1.9 The potential for adverse effects on landscape and visual amenity have been recognised and mitigation measures incorporated in the scheme to avoid or reduce adverse effects or to offset or compensate for unavoidable adverse effects.

3.1.10 Mitigation measures incorporated into the scheme design include:

- The battery storage area is positioned inside an existing plot boundary to ensure the existing plot pattern is retained.
- Some scrub planting is proposed on the south boundary of the site to provide some additional screening towards the proposed development whilst providing wildlife corridors and connections to existing features to the south. Species selection would reflect the nature of the existing vegetation.
- Perimeter fencing is to be offset from existing hedgerows and tree canopy edges to ensure existing vegetation is not damaged or disturbed.
- The battery storage units and perimeter fencing are to be painted a recessive colour to sit within the landscape.

4.0 Effects on the Landscape

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This section deals with the effects on the landscape of the site and its surrounding context due to the proposed BESS development at the site.

Assessment Criteria

4.1.2 The assessment process follows the methodology for assessing effects set out in **Appendix 2**. The degree of the likely landscape effects of the proposed development is determined by relating the sensitivity of the receptors to the changes arising from the proposals, and the degree and nature of the changes in the landscape arising from the proposed development.

Landscape Baseline

4.1.3 The landscape baseline is a description and analysis of the existing landscape, against which the effects of the proposed development are assessed, first, by reference to landscape character assessments for the area in which the site is located, at national and local levels and then, from site-specific surveys and analysis carried out for the purposes of this assessment.

4.2 LANDMAP

4.2.1 Landscape Assessment, following the LANDMAP methodology, has been undertaken for Newport. The assessment uses the Natural Resources Wales (NRW) / Wales Landscape Partnership Group approach which separates the defining aspects of the landscape into five categories, or aspect layers: Geological Landscape, Landscape Habitats, Historic Landscape, Cultural Landscape Services, and Visual & Sensory. It considers the relationship that exist between people and places; how people have given meaning to places through time and how

the physical landscape has shaped their actions, or how their actions have shaped the landscape.

4.2.2 Summarised descriptions for the most relevant aspect areas to the study site and its context are outlined below for all five aspect layers. The findings of the LANDMAP studies have formed the basis of the landscape and visual baseline within this LVApp. **Table 1** below defines the criteria that LANDMAP uses for evaluating each aspect area.

Table 1 Criteria for evaluating LANDMAP Aspect Areas[10]

LANDMAP Evaluation	Definition
Outstanding	of international or national importance
High	of regional or county importance
Moderate	of local importance
Low	of little or no importance
Unassessed	insufficient information exists to evaluate

4.2.3 Characteristics of particular relevance to the site and its context are highlighted in bold. LANDMAP aspect areas are illustrated on **Figures LA.04**.

Geological Landscape

4.2.4 The site is located within aspect area **Newport (Barnardstown-Green Moor)** (NWPRTGL004) which is classified as **Engineered features and reclaimed / infilled land** (Level 3). The geographical and topographical character of the area is described as (question GL4) "**Intensively developed** former coastal flat on the east side of the Usk estuary. Includes areas of former flood plain in north and small area of river terrace. Includes parts of **eastern central Newport and areas of industrial development** to the east [...]."

4.2.5 The rarity/uniqueness (question GL31) of the area is evaluated as **low** and the overall evaluation (question GL33) for the area is low, due to the area being "[...] **intensively developed** and few or **no natural features remain**."

Landscape Habitat

4.2.6 The site is located in aspect area **NWPRTLH036** (unnamed), which is classified as **Mosaic** (Level 3). The key features that define the areas biodiversity character (question LH24) are "This area comprises a mosaic of **industrial sites, agricultural land and Levels**. There is an

[10] LANDMAP Methodology Overview, June 2017 https://cdn.naturalresources.wales/media/681752/landmap-methodology-overview-2017-eng.pdf?mode=pad&rnd=131547814890000000

extensive area of reedbed which is a **Wetland Reserve**. The site borders the Severn Estuary and the mouth of the Usk. Many of the fields have **good hedges [**...]"

4.2.7 The overall evaluation (question 45) for the area is **High**, as the area is an "... area of **grasslands and industrial sites** also has some **important communities of the Gwent Levels**. A number of fields have **good hedges, and the area supports some significant species**. Although it lies **outside the SSSI it still has a high value**."

Historic Landscape

4.2.8 The site is located in aspect area **East Usk and Llanwern Industrial** (NWPRTHL022), which is classified as **Processing/Manufacturing** (Level 3). The aspect area is described as being (question HL4) "[...] a **significant industrial landscape during the 20th century**, following the eastern bank of the River Usk from the coast in the south, northwards almost to the M4 corridor; eastward extending from the river to Greenmoor Arch, this landscape has been imposed upon a large swathe of **former reclaimed agricultural wetland**. The **formerly industrial character of this aspect area has largely been destroyed**. Significant clearance works have been undertaken to the Llanwern Steelworks and **residential development has started in the western part of the area**. [...]."

4.2.9 The overall evaluation (question HL40) for the area is **High**, as "In spite of the fact that the **dominant character of this landscape is undeniably industrial**, represented by the modern Llanwern Steelworks and the Gwent Euro Park, this area is, nevertheless, of high value because of its demonstrable and significant potential for the survival of intact archaeological remains dating back to the prehistoric era."

Cultural Landscape Services

4.2.10 Cultural Landscape Services (CLS) now supersedes the Cultural Landscape aspect layer, which was updated in 2020. CLS responds to "Recent environment and well-being legislation and developments in current thinking relating to culture suggest the dataset would benefit from a different approach to mapping if revisited..." The data for CLS uses data from the other four aspect layers and provide no overall evaluations for each aspect area.

4.2.11 The site is located within **Eastern Usk Industrial Area** (NWPRTCLS055), which is classified as Urban (Level 3).

4.2.12 Refer to the Visual and Sensory aspect areas below for further detail.

Visual and Sensory

4.2.13 The site is located within aspect area **Eastern Usk Industrial Area** (NWPRTVS041), which is classified as **Urban** (Level 3). The aspect area is described as (question VS3) "Primarily **commercial and industrial area** with **some housing, education and recreational uses**.

Located on the levels below 10 m AOD. The largest building is the **Uskmouth power station and pylons** carry power lines to the area. The old industrial buildings are rundown in places and boundaries are overgrown with little management input. The boundary with the Usk is particularly prone to this condition. There are **a number of derelict and empty sites**. **Newer development is has occurred to the east** and is generally better maintained and manicured in places. The peripheral distributor road forms the northern boundary crossing over the Usk new bridge. There is significant landscape treatment adjacent to this road."

4.2.14 The scenic quality (question VS46) of the area is evaluated as **Low**, character (question VS48) of the area is evaluated as **Low**, and the overall evaluation (question VS50) for the area is also **Low** as "This **commercial area** has a **weak sense of place** and the **presence of many detractors** mean that the area has a low value overall."

LANDMAP Summary

4.2.15 Table 2 below summarises the evaluations for each aspect area that the site is located in (overall evaluations are not provided for the Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Layer):

Table 2 Summary of LANDMAP

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area name and Unique ID	Classification (Level 3)	Overall Evaluations
Geological Landscape	**Newport (Barnardstown-Green Moor)** UID: **NWPRTGL004**	Engineered features and reclaimed / infilled land	Low
Landscape Habitats	Unnamed UID: **NWPRTLH036**	Mosaic	High
Historic Landscape	**East Usk and Llanwern Industrial** UID: **NWPRTHL022**	Processing/Manufacturing	High
Cultural Landscape Services	**Eastern Usk Industrial Area** UID: **NWPRTCLS055**	Urban	N/A
Visual and Sensory	**Eastern Usk Industrial Area** UID: **NWPRTVS041**	Urban	Low

4.3 Site-Specific Appraisal

4.3.1 The following paragraphs provide descriptions of the site and should be read alongside Topography **Figure LA.05** and Site context **Figures LA.06.**

The landscape of the site

4.3.2 The site is located immediately to the south of Uskmouth Power Station, along the southern side of the Usk River. Newport Docks is circa 1.1km to the north of the site, along the north side of the Usk River. Newport City centre is circa 5km to the north of the site.

4.3.3 The site comprises a large sized rough grassland/scrub field, containing stored Ash, disused railway tracks and an area of storage. Boundaries are largely lined by mature scrub, corrugated fence and wire fences.

4.3.4 The site field forms part of Uskmouth Power Station along the edge of the Usk River. The landscape that contains the site is heavily influenced by industrial activity and energy production. The site field is large and regular in shape, with boundaries that follow the internal tracks of Uskmouth Power Station to the northwest, east, south and west. The northeast boundary is defined by a scrub and corrugated fence and wire fence.

4.3.5 The site is situated on the relatively flat banks of the Usk River and contains a large area of Ash storage in the west and an area of storage in the northeast. The highest point of the site is in the centre of the western part of the site with a high point of 15m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum). The site falls in a broadly eastern direction with a low point of 8m AOD in the east.

4.3.6 A line of pylon towers and overhead cables crosses the site in its eastern extents and a further set of pylon towers and overhead cables crosses the landscape immediately to the west of the site.

4.3.7 Beyond the site, to the west at circa 300m is the Usk River, which gently meanders through the study area in a north to south direction. To the south, circa 150m is Newport Wetlands.

4.3.8 The landscape of the wider study area is defined by the Uskmouth Power Station, Newport Docks and industrial parks and the Usk River.

4.3.9 The site is on the edge of the Uskmouth Power Station, in a transition area into wetlands and coastal Saltmarsh and Intertidal mudflats of the Gwent levels, which is heavily influenced by industrial activity. Beyond the site in the southern part of the study area, the landscape changes to the open and expansive Severy Estuary. The northern part of the study area contains the City of Newport and its industrial parks. The western part of the study area contains further coastal Saltmarsh and Intertidal mudflats of the Gwent Levels.

4.3.10 The settlement Nash is located circa 1.6km to the east of the site. Elsewhere within the wider study area, settlement consists of the City of Newport. There are also a number of industrial

estates and workings in the study area. Settlement beyond Newport is sparse and limited to scattered farmsteads and rural dwellings.

4.3.11 The primary regional route the A48 transects the far northern extents of the 3km study area on an east-west alignment. A network of minor local roads connects villages, farmsteads and industrial estates.

Features of the site

4.3.12 There are limited features on the site as it mainly functions as a disused ash storage area. The most notable feature of the site is its disused rail tracks and the area of storage in the northeast.

Characteristics and aesthetics of the site

4.3.13 The site is set within an industrial context, with the associated sound and views of the Uskmouth Power Station and nearby works, both a detracting feature. The local landscape is heavily influenced by industrial activity.

4.3.14 Hording boards along boundaries limit some views out. Views out are generally limited to the short-distance with some mid-distance views available from higher areas in the west of the site.

4.4 Landscape Value

4.4.1 The characteristics, sensitivities, and guidelines in the existing character assessments at national and local level and the site-specific analyses carried out for the purposes of this LVApp were taken into account as indicators of the aspects of the landscape important to the character and evaluated according to the criteria in **Appendix 2, Table A2-1** in order to determine the value of the landscape receptors.

4.4.2 Overall, the landscape value of the site and study area is of 'local' value due to the following factors:

- Whilst parts of the wider study area are designated for their landscape value (Newport Special Landscape Area), the site itself is not designated for landscape value.
- Some features in the wider study area are noted within LANDMAP for their value (Landscape Habitats and Historic Landscapes) however the site itself does not hold such valued features. There are also contrasting features in the wider landscape such as the Uskmouth Power Station, works, industrial buildings and pylon infrastructure.
- Scenic / visual quality is generally confined to short to mid-distant views due to the relatively flat landscape that contains some woodland blocks and vegetation along some field boundaries. These features contribute to the visual quality but associated sound of

the Uskmouth Power Station and works immediately adjacent to the site interrupts quietness with views of pylons and overhead cables also reducing the rural character.

- The land within the site is representative of the surrounding land use.
- No evidence of artistic or literary associations with the site or study area has been noted as part of this appraisal. There are historic associations with early industrial activity in the area.
- There is no recreational access to the site; however, the Wales Coastal Path lies circa 150m to the south which is well-treed. The study area has recreational uses both along public rights of way and permissive routes, where users of the routes would appreciate some of the scenic qualities noted above.

4.4.3 The features/elements/characteristics identified as important or "key" to the landscape character of the site are:

- Low lying topography on riverside flat infill/reclaimed land;
- Industrial edge – Uskmouth Power station and pylon influence;
- Mixed boundaries including site hording boards, fence and scrub;
- Historic industrial influence and disturbed land; and
- Short and mid-distance views with several detractors.

4.5 Effects on the Landscape

4.5.1 This section examines the nature of the landscape effects arising as a result of the proposed development with reference to:

- effects on landscape fabric within the site, its features and qualities;
- effects on landscape character, including consideration of effects on designated landscapes; and
- effects on the landscape setting of settlements, public rights of way and roads.

4.5.2 Landscape character is derived from the combination and pattern of landscape elements. The effects of the proposed development on landscape character would arise from its relationship to these combinations and patterns, and thus the character of the landscape. Effects on the landscape features, qualities and character may occur where there are either direct or indirect physical changes to the landscape. Direct changes to landscape fabric would only occur within the application boundary.

4.5.3 The effect of the proposed development on landscape character will depend on key characteristics of the receiving landscape; the degree to which the proposed development is

considered consistent with or at odds with them; and how the proposed development would be perceived within the setting, with perception being influenced by:

- the distance to the site;
- weather conditions; and
- the 'fit' of the proposed development within the landscape pattern and characteristics.

4.5.4 The LVApp assessments cover the following scenarios:

- Construction phase - this includes all clearance works and of the construction of the proposed battery storage. Construction is expected to be up to 14 months.
- Operation at year 10 – the operational battery storage development with established and maturing proposed mitigation planting.
- Decommissioning phase - this includes all clearance works and of the removal of the proposed battery storage. Decommissioning is expected to be up to 14 months.

Sensitivity

4.5.5 Landscape sensitivity is a product of consideration of the value associated with the landscape receptor and its susceptibility to the changes likely to arise from the proposed development. Criteria for determining the landscape value and landscape susceptibility are set out in **Appendix 2.** The assessment of sensitivity is based on bringing value and susceptibility considerations together in one combined step, in accordance with the criteria set out in **Appendix 2**.

4.5.6 The receptors, their value and susceptibility are set out in the following table, with the resultant judgement of their sensitivity to the proposed development:

Table 3 Susceptibility and Sensitivity of Landscape Receptors

Landscape Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Low lying topography on riverside flat infill/reclaimed land	**Low value:** a feature representative of typical character, not designated and low LANDMAP geological landscape overall value.	**Low susceptibility** to change and disturbance with the introduction of the proposed BESS in part of the site.	**Low sensitivity**
Short and mid-distance views with several detractors	**Low value:** not highlighted within LANDMAP as representative feature of the character of the area; views are not noted for their value.	**Low susceptibility** to change and disturbance with the introduction of the proposed BESS.	**Low sensitivity**

Landscape Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Mixed boundaries including site hording boards, fence and scrub.	**Low value:** not highlighted within LANDMAP as representative feature of the character of the area; boundaries not noted for their value.	**Low susceptibility** as field boundaries are generally to be improved.	**Low sensitivity**
Historic industrial influence and disturbed land	**Moderate value:** representative of the typical character of the area, with high LANDMAP historic landscape overall evaluation.	**Low susceptibility** to change and disturbance with the introduction of the proposed BESS.	**Moderate-low sensitivity**
Industrial edge – Uskmouth Power station and pylon influence	**Low value**: a local characteristic typical of the area with several detractors.	**Low susceptibility** to change and disturbance with the introduction of the proposed BESS	**Low sensitivity**

Magnitude of change

4.5.7 The magnitude of change considers the key features of the proposed development, as described in **section 3.0**, and the degree to which aesthetic or perceptual aspects of the landscape are altered by these changes or by the structures associated with the proposed development. The magnitude of change is described and set out in **Appendix 3, Table Appendix 3.1**. **Table 4** below provides a summary of the assessments:

Table 4 Landscape receptors and magnitude of change summary

Landscape Receptor	Magnitude of Change
Low lying topography on riverside flat infill/reclaimed land	During Construction: **Small** Operation: **Small** During Decommissioning: **Small, reducing to negligible**
Short and mid-distance views with several detractors	During Construction: **Small** Operation: **Small** During Decommissioning: **Small, increasing to Small-medium**

Landscape Receptor	Magnitude of Change
Mixed boundaries including site hording boards, fence and scrub.	During Construction: **Small** Operation: **Medium - small** During Decommissioning: Small, increasing to **medium - small**
Historic industrial influence and disturbed land	During Construction: **Small** Operation: **Small** During Decommissioning: **Small, reducing to negligible**
Industrial edge – Uskmouth Power station and pylon influence	During Construction: **Small** Operation: **Small** During Decommissioning: **Small, reducing to negligible**

Assessment of effects on the landscape

4.5.8 Consideration of the magnitude of the changes due to the proposed development is combined with consideration of the sensitivity of landscape receptors affected by the proposed development to assess the degree and nature of the effect at each stage of the proposed development including construction, Operation at year 10, and decommissioning.

4.5.9 Final conclusions about the degree of landscape effect, whether adverse or beneficial, relate the separate judgements about sensitivity of the receptors and magnitude of the changes, as illustrated in the indicative criteria shown in **Table A2-11**. The assessment is provided in **Appendix 3**, **Table Appendix 3.2** and a summary of the effects is provided below in **Table 5** below:

Table 5 Effects on Landscape Receptors

Landscape receptors and sensitivity	Effects during construction	Effects at operation	Effects at Decommissioning
Mixed boundaries including site hording boards, fence and scrub: **Low sensitivity.**	**Minor, adverse**	**Minor, adverse**	**Minor, adverse reducing to Negligible**
Short and mid-distance views with several detractors: **Low sensitivity.**	**Minor, adverse**	**Moderate – minor beneficial**	**Minor, adverse increasing to minor-moderate beneficial**

Landscape receptors and sensitivity	Effects during construction	Effects at operation	Effects at Decommissioning
Mixed boundaries including site hording boards, fence and scrub.**: Low sensitivity.**	**Minor, adverse**	**Moderate – minor beneficial**	**Minor, adverse increasing to moderate – minor beneficial**
Historic industrial influence and disturbed land: **Moderate – low sensitivity.**	**Minor, adverse**	**Minor, adverse**	**Minor, adverse reducing to Negligible**
Industrial edge – Uskmouth Power station and pylon influence: **Low sensitivity.**	**Minor, adverse**	**Minor, adverse**	**Minor, adverse reducing to Negligible**

5.0 Effects on Visual Amenity

5.1 Scope and Assessment Criteria

5.1.1 This section deals with the effects on visual amenity, arising from changes in the views available to people in the surrounding area. The general methodology for assessing the effects in this report is set out in **Appendix 2**.

5.1.2 The degree of the likely visual effects of the proposed development is determined by relating the sensitivity of the receptors to the changes arising from the proposed development, and the degree and nature of the changes in the views available to people and in their visual amenity arising from the BESS development.

5.2 Visual Baseline

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

5.2.1 Zone of Theoretic Visibility (ZTV) plans have been generated by computer to identify the geographic extents within which views may be available of the proposed battery storage development and substation within the 2.5km visual study area. **Figure LA.08-1** ZTV is calculated 3.5m high to represent the maximum height of the proposed BESS units and surrounding fencing with the substation taken into account and calculated at 12m high. The

viewer eye-height for the ZTVs have been set at 2m above ground level. Each of these heights represent the 'worst case scenario.'

5.2.2 The computer generated ZTV shown on **Figure LA.08-1** was based on a digital terrain model generated from the 5m grid interval OS Terrain 5® dataset. The ZTV was based upon "bare earth scenario," and the ZTV shown on **Figure LA.08-2** was based on Digital Surface Model (DSM) making an allowance for the potential screening by existing buildings, woodland, trees and hedgerows.

5.2.3 **Figure LA.08-1** shows the predicted extent of the bare ground ZTV for the proposed battery storage and substation. It illustrates that the surrounding topography influences the potential visibility of the proposed structures.

5.2.4 The Usk River and Levels shapes the topography. The relatively flat topography results in views of the scheme being available from the majority of the study area. Localised elevated landforms, such as bunds edging ponds associated with the works to the northeast and made up ground to the northwest, beyond the docks, result in no views of the site in isolated areas.

5.2.5 **Figure LA.08-2** shows the predicted extent of the screened ZTV for the proposed substation and battery storage area. It illustrates that potential visibility of the proposal will be substantially smaller once intervening buildings and vegetation are taken into account. Due to the extensive built-up area of the docks, works and industrial sites to the north and northeast, no views of the site would be available in these areas.

5.2.6 Views to the east would be limited due to the built form of the surrounding works and power station infrastructure, as would views to the west due to the raised Wales Coastal Path along the Usk River and scattered farms.

5.2.7 Views to the southeast would be available above and between intervening vegetation.

Viewpoint study

5.2.8 A photographic survey was undertaken to identify the potential extent of the visibility of the proposed development by locating viewpoints available to sensitive receptors. To inform the initial viewpoint selection, a visual study area from the site was mapped showing the surrounding landscape designations, public access, landscape character, and the predicted ZTV for the proposed development. Potentially sensitive visual receptors within the study area include residents, users of public rights of way and road users.

5.2.9 Based on the collated data, initial representative viewpoint locations were selected that relate to the "receptors," that is, residents and users of the landscape, and locations from which they may have views towards or of the site. For each of the viewpoints, the precise location was chosen during the field studies to represent the most open view available subject to local features such as vegetation, buildings or localised topographic variation are identified.

5.2.10 A total of 8 views were photographed to illustrate the site and its appearance in publicly available locations. Of the 8 views that were photographed, 6 views were carried forward as representative viewpoints for the visual amenity assessment. The viewpoint figures are presented on **Figures LA.10,** and the locations are shown on **Figures LA.08**. Visualisations for each of the assessment viewpoints are at **Appendix 4**.

5.2.11 **Table 6** below lists the six viewpoints, the location details, the receptors represented, and the reasons for selection.

Table 6 Viewpoint details

Viewpoint reference	Location	Distance and direction from site	Receptors represented and reasons for selection
01	Wales Coastal Path looking north towards the site	200m south	Local footpath users • Close distance view toward the site from the south • Representative of users of Wales Coastal Path • Representative of visitors to Newport Wetlands • The ZTV indicates that a moderate part of the proposed development would be potentially visible
02	Wales Coastal Path looking northwest towards the site	370m southeast	Local footpath users • Close distance view toward the site from the south • Representative of users of Wales Coastal Path • Representative of visitors to Newport Wetlands • The ZTV indicates that a moderate part of the proposed development would be potentially visible
03	Wales Coastal Path on the west bank of the Usk River looking east towards the site	1.4km west	Local footpath users • Mid distance view toward the site from the west • Representative of users of Wales Coastal Path • The ZTV indicates that a moderate part of the proposed development would be potentially visible

Viewpoint reference	Location	Distance and direction from site	Receptors represented and reasons for selection
04	Wales Coastal Path on the west bank of the Usk River looking northeast towards the site	1.15k west	Local footpath users • Mid distance view toward the site from the west • Representative of users of Wales Coastal Path • The ZTV indicates that a moderate part of the proposed development would be potentially visible
05	Lighthouse Road looking east towards the site	2.4km west	Local road users and nearby residential • Mid distance view toward the site from the west • Representative of users of Lighthouse Road and nearby residential • The ZTV indicates that a moderate part of the proposed development would be potentially visible
06	Wales Coastal Path looking north towards the site	800m south	Local footpath users • Mid distance view toward the site from the south • Representative of users of Wales Coastal Path • Representative of visitors to Newport Wetlands • The ZTV indicates that a moderate part of the proposed development would be potentially visible

5.2.12 **Table 7 below** provides a description of the landscape context at each of the six viewpoint locations and description of the existing view towards the site.

Table 7 Descriptions of viewpoint context and existing views

Viewpoint reference	Landscape context at viewpoint location	Existing view towards the site
01 - Wales Coastal Path looking north towards the site	The viewpoint is located on the Wales Costal Path to the south of the site. The footpath is well vegetated on both sides with the viewpoint	The view is directed towards the southern boundary of the site from along the Wales Coastal Path, which is lined by vegetation on both sides. The site boundary is formed by a white corrugated fence, viewed behind the pylon in the centre of the view. The area of stored ash, in the western part of the site can be seen just above the corrugated fence. Uskmouth power station can be seen

Viewpoint reference	Landscape context at viewpoint location	Existing view towards the site
	taken at a gap in vegetation. During the times of the year when vegetation is foliate, views may be further restricted.	in the background, beyond the site forming the central skyline. The eastern part of the site is screened from view by foreground vegetation along the footpath. Two pylon towers that are located beyond the western boundary of the site are partially visible behind the foreground vegetation and cables cross overhead above footpath.
02 - Wales Coastal Path looking northwest towards the site	The viewpoint is located on the Wales Costal Path to the southeast of the site. The footpath is well vegetated on both sides with the viewpoint taken at a gap in vegetation. During the times of the year when vegetation is foliate, views may be further restricted.	The view is directed towards the site from along the Wales coastal path that is lined by vegetation on both sides. Uskmouth power station is clearly visible, forming the background to the view. The site currently is screened from mid-distance vegetation. Pylon towers and overhead cables cross overhead and span the width of the view, forming a prominent vertical feature within the view.
03 - Wales Coastal Path on the west bank of the Usk River looking east towards the site	The viewpoint is located on the Wales Costal Path along the western bank of the Usk River. The footpath is open on both sides with open views of the Usk River to the east and open fields to the west. The viewpoint taken near West Usk Lighthouse.	The view is directed toward the site over the Usk River and open mudflats. To the west of the route is an open grassland landscape. The wide panoramic view takes in Newport Docks, associated wind turbines and Uskmouth Power station, form a prominent background to the view. To the south, open extensive views over the Severn Estuary and to the north the elevated City of Newport can be seen. The site is located adjacent to Uskmouth power station and currently screened by intervening landform along the eastern side of the Usk River. Several pylon towers and overhead lines form a string of towers that crosses the view.
04 - Wales Coastal Path on the west bank of the Usk River looking northeast towards the site	The viewpoint is located on the Wales Costal Path at the mouth of the Ebbw River, on the western bank of the Usk River. The footpath is open on both sides with open views of the Usk River to the east and open fields to the west.	The view is directed toward the site over the Usk River and open mudflats. To the west of the route is an open grassland landscape. The wide panoramic view takes in Newport Docks, associated wind turbines and Uskmouth Power station, form a prominent background to the view. To the south, open extensive views over the Severn Estuary and to the north the Ebbw River and Newport docks can be seen. The site is located adjacent to Uskmouth power station and currently screened by Uskmouth power station substation. Four pylons

Viewpoint reference	Landscape context at viewpoint location	Existing view towards the site
		arranged in a row adjacent to the power station indicate the western extents of the site.
05 - Lighthouse Road looking east towards the site	The viewpoint is located on Lighthouse Road which connects the village of St Brides to the Duffryn area of Newport.	The view is directed towards the site over the fore and middle ground of the Gwent levels, which is a level area of criss-crossed fields and reens. Uskmouth power station, which sits adjacent to the site can be seen through a gap in roadside vegetation, forming part of the skyline. The site is screened from view by intervening vegetation and local landform. Pylon towers and overhead cables punctuate the skyline in the distance.
06 - Wales Coastal Path looking north towards the site	The viewpoint is located on the Wales Costal Path along the eastern bank of the Usk River. The footpath affords open views of Newport Wetlands to the north and partially screened views of the Usk River to the west. The viewpoint taken near East Usk Lighthouse.	The view looks northwards towards the site over Newport Wetlands. To the west, partially screened views of the Usk River are available. Uskmouth power station rises above the wetlands forming the background to the view. Several pylon towers and overhead cables crisscross the view, creating a busy skyline. The site is located immediately to the south of Uskmouth power station and is currently screened from view by intervening vegetation. The southern extent of the South Wales Valleys dramatic landform forms the far distance, contrasting with the flat wetlands in the foreground.

5.3 Visual receptors

5.3.1 The assessment of visual effects is described by considering how the different groups of "visual receptors" may be affected. The following is a review of the viewers (the visual receptors) and the views available to them at the selected representative locations:

People in settlements and residential properties

5.3.2 The main settlement areas within the 3km study area are the village of Nash, circa 1.6km to the east of the site and the residential area of Duffryn, Newport circa 2.5km to the northwest of the site at its nearest point. There are also a number of industrial estates and workings within the study area. Settlement elsewhere is limited to scattered farmsteads and rural dwellings.

5.3.3 The village of **Nash** lies within the bare ground ZTV; however, surface screening from woodland, trees and other surface features would mean that views toward the site from the settlement Nash are very limited, as shown within the screening ZTV. Similarly, **Duffryn** lies

within the ZTV, however surface screening from field boundary vegetation and other intervening surface features would obscure views.

5.3.4 There are also scattered farmsteads and rural dwellings throughout the study area. **Viewpoint 05** has been selected to illustrate a view from close to the farm dwellings along Lighthouse Road to the west of the site.

Users of public rights of way and areas of public access

5.3.5 There are no public rights of way within or immediately adjacent to the site; however, there are several crossing through the wider landscape. The Wales Coast Path is located circa 150m to the south of the site. There are also one significant areas of open access land within the study area, along the western bank of the Usk River. A representative sample of views from the public rights of way network and areas of public access have been taken forward to the assessment and include:

- Users of the **Wales Coast Path** inside Newport Wetlands to the south of the site represented by **Viewpoint 01, 02 and 06**.
- Users of the **Wales Coast Path** along the western side of the Usk River to the west of the site, represented by **Viewpoint 03 and 04.**

5.3.6 The ZTV indicates visibility from the majority of the Stretch of Wales Coast Path that passes through the study area, to the southwest of the site, and **Context view A and B** is located in this area. The context views show the extent of screening between the viewpoints and the site, which obscure most of the site from view.

Road users

5.3.7 The primary road within the 3km study area is the A48, which passes east-west through the far northern extents of the study area.

5.3.8 Lighthouse Road, is a minor route, running north-south through the western part of the study area and Nash Road is a minor route, running north-south through the eastern part of the study area. The remaining local road network within the study area comprises minor local roads connecting settlements and industrial estates, many of which are private and not open to the general public. A representative sample of views for users of roads have been taken forward to the assessment and include:

- **Lighthouse Road**, to the west of the site, represented by **Viewpoint 05**

Other areas with a specific landscape interest

5.3.9 Special Landscape Areas **Caldicot Levels SLA, River Usk SLA** and **Wentlooge Levels SLA** are located to the south and west of the site. The footprint of theoretical visibility indicated in the

ZTV extends over areas of all through SLAs; however, it is likely that on-the-ground visibility would be further reduced as a result of screening from vegetation and other surface elements. **Viewpoint 01 to 06** illustrates a view from within the Special Landscape Areas.

5.4 Effects on visual amenity

5.4.1 The visual assessment covers the assessment scenarios described in paragraph 5.4.4.

Sensitivity

5.4.2 The susceptibility of viewers is affected by factors such as the distance to the viewer, the relative number of viewers affected and the importance of the site in the overall view. The context of the viewpoint may also contribute to the ability to accommodate change, for example, people viewing from residential properties or from a valued landscape might be regarded as less able to accommodate change, than those viewing from an industrial context. Table A2-8 in Appendix 2 provides examples of High, Moderate and Lesser sensitivity, demonstrating how the contributing factors are interpreted.

5.4.3 The sensitivity of the visual receptors is assessed as follows:

- **People in settlements and residential properties**: high susceptibility to changes in their visual amenity; open unobstructed views including the site assessed as of high value: **high sensitivity**, and filtered, oblique or partial views of medium value: **moderate sensitivity.**
- **Users of public rights of way**: moderate susceptibility to change in their visual amenity; open views towards the site with some indicators of value attached to the view assessed as medium value: **moderate sensitivity** and filtered, oblique or partial views of low value: **lesser sensitivity**.
- **Users of public roads**: low susceptibility to change in their visual amenity: filtered, oblique or partial views of low value: **lesser sensitivity**.

Magnitude of Change

5.4.4 The existing views for each representative viewpoint are described in **Appendix 3, Table Appendix 3.3**. Descriptions of the proposed development within each view is described and an analysis of the degree and nature of changes is presented in **Appendix 3, Table Appendix 3.4.** A summary of the magnitude of change is provided in Table 8 below.

Table 8 Viewpoint and magnitude of change summary

Reference viewpoints	Magnitude of change
01 - Wales Coastal Path looking north towards the site	During Construction: **Medium** Operation: **Medium-small** During Decommissioning: **Small**

Reference viewpoints	Magnitude of change
02 - Wales Coastal Path looking northwest towards the site	During Construction: **Small** Operation at year 1: **Small** During Decommissioning: **Small**
03 - Wales Coastal Path on the west bank of the Usk River looking east towards the site	During Construction: **Small-negligible** Operation at year 1: **Small-negligible** During Decommissioning: **Small-negligible**
04 - Wales Coastal Path on the west bank of the Usk River looking northeast towards the site	During Construction: **Small-negligible** Operation at year 1: **Small-negligible** During Decommissioning: **Small-negligible**
05 - Lighthouse Road looking east towards the site	During Construction: **Negligible** Operation at year 1: **Negligible** During Decommissioning: **Negligible**
06 - Wales Coastal Path looking north towards the site	During Construction: **Small-negligible** Operation at year 1: **Small-negligible** During Decommissioning: **Small-negligible**

Effects on visual receptors

5.4.5 Final conclusions about the degree of visual effects, whether adverse or beneficial, relate the separate judgements about sensitivity of the receptors and magnitude of the changes, as illustrated in the indicative criteria shown in **Table A2-11**. Visual receptors are grouped based on their sensitivity and the nature of the view available. For each group of receptors, representative viewpoints are listed. Detailed assessments are provided in **Appendix 3**, **Table Appendix 3.5** and a summary of the effects is provided below in **Table 9**:

Table 9 Effects on Visual Receptors

Visual receptors and sensitivity	Reference viewpoints	Effects during construction	Effects at operation	Effects during decommissioning
Road users and Residents in scattered farmsteads at medium-long distance with oblique views of the site: **moderate sensitivity**	**05**	**Negligible, neutral**	**Negligible, neutral**	**Negligible, neutral**

Visual receptors and sensitivity	Reference viewpoints	Effects during construction	Effects at operation	Effects during decommissioning
Users of PRoW at short distance to the south within the SLA with partially open views of the site: **High sensitivity**	**01**	**Moderate-minor, adverse**	**Moderate-minor, adverse**	**Minor, adverse**
Users of PRoW at short distance to the southeast within the SLA with filtered views of the site: **moderate sensitivity**	**02** **06**	**Minor, neutral**	**Minor, neutral**	**Minor, neutral**
Users of PRoW at medium-long distance to the west and southwest within the SLA with filtered views of the site: **moderate sensitivity**	**03** **04**	**Minor-negligible, neutral**	**Minor-negligible, neutral**	**Minor-negligible, neutral**

6.0 Cumulative assessments

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 This section deals with the cumulative effects of the proposed BESS on landscape character and visual amenity. The general methodology for assessing the cumulative landscape and visual effects in this report is set out in **Appendix 2**.

6.2 Cumulative baseline

6.2.1 For the cumulative landscape and visual assessment for the proposed BESS development surrounding BESS developments were mapped. This included operational, consented, and proposed BESS developments with submitted planning applications. Potential BESS developments at earlier stages were scoped out, as there is too great uncertainty about their location, form, and scale.

6.2.2 The nearest BESS development to the site is Formally Uskmouth B Power Station, which is located immediately to the east of the site. The next nearest BESS is located circa 50m to the southeast of the site. With the operational Afon Wysg BESS located circa 230m to the northeast of the site. Due to the relatively contained ZTV for the site (see **Figure LA.08-2**) and

the distance of the surrounding cumulative schemes from the site, a 1km cumulative study area is considered for the cumulative landscape and visual assessments.

6.2.3 Details of BESS developments that have been identified as having the potential to result in cumulative effects with the proposed BESS are provided in **Table 6-1 below**:

Table 6-1 Cumulative BESS scheme

Development name	Status and details	Distance and direction to site
24/0679 Former Uskmouth B Power Station	Screening 250MW	Immediately to the east
22/0823 Uskmouth BESS – formally B Power Station	Consented 230MW	50m to the southeast
23/0949 Afon Wysg BESS	Consented 350MW	230m to the northeast

6.3 Cumulative landscape effects

6.3.1 The assessment of cumulative landscape effects focuses on the landscape areas where cumulative effects are likely to occur. For this reason, the scope of the cumulative landscape assessment focuses on landscape character and receptors located close to the site where there could potentially be perceptual effects.

Additive effects

6.3.2 The cumulative landscape additive effect of the proposed development would be combined with the consented Afon Wysg, Uskmouth BESS – formally B power station and screening Former Uskmouth B Power Station, all located within 230m of the site. The three cumulative sites are located within the same LANDMAP Aspect Areas as the site.

6.3.3 The proposed BESS would be distinctively separate from the three cumulative BESS schemes as the proposed scheme would also be set within the existing field/land pattern and would respond to other landscape constraints such as build form, established vegetation.

Temporal effects

6.3.4 The operational life of BESS now generally exceeds 50 years. It is, therefore, reasonable to assume that the operational lifespan of the three cumulative BESS schemes is 50 years. Since all three are yet to be constructed it is reasonable to assume that all three cumulative sites and the proposed site could be constructed and operating at the same time.

6.3.5 The cumulative landscape effect of the proposed BESS development with the cumulative BESS developments would result in **minor adverse** effects on the local landscape, which would be reversible. BESS development would not form a key characteristic of the landscape, which is already heavily influenced by industrial and electrical infrastructure. The cumulative BESS schemes and the proposed development, include mitigation proposals that complement and strengthen existing key characteristics such as field/land pattern with hedgerow, scrub and trees.

6.4 Cumulative visual effects

6.4.1 Cumulative visual effects are considered within a 1km visual study area.

Additive effects

6.4.2 The three cumulative BESS schemes are located within 230m of the site. Potential visibility of the proposed development, in combination with the three cumulative BESS schemes, will be limited to locations where the proposed site is perceptible. **Figure LA08.2** indicates that this will primarily be to the east, west and south of the site.

6.4.3 However, in practice, the separation between the site and the cumulative developments, combined with screening elements such as, trees, and hedgerows throughout the study area, result in **negligible** additive visual effects.

Sequential effects

6.4.4 The potential sequential effects would be limited to small sections of Public Rights of Way to the south of the site, mainly the Wales Coast Path. However, in reality, the restricted visibility of each BESS, combined with mitigation proposals, intervening vegetation, and built form between the developments, would make any sequential effects at most **minor adverse**. However, these effects are expected to be separated and perceived as distinct developments located in different areas, reducing the overall sense of visual continuity between them.

Temporal effects

6.4.5 The operational life of BESS now generally exceeds 50 years. It is, therefore, reasonable to assume that the operational lifespan of the three cumulative BESS schemes is 50 years. Since all three are yet to be constructed it is reasonable to assume that all three cumulative sites and the proposed site could be constructed and operating at the same time.

6.4.6 The cumulative visual effect of the proposed BESS with the cumulative BESS developments would result in **minor adverse** effects. Due to the limited potential visibility of each development and the separation between them, cumulatively the BESS schemes would not affect visual amenity, should the proposed development gain consent.

7.0 Summary and Conclusions

7.1 Baseline

7.1.1 Tir Collective is instructed by SAE Renewables to prepare this Landscape and Visual Appraisal which relates to the proposed battery storage development at Uskmouth Power Station, Newport.

7.1.2 The proposed battery storage area located in the central and eastern parts of the site with underground cables located to the northwest which would extend north to connect the proposed battery storage area with the Uskmouth substation. The proposed development would be for a period of 50 years, after which it would be fully removed from the site.

7.1.3 The proposed development would comprise the installation of battery energy storage system (BESS), together with high voltage substation compound, transformer stations, inverters, site access, security measures, access gates, other ancillary infrastructure, landscaping and biodiversity enhancements. Two new access points would be created off the existing track that runs along the sites east, south and western boundaries. One would be located in the far northwest corner and the second would be located in the far southeast corner of the site.

7.1.4 A short underground/overhead cable route connects the proposed battery storage area with Uskmouth Power Station substation circa 900m to the northwest, via an existing access track.

7.1.5 A 3km study area has been considered as the area where potential landscape and visual effects may arise from the proposed development.

7.1.6 The methodology used for assessing the potential effects on landscape character and visual amenity were based on the recommendations in GLIVA3. The application of this guidance document established an appropriate scope for the assessments to be undertaken.

7.2 Summary of findings

Landscape assessment

7.2.1 Desk studies reviewed landscape designations, public access, and referred to national and local landscape character assessments, and relevant national and local policy information. The studies confirmed that the site doesn't fall within any statutory or non-statutory designations. The site is not within but is within circa 130m of the **Caldicot Levels SLA, River Usk SLA** and **Wentlooge Levels SLA**. The **Newport Wetlands SSSI** and **Newport Wetlands NNR** are located circa 150m to the south of the site.

7.2.2 The **Wales Coastal Path** is also located 150m to the south of the site at its nearest point.

7.2.3 In relation to LANDMAP assessment, Geological landscape identifies the site's location in an **Engineered features and reclaimed / infilled land** of **low** overall value. The Landscape Habitat Aspect Layer notes that the entirety of the site is located in a **Mosaic** of **high** overall

value as the area is an "… area of grasslands and industrial sites also has some important communities of the Gwent Levels. A number of fields have good hedges, and the area supports some significant species. Although it lies outside the SSSI it still has a high value." In the Historic Landscape Layer, the site is located in **East Usk and Llanwern Industrial's Processing/Manufacturing.** The Historic Landscape overall evaluation is **high**.

7.2.4 The Visual and Sensory Aspect Layer indicates that the entirety of the site is located in aspect area Eastern Usk Industrial Area, which is classified as **Urban** and is described as "**Primarily commercial and industrial area with some housing, education and recreational uses**. Located on the levels below 10 m AOD. The largest building is the **Uskmouth power station and pylons** carry power lines to the area. The old industrial buildings are rundown in places and boundaries are overgrown with little management input.". Visual and Sensory evaluations are **low**.

7.2.5 A site-specific appraisal was also carried out identifying the landscape features, characteristics, and aesthetics. The site appraisal confirmed the site is located immediately south of Uskmouth Power Station, along the southern side of the Usk River.

7.2.6 The site comprises a **large sized rough grassland/scrub field, containing stored Ash, disused railway tracks and an area of storage**. Boundaries are largely lined by **mature scrub, corrugated fence and wire fences.**

7.2.7 The landscape of the wider study area is defined by the Uskmouth Power Station, Newport Docks and industrial parks and the Usk River.

7.2.8 Associated **sound** and existing **pylons, overhead lines, industrial buildings** and **power station/substation** are **detracting features**.

7.2.9 The site is on the edge of the Uskmouth Power Station, in a transition area into **wetlands and coastal Saltmarsh and Intertidal mudflats of the Gwent levels**, which is **heavily influenced by industrial activity**. The highest point of the site is in the centre of the western part of the site with a high point of 15m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum). The site falls in a broadly eastern direction with a low point of 8m AOD in the east.

7.2.10 A line of **pylon towers and overhead cables crosses the site** in its eastern extents and a further set of **pylon towers and overhead cables crosses landscape immediately to the west** of the site. The landscape that contains the site is heavily influenced by **current and past industrial activity.**

7.2.11 The features/elements/characteristics identified as important or "key" to the landscape character of the site are; low lying topography on riverside flat infill/reclaimed land; Industrial edge – Uskmouth Power station and pylon influence; mixed boundaries including site hording boards, fence and scrub; historic industrial influence and disturbed land and short and mid-distance views with several detractors.

7.2.12 The potential for adverse effects on landscape and visual amenity have been recognised and mitigation measures incorporated in the scheme. These include the positioning of the battery storage area and substation to protect the plot pattern; the planting of species rich grassland verges and some scrub/shrub planting along the southern boundary. These proposed landscape treatments would function as visuals screen and filters from key view directions while also providing some enhanced ecological connectivity. Boundary features would therefore be enhanced by the development.

7.2.13 The landscape assessment assessed the potential impacts of the proposed development on landscape features, qualities, and characteristics within the site and wider surrounding landscape context during construction, at year 10 of operation, and during decommissioning. The findings of the assessment concluded that **during construction**, effects would be **minor adverse**. Landform change because of construction would be limited. Construction activity would create movement and sound but would be in context to the existing sound and movement associated with the largescale industrial and energy use within the surrounding landscape.

7.2.14 Landscape features such as trees and other boundary vegetation would be protected during construction. Construction activity would be accommodated within the diverse landscape that is heavily influenced by human activity.

7.2.15 **At year 10 of operation**, effects on the landscape would also be **adverse**, ranging from **minor** to **minor-moderate** effects. The topography would remain largely unaltered. BESS infrastructure would be contained to a part of the site only. Mitigation proposals would enhance plot pattern. Infrastructure and human influences are characteristic of the local landscape, and the development would therefore not conflict with critical elements of landscape character.

7.2.16 **At decommissioning**, mitigation proposals would be established. Planting along boundaries would be mature, forming an established component of the wider landscape pattern and further embedding the scheme into the landscape. Effects would range from **negligible** to **moderate-minor** and would be **beneficial** for all of the landscape receptors.

7.2.17 Overall, the proposed development would be contained and in keeping with the existing industrial and energy production development footprint. The site would be removed from scrub and rough grassland and planting proposals would strengthen the southern boundaries of the site and provide visual screening and filtering, as well as improved ecological value. Whilst the site and context have some rural qualities to the south, the associated movement and sound of the existing industrial and energy production facilities, and nearby pylons and overhead cables are detracting features. The proposed development would be in context and subservient to these elements. Proposed planting would help to integrate the proposed development into the landscape over time.

Visual assessment

7.2.18 To confirm the baseline studies of designations, landscape character, and ZTV mapping, and site visit, 8no. views were photographed of which six were carried forward for assessment that represent key receptors including nearby residents, users of public rights of way, and road users.

7.2.19 The visual assessment concluded that for **Road users and Residents in scattered farmsteads at medium-long distance with oblique views of the site**, effects would be **negligible, neural** during construction, operation and decommissioning as the quality of visual experience would continue to be broadly similar.

7.2.20 For **Users of PRoW at short distance to the south within the SLA with partially open views of the site,** effects would be **moderate-minor**, **adverse** during construction and operation, reducing to **minor**, **adverse** at decommissioning.

7.2.21 For Users of **PRoW at short distance to the southeast within the SLA** with filtered views of the site, effects would be **minor, adverse** throughout the construction and operation phases and minor, neutral during decommissioning as the quality of visual experience would continue to be broadly similar.

7.2.22 For **Users of PRoW at medium-long distance to the west and southwest within the SLA with filtered views of the site**, effects would be **minor-negligible, neutral** throughout the lifespan of the development. as the quality of visual experience would continue to be broadly similar.

7.2.23 Overall, the visual effects would be contained to within close proximity to the site. The landscape of the study area is often well-vegetated, which helps screens views toward the site. The large and dominant backdrop of Uskmouth Power Station, numerous pylons, industrial units and Newport docks in the centre of the study area means that in north-facing views, such as from the SLA, the skyline is already cluttered and would generally not be notably broken by the development. The immediate landscape that contains the site is punctuated by existing electricity infrastructure, pylons and cables, which the development would be experienced in context to. As the proposed planting establishes, views of the proposed development would become more limited, particularly for users of the Wales Coast Path to the south and visitors to the SLA and Nature Reserve and wetlands.

7.2.24 Weather conditions, as described in paragraph 1.3.12 above would limit visibility for receptors as conditions that limit visibility occur due to rainfall (137.93days on average in the year) and air frost (50.31 days on average in the year).

Cumulative assessment

7.2.25 Other operational, consented, and submitted BESS developments were mapped as part of the cumulative assessments. Potential developments at earlier stages were scoped out, as there is

too great uncertainty about their location and scale. The Afon Wysg, Uskmouth BESS – formally B power station and screening Former Uskmouth B Power Station are the only BESS developments that were taken forward in the cumulative assessment, all located within 230m of the site.

7.2.26 Cumulative landscape effects would involve an increased presence of distinctly separate BESS developments within the landscape, but these effects would remain fully reversible. The proposed development would not contribute to BESS development becoming a defining landscape characteristic of the area.

7.2.27 The proposed BESS would be distinctively separate from the three cumulative BESS schemes as the proposed scheme would also be set within the existing plot pattern and would respond to other landscape constraints such as build form, established vegetation.

7.2.28 The cumulative landscape effect of the proposed BESS development with the cumulative BESS developments would result in minor adverse effects on the local landscape, which would be reversible. BESS development would not form a key characteristic of the landscape, which is already heavily influenced by industrial and electrical infrastructure. The cumulative BESS schemes and the proposed development, include mitigation proposals that complement and strengthen existing key characteristics such as field/land pattern with hedgerow, scrub and trees.

7.2.29 Potential additive visual effects would be limited to the east, west and south of the site. However, the separation between the site and the cumulative developments, combined with screening elements such as, trees, and hedgerows throughout the study area, result in negligible additive visual effects.

7.2.30 Potential sequential visual effects would be limited to a small section of public rights of way to the south of the site. However, in reality due to the restricted potential visibility of each BESS development and the separation between the development, sequential effects are unlikely to be discernible.

7.2.31 The operational life of BESS now generally exceeds 50 years. Since all three are yet to be constructed it is reasonable to assume that all three cumulative sites and the proposed site could be constructed and operating at the same time.

7.2.32 Due to the limited potential visibility of each development and the separation between them, cumulatively the BESS schemes would not affect visual amenity, should the proposed development gain consent.

7.2.33 Overall, **cumulative landscape effects** were assessed as **minor adverse,** which would be fully reversible. **Visual effects** were assessed as **minor adverse** due to the limited potential visibility of the proposed BESS development and the cumulative BESS developments, and the separation between them, where effects on visual amenity would not be perceptible.

7.3 Conclusions

7.3.1 This Landscape and Visual Appraisal concludes that the site would be able to accommodate the proposed battery storage development in the central and east parts of the site field, and proposed planting along the southern boundary.

7.3.2 The proposed development would be in context to Uskmouth Power Station, industrial units, Newport Docks, pylons and overhead cables. The proposals would remove the site from rough grassland and scrub. Visual effects would be limited by the existing surrounding vegetation and local landforms, that screen parts of the site from view from some locations. The wider landscape also contains trees and vegetation, which also often screen and filter views towards the site. Any views of the proposals would be viewed in context to nearby existing energy infrastructure. Proposals for the site include the planting of native scrub, which would help to integrate the proposed development into the landscape over time, whist reflecting the existing landscape character and providing some enhancement of key features. As the proposed planting establishes, views of the proposed development would also become more limited.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Figures

- **Figure LA.01** Site Location
- **Figures LA.02** Designations
- **Figure LA.03** Public Access
- **Figures LA.04** LANDMAP
- **Figure LA.05** Topography
- **Figure LA.06** Site context
- **Figure LA.07** Site Photos
- **Figure LA.08** Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)
- **Figures LA.09** Context photos
- **Figures LA.10** Viewpoints

Appendix 2 – Assessment Methodology

The methodology used in this assessment has been based upon the recommendations in Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition published by The Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment in April 2013 (GLVIA3).

Battery storage developments have particular characteristics which are potential sources of impact on landscape character and on visual amenity:

Table A2-1 characteristics of battery storage developments

Character	Criteria
Location	The location of battery storage developments is typically dictated by the location of existing large substations and cable connections. Battery storage is frequently located in fields of consistent or gentle gradient.
Ground disturbance	Battery storage is generally constructed on concrete foundations. Cable routes are typically bored underground without changes above ground. Gravel access tracks are constructed to connect with nearby roads.
Construction compound	Construction compounds are temporary and used for delivery of the components.
Appearance	Battery storage units are typically laid out in rows, offset from field boundaries. The units are metal finish and can be finished in a subdued colour. The compound is surrounded by fencing with some CCTV cameras on poles.
Activity for maintenance and repair	Personnel, with vehicles and equipment, visiting the battery storage site at regular intervals, and the activities associated with the maintenance operations.
Views	Battery storage developments are generally constructed in small fields or part of a field within existing and sometimes enhanced hedgerow boundaries.
Duration	The battery storage site would be in place and is likely to be operational for at least 40/50 years. The construction is expected to be up to 14 months', and the effect during this period is considered short term.

Landscape Effects Assessment

Establishing the landscape baseline

Baseline studies for assessing the landscape effects included a mix of desk study and field work to identify and record the character of the landscape and the elements, features and aesthetic and perceptual factors which contribute to it.

The elements that make up the landscape in the study area were recorded, including:

- physical influences - geology, soils, landform, drainage and water bodies;
- land cover, including different types of vegetation and patterns and types of tree cover;
- the influence of human activity, such as, land use and management, the character of settlements and buildings, the pattern and type of fields and enclosure; and
- the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape, e.g.: its scale, complexity, openness, tranquillity, wildness.

The overall character of the landscape in the study area was considered, including the particular combinations of elements and aesthetic and perceptual aspects that make each distinctive, usually by identification as key characteristics of the landscape. Evidence about change in the landscape was considered, including the condition of the different landscape types and/or areas, and their constituent parts and evidence of current pressures causing change in the landscape.

Landscape value

The European Landscape Convention promotes taking account of all landscapes, including ordinary or undesignated landscapes. The relative value attached to the landscape was considered at the baseline stage to inform the judgments about the effects likely to occur, whether to areas of landscape as a whole or to individual elements, features and aesthetic or perceptual dimensions, at the community, local, national or international levels.

Landscape designation is a starting point in understanding landscape value, but value may also be attached to undesignated landscapes. Special Qualities, reasons for designation, relevant policies in management plans or designation-specific policies in development plans, were consulted in assessing the relative value of the landscape within designated areas.

Areas of landscape whose character is judged to be intact and in good condition, and where scenic quality, wildness or tranquillity, and natural or cultural heritage features make a particular contribution to the landscape, or where there are important associations, are likely to be highly valued. For "ordinary, everyday landscapes," the judgement was based upon the degree to which they are representative of typical character, the intactness of the landscape

and the condition of its elements, scenic quality, sense of place, aesthetic and perceptual qualities.

When determining the landscape value, the following elements were considered, in addition to consideration of values associated with designations:

- The importance of the landscape, or the perceived value of the landscape to users or consultees, as indicated by, for example, international, national or local designations;
- The importance of elements or components of the landscape in the landscape character of the area or in their contribution to the landscape setting of other areas;
- Intrinsic aesthetic characteristics, scenic quality or sense of place, including providing landscape setting to other places;
- Cultural associations in the arts or in guides to the area, or popular use of the area for recreation, where experience of the landscape is important;
- The presence and scale of detractors in the landscape and the degree to which they are susceptible to improvement or upgrading; and
- Conservation interests: The presence of features of wildlife, earth science or archaeological or historical and cultural interest can add to the value of the landscape as well as having value in their own right.

The following table indicates the criteria used to determine the Landscape value:

Table A2-2 Criteria to determine landscape value.

Value	Criteria
High Value	Landscapes subject to international or national designations, and non-designated landscapes where the following considerations apply: Areas of landscape whose character is judged to be intact and in good condition; Scenic quality, wildness or tranquillity, and/or natural or cultural heritage features make a particular contribution to the landscape; There are important cultural and artistic associations; They are representative of typical character of the area or have a character or elements that are valued for their rarity; Particular components may be identified as important contributors to the landscape character; The landscape is valued for recreational activities where experience of the landscape is important.

Value	Criteria
Medium Value	Landscapes subject to local designations, and non-designated landscapes where the following considerations apply: Areas of landscape whose character is judged to be intact with few detractors; Scenic quality, wildness or tranquillity, and/or natural or cultural heritage features make a contribution to the landscape; There are cultural and artistic associations; They are representative of typical character of the area or have a character or elements that are identified for their rarity; Particular components may be identified as contributors to the landscape character; The landscape is a setting for recreational activities where experience of the landscape forms part of the experience.
Low Value	Areas of non-designated landscapes whose character is in poor condition; Scenic quality, wildness or tranquillity, and/or natural or cultural heritage features are not key characteristics of the landscape; Cultural and artistic associations are absent; They are not representative of typical character of the area, but are also not valued for rarity; Particular components may be identified as contributors to the landscape character; There is little scope for recreational activities where experience of the landscape is important.

Where the value identified falls between high, medium and low, an intermediate level of value is assigned, e.g., "low-medium or medium-high." The basis for the value assigned to the landscape receptor is linked back to evidence from the baseline study.

The landscape baseline report aims to:

- describe, map and illustrate the character of the landscape of both the wider study area and the site and its immediate surroundings;
- identify and describe the individual elements and aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape, particularly those that are key characteristics contributing to its distinctive character;
- indicate the condition of the landscape, including the condition of landscape elements or features;

- project forward drivers and trends in change and how they may affect the landscape over time, in the absence of the proposal; and
- evaluate the landscape and, where appropriate, its components, aesthetic and perceptual aspects, particularly the key characteristics.

Assessing the Landscape Effects

The baseline information about the landscape was combined with understanding of the details of the proposal to identify and describe the landscape effects. The landscape receptors were identified, that is, the components or aspects of the landscape likely to be affected, such as, overall character or key characteristics, individual elements or features, or specific aesthetic or perceptual aspects.

Interactions between the landscape receptors and the components or characteristics of the development at its different stages were considered: construction and operation, and the different types of effect: direct and indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, adverse and beneficial.

Landscape effects considered included:

- change in and/or partial or complete loss of elements, features or aesthetic or perceptual aspects that contribute to the character and distinctiveness of the landscape;
- addition of new elements or features that will influence the character and distinctiveness of the landscape; and
- combined effects of these changes on overall character.

The landscape effects were categorised as adverse, beneficial, or negligible in their consequences for the landscape, judged from the degree to which the proposal fits with existing character and the contribution the development makes to the landscape in its own right, even if in contrast to existing character.

The assessment of the landscape effects was based on assessment of the sensitivity of the landscape receptors and the magnitude of the change in the landscape arising from the proposal.

Sensitivity of the landscape receptors

The sensitivity of landscape receptors combines judgments of their susceptibility to the type of change arising from the development proposal and the value attached to the landscape.

Susceptibility to change means the ability of the landscape receptor to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies.

The value attached to the landscape receptors was established in the baseline study.

The sensitivity of landscape receptors to change is categorised as high, moderate or lesser, in accordance with the criteria set out below to determine the susceptibility and value of the landscape receptor.

When determining the landscape susceptibility, the following elements were considered:

- The ability of the landscape receptor to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the landscape character and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies;
- The degree to which the changes arising from the development would alter the overall character, quality/condition of a particular landscape type or area;
- The degree to which the changes arising from the development would alter individual elements or features or aesthetic and perceptual aspects important to the landscape character; and
- Existing landscape studies may identify the sensitivity of the landscape type or area or its characteristics to the general type of development that is proposed.

The following table indicates the criteria used to determine the landscape susceptibility:

Table A2-3 Criteria for landscape susceptibility

Susceptibility	Criteria
Higher Susceptibility	The changes arising from the type of development would alter the overall character, quality/condition of a particular landscape type or area. The changes arising from the type of development would alter or remove individual elements or features or aesthetic and perceptual aspects important to, or add new elements incongruous to, the landscape character. The type of development would compromise the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies for the landscape. The changes arising from the type of development would alter or remove elements or features or aesthetic and perceptual aspects important to the landscape character or add new elements that would reinforce the key characteristics of the landscape character.
Lower Susceptibility	The changes arising from the type of development would not alter the overall character, quality/condition of a particular landscape type or area.

Susceptibility	Criteria
	The type of development would not compromise the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies for the landscape. The changes arising from the type of development would not alter or remove individual elements or features or aesthetic and perceptual aspects important to, or add new elements incongruous to, the landscape character.

Where the susceptibility identified falls between high and low, an intermediate level of susceptibility is assigned, e.g., "moderate." The basis for the scale of susceptibility assigned to the landscape receptor is linked back to evidence from the baseline study.

Table A2-4 illustrates indicative criteria for assessing landscape sensitivity combining

Category	Indicative criteria
High sensitivity	A highly valued landscape e.g., of national or international importance, whose character or key characteristics are very susceptible to change; Aspects of the landscape character are highly valued as "key characteristics" and, often identified as susceptible to change in national or local character assessments; The landscape character is highly valued as intact and in good condition and particularly vulnerable to disturbance; A highly valued landscape with no or limited potential for substitution or replacement.
Moderate sensitivity	A landscape of local importance or value, whose character or key characteristics are susceptible to change; Other characteristics of the landscape character also valued in national or local character assessments and susceptible to change; The landscape character is valued for moderate condition and not particularly vulnerable to disturbance; A moderately valued landscape with some potential for substitution or replacement.
Lesser sensitivity	No or little evidence of value or importance attached to the landscape area, its features or characteristics; Few features, characteristics or qualities susceptible to disturbance or particularly susceptible to improvement or upgrading. Good potential for substitution or replacement

Where the sensitivity based on the combination of the judgement of susceptibility and value falls between high, moderate and lesser, an intermediate level of sensitivity is assigned, e.g., "lesser-moderate or moderate-high." The basis for the sensitivity assigned to the landscape receptor is linked back to evidence from the baseline study and analysis of the nature of the potential effects on the receptor as a result of the proposed development.

Magnitude of Landscape Change

Effects on landscape receptors are assessed in terms of size or scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced, and its duration and reversibility.

Table A2-5 Considerations for assessing magnitude of landscape change.

Consideration	Indicative criteria
Size or scale of change	Categorised on a scale of Large, Medium, Small, Negligible or None, based upon: The extent of existing landscape elements that will be lost (or added), the proportion of the total extent that this represents and the contribution of that element to the character of the landscape; The degree to which aesthetic or perceptual aspects of the landscape are altered either by removal of existing components of the landscape or additions of new ones; Whether the effect changes the key characteristics of the landscape, which are critical to its distinctive character.
Geographical area over which the landscape would be changed	Categorised on a scale of: Small: at site level, within the development site itself or at the level of the immediate setting of the site; Medium: at the scale of the landscape type or character area within which the proposal lies; Large: where the development influences several landscape types or character areas.
The duration of the changes	The durations of changes due to the development are categorised as: Short term: zero to three years; Medium term: three to fifteen years; Long term: fifteen to twenty-five years; Permanent: more than twenty-five years.

Consideration	Indicative criteria
Reversibility	The prospect and the practicality of the effect being reversed within twenty-five years.

Indicative criteria used to determine the magnitude of change is as follows:

Table A2-6 Indicative criteria for assessing magnitude of landscape change.

Magnitude of Change	Landscape Change
Great change	Major size or scale of change, affecting the landscape type or character of the area within which the proposal lies or extending over the wider area; likely to be longer term or permanently, with low prospect of reversibility
Medium change	Intermediate size or scale of change, affecting part of the landscape type or character of the area within which the proposal lies, or larger scale of change at the level of the site or immediate context; likely to continue into the medium term, with good prospect of reversibility
Small change	A minor proportion of the extent of the character type or area is affected or smaller scale of change over a larger extent; the changes occur at the level of the site or immediate context, and likely to be short term and reversible.
Negligible	No apparent change to landscape characteristics

While GLVIA3 includes the duration of the change in the consideration of the magnitude of change, in some cases a major size or scale of change of shorter duration may be considered a "great change".

Assessment of landscape effects

Final conclusions about the degree of effect, whether adverse or beneficial, relate the separate judgements about sensitivity of the receptors and magnitude of the changes combined, based upon the following indicative considerations and criteria:

Table A2-7 Indicative criteria for assessing landscape effects.

Landscape effect	Indicative criteria
Major	Highly sensitive landscape completely degraded or greatly changed, with little or no scope for mitigation; Great improvement, sufficient to upgrade overall landscape character. Irreversible adverse or beneficial effects, over an extensive area, on elements and/or aesthetic and perceptual aspects that are key to the character of nationally valued landscapes.
Moderate	Medium change to moderately sensitive landscape or its character; lesser change to higher sensitivity landscape or greater change to less sensitive landscape.
Minor	Small or limited adverse change to the existing landscape or its character; greater change to less sensitive landscape; Considerable scope for mitigation; Small improvement to the existing landscape. Reversible adverse or beneficial effects of short duration, over a restricted area, on elements and/or aesthetic and perceptual aspects that contribute to but are not key characteristics of the character of landscapes of community value.
Negligible	No perceptible change to the existing landscape or its character; The change is difficult to discern.

Intermediate conditions may be described, such as Moderate-Major, where the criteria for Moderate may be exceeded but not qualify as Major. Where magnitude of change is "None," the effect would correspondingly be "None."

Effects may be adverse or beneficial. In some instances, the effect may be offset by other considerations, for example, through the mitigation or landscape proposals, and the resulting effect may be neither beneficial nor adverse.

Visual Effects Assessment

Establishing the visual baseline

Baseline studies for visual effects establish:

- the area in which the development may be visible;

- the different groups of people who may experience views of the development;
- the location where they will be affected;
- the nature of the views at those points; and
- the different groups of people who may be affected by the changes in views or visual amenity.

The potential areas where the site and development proposal are likely to be visible were mapped. Landscape components affecting visibility, like buildings, walls, fences, trees, hedgerows, woodland and banks, were identified through field surveys and mapped where relevant.

The people within the area who may be affected by the changes in views and visual amenity – the visual receptors – were identified, for example:

- people living in the area;
- people passing through on roads and the local lanes;
- people visiting promoted landscapes or attractions; and
- people engaged in recreation of different types, including users of public rights of way, bridleways and access land.

Where relevant, views that form part of the experience and enjoyment of the landscape were noted, for example, from promoted paths, tourist or scenic routes and associated viewpoints.

The proposed viewpoints selected were discussed with the local authority, and informed by the visual appraisal, field surveys, and by desk-based research on various issues, for example, access and recreation, valued landscapes, tourist attractions and destinations, popular vantage points, and relative distribution of population. Viewpoints were selected to represent the experience of different types of visual receptors.

The details of viewpoint locations were mapped and catalogued, sufficient to allow someone else to return to the location and record the same view. Photography was carried out in accordance with the Landscape Institute, Advice Note 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals (2019).

The baseline report aims to describe, map and illustrate:

- the type of people (visual receptors) likely to be affected, making clear the activities they are likely to be involved in when enjoying the view;
- details of the viewpoints and of the visual receptors likely to be affected at each;

- the nature, composition and characteristics of the existing view, noting any particular horizontal or vertical emphasis, and any key foci; existing views have been illustrated in annotated photographs identifying important components of the view.
- elements, such as landform, buildings or vegetation, which may interrupt, filter or otherwise influence the views;
- whether or how the view may be affected by seasonal or weather variation.

Assessing the Visual Effects

Predicting and describing visual effects

The baseline information about the visual receptors was combined with understanding of the details of the proposal to identify and describe the visual effects, considering:

- changes in views and visual amenity arising from elements of the development;
- the distance of the viewpoint from the development and whether the viewer would focus on the development due to its scale and proximity or whether the development would be only a small or minor element in a panoramic view;
- whether the view is stationary or transient or one of a sequence of views;
- the nature of the changes: changes in the skyline, creation of a new visual focus in the view, introduction of new elements, changes in visual simplicity or complexity, alteration of visual scale or the degree of visual enclosure; and
- seasonal differences in effects, arising from the varying degree of screening and/or filtering of views by vegetation in summer and winter.

Categorising the visual effects as adverse or beneficial (or neutral) in their consequences for views and visual amenity was based on judgments about whether the changes affect the quality of the visual experience, and the nature of the existing views and the nature of the changes to the views.

The visual effects were assessed, based on assessment of the nature of the visual receptors and their sensitivity, and the nature of the effect on views and visual amenity, that is, the magnitude of visual change.

Sensitivity of the visual receptors

The people or groups of people likely to be affected at a specific viewpoint – the visual receptors – are assessed in terms of their susceptibility to change in views and visual amenity and the value attached to particular view locations and views.

The susceptibility of visual receptors to changes in views and visual amenity is a function of the occupation or activity of people experiencing the view at particular locations and the extent to which their attention or interest is focused on the views or the visual amenity they experience at particular locations. The context of the location also contributes to susceptibility, for example, people viewing from residential properties or from a valued landscape are likely to be more susceptible to change than people viewing from an industrial context. Table A2-8 illustrates indicative criteria used to determine visual receptor susceptibility:

Table A2-8 Indicative criteria to determine visual receptor susceptibility.

Susceptibility	Criteria
High Susceptibility	Residents at home. People engaged in outdoor recreation, including use of public rights of way, whose attention or interest is likely to be focused on the landscape and on particular views. Visitors to designated landscapes, heritage assets, or other attractions, where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience. Communities where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents in the area.
Moderate Susceptibility	Residents at home with oblique, filtered, interrupted views. People engaged in outdoor sports and recreation, whose attention or interest is likely to be focused on the activity/sport rather than the view. Visitors to the landscape where the surroundings contribute to the experience.
Low Susceptibility	People engaged in outdoor sport or recreation which does not involve or depend upon appreciation of views of the landscape. People at their place of work whose attention may be focused on their work or activity not on their surroundings and where the setting is not important to the quality of working life. Travellers on road, rail or other transport routes, except along recognised scenic routes, where awareness of views is likely to be high.

Where the susceptibility identified falls between high and low, an intermediate level of susceptibility is assigned, e.g., "medium." The basis for the scale of susceptibility assigned to the visual receptor is linked back to evidence from the baseline study.

Judgments were made about the value attached to the views identified, taking account of recognition, for example, in relation to heritage assets, or through planning designations, appearance in guidebooks or on tourist maps, promotion of particular locations or provision of facilities provided for their enjoyment, such as parking places, sign boards and interpretive material, or references to them in literature or art.

The sensitivity of visual receptors to change is categorised as high, moderate or lesser, in accordance with the criteria set out below.

Table A2-9 Indicative criteria for visual sensitivity

Category	Indicative criteria
High sensitivity	Viewers in residential or community properties. Views experienced by many viewers. Daily, prolonged or sustained views available over a long period, or where the view of the landscape is an important attractant. A view from a landscape, recreation facility or route valued nationally or internationally for its visual amenity.
Moderate sensitivity	Viewers in residential or community properties with partial or largely screened views of the site. Frequent open views available. Viewers are pursuing activities such as sports or outdoor work, where the landscape is not the principal reason for being there or the focus of attention is only partly on the view. A view from other valued landscapes, or a regionally important recreation facility or route.
Lesser sensitivity	A view of low importance or value, or where the viewer's attention is not focused their surroundings. A view from a landscape of moderate or less importance, or a locally important recreation facility. Occasional open views or glimpsed views available; passing views available to travellers in vehicles. A view available to few viewers.

Where the sensitivity based on the combination of the judgement of susceptibility and value falls between high, moderate and lesser, an intermediate level of sensitivity is assigned, e.g., "lesser-moderate or moderate-high." The basis for the sensitivity assigned to the visual

receptor is linked back to evidence from the baseline study and analysis of the nature of the potential effects on the receptor as a result of the proposed development.

Magnitude of visual change

The visual effects identified are evaluated in terms of size or scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced, duration and reversibility.

Table A2-10 Considerations for assessing magnitude of visual change

Consideration	Indicative criteria
Size or scale of change	Categorised on a scale of large, medium, small or none, based upon: The degree of the loss or addition of features in the view; The extent of changes in the composition of the view, including the proportion of the view occupied by the proposed development; The degree of contrast or integration of the changes with the existing or remaining landscape elements and characteristics; The nature of the view of the proposed development, whether full, partial or glimpsed, or the relative amount of time over which it will be experienced.
Geographical area over which the changes would be experienced	The geographic extent reflects: The extent of the area over which the changes would be visible; The angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor; The distance of the viewpoint from the proposed development.
The duration of the changes	Categorised as: Short term: zero to three years; Medium term: three to twenty years; Long term: fifteen to twenty-five years; Permanent: more than twenty-five years.
Reversibility	The prospect and the practicality of the effect being reversed within twenty-five years.

Indicative criteria used to determine the magnitude of change is as follows:

Table A2-11 Indicative criteria for assessing magnitude of visual change.

Magnitude of Change	Visual Change
Great change	Major size or scale of change, affecting a large proportion of the angle of the view, or affecting views from a wide area; continuing into the longer term or permanently, with low prospect of reversibility.
Medium change	Intermediate size or scale of change, affecting part of the angle of the view, or affecting some views from the wider area, or larger scale of change in views from within the immediate context of the site; continuing into the medium term, with good prospect of reversibility.
Small change	A minor proportion of the angle of view is affected or the contribution of the changed elements or characteristics to the composition of the view is not important; the changes are viewed from longer distances, are short term and reversible.
Negligible	Barely perceptible change or the change is difficult to discern; No change in the view or the changes due to the development are out of view.

Judging the overall visual effects

Final conclusions about the degree of visual effects, whether adverse or beneficial, relate the separate judgements about sensitivity of the receptors and magnitude of the changes, as illustrated in the indicative criteria shown in Table A2-12:

Table A2-12 Indicative criteria for assessing visual effects.

Visual effect	Indicative criteria
Major	Great change or visual intrusion experienced by highly sensitive viewers or from highly sensitive public viewpoints; The proposal would cause a great deterioration in the existing view available to highly sensitive viewers; Great improvement in the view, sufficient to upgrade overall visual amenity. Large scale changes which introduce new, non-characteristic or discordant or intrusive elements into the view, especially where affecting people who are particularly sensitive to changes in views and visual amenity or people at recognised and important viewpoints or from recognised scenic routes.

Visual effect	Indicative criteria
Moderate	Medium change or visual intrusion experienced by moderately sensitive viewers; Smaller change to higher sensitivity viewers or greater change to less sensitive viewers.
Minor	Small or localised visual intrusion in the existing view, especially for less sensitive viewers. Small or localised reduction in visual intrusion, or improvement in the view. Reversible short-term changes, in views available to people for whom the view of the landscape is not the principal focus of interest.
Negligible	Negligible change in the view or the change is difficult to discern even for a highly sensitive viewer.

In addition to these criteria, in some instances the effect may be discernible or greater, but offset by other considerations, for example, through the mitigation or landscape proposals for the development, and the resulting effect is neither beneficial nor adverse.

Assessing Cumulative Effects

The cumulative assessment considers the potential effects upon landscape character and potential effects upon visual amenity that may arise as an indirect consequence of the proposed development.

Types of Cumulative Effects

Cumulative landscape and visual effects result from additional changes to landscape and visual amenity caused by the proposed development in conjunction or in combination with other developments of similar nature. The types of cumulative effects assessed are:

Additive effects: landscape and/or visual effects combined with or in addition to the effects of the other developments;

Sequential effects: experience of first one effect, and later another at different places as one moves through the landscape;

Temporal effects: effects accumulating over a period of time on the landscape or visual amenity, from this proposal and the other developments that are either operational, under construction, or have planning approval.

Cumulative landscape and visual effects that may introduce new types of change and/or increase or extend effects of the main project are identified and whether the proposed project adds to or combines with the other developments to create cumulative effects.

Assessing Cumulative Landscape Effects

The assessment considers cumulative effects on the fabric of the landscape and its individual elements or features; on the aesthetic, perceptual or experiential aspects of the landscape, such as scale, sense of enclosure, diversity, pattern, colour, sense of naturalness, remoteness or tranquillity, and on the overall character of the landscape, especially modification to key characteristics and possible creation of new landscape character.

Final conclusions about the degree of the cumulative effect on the landscape of this proposed project with the other developments considered are based upon the following considerations:

Table A2-13 Indicative criteria for assessing cumulative landscape effects

Visual effect	Indicative criteria
Major	Large irreversible effects, over an extensive area, on elements and/or aesthetic and perceptual aspects that are key to the character of nationally valued landscapes. Cumulatively, the developments are a key characteristic of the landscape, defining a new landscape character type or area.
Moderate	Cumulatively, the developments are becoming a characteristic of the landscape, but not of sufficient dominance to be a defining characteristic of the area.
Minor	Cumulatively, the developments are not an important or key characteristic of the landscape and have little effect on the values and experiences associated with the landscape e.g., wildness, sense of history; Reversible effects of short duration, over a restricted area, on elements and/or aesthetic and perceptual aspects that contribute to but are not key characteristics of the character of the landscape.
Negligible	The developments have little effect on the landscape character cumulatively.

Assessing Cumulative Visual Effects

Cumulative visual effects, resulting from changes in the content and character of the views due to introduction of new elements or removal of or damage to existing ones, are identified

and the nature of views available and the contribution of project being assessed to cumulative visual effects. Additive effects may occur either when developments are seen together in one angle of view or where they are seen when looking in different directions from one location. The effects on viewers as they follow linear routes and move through the landscape are considered as sequential effects.

Final conclusions about the degree of the cumulative effect on the visual amenity of this proposed project with the other developments considered are based upon the following considerations:

Table A2-14 Indicative criteria for assessing cumulative visual effects.

Visual effect	Indicative criteria
Major	Cumulatively, the developments dominate the view, seeming to define a new visual aesthetic; Large scale effects arising from new, non-characteristic or discordant or intrusive elements into the view of highly sensitive receptors, or at recognised and important viewpoints, or from recognised scenic routes.
Moderate	Cumulatively, the developments are seen as a characteristic of the landscape in the view, but not of sufficient dominance to be a defining characteristic of the visual amenity.
Minor	Cumulatively, the developments are separate isolated elements of the landscape in the view, too infrequent and of insufficient importance to be perceived as a characteristic of the area; Cumulatively, the effects on visual amenity are reversible, of short duration, or occur over a restricted area.
Negligible	The developments have little effect on the visual amenity cumulatively.

Effects may be adverse or beneficial. In some instances, the effect may be offset by other considerations, for example, through the mitigation proposals, and the resulting effect is neither beneficial nor adverse.

Appendix 3 – Assessment of Effects

Table Appendix 3.1: Landscape Magnitude of Change

Landscape Receptor	Magnitude of Change during construction	Magnitude of Change during operation	Magnitude of Change during decommissioning
Low lying topography on riverside flat infill/reclaimed land	The proposed BESS would be partly accommodated within the existing retained topography with some required changes to topography within the western part of the site, where the ash storage will be removed and the site generally levelled. The scale of changes to the site topography would be small within the geographical area of the site and its immediate setting. The short-term changes would lead to permanent. The magnitude of change is considered to be **small**.	The physical features of the topography would remain largely intact. The BESS development would require some reprofiling of the western part of the site. The topography in the remainder of the site would be generally unaltered. The scale of the changes would be small scale over a small geographical area of the site and its immediate setting. The permanent change would generally be limited to the western part of the site. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be **small**.	The short-term activities would be similar to the construction activities but in reverse. The scale of the changes would be small scale over a small geographical area. The magnitude of change is considered to be **small**. Following the completion of the activities, the magnitude of change would reduce to **negligible** as the permanent topography changes to the western part of the site would be fully integrated into the retained flat topography.
Short and mid-distance views with several detractors	Perceptual changes during the construction activities would include the movement of vehicles and associated sound by this would be in context to the sound and movement associated with the largescale industrial use within the surrounding landscape. The activities would be over the short-term, the magnitude of change is considered to be **small.**	Change would be permanent. The scale of the change would be small, affecting the geographical area of the site and its immediate setting. The contribution of enhancement measures and new planting would increase throughout the operational lifespan of the development, as management measures are implemented, and planting establishes. The magnitude of change is assessed as **small-medium** throughout the long-term operational period.	The short-term activities would be similar to the construction activities but in reverse. The scale of the changes would be small scale over a small geographical area. The magnitude of change is considered to be **small.** Following the completion of the activities, overtime the magnitude of change would increase to **small-medium** as planting becomes fully established in accordance with management objectives.
Mixed boundaries including site hording boards, fence and scrub.	Development proposals include the removal of the existing site boundary treatment and the introduction of new site boundary security fence. Any existing boundary vegetation deemed worthy of retention will be fenced and protected during construction. Landscape proposals would be implemented. The scale of changes to the site boundaries would be small within the geographical area of the site and its immediate setting. The short-term changes would lead to permanent change. The magnitude of change is considered to be **small**.	Landscape treatments implemented during construction would continue to mature and grow in their contribution to the boundaries of the site during the operation phase. The loss off existing scrub planting would be compensated for through planting of new native species to define boundaries and in buffers to any retained existing vegetated boundaries. Change would be permanent. The scale of the change would be small, affecting the geographical area of the site and its immediate setting. The contribution of enhancement measures and new planting would increase throughout the operational lifespan of the development, as management measures are implemented, and planting establishes. The magnitude of change is assessed as **small-medium** throughout the long-term operational period.	The short-term activities would be similar to the construction activities but in reverse. The scale of the changes would be small scale over a small geographical area. Following the establishment of planting and implementation of the management regime prescribed for the lifespan of the development (as detailed in the Landscape and Ecology Management Plan), the proposed planting would likely have improved structure and reinforced landscape and visual value, along with ecological connectivity. The magnitude of change is considered to be **small**. Following the completion of the decommissioning activities, the magnitude of change would increase to **small-medium** as planting becomes fully established in accordance with management objectives.

Landscape Receptor	Magnitude of Change during construction	Magnitude of Change during operation	Magnitude of Change during decommissioning
Historic industrial influence and disturbed land	The landscape that contains the site is indicated to be heavily influenced by early industrial activities. The historic field pattern of the site would remain intact. Construction activity would be accommodated within the disturbed landscape that is heavily influenced by historic human activity. The scale of the change would be small, affecting a small geographical area. The activities would be over the short-term, the magnitude of change is considered to be **small**.	The BESS scheme would be accommodated alongside the existing elements that are critical to landscape character – infrastructure and human activity is characteristic of the land. The development would represent a very minor component in terms of the total extent of the landscape receptor. The scale of the changes would be small, affecting a small geographical area. The indirect changes would be permanent. Magnitude of change is considered to be **small.**	The short-term activities would be similar to the construction activities but in reverse. The scale of the changes would be small scale over a small geographical area. The magnitude of change is considered to be **small.** Following the completion of the activities, the magnitude of change would reduce to **negligible** as the existing elements that are critical to landscape character – infrastructure and human activity will remain unchanged.
Industrial edge – Uskmouth Power station and pylon influence	The construction activities on the site would introduce additional sound and movement within the wider setting. There may be some interruptions to views from the wider landscape, or perception of increased activity and movement, however activity maybe perceived within the context of the range of manmade influences and activity within surrounding landscape. The short-term changes would lead to permanent change. The magnitude of chance is considered to be **small**.	The proposed development would add infrastructure to the site, accommodated within the existing landscape pattern. The role of the site within the industrial edge setting would remain largely unaffected by the proposals, which would be accommodated within the landscape backdrop. Change would be permanent. Overall magnitude is considered to be **small.**	The short-term activities would be similar to the construction activities but in reverse. The scale of the changes would be small scale over a small geographical area. The magnitude of change is considered to be **small.** Following the completion of the activities, the magnitude of change would reduce to **negligible** as the role of the site within the industrial edge setting would remain unchanged.

Table Appendix 3.2: Landscape effects

Landscape Receptor	Sensitivity to changes arising from the proposals	Magnitude of change	Degree & nature of effects during construction	Magnitude of Change during operation	Magnitude of Change during decommissioning
Low lying topography on riverside flat infill/reclaimed land	**Low sensitivity**	Construction: **Small** Operation: **Small** Decommissioning: **Small, reducing to Negligible**	Effects would be **minor, adverse** due to the small-scale change for low sensitivity receptors. Landform change because of construction would be limited.	Effects would be **minor, adverse** due to the small-scale change for low sensitivity receptors. Topography changes would be limited, and topography changes would be fully integrated into the retained topography	Effects would be **minor, adverse** due to the small-scale change for low sensitivity receptors. Effects would reduce to **negligible** as permanent topography changes would be fully integrated into the retained topography.
Short and mid-distance views with several detractors	**Low sensitivity**	During Construction: **Small** Operation at year 10: **Small-medium** During Decommissioning: **Small, increasing to Small-medium**	Effects would be **minor, adverse** due to the small-scale change for low sensitivity receptors. Construction activities would be accommodated by the existing industrial and human influenced landscape.	Effects would be **minor-moderate, beneficial** due to the small-scale change for low sensitivity receptors. The BESS infrastructure would be accommodated alongside existing industrial and other manmade infrastructure elements. Mitigation proposals would also be implemented.	Effects would be **minor,** adverse due to the small-scale change for low sensitivity receptors. Effects would increase to **minor – moderate beneficial** due to the mitigation proposals positively contributing to site and landscape local to the site.

Landscape Receptor	Sensitivity to changes arising from the proposals	Magnitude of change	Degree & nature of effects during construction	Magnitude of Change during operation	Magnitude of Change during decommissioning
Mixed boundaries including site hording boards, fence and scrub.	**Low sensitivity**	During Construction: **Small** Operation at year 10: **Medium - small** During Decommissioning: **Small, increasing to Small-medium**	Effects would be **minor, adverse** as a result of small-scale change for low sensitivity receptors. Effects would mostly be because of the removal of the existing boundary treatment and any vegetation removal.	Effects would be **minor-moderate, beneficial** due to the medium-small magnitude change for low sensitivity receptors. Boundaries would be improved and strengthened through additional buffer and infill planting.	Effects would be **minor, adverse** as a result of small-scale change for low sensitivity receptors. Effects would increase to **minor-moderate, beneficial** due to the mitigation proposals positively contributing to site and landscape local to the site.
Historic industrial influence and disturbed land	**Moderate - low sensitivity**	During Construction: **Small** Operation at year 10: **Small** During Decommissioning: **Small, reducing to negligible**	Effects would be **minor, adverse** as a result of small-scale change for moderate-low sensitivity receptors. Construction activities would be accommodated by the landscape.	Effects would be **minor, adverse** due to the combination small magnitude and moderate-low sensitivity. BESS infrastructure would be accommodated alongside other industrial and human influences.	Effects would be **minor, adverse** due to the combination small magnitude and moderate-low sensitivity. Effects would reduce to **negligible** as the existing elements that are critical to landscape character – infrastructure and human activity will remain unchanged.
Industrial edge – Uskmouth Power station and pylon influence	**Low sensitivity**	During Construction: **Small** Operation at year 10: **Small** During Decommissioning: **Small, reducing to negligible**	Effects would be **minor, adverse** as a result of small-scale change for low sensitivity receptors. Construction activities would be accommodated by the industrial landscape.	Effects would be **minor, adverse** due to the combination small magnitude and low sensitivity. BESS infrastructure would be accommodated alongside other infrastructure elements.	Effects would be **minor, adverse** due to the combination small magnitude and low sensitivity. Effects would reduce to **negligible** as the existing elements that are critical to landscape character – infrastructure and human activity will remain unchanged.

Table Appendix 3.3: View with development & magnitude of change

Viewpoint reference	View of the proposed development during construction and magnitude of change	Magnitude of Change during operation	Magnitude of Change during decommissioning
01 - Wales Coastal Path looking north towards the site	During the construction phase, construction activity would occur within the site at close distance. Although direct, ground-level views of construction activity would be limited to the activity in the western part of the site, behind the pylon in the centre of the view. It is likely that the taller elements would be visible, behind the mid ground vegetation. This might include the erection of temporary fencing, along with the removal of stored ash within the site, some reprofiling inside the BESS site area and planting of the landscape mitigation proposals. Activity could involve the use of large sized vehicles and plant and would likely result in the perception of noise and movement in the site at close distance. The scale of change to the view would be medium – there would be the addition of construction activity on the skyline. Noise and movement from construction activity would likely be perceived in context to the existing noise and movement of traffic within the Uskmouth power station and the view would be partial. Although screening from trees and vegetation along the northern side of the path would limit the geographical area affected as no view would be available from many locations along the route, construction would occur at close distance, above eye-level and within a moderate proportion of the view. Views of construction would be away from the main view direction. The changes would be short-term, leading to permanent change. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be **medium**.	Following construction of the scheme, the development would likely be partially visible below the skyline, in front of the power station building and behind the central pylon. The taller elements such as substation, transformer and other infrastructure may just be seen above and between intervening vegetation during winter months. As the landscape planting implemented to the southern boundary area of the site establishes, it is likely that the development would become increasingly obscured from view by the planted boundary buffer. The scale of change to the view would be small. Partial views of the completed development would likely be available, forming new, but not incongruous, elements within the view. There would likely be some degree of integration alongside the existing pylon and substation infrastructure adjacent to the site. The extent of area affected would include the specific locations on the Wales Coast Path where there are views between the gaps in vegetation. Views would be away from the main view direction, at close distance. The geographical area affected is therefore small-medium. The changes would be permanent. The magnitude of change during operation would be **medium-small**.	The short-term activities would be similar to the construction activities but in reverse. Associated planting within the site would be established. Vegetation along the southern boundary would be mature, reflecting the character of the existing vegetation along the route. The magnitude of change would be **small**.
02 - Wales Coastal Path looking northwest towards the site	Construction activity would occur at short distance. Although direct ground-level views of construction activity would be screened from view, it is likely that the taller elements would be visible above intervening vegetation along the route and in front of the power station buildings. The scale of change to the view would be small. The additional features in the view resulting from construction would be small, occupying a small proportion of the field of view. Views would be partial and filtered. Activity may be perceived in context to existing activity in the industrial landscape. The geographical area affected would include the stetch of path local to the viewpoint that have views toward the site. Views would be at eye-level, at short distance. The changes would be short-term, leading to permanent change. Overall, the magnitude of change during construction would be **small**.	Following completion of the development, partial views of the taller elements such as substation, transformer and other infrastructure may just be seen above and between intervening vegetation during winter months and could easily be missed by the average user. The scale of the change would be small – partial and filtered views would integrate into the existing pylon and industrial infrastructure. The geographical area affected would include the stetch of footpath local to the viewpoint that have views toward the site. Views would be at eye-level, at short distance. The changes would be permanent. The magnitude of change during operation would be **small**.	The short-term activities would be similar to the construction activities but in reverse. The associated planting within the site would be established, therefore the magnitude of change would be **small**.

Viewpoint reference	View of the proposed development during construction and magnitude of change	Magnitude of Change during operation	Magnitude of Change during decommissioning
03 - Wales Coastal Path on the west bank of the Usk River looking east towards the site	Construction activity would occur at long distance and no direct ground-levels views would be available. There may be some slight perception of activity within the site during the construction phase, however the extent of visibility would be limited to taller elements of construction and at distance. The scale of change to the view would be small - negligible. Additional features resulting from construction would occupy a very small proportion of the expansive view and would be minor new, but not incongruous elements. Views would be partial and there would be a large degree of screening from the local landform to the west of the site. The geographical area affected would include the stetch of path local to the viewpoint that have open views toward the site. As a result of landform and intervening vegetation, views may not be available from anywhere along this stretch of the footpath. The changes would be short-term, leading to permanent change. Overall, the magnitude of change during construction would be **small-negligible**.	Following completion, the taller elements such as substation, transformer and other infrastructure may just be perceptible above intervening landform and vegetation. The scale of change would be small – new but not incongruous elements would integrate into the view alongside electricity and power station infrastructure. The proposed BESS could easily be missed by the average user. The geographical area affected would include the stetch of path local to the viewpoint that have open views toward the site. As a result of landform and intervening vegetation, views may not be available from anywhere along this stretch of the footpath. The magnitude of change during operation would be **small-negligible**.	The short-term activities would be similar to the construction activities but in reverse. The associated planting within the site would be established therefore the magnitude of change would be **small-negligible**.
04 - Wales Coastal Path on the west bank of the Usk River looking northeast towards the site	Construction activity would occur at long distance and no direct ground-levels views would be available. There may be some slight perception of activity within the site during the construction phase, however the extent of visibility would be limited to taller elements of construction and at distance. The scale of change to the view would be small - negligible. Additional features resulting from construction would occupy a very small proportion of the expansive view and would be very minor new, but not incongruous elements. Views would be partial and there would be a large degree of screening from the local landform to the west of the site. The geographical area affected would include the stetch of path local to the viewpoint that have open views toward the site. As a result of landform and intervening vegetation, views may not be available from anywhere along this stretch of the footpath. The changes would be short-term, leading to permanent change. Overall, the magnitude of change during construction would be **small-negligible**.	Following completion, the taller elements such as substation, transformer and other infrastructure may just be perceptible above intervening landform and vegetation. The scale of change would be small – new but not incongruous elements would integrate into the view alongside electricity and power station infrastructure. The proposed BESS could easily be missed by the average user. The geographical area affected would include the stetch of path local to the viewpoint that have open views toward the site. As a result of landform and intervening vegetation, views may not be available from anywhere along this stretch of the footpath. The magnitude of change during operation would be **small-negligible**.	The short-term activities would be similar to the construction activities but in reverse. The associated planting within the site would be established, therefore the magnitude of change would be **small-negligible**.

Viewpoint reference	View of the proposed development during construction and magnitude of change	Magnitude of Change during operation	Magnitude of Change during decommissioning
05 - Lighthouse Road looking east towards the site	Construction activity would occur at long distance and no direct ground-levels views would be available. There may be some slight perception of activity within the site during the construction phase, however the extent of visibility would be limited to taller elements of construction and at distance. The scale of change to the view would be negligible. Additional features resulting from construction would occupy a such a small proportion of the expansive view that it could be easily missed by the average user of the road. The geographical area affected would include the stetch of road local to the viewpoint that have views toward the site. As a result of landform and intervening vegetation, views may not be available from anywhere along this stretch of the footpath. The changes would be short-term, leading to permanent change. Overall, the magnitude of change during construction would be **negligible**.	Following completion, the taller elements such as substation, transformer and other infrastructure may just be perceptible above intervening landform and vegetation at distance. The scale of change would be negligible as new elements would integrate into the view alongside electricity and power station infrastructure. The proposed BESS could easily be missed by the average user. The geographical area affected would include the stetch of road local to the viewpoint that have open views toward the site. As a result of landform and intervening vegetation, views may not be available from anywhere along this stretch of the road. The magnitude of change during operation would be **negligible**.	The short-term activities would be similar to the construction activities but in reverse. The associated planting within the site would be established therefore the magnitude of change would be **negligible**.
06 - Wales Coastal Path looking north towards the site	As a result of distance and intervening vegetation, the extent of construction phase change would be limited to the taller elements. Direct ground level activities would be screened from view. The scale of change would be small-negligible. The geographical area affected would be small, close to the viewpoint that have north-facing views. Changes would be short-term, leading to permanent change. Overall, the magnitude of change during construction would be **small-negligible**.	During operation, the taller elements of the completed BESS may be visible but would be a very minor component in the expansive view. The scheme would integrate into the view as a result of distance. New elements would not be incongruous alongside the existing manmade elements of the power station. The scale of change would be small-negligible. The geographical area affected would be small, close to the viewpoint that have north-facing views. Changes would be short-term, leading to permanent change. Overall, the magnitude of change during operation would be **small-negligible**.	The short-term activities would be similar to the construction activities but in reverse. The associated planting within the site would be established. Trees scattered along the southern boundary would have matured and would help to further integrate the development into the landscape, already limited in magnitude by distance and the wide nature of the view. The magnitude of change would be **small-negligible**.

Table Appendix 3.4: Visual effects

Visual Receptors & Sensitivity	Reference Viewpoints	Magnitude of change:	Degree & nature of effects during construction	Degree & nature of effects during operation	Magnitude of Change at decommissioning
Road users and Residents in scattered farmsteads at medium-long distance with oblique views of the site: **moderate sensitivity**	**05**	Construction: **Negligible** Operation: **Negligible** After 10 years: **Negligible**	Effects would be **negligible,** due to negligible change, experienced by moderate sensitive viewers. Effects are considered neutral as the quality of visual experience would continue to be broadly similar.	Effects would be **negligible,** due to negligible change, experienced by moderate sensitive viewers. Effects are considered neutral as the quality of visual experience would continue to be broadly similar.	Effects would be **negligible,** due to negligible change, experienced by moderate sensitive viewers. Effects are considered neutral as the quality of visual experience would continue to be broadly similar.

Visual Receptors & Sensitivity	Reference Viewpoints	Magnitude of change:	Degree & nature of effects during construction	Degree & nature of effects during operation	Magnitude of Change at decommissioning
Users of PRoW at short distance to the south within the SLA with partially open views of the site: **High sensitivity**	**01**	Construction: **Medium-Small** Operation: **Medium-Small** After 10 years: **Small**	Effects would be **moderate-minor, adverse** due to medium-small change, experienced by high sensitivity receptors.	Effects would be **moderate-minor, adverse** due to medium-small change, experienced by high sensitivity receptors.	Effects would be **minor, adverse** due to small change, experienced by high sensitivity receptors.
Users of PRoW at short distance to the southeast within the SLA with filtered views of the site: **moderate sensitivity**	**02** **06**	Construction: **Small** Operation: **Small** After 10 years: **Small**	Effects would be **minor** due to small change, experienced by moderate sensitivity receptors. Effects are considered neutral as the quality of visual experience would continue to be broadly similar.	Effects would be **minor** due to small change, experienced by moderate sensitivity receptors. Effects are considered neutral as the quality of visual experience would continue to be broadly similar.	Effects would be **minor** due to small change, experienced by moderate sensitivity receptors. Effects are considered neutral as the quality of visual experience would continue to be broadly similar.
Users of PRoW at medium-long distance to the west and southwest within the SLA with filtered views of the site: **moderate sensitivity**	**03** **04**	Construction: **Small-negligible** Operation: **Small-negligible** After 10 years: **Small-smell negligible**	Effects would be **minor-negligible** due to small-negligible change, experienced by moderate sensitivity receptors. Effects are considered neutral as the quality of visual experience would continue to be broadly similar.	Effects would be **minor-negligible** due to small-negligible change, experienced by moderate sensitivity receptors. Effects are considered neutral as the quality of visual experience would continue to be broadly similar.	Effects would be **minor-negligible** due to small-negligible change, experienced by moderate sensitivity receptors. Effects are considered neutral as the quality of visual experience would continue to be broadly similar.

Appendix 4 - Visualisations

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