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Environmental Statement

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6F Visual Receptor Assessment

6.1. Recreational Routes and Destinations

6.1.1. The users of recreational routes and destinations (visual receptors) within the Study Area that are scoped into the assessment are identified and described in the Baseline section (6.7) of **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual**. These are as follows:

- Recreational users of WCP (Footpaths L1/7/1 through the Site and L/1/6/1 through Lavernock Point Nature Reserve);
- Recreational users of Footpath L1/5/2 (though the Site);
- Recreational users of Footpath L1/1/1 (through Lavernock Point Nature Reserve);
- Recreational users of Lavernock Point Nature Reserve;
- Visitors to The Bay Caravan Park; and
- Visitors to Marconi Holiday Village.

6.1.2. The sensitivity of these visual receptors to the Proposed Development is discussed in **Appendix 6E: Viewpoint Analysis** and summarised in Table 6-8 within **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual**. This assesses the magnitude of change which is likely to arise as a consequence of the Proposed Development before determining the level and type of effect and its significance during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases.

6.1.3. The assessments below are informed by the Viewpoint Analysis in **Appendix 6E: Viewpoint Analysis** and **Figure 6.7: Viewpoint Photos** of the ES, which shows the representative viewpoint photographs. The table for each representative viewpoint provides further information on the sensitivity of visual receptors that would experience the view in this location and goes on to make a judgement on the scale of change that would occur in that particular view. The change to that view is then applied to the visual experience of users for each visual receptor group to understand how the Proposed Development would affect the visual amenity in that location.

6.1.4. Otherwise, judgements have been made based on field observations carried out during site visits combined with desk-based analysis.

Table 6F.1- Assessment of effect: Recreational Routes and Destinations

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Rationale
Recreational users of WCP (Footpaths L1/7/1 / L1/8/1 through the Site and L/1/6/1 through Lavernock Point Nature Reserve) (Representative Viewpoints 1 and 2)	High	Construction: Low Adverse	Construction: Minor Adverse and Not Significant	<u>Construction</u> There would be direct and open views of the construction activities seen in close proximity as the WCP follows Footpaths L1/7/1 and L1/8/1 through Fields 8 and 11 within the Site. Although seen at more of a distance, the construction activities within Field 10 will still be visible as well as glimpses within Fields 6,9 and 8 from the section of the WCP that follows Footpath L1/6/1 through Lavernock Point Nature Reserve. Construction activities would be a dominating feature of views (high scale) restricted to these short sections of the overall route that are likely to be used as part of a longer recreational routes rather than in their own right (low extent) for a short term (low duration). Based on these considerations the magnitude of change would be Low (Adverse). <u>Operation</u> At completion of construction, the full extent of solar panels within Field 8 and 11 would be visible in close proximity as the WCP follows Footpaths L1/7/1 and L1/8/1 where the nature of the view would change from pastoral fields to a solar farm that would appear as an expansive technological element along these routes. When viewed at more of a distance from the section of the WCP that follows Footpath L1/6/1, the panels would introduce a technical element into the view which would be
		Operation: Medium Adverse reducing to Low Adverse over time	Operation: Moderate Adverse and Not Significant reducing to Minor Adverse and Not Significant over time	
		Decommissioning: Low Adverse	Decommissioning: Minor Adverse and Not Significant	

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Rationale
				visible but would appear contained within the pastoral landscape so would not dominate. The Proposed Development would dominate the visual experience within the Site (high scale). From more of a distance, it would be visible but not change the overall nature of the view (medium scale). Views would be restricted to these short sections of the overall route that are likely to be used as part of a longer recreational routes rather than in their own right (low extent) for a medium term (medium duration). Over time, the proposed scrub planting along the WCP as it follows Footpaths L1/7/1 and L1/8/1 through the Site would mature and be maintained at 2 m high. This would offer some screening of the panels breaking up their appearance when walking this particular section of the route. There would be no change to the appearance of the panels when walking the L1/6/1 section. The Proposed Development would dominate the visual experience within the Site (high scale). From more of a distance it would be visible but not change the overall nature of the view (medium scale). Views would be restricted to these short sections of the overall route and curtailed further when passing through the Site (negligible extent) for a long term (high duration). Based on these considerations the magnitude of change at completion would be Medium (Adverse) reducing to Low Adverse over time.

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Rationale
				This is considered to be Not Significant due to the short sections of the route affected along a route that is already influenced by suburban/man-made features (static caravans). <u>Decommissioning</u> During the decommissioning stage, the activities would be seen in a similar way to the construction activities but would be softened and obscured to some extent by the scrub planting along the WCP as it follows Footpaths L1/7/1 and L1/8/1 through the Site. However, it would be seen in the same way from the section along Footpath L1/6/1. Activities would be a dominating feature of views where they are visible (high scale) restricted to these short sections of the overall route and curtailed further when passing through the Site (negligible extent) for a short term (low duration). Based on these considerations the magnitude of change would be Low (Adverse).
Recreational users of Footpath L1/5/2 (though the Site) (Representative Viewpoints 1)	High	Construction: Medium Adverse	Construction: **Moderate Adverse** and **Significant**	<u>Construction</u> There would be direct and open views of the construction activities seen in close proximity as the route runs along the edges of Fields 8, 9 within the Site as well as possible glimpses through hedge gaps into Fields 4 5, 6, 10 and 11. The route itself will also be opened up and diverted. Construction activities would be a dominating feature of views (high scale) along the entire length of the route (high extent) for a short term (low duration).
		Operation: High Adverse reducing to Medium Adverse over time	Operation: **Major Adverse** and **Significant** reducing to **Moderate**	

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Rationale
			Adverse and **Significant** over time	Based on these considerations the magnitude of change would be Medium (Adverse). This is considered significant due to the direct changes to the footpath and its visual experience during the works. <u>Operation</u> At completion of construction, the full extent of solar panels within Field 8 and 11 would be visible in close proximity as the route runs along the northern edge of these fields. As part of the Proposed Development, the footpath is to be diverted so instead of running between the northern boundary of Field 10 and residential property to the north, it will be taken through the southern part of Field 6 where panels have been avoided but would still be visible in the wider field. The nature of the views would change from pastoral fields to a solar farm that would appear as an expansive technological element contained within the fields along this route. The Proposed Development would dominate the visual experience of the route (high scale) along the entire route (high extent) for a medium term (medium duration). Over time, the proposed hedge planting along footpath through Field 8 would mature and be maintained at 2 m high. This would screen views of the panels for this section of the route. The nature of this view would still have changed from open pastoral fields to enclosed between hedgerows, which is similar to the eastern half of the route currently so is not unusual. The proposed orchard planting would soften and filter views of the panel from the diverted section as it passes through Field 6. The
		Decommissioning: Medium Adverse	Decommissioning: Moderate Adverse and Not Significant	

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Rationale
				nature of the views would still change from being between boundaries to through the field that is now influenced by the solar farm with some interest and amenity offered by the orchard/wildflower planting. The visual experience of this route will change completely where the Proposed Development will still have a strong influence although not always the key feature of view (medium scale) along the entire route (high extent) for a long term (high duration). Based on these considerations the magnitude of change at completion would be High (Adverse) reducing to be Medium (Adverse) over time. This is considered significant due to the change to the visual experience of the footpath as running through pastoral fields to running through and in close proximity to a solar farm. <u>Decommissioning</u> During the decommissioning stage, the activities would be seen in a similar way to the construction activities but would be screened by the hedge through Field 8 and softened/filtered by the orchard through Field 6. Activities would likely influence but not dominate the visual experience with the screening/filtering now in place (medium scale) to the entire length of the route (high extent) for a short term (low duration). Based on these considerations the magnitude of change would be Medium (Adverse).

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Rationale
				This is considered to be Not Significant as views of the works would be reduced by mitigation planting although affect the entire route, but once the activity has taken place close to the route the fields would be left open and return to pasture so may not be apparent for the full duration of this phase.
Recreational users of Footpath L1/1/1 (through Lavernock Point Nature Reserve) (Representative Viewpoint 2 but at a slightly lower level)	High	Construction: Low Adverse	Construction: Minor Adverse and Not Significant	<u>Construction</u> Seen at some distance the construction activities within Field 10 will still be visible as glimpses within Field 10 amongst the surrounding fields and undulating landform but obscured more by the intervening woodland from the lower level of the north-eastern section of the footpath through Lavernock Point Nature Reserve. Construction activities would be visible but not a key feature of views when looking towards the Site (medium scale) restricted to glimpses along approximately 20% of the route as it passes through the more open north-eastern end of Lavernock Point Nature Reserve (low extent) for a short term (low duration). Based on these considerations the magnitude of change would be Low (Adverse). <u>Operation</u> From the lower level of this footpath, the panels would introduce a technical element but would only occupy a small portion of the view as glimpses through intervening woodland where they would appear contained within the pastoral landscape so would not dominate.
		Operation: Low Adverse	Operation: Minor Adverse and Not Significant	
		Decommissioning: Low Adverse	Decommissioning: Minor Adverse and Not Significant	

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Rationale
				The Proposed would be visible but not change the overall nature of the view (low scale) restricted to glimpses along approximately 20% of the route as it passes through the more open north-eastern end of Lavernock Point Nature Reserve (low extent) for a long term (high duration). The appearance of the Site including any embedded mitigation is not likely to change over time to the point where it would alter the scale of change in the view. Based on these considerations the magnitude of change during operation would be Low (Adverse). <u>Decommissioning</u> During the decommissioning stage, the activities would be seen in a similar way to the construction activities. Activities would be a visible but not a key feature of views when looking towards the site (medium scale) restricted to glimpses along approximately 20% of the route as it passes through the more open north-eastern end of Lavernock Point Nature Reserve (low extent) for a short term (low duration). Based on these considerations, the magnitude of change would be Low (Adverse).
Recreational users of Lavernock Point Nature Reserve (Representative Viewpoint 2 where the viewpoint photo	High	Construction: Medium Adverse	Construction: Moderate Adverse and Not Significant	<u>Construction</u> Seen at some distance, the construction activities within Field 10 will be visible as well as glimpses within Fields 6,9 and 8 from the higher level at Footpath L1/6/1 although visibility would reduce at the lower levels due to being obscured by intervening woodland.

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Rationale
shows worst-case at the highest point)				Construction activities would be a dominating feature of views from the elevated section but not a key feature in views from lower level (high and medium scale) across approximately 25% of the nature reserve (medium extent) for a short term (low duration). Based on these considerations the magnitude of change would be Medium (Adverse). This is considered to be not significant due to the short-term duration that activities will be visible and while they would be a dominant feature in certain views they would not dominate the overall visual experience throughout the nature reserve. <u>Operation</u> When viewed from the elevated section at Footpath L1/6/1, the panels would introduce a technical element into the view which would be visible. From the lower levels, the panels would only occupy a small portion of the view as glimpses through intervening woodland. In both situations they would appear contained within the pastoral landscape so would not dominate. The Proposed Development would be more visible as a key feature in views from elevated sections but occupy less of the view from lower levels, and both cases would not change the overall nature of the view (medium and low scale) across approximately 25% of the nature reserve (medium extent) for a long term (high duration).
		Operation: Medium Adverse	Operation: Moderate Adverse and Not Significant	
		Decommissioning: Medium Adverse	Decommissioning: Moderate Adverse and Not Significant	

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Rationale
				The appearance of the Site including any embedded mitigation is not likely to change over time to the point where it would alter the scale of change in the view. Based on these considerations the magnitude of change during operation would be Medium (Adverse). This is considered to be not significant as while the solar panels will be visible in certain views they would not dominate the overall visual experience throughout the nature reserve which is already influenced to some degree by nearby suburban/man-mad features (static caravans), particularly where the panels will be visible. <u>Decommissioning</u> During the decommissioning stage, the activities would be seen in a similar way to the construction activities. Activities would be a dominating feature of views from the elevated section but not a key feature in views from lower level (high and medium scale) across approximately 25% of the nature reserve (medium extent) for a short term (low duration). Based on these considerations the magnitude of change would be Medium (Adverse). This is considered to be not significant due to the short-term duration that activities will be visible and while they would be a dominant feature in certain views they would not dominate the overall visual experience throughout the nature reserve.

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Rationale
Visitors to The Bay Caravan Park (Representative Viewpoint 1 although behind the boundary vegetation and Viewpoint 5)	High	Construction: Low Adverse	Construction: Minor Adverse and Not Significant	<u>Construction</u> Where visible, construction activities would appear prominent due to their conspicuous nature in Fields 8 and 11 from within the holiday park and within Field 7 when arriving/leaving. However, views would be heavily curtailed and limited to gaps through boundary vegetation. Construction activities would be a key feature of views where they are visible (medium scale) although restricted to limited locations through gaps in boundary vegetation and where intervening caravans allow (negligible extent) for a short term (low duration). Based on these considerations the magnitude of change would be Low (Adverse). <u>Operation</u> Where visible, panels would appear prominent as technical elements introduced into the pastoral landscape within Fields 8 and 11 from within the holiday park and within Field 7 when arriving/leaving. However, views would be heavily curtailed and limited to gaps through boundary vegetation. The Proposed Development would be a key feature of views where they are visible (medium scale) although restricted to limited locations through gaps in boundary vegetation and where intervening caravans allow (negligible extent) for a medium term (low duration). Based on these considerations, the magnitude of change would be Low (Adverse).
		Operation: Low Adverse reducing to Negligible Adverse	Operation: Minor Adverse and Not Significant reducing to Negligible Adverse and Not Significant	
		Decommissioning: Negligible Adverse	Decommissioning: Negligible Adverse and Not Significant	

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Rationale
				Over time, the infilling within the boundary hedges and their management at 3 m high would obscure the panels from views within the holiday park. It is possible that there would still be glimpsed views of panels through gaps in boundary vegetation, particularly during the winter when not in leaf. The Proposed Development would cause little change to the overall visual experience within the Holiday Park (Negligible scale) where opportunities for views would be limited to through gaps in boundary vegetation and where intervening caravans allow (negligible extent) for a long term (high duration). Based on these considerations the magnitude of change would be Negligible (Adverse). <u>Decommissioning</u> During the decommissioning stage, the activities would appear in a similar way to the construction activities. Although opportunities to obtain views would be heavily restricted and limited to through gaps in the boundary vegetation, due to their conspicuous and prominent nature, they may be more visible in any gaps than the panels were. Activities would only slightly alter views where they are visible (low scale) although restricted to limited locations through gaps in boundary vegetation and where intervening caravans allow (negligible extent) for a short term (low duration). Based on these considerations, the magnitude of change would be Negligible (Adverse).

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Rationale
Visitors to Marconi Holiday Village (Representative Viewpoint 2 although behind the boundary vegetation)	High	Construction: Low Adverse	Construction: Minor Adverse and Not Significant	<u>Construction</u> Where views are available at this distance, the construction activities within Field 10 will be visible as well as potential glimpses within Fields 6,9 and 8. However, due to the intervening vegetation on the boundary activities are not likely to dominate views but could become a key feature in views. Construction activities could be a key feature of views where they are visible (medium scale) although limited to only from the northern edge of the holiday village and restricted through gaps in boundary vegetation and where intervening caravans allow (negligible extent) for a short term (low duration). Based on these considerations, the magnitude of change would be Low (Adverse). <u>Operation</u> At completion of construction, when viewed from this distance from limited locations within the Holiday Village the panels would introduce a technical element into the view which would be visible but would appear contained within the pastoral landscape so would not dominate. The Proposed Development would be visible but not change the overall nature of the view (medium scale) limited to only from the northern edge of the holiday village and restricted through gaps in boundary vegetation and where intervening caravans allow (negligible extent) for a long term (high duration).
		Operation: Low Adverse	Operation: Minor Adverse and Not Significant	
		Decommissioning: Low Adverse	Decommissioning: Minor Adverse and Not Significant	

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Rationale
				The appearance of the Site including any embedded mitigation is not likely to change over time to the point where it would alter the scale of change in the view. Based on these considerations, the magnitude of change during operation would be Low (Adverse). <u>Decommissioning</u> During the decommissioning stage, the activities would be seen in a similar way to the construction activities. Activities could be a key feature of views where they are visible (medium scale) although limited to only from the northern edge of the holiday village and restricted through gaps in boundary vegetation and where intervening caravans allow (negligible extent) for a short term (low duration). Based on these considerations, the magnitude of change would be Low (Adverse).

6.2. Transport Routes

6.2.1. The users of transport routes (visual receptors) within the Study Area that are scoped into the assessment are identified and described in the Baseline section (6.7) of **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual**. These are as follows:

- Users of Fort Road (vehicles users);
- Users of St Mary's Well Bay Road (vehicle users);
- Users of St Mary's Well Bay Road (pedestrians/cyclists);
- Users of Lavernock Road (B4267) (Vehicle users); and
- Users of Lavernock Road (B4267) (pedestrians/cyclists).

6.2.2. The sensitivity of these visual receptors to the Proposed Development is discussed in **Appendix 6E: Viewpoint Analysis** and summarised in Table 6-8 within **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual**. **Table 6F.2** assesses the magnitude of change which is likely to arise as a consequence of the Proposed Development before determining the level and type of effect and its significance during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases.

6.2.3. The assessments below are informed by the Viewpoint Analysis in **Appendix 6E: Viewpoint Analysis**. The table for each representative viewpoint provides further information on the sensitivity of visual receptors that would experience the view in this location and goes on to make a judgement on the scale of change that would occur in that particular view. The change to that view is then applied to the visual experience of users for each visual receptor group to understand how the Proposed Development would affect the visual amenity in that location.

6.2.4. Otherwise judgements have been made based on field observations carried out during site visits combined with desk-based analysis.

Table 6F.2 - Assessment of effect: Transport Routes

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Rationale
Users of Fort Road (vehicles users) (Representative viewpoint 3)	Medium	Construction: Low Adverse	Construction: Minor Adverse and Not Significant	<u>Construction</u> Construction activities would appear prominent due to their conspicuous nature in Fields 6 through the field gate as users are passing the Site in vehicles. Given the nature of the activities, it is possible that they could be visible above the roadside hedge which is currently clipped low as part of the pastoral use of the Site. Construction activities would be a dominant feature of the view (high scale) although restricted predominantly to a single view through the field gate but also potentially over the hedge when passing Field 6 (low extent) for a short term (low duration). Based on these considerations the magnitude of change would be Low (Adverse). <u>Operation</u> Where visible, panels would appear prominent as technical elements introduced into the pastoral landscape within Field 6. Views of the panels would be heavily curtailed beyond the field gate due to screening provided by roadside boundary hedge with panels set back away from the boundary within the field. The Proposed Development would be a dominant feature of the view (high scale) although heavily curtailed as restricted to a single view through the field gate in the hedge when passing Field 6 (negligible extent) for a long term (high duration).
		Operation: Low Adverse	Operation: Minor Adverse and Not Significant	
		Decommissioning: Low Adverse	Decommissioning: Minor Adverse and Not Significant	

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Rationale
				During the operational period, the boundary hedges will be maintained at 2 m high to ensure screening of the panels is provided for the lifetime of the Proposed Development. Therefore, any changes to the visual experience of this road determined at completion would remain during the operational period. Based on these considerations the magnitude of change would be Low (Adverse). <u>Decommissioning</u> During the decommissioning stage, the activities would appear in a similar way to the construction activities. Again, due to the nature of the activities, it is possible that they could be visible over the boundary hedgerow maintained at 2 m high. Activities would be a dominant feature of the view (high scale) although restricted predominantly to a single view through the field gate but also potentially over the hedge when passing Field 6 (low extent) for a short term (low duration). Based on these considerations, the magnitude of change would be Low (Adverse).

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Rationale
Users of St Mary's Well Bay Road (vehicle users) (Representative viewpoints 4a, 4b and 5)	Medium	Construction: Medium Adverse	Construction: Moderate Adverse and Not Significant	<u>Construction</u> Where visible, construction activities would appear prominent due to their conspicuous nature in Fields 2, 3, 4 and 7. Views would be available through gaps and over boundary vegetation on both sides of the road although more-so into fields 3 and 4 to the east where gaps in vegetation are currently more extensive. To the west, they are limited to small gaps and a few field gates. This would include all three construction compounds, where two would be glimpsed through gaps in vegetation and the view of the one in Field 4 would be more direct due to a lack of vegetation in that location. Construction activities would be a key feature and prominent in views where they are visible (high scale) from approximately a third of the length (medium extent) for a short term (low duration). Based on these considerations the magnitude of change would be Medium (Adverse). This is considered not significant due to the short-term duration of the construction activities (and the way in which vehicle users will experience the views). <u>Operation</u> Where visible, panels would appear prominent as technical elements introduced into the pastoral landscape within Fields 2, 3 4 and 7 seen through gaps and field gates in boundary vegetation on both sides of the road, although more so in the east where gaps are more extensive. The Project Substation Compound
		Operation: Medium Adverse reducing to Low Adverse over time	Operation: Moderate Adverse and Not Significant reducing to Minor Adverse so Not Significant over time	
		Decommissioning: Low Adverse	Decommissioning: Minor Adverse and Not Significant	
Users of St Mary's Well Bay Road (pedestrians/cyclists) (Representative viewpoints 4a, 4b and 5)	High	Construction: Medium Adverse	Construction: Moderate Adverse and Not Significant	

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Rationale
		Operation: Medium Adverse reducing to Low Adverse over time	Operation: **Major Adverse** and **Significant** reducing to Minor Adverse so Not Significant over time	would be visible in a similar way as it would include technical elements and a building. The building would not appear taller than the surrounding panels and would be of a muted colour to minimize its prominence. The Project Substation would be seen through small gaps in boundary vegetation rather than as a direct view through a field gate. The Proposed Development would be a key feature and prominent in views where they are visible (high scale) from approximately a quarter of the length (medium extent) for a medium term (medium duration). Based on these considerations, the magnitude of change would be Medium (Adverse). Over time, the infilling within the boundary hedges and their management at 3 m high would obscure the panels and the Project Substation from views for much of the length of the road passing the Site. It is possible that there would still be glimpsed views of panels through gaps in boundary vegetation, particularly during the winter when not in leaf. There would still be two occasions (into Field 2 and 3/4) where direct views of panels would be available through field gates, one existing and one to be created through an existing section of low/gappy hedge. An additional layer of tree/scrub planting around the Project Substation will provide further screening of this element in views from the road. Direct views of the Proposed Development where it would appear as a prominent feature in views (high scale) would be limited to two specific locations (negligible extent) for a long term
		Decommissioning: Low Adverse	Decommissioning: Minor Adverse and Not Significant	

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Rationale
				(high duration). The general experience would be as glimpses through small gaps in boundary vegetation causing a slight change to views (low scale) from approximately a quarter of the length (medium extent) for a long term (high duration). Based on these considerations, the magnitude of change would be Low (Adverse) at fields gates and Low (Adverse) overall. While this would be significant for pedestrians/cyclists due to their higher sensitivity it is considered not significant for vehicle users due to the way in which they will experience the views and effects can be mitigated in the long-term. <u>Decommissioning</u> During the decommissioning stage, the activities would appear in a similar way to the construction activities. Although opportunities to obtain views would be heavily restricted and limited to through gaps in the boundary vegetation and through two field gates. Due to their conspicuous and prominent nature, they may be more visible in any gaps than the panels were. Direct views of the activities (high scale) would be limited to two specific locations (negligible extent) for a short term (low duration) period. The general experience would be as glimpses through small gaps in boundary vegetation where they are likely to be more visible due to their nature (medium scale) from approximately a quarter of the length (medium extent) for a short term (low duration). Based on these considerations, the magnitude of change would be Low (Adverse) at fields gates and Low (Adverse) overall.

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Rationale
Users of Lavernock Road (B4267) (Vehicle users) (Representative viewpoint 6)	Low	Construction: Low Adverse	Construction: Minor Adverse and Not Significant	<u>Construction</u> The construction compound would be most visible when approaching from the west due to the orientation of Field 12 in which it will be located. It would appear prominent over the boundary hedge due to its conspicuous nature when passing the field. The area of the compound will be returned to agricultural use at the end of the construction phase. Construction activities would be a dominant feature (high scale) when passing Field 12 (low extent) for a short term duration (low duration). Based on these considerations, the magnitude of change would be Low (Adverse). <u>Operation</u> There may be a perceptible change to the view at completion due to some evidence of the construction compound after its removal. However, the current nature of this view would return very quickly. The perceptible change (negligible scale) may be apparent when passing Field 12 (low extent) for a short term (low duration). Based on these considerations, the magnitude of change would be Negligible (Adverse). <u>Decommissioning</u> During the decommissioning stage, the activities would appear in a similar way to the construction activities.
		Operation: Negligible Adverse	Operation: Negligible Adverse and Not Significant	
		Decommissioning: Low Adverse	Decommissioning: Minor Adverse and Not Significant	
Users of Lavernock Road (B4267) (pedestrians/cyclists) (Representative viewpoint 6)	High	Construction: Low Adverse	Construction: Minor Adverse and Not Significant	
		Operation: Negligible Adverse	Operation: Negligible Adverse and Not Significant	
		Decommissioning:	Decommissioning:	

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Rationale
		Low Adverse	Minor Adverse and Not Significant	Activities would be a dominant feature (high scale) when passing Field 12 (low extent) for a short term (low duration). Based on these considerations ,the magnitude of change would be Low (Adverse).

6.3. Future Visual Receptors

6.3.1. The future visual receptors within the Study Area that are scoped into the assessment are identified and described in the Baseline section (6.7) of **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual**. These are as follows:

- Future recreational users of Sully Cosmeston Active Travel Route (ATR);

6.3.2. The sensitivity of these visual receptors to the Proposed Development is discussed in **Appendix 6E: Viewpoint Analysis** and summarised in Table 6-8 within **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual**. **Table 6F.3** assesses the magnitude of change which is likely to arise as a consequence of the Proposed Development before determining the level and type of effect and its significance during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases.

6.3.3. The route of the Active Travel Route on the currently disused railway line is not accessible to the public. Judgements have therefore been made based on general field observations carried out during site visits combined with desk-based analysis. This includes review of the information submitted for the planning application (Ref. 2025/00493/RG3). The interpretation of this information and the likely visual experience of future users and their visual relationship with the Site and the Proposed Development is explained in section 6.7 of **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual**. This informs the judgements made in **Table 6F.3** below.

Table 6F.3 - Assessment of effect: Future Visual Receptors

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Rationale
Future recreational users of Sully Cosmeston Active Travel Route	High	Construction: Low Adverse	Construction: Minor Adverse and Not Significant	<u>Construction</u> If the ATR is in place during the construction phase of the Proposed Development, it is likely that the activities in Fields 2, 3 and 4 as well as the construction compound in Field 12 may be visible. The activities would be prominent due to their conspicuous nature however, views would be heavily curtailed and limited to glimpses through the surrounding vegetation and tree groups and gaps such as over bridges. The activities would be more visible during winter months due to leaf loss in the surrounding vegetation and trees. The area of the compound will be returned to agricultural use at the end of the construction phase. Construction activities could be a key feature in glimpsed views where available due to their conspicuous nature (medium scale) to a short section when passing Fields 2, 3, 4 and 12 restricted by surrounding trees/vegetation (low extent) for a short term (low duration). Based on these considerations, the magnitude of change would be Low (Adverse). <u>Operation</u> During operation, the rear of panels would appear as technical elements introduced into the pastoral landscape within Fields 2, 3 and 4 as well as the Project Substation Compound seen amongst the panels in Field 2 comprising of technical elements and a building. The building would not appear taller than the
		Operation: Low Adverse	Operation: Minor Adverse and Not Significant	
		Decommissioning: Low Adverse	Decommissioning: Minor Adverse and Not Significant	

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Rationale
				surrounding panels and would be of a muted colour to minimise its prominence. Views would, however, be heavily restricted to glimpses through the surrounding vegetation and tree groups and gaps such as over bridges. The appearance of the panels including any embedded mitigation is not likely to change over time. The proposed tree planting around the Substation would have matured softening and obscuring its appearance to some extent although that would not have been a prominent feature in views so would not cause a considerable change. Overall, the appearance of the Proposed Development would not alter the scale of change in the view over time. The Proposed Development may be visible but only occupy a small portion of the visual experience as glimpses (low scale) to a short section when passing Fields 2, 3 and 4 restricted by surrounding trees/vegetation (low extent) for a long term (high duration). Based on these considerations, the magnitude of change would be Low (Adverse). There is an elevated section of the ATR north of Field 2 where there is potential that a significant proportion of the trees within tree group (G167) could be lost due to Ash Dieback which could open up views from the ATR. There are some intervening hedges, tree belts and woodland blocks that would obscure, break up and soften the appearance of panels should this view become available. Some parts of the Project Substation could also be visible although not prominent amongst the panels. The view to

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				the south of the route would be of a solar farm rather than pastoral fields so could appear as a dominant feature. At this point there is no information about the amount of tree removal that would be required, when this could take place or if there is/would be a replacement tree strategy. It is therefore difficult to make a judgement about how this would affect the visual amenity of the ATR. But, if there were to be tree removal it is likely that the adverse scale of change would increase, potentially up to a high scale as the Proposed Development would be more visible and possibly dominant in specific views where they are available. The extent of the ATR affected is likely to remain low but the duration would depend on when and if any removal takes place within the timeframe of the Proposed Development and if there is a replacement tree planting strategy. Given the general visual experience of the ATR and the minimal extent along the route that views that could become available it is likely that the effects arising from the Proposed Development would be Not Significant. <u>Decommissioning</u> Assuming tree cover remains during the decommissioning stage of the Proposed Development, it is likely that the activities in Fields 2, 3 and 4 as well as the compound in Field 12 may be visible. The activities would be prominent due to their conspicuous nature however, views would be heavily curtailed and limited to glimpses through the surrounding vegetation and tree groups and gaps such as over bridges. The activities would be more visible during winter months due to leaf loss in the

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Rationale
				surrounding vegetation and trees. The area of the compound will be returned to agricultural use after this phase. During the decommissioning stage, the activities could be a key feature in glimpsed views where available due to their conspicuous nature (medium scale) to a short section when passing Fields 2, 3, 4 and 12 restricted by surrounding trees/vegetation (low extent) for a short term (low duration). Based on these considerations, the magnitude of change would be Low (Adverse). Again, there is potential for more open views of decommissioning activities should tree removal due to Ash Dieback coincide with this phase. This could increase the adverse scale of change, but the low extent of the ATR affected and the low duration of the works would likely remain. Therefore, it is likely that the effects arising from the decommissioning activities would be Not Significant.