Fferm Solar Larnog

Environmental Statement

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Volume IV, Appendix 6C: LANDMAP Aspect Areas Baseline Descriptions and Sensitivity Assessments

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1 LANDMAP Baseline Description and Sensitivity

1.1. Introduction

1.1.1. This appendix sets out the baseline descriptions and landscape sensitivity assessments for the LANDMAP Aspect Areas which have been scoped into the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) following the application of the filtering process described in **Appendix 6B: LANDMAP Filtering Process**

1.1.2. The appendix is structured as follows:

- Section 2: Baseline Descriptions; and
- Section 3: Sensitivity Assessments.

1.2. Baseline Descriptions

Geological Landscapes Aspect Areas (GLAAs)

1.2.1. The filtering process in **Appendix 6B** has identified two GLAAs (Penarth VLFGLGL238 & Sully VLFGLGL955) as either overlapping, partially overlapping, or immediately adjacent to the Site. Following the filtering process, two host GLAAs are identified as the most likely to be affected by the Proposed Development. The potential for significant effects to these GLAAs are likely to arise from direct effects where works or operations associated with the Proposed Development take place.

1.2.2. A description of the two GLAAs scoped into the assessment, as informed by Question 4 and Question 6 of the LANDMAP Survey, is set out in **Table 6C.1**

Table 6C.1 - LANDMAP Geological Landscape Aspect Areas: baseline description

GLAA	Description (Q4 and Q6)
Penarth (VLFGLGL238) – Host	Penarth comprises an area underlain by mudrock-dominated Triassic and Lower Jurassic geology, including the Mercia Mudstone Group, Penarth Group and Blue Lias Formation. The geological landscape is characterized by low tabular hills capped by the Blue Lias Formation, with steeper slopes associated with these elevated areas and lower-lying valleys underlain by the Mercia Mudstone Group and Penarth Group. The central part of the aspect area is extensively occupied by the urban and industrial areas of Penarth and Dinas Powys. **Stratigraphic formation:** the area comprises of the Mercia Mudstone Group (normal facies), including the Blue Anchor Formation (Upper Triassic, including Norian), the Penarth Group (normal facies; Rhaetian, Upper Triassic), and the Blue Lias Formation (normal facies; Hettangian to Lower Sinemurian, Lower Jurassic), including the St Mary's Well Bay Member, Lavernock Shales Member and Portkerry Member. These formations represent a succession of Upper Triassic to Lower Jurassic sedimentary rocks.

GLAA	Description (Q4 and Q6)
Sully (VLFGLGL955) – Host	The Area is characterised by a rounded, elongated headland located on the southern side of the Cadoxton (Barry) docks and estuary. The geological character of the area is predominantly defined by Triassic marginal facies deposits, with small outcrops of Carboniferous Limestone also present. The area includes a significant degree of urbanisation, which forms part of its contemporary landscape context. The underlying geology is dominated by the Mercia Mudstone Group, principally represented by marginal facies deposits, with only very limited areas of more typical Mercia Mudstone facies present. Minor exposures of Carboniferous Limestone occur intermittently and comprise an incomplete sequence including the Lower Limestone Shale Group (including the Castell Coch Limestone), Black Rock Limestone Group (including the Friar's Point Limestone) and Gully Oolite. **Stratigraphic formations:** The area is underlain by the Mercia Mudstone Group (including the Blue Anchor Formation), the Penarth Group and the Blue Lias Formation (including the St Mary's Well Bay Member, Lavernock Shales Member and Portkerry Member). These geological units influence the distribution of higher and lower ground across the landscape. **Superficial deposits:** Head. **Structural features**: Faults. **Past processes:** Periglacial.

Landscape Habitats Aspects Areas (LHAAs)

1.2.3. The filtering process in **Appendix 6B: LANDMAP Filtering Process** has identified two LHAAs (Swanbridge VLFGLLH376 & Cog VLFGLLH928) as either overlapping, partially overlapping, or immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development Site. Following the filtering process, one host LHAA is identified the most likely to be affected by the Proposed Development. Also, the potential for significant effects to this LHAA is likely to arise from direct effects where works or operations associated with the Proposed Development take place.

1.2.4. A description of the LHAA scoped into the assessment, as informed by Question 24 of the LANDMAP Survey, is set out in **Table 6C.2**

Table 6C.2 - LANDMAP Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas: baseline description

LHAA	Description (Q24)
Swanbridge (VLFGLLH376) - Host	The landscape habitat resource within this aspect area comprises a mosaic of improved agricultural grassland, occasional arable fields and areas of amenity grassland influenced by its coastal location within the Vale of Glamorgan. The landscape is characterised by a predominantly agricultural land use pattern interspersed with well-developed hedgerows, linear woodland belts and small copses associated with field boundaries. Remnant areas of semi-natural habitat occur locally, particularly calcareous grassland communities along coastal margins and species-rich field boundaries. The area supports a network of habitats which contribute to ecological connectivity between the coastal hinterland and adjacent countryside. Although improved grassland and arable land dominate the habitat

LHAA	Description (Q24)
	mosaic, woodland features, ancient and species-rich hedgerows and remnant semi-natural grassland provide important biodiversity interest and enhance landscape character.

Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (VSAAs)

1.2.5. There are 10 VSAAs identified within the 1 km Study Area. The filtering process described in **Appendix 6B: LANDMAP Filtering Process**, identified three VSAAs in the filtering process to be scoped in the assessment including the host VSAA Lavernock Hinterland.

1.2.6. A description of the three VSAAs scoped into the assessment, as informed by Question 3 of the LANDMAP Survey, is set out in **Table 6C.3**. VSAAs are illustrated in **Figure 6.6**.

Table 6C.3 - LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas: baseline description

VSAA	Description (Q3)
Lavernock Hinterland (VLFGLVS787) – Host	The area is characterized by a rolling and undulating lowland landform, with elevations ranging from approximately 15 m above ordnance datum (AOD) at the cliff tops overlooking the Bristol Channel to around 61 m AOD at a hilltop east of Swanbridge. The landscape comprises a mosaic of pastoral fields enclosed by hedgerows, many of which are overgrown and contain mature trees. The dismantled railway line to the north-west is heavily vegetated and forms a strong landscape edge, contributing to a notably enclosed character in parts of the area. Pine trees are a locally distinctive feature east of Swanbridge. The area contains several dispersed settlements, including farms and hamlets connected by narrow roads. These roads show signs of pressure from use, particularly at parking locations. Development within the area includes the camping and holiday village at Lavernock Farm and a caravan park at Swanbridge. These developments have reduced the sense of tranquility within the landscape. Evidence of neglect is apparent in some hedgerows, farm gates and fencing, while the appearance of the Lavernock Farm holiday development and some refurbished dwellings introduce suburban characteristics into the landscape. Occasional views towards the Bristol Channel are available and contribute to local character. Although the area retains a predominantly rural identity, the influence of tourism-related development and suburban-style features is identified as contributing to an erosion of its rural character. **Key visual and sensory characteristics include:** • Rolling and undulating lowland landscape; • Elevation ranges from approximately 15 m AOD to 61 m AOD; • Mosaic of pastoral fields; • Hedgerow network, often overgrown and tree-lined; • Vegetated dismantled railway corridor forming a strong edge; • Locally enclosed character in places; • Pine trees east of Swanbridge; • Dispersed farms and hamlets linked by narrow roads; • Camping, holiday village and caravan park developments; • Reduced tranquillity due to development and visitor activity; • Some neglected hedgerows, gates and fencing; • Localised suburban influences; • Occasional views towards the Bristol Channel; and • Predominantly rural character undergoing change from development pressure.

VSAA	Description (Q3)
Sully Ridge (VLFGLVS637)	The area is characterised by a distinct ridge landform, with elevations ranging from approximately 10 m AOD adjacent to Sully Brook and Cog Moors to a high point of 54 m AOD. The elevated ground affords views towards the Bristol Channel and creates a sense of exposure at the ridge crest. The landscape comprises a mosaic of fields dominated by pasture, with some arable land, enclosed principally by low, managed hedgerows. The area generally appears well managed and productive, with no woodland cover present. Settlement is focused around the village of Cog, which is described as picturesque and well maintained. A narrow strip of twentieth-century suburban ribbon development occurs close to the foot of the slope adjacent to Cog Moors. Two minor roads cross the area, and the landscape also adjoins the suburban edge of Sully. While the interior of the area is generally tranquil, tranquillity is reduced along the southern edges where continual traffic and human movement are evident. In locations close to Sully and the main Penarth to Barry road, suburban influences and associated detailing introduce urbanising pressures that affect the character of the otherwise rural landscape. **Key visual and sensory characteristics include:** • Distinct ridge landform; • Elevation range from approximately 10 m AOD to 54 m AOD; • Views towards the Bristol Channel; • Sense of exposure at higher elevations; • Mosaic of pasture and arable fields; • Low managed hedgerows as the dominant field boundary; • Well-managed and productive agricultural landscape; • Absence of woodland; • Cog as a picturesque and well-maintained settlement focus; • Limited ribbon development adjacent to Cog Moors; • Two minor roads crossing the area; • Generally tranquil interior; • Reduced tranquillity at southern edges due to traffic and human activity; • Suburban influences associated with Sully and the Penarth to Barry road; and • Predominantly rural character subject to local suburbanising pressures.
Sully Island (VLFGLVS903)	A small, low rocky island that is divorced from the mainland as is only accessible via the rock strand during low tide. The landform rises at either end (east and west) where the elevation reaches its peak at 15 m AOD at the eastern end. Landcover is rough grass and scrub but there are no other landscape features. The island contains no settlements or other human intervention, although there is evidence of a minor fortification in the middle. The island feels isolated and exposed, particularly during high tide when separated from the mainland and is inaccessible. This contributes to the sense of risk and mild excitement, and the perception of the island being an edge landscape. However, it is popular with visitors during low tide. There are superb views across the Bristol Channel to the south as well as to the north along the coast in both directions. **Key visual and sensory characteristics include:** • A small, low rocky island divorced from the mainland at hightide; • Elevation ranges up to 15 m AOD at either end; • Predominantly rough grass and scrub;

VSAA	Description (Q3)
	• Lack of landscape features; • Absence of settlements and human intervention; • Man-made minor fortifications in the middle; • Isolated and exposed (particularly at high tide when separated from the mainland); • Perception of risk and mild excitement; • Superb views across the Bristol Channel and along the coast; and • Popular with visitors when low tide allows.

Historic Landscape Aspect Areas (HLAAs)

1.2.7. There are five HLAAs identified with the 1 km Study Area. The filtering process described in **Appendix 6B: LANDMAP Filtering Process**, identified two HLAAs to be scoped in the assessment, including the Host HLAA Lavernock VLFGLHL010.

1.2.8. A description of the two HLAAs scoped into the assessment, as informed by Question 4 of the LANDMAP Survey, is set out in **Table 6C.4**.

Table 6C.4 - LANDMAP Historic Landscapes Aspect Areas: baseline description

HLAA	Description (Q4)
Lavernock (VLFGLHL010) – Host	Area comprises a small regular fieldscape situated south of Cosmeston Country Park and Penarth and east of Sully. The present landscape is predominantly influenced by post-medieval agricultural reorganization; however, evidence of earlier medieval settlement survives within the area, centered on St Lawrence's Church. Archaeological investigations have identified the remains of a 12th-century village north and west of the church, including a terrace of three small cottages and a possible isolated farmstead. Subsequent trial excavations at Lavernock Farm confirmed the presence of medieval occupation immediately north of the church. The current landscape pattern is the result of extensive hedgerow removal and the amalgamation of several farms during the early nineteenth century. This process was centered on Cog Farm, a model farm constructed in 1816–17 by Evan Thomas of Sully House and later enlarged during the nineteenth century. Agricultural improvement was a key influence on the historic development of the area, with the consolidation of farms and tenements into larger agricultural holdings, together with the introduction of controlled crop rotation and fertilization practices to improve productivity. Cog Farm is representative of the large model farms associated with nineteenth-century agricultural prosperity in the region. Its layout incorporated farmyards, a broad range of agricultural buildings and a separate rickyard, while contemporary groups of rickstands reflect the significant scale of corn production undertaken within the area. Historical records from the late nineteenth century indicate that Cog Farm extended to approximately 700 acres, of which a substantial proportion was under arable cultivation. **Key Historic Landscape Characteristics** • Small regular fieldscape; • Historic landscape strongly influenced by post-medieval agricultural reorganization; • Evidence of medieval settlement focused on St Lawrence's Church;

HLAA	Description (Q4)
	• Remains of a 12th-century village identified through archaeological investigation; • Evidence of medieval occupation at Lavernock Farm; • Extensive nineteenth-century hedgerow removal; • Farm amalgamation and agricultural improvement; • Cog Farm as a nineteenth-century model farm; • Agricultural prosperity reflected in large farmsteads and rickstands; • Controlled crop rotation and fertilization practices; and • Strong association with historic arable farming and agricultural production.
Cosmeston Country Park (VLFGLHL006)	It is a large recreational area incorporating both Cosmeston Country Park and Glamorgan Golf Club. The modern landscape has been strongly influenced by former limestone quarrying activity, which took place from at least the 1890s. Following the cessation of quarrying in 1970, part of the quarry area was used for landfill, while elsewhere flooding from underground springs created the lakes that are a defining feature of the present-day park. Landscaped quarry spoil areas, together with the lakes, form key elements of the area's character. The park also contains extensive areas of woodland, calcareous grassland and wetland habitats. The area possesses a strong medieval heritage centred on Cosmeston Castle and an associated deserted medieval settlement. Cosmeston Castle originated as the twelfth-century seat of the de Costentin family from the Cotentin Peninsula in northern France and took the form of a fortified manor house with a tower and dovecot. The deserted medieval village located to the north-east of the castle has been the subject of extensive archaeological investigation during the late 1970s and 1980s. Dating from the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, the settlement has been fully reconstructed and includes a longhouse, barn, kiln-house, corbelled pigsty and a farmstead comprising three buildings arranged around a central courtyard. **Key Historic Landscape Characteristics** • Large recreational landscape comprising Cosmeston Country Park and Glamorgan Golf Club; • Historic association with limestone quarrying from at least the 1890s; • Quarry closure in 1970 was followed by landfill use and lake formation through flooding by underground springs; • Landscaped quarry spoil areas forming part of the current landscape; • Extensive woodland, calcareous grassland and wetland habitats; • Strong medieval influence within the landscape; • Twelfth-century Cosmeston Castle (fortified manor house); • Association with the de Costentin family; • Deserted medieval settlement dating from the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries; • Extensive archaeological investigation of the medieval settlement; and • Reconstruction of medieval buildings including a longhouse, barn, kiln-house, pigsty and farmstead.

Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas (CLSAAs)

1.2.9. A total of two CLSAAs were identified as either overlapping, partially overlapping, or immediately adjacent to the Site and were therefore considered the most likely to be affected by the Proposed Development. In addition to the LANDMAP filtering process,

WSP applied a further screening exercise, as detailed in **Appendix 6B: LANDMAP Filtering Process**, which confirmed two CLSAAs for inclusion within the assessment.

1.2.10. No description of the two CLSAAs scoped into the assessment is provided in the LANDMAP Survey so a general summary has been given in **Table 6C.5** taken from relevant survey questions.

Table 6C.5 - LANDMAP Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas: baseline description

Clsaas	Description
Lavernock Hinterland (VLFGLCLS050) – Host	Lavernock Hinterland is associated with a population in which Welsh identity forms an important component of local cultural character. Approximately 54% of people within the area identify as Welsh, indicating a strong connection to Welsh national identity and contributing to the area's cultural landscape. This Aspect Area is described as having a strong sense of place with a moderate scenic quality and attractive views in and out but no specific information is given regarding what contributes to this. It is described as tranquil but also that over 75% of the area experiences significant disturbance. There are no specific traditions, artistic associations or community events/relationships contributing to cultural associations with this Aspect Area. The cultural relationship appears to be with the agricultural, predominantly pastoral, landscape of the countryside outside of settlements. **Contributors to Cultural Landscape Character** • Approximately 54% of residents identify as Welsh; and • Welsh national identity is the main component of local cultural character.
Sully Ridge (VLFGLCLS039)	Sully Ridge is associated with a population in which Welsh identity forms a significant component of local cultural character. Approximately 54% of people within the area identify as Welsh, demonstrating a strong connection to Welsh national identity and its contribution to local cultural perceptions of place and community. This Aspect Area is described as having a moderate sense of place with high scenic quality and attractive views in and out but no specific information is given regarding what contributes to this. It is described as tranquil but also that over 75% of the area experiences significant disturbance. There are no specific traditions, artistic associations or community events/relationships contributing to cultural associations with this Aspect Area. The cultural relationship appears to be with the agricultural, predominantly pastoral, landscape of the countryside outside of settlements. **Contributors to Cultural Landscape Character** • Approximately 54% of residents identify as Welsh; and • Welsh national identity is a significant component of local cultural character.

1.3. Sensitivity Assessments

Overview

1.3.1. The landscape sensitivity of the defined Aspect Areas to the Proposed Development is presented in **Sections 3.2** to **3.6**, derived in accordance with the methodology set out in **Appendix 6A; LVIA Legislative Frameworks, Policy Context and Methodology** of the

ES. Landscape sensitivity is described as 'high', 'medium', 'low', and 'negligible' which is assessed by combining the landscape value and landscape susceptibility to change, which may vary in response to both the type of development proposed, specific characteristics of the receptor and consideration of Aspect specific criteria.

1.3.2. The predicted magnitude of landscape change and the consequent level of effect and its significance is set out in **Appendix 6D: LANDMAP Aspect Areas Assessment** for the Geological Landscapes, Landscape Habitats, Visual and Sensory, Historic Landscape and Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas, respectively.

Geological Landscapes Aspect Areas (GLAAs)

1.3.3. The landscape value and susceptibility of the GLAAs is considered in relation to the following criteria:

Landscape Value:

- Q33 of the GLAA LANDMAP Survey Sheets.

Landscape Susceptibility:

- ***Scale*:** Q8 of the VSAA LANDMAP Survey Sheet and OS/aerial assessment. Low susceptibility would represent larger scale landscapes and landform which may be more able to accommodate large scale solar farms, characteristics that are less susceptible to solar farms. High susceptibility would represent smaller scale well defined landforms which may become dominated or are less able to accommodate solar farms, characteristics that are more susceptible to solar farms;
- ***Landform and Topography*:** Q4 & Q5 of the GLAA and Q4 of VSAA LANDMAP Survey Sheet Survey Sheets and OS map/aerial assessment. Low susceptibility would represent a simple upland plateau, gently rolling or flat landscapes with large scale simple and uniform land cover, where solar farms may be more easily accommodated. High susceptibility would represent complex landforms with well-defined changes in level and diverse land cover, landscapes that solar farms may be less easily accommodated;
- ***Skyline*:** OS map/aerial assessment. Low susceptibility would represent broad simple skylines lacking in distinctive or 'landmark' topography, characteristics that are less susceptible to solar farms. High susceptibility would represent skylines which are an important and noticeable component in the landscape with 'landmark' topography, characteristics that are more susceptible to ***solar*** farms; and
- ***Surrounding Context*:** Q2 of the GLAA LANDMAP Survey Sheet if special or functional links are present and OS map/aerial assessment. Low susceptibility would represent self-contained landscapes with limited relationship with adjacent areas, characteristics that are less susceptible to solar farms. High susceptibility would represent landscapes that are closely connected to the

adjacent/surrounding areas in terms of similar character or visual backdrop, characteristics that are more susceptible to solar farms.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.3.4. The landscape sensitivity assessment for the two GLAAs scoped into the LVIA is set out in **Table 6C.6**.

Table 6C.6 - Assessment of Sensitivity: Geological Landscapes Aspect Areas (GLAAs)

Aspect Area reference	Landscape Value	Landscape Susceptibility					Overall Landscape Sensitivity
	Overall Evaluation (GLAA Q33)	Scale	Landform and Topography	Skyline	Surrounding Context	Overall Susceptibility	
Penarth VLFGLGL238 - Host	Medium (LANDMAP evaluation – *Moderate*)	Medium Taken from VSAA	Low/Medium *'normal' mudrock-dominated Triassic (Mercia Mudstone Formation, Penarth Group) and alternating limestone-shale Lower Jurassic (Blue Lias Formation) characterised by low tabular hills capped with latter with steep slopes and low valley areas between underlain by former. Central part of Aspect Area largely covered by urban and industrial Penarth and Dinas Powis* *Lowland escarpment.* *Rolling/Undulating*	Medium Taken from VSAA	Low *No links to surrounding GLAAs*	Medium	**Medium**

Aspect Area reference	Landscape Value	Landscape Susceptibility					Overall Landscape Sensitivity
	Overall Evaluation (GLAA Q33)	Scale	Landform and Topography	Skyline	Surrounding Context	Overall Susceptibility	
Sully VLFGLGL955 - Host	Medium (LANDMAP evaluation – *Moderate*)	Medium Taken from VSAA	Low/Medium *Rounded, elongated headland of Triassic marginal facies on the south side of the Cadoxton (Barry) docks/estuary. Small outcrops of Carboniferous limestone also present. Includes significant urbanisation.* *Undulating lowland hill terrain.* *Rolling/Undulating*	Medium Taken from VSAA	Low *No links to surrounding GLAAs*	Medium	**Medium**

Landscape Habitats Aspects Areas (LHAAs)

1.3.5. The landscape value and susceptibility of the LHAAs is considered in relation to the following criteria:

Landscape Value:

- Q45 of the LANDMAP Survey Sheet.

Landscape Susceptibility:

- **Land Cover**: Q5 of the LHAA and VSAA LANDMAP Survey Sheets and OS/aerial assessment. Low susceptibility would represent large scale simple and homogenous land cover including moorland, grasslands, and large forestry plantations, where the simplicity of the land cover could accommodate solar farms. High susceptibility would represent complex and diverse land cover including a diversity of arable fields, grassland, trees/hedges/woodland, open water of a small scale that solar farms may dominate;
- **Landscape Management**: Q19 and Q23 of the LHAA LANDMAP Survey Sheet and OS map/ aerial assessment. Low susceptibility would represent landscapes where habitat and species value is being undermined by current land management activities, characteristics that are less susceptible to solar farms. High susceptibility would represent landscapes where habitat and species value is being enhanced by current land management activities, characteristics that are more susceptible to solar farms; and
- **Surrounding Habitat Connectivity**: Q2 of the LHAA LANDMAP Survey Sheet and OS map/ aerial assessment. Low susceptibility would represent self-contained landscapes with no special or functional link with adjacent area/s, characteristics that are less susceptible to solar farms. High susceptibility would represent landscapes that are closely connected to the adjacent/surrounding areas in terms of similar landscape habitat character, characteristics that are more susceptible to solar farms.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.3.6. The landscape sensitivity assessment for the one LHAA scoped into the LVIA is set out in **Table 6C.7**.

Table 6C.7 - Assessment of Sensitivity: Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas (LHAAs)

Aspect Area reference	Landscape Value	Landscape Susceptibility				Overall Landscape Sensitivity
	Overall Evaluation (Q45)	Land Cover	Landscape Management	Surrounding Habitat Connectivity	Overall susceptibility	
Swanbridge VLFGLLH376 – Host	Medium (LANDMAP evaluation – *Moderate*)	Medium Medium from VSAA (Field Pattern/ Mosaic, Random), 60 Imp Grass 11 Arable 7 Amenity Grass 4 Caravan Site 6 Buildings	Medium Cultivation Stock grazing Hedgerow management including replanting.	Low No links to surrounding LHAAs	Medium	**Medium**

Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (VSAAs)

1.3.7. The landscape value and susceptibility of the VSAAs is considered in relation to the following criteria:

Landscape Value:

- Q26 and Q50 of the VSAA LANDMAP Survey Sheet.

Landscape Susceptibility:

- **Scale**: Q8 of the VSAA LANDMAP Survey Sheet and OS/aerial assessment. Low susceptibility would represent larger scale landscapes and landform which may be more able to accommodate large scale solar farms, characteristics that are less susceptible to solar farms. High susceptibility would represent smaller scale well defined landforms which may become dominated or are less able to accommodate solar farms, characteristics that are more susceptible to solar farms;
- **Landform, Topography and Land cover**: Q4 & Q8 of the VSAA LANDMAP Survey Sheet Survey Sheet and OS map/ aerial assessment. Low susceptibility would represent a simple upland plateau, gently rolling or flat landscapes with large scale simple and uniform land cover, where solar farms may be more easily accommodated. High susceptibility would represent complex landforms with well-defined changes in level and diverse land cover, landscapes that solar farms may be less easily accommodated;
- **Landscape Pattern**: Q5 & Q16 of the VSAA LANDMAP Survey Sheet and OS/aerial assessment. Low susceptibility would represent large scale regular or rectilinear field patterns which may complement the modern aesthetic of solar farms. High susceptibility would represent irregular small-scale patchwork or medieval field patterns where solar farms may overwhelm the scale and landscape pattern, characteristics that are more susceptible to solar farms;
- **Built Environment**: Q3, Q6, Q18, Q20 & Q21 of the VSAA LANDMAP Survey Sheet and OS map/ aerial assessment. Low susceptibility would represent large scale industrial, infrastructure and mineral extraction land uses including the presence of wind turbines, transport, overhead lines or communications infrastructure. Landscapes with major infrastructure, large concentrations of development and an overarching modern urban/townscape character, characteristics that are less susceptible to solar farms. High susceptibility would represent rural/traditional forms of development including parks and gardens and monuments enhancing the overall landscape sensitivity and value with an absence of man-made influences, characteristics that are more susceptible to solar farms;
- **Scenic Quality**: Q22, Q23, Q24 of the VSAA LANDMAP Survey Sheet and OS map/aerial assessment. Low susceptibility would represent an area of despoiled landscape containing visually detracting features/elements. High susceptibility

considered to be attractive containing landscape features/elements that make a positive contribution to character, sense of place and beauty;

- **Remoteness and Tranquillity**: Q3, Q18, Q24 & Q56 of the VSAA LANDMAP Survey Sheet and OS map/ aerial assessment. Low susceptibility would represent an area that feels closer to people and human activities, characteristics that are less susceptible to solar farms. High susceptibility would represent an area that feels remote from people and human activities (conversely, landscapes that are settled/built up would have a higher number of visual receptors), characteristics that are more susceptible to solar farms;
- **Openness and Enclosure**: Q7 & Q9 of the LANDMAP Survey Sheet and OS map/ aerial assessment. Low susceptibility would represent enclosed landscape with limited opportunities for long range views with unmanaged, high field boundaries offering containment, characteristics that are less susceptible to solar farms. High susceptibility would represent open landscapes with opportunities for long range views with low field boundaries such as walls/fences or clipped/managed low hedges, characteristics that are more susceptible to solar farms;
- **Skyline**: OS map/aerial assessment. Low susceptibility would represent broad simple skylines lacking in distinctive or 'landmark' topography, characteristics that are less susceptible to solar farms. High susceptibility would represent skylines which are an important and noticeable component in the landscape with 'landmark' topography, characteristics that are more susceptible to solar farms; and
- **Surrounding Context**: Q2 of the VSAA LANDMAP Survey Sheet if special or functional links are present and OS map/aerial assessment. Low susceptibility would represent self-contained landscapes with limited relationship with adjacent areas, characteristics that are less susceptible to solar farms. High susceptibility would represent landscapes that are closely connected to the adjacent/surrounding areas in terms of similar character or visual backdrop, characteristics that are more susceptible to solar farms.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.3.8. The landscape sensitivity assessment for the three VSAAs scoped into the LVIA is set out in **Table 6C.8**. VSAAs are illustrated **in Figure 6.3**.

Table 6C.8 - Assessment of Sensitivity: Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (VSAAs)

Landscape Value	Landscape Susceptibility										Overall Landscape Sensitivity
Overall Evaluation (Q26/50)	**Scale**	**Landform, Topography and Land cover**	**Landscape Pattern**	**Built Environment**	**Scenic Quality**	**Remoteness and Tranquillity**	**Openness and enclosure**	**Skyline**	**Surrounding Context**	**Overall susceptibility**	
Lavernock Hinterland (VLFGLVS787) - Host											
Medium (LANDMAP evaluation – *Moderate*)	Medium Small scale	Low Rolling/ Undulating, Small scale	Medium Field Pattern/ Mosaic, Random	Medium Dispersed farms and hamlets linked by narrow roads, Holiday /caravan parks, localised suburban influences, linear pattern, infrequent access, rural and suburban appropriate	Medium Attractive views within and out, also detractive views within and out, tranquil (except adj camping ground), sheltered (large overgrown hedges), settled	Medium Reduced tranquility due to development and visitor activity, infrequent access, tranquil (except adj camping ground), sheltered (large overgrown hedges), settled.	Medium Hedges with trees, open	Medium Undulating, Hopkins Mount	High Backcloth to coastal strip to the south. Distant views of sea.	Medium	**Medium**

Landscape Value	Landscape Susceptibility										Overall Landscape Sensitivity
Overall Evaluation (Q26/50)	**Scale**	**Landform, Topography and Land cover**	**Landscape Pattern**	**Built Environment**	**Scenic Quality**	**Remoteness and Tranquillity**	**Openness and enclosure**	**Skyline**	**Surrounding Context**	**Overall susceptibility**	
Sully Ridge (VLFGLVS637)											
Medium (LANDMAP evaluation – Moderate)	Medium Medium scale	Medium Rolling/ Undulating, Medium scale	Medium Field Pattern/ Mosaic, Regular	Medium Suburban influences, predominantly rural, village, occasional access, stone and hedges appropriate	Medium Attractive views within and out, also detractive views out, tranquil, sheltered (tree belts and hedgerows)	Medium Generally tranquil interior, Reduced tranquility at southern edges due to traffic and human activity, Predominantly rural character subject to local suburban pressures occasional access, tranquil, sheltered (tree belts and hedgerows)	Medium Managed hedge, open	Medium Locally distinctive ridgeline	Medium As a ridge it has views over the surrounding countryside	Medium	**Medium**

Landscape Value	Landscape Susceptibility										Overall Landscape Sensitivity
Overall Evaluation (Q26/50)	**Scale**	**Landform, Topography and Land cover**	**Landscape Pattern**	**Built Environment**	**Scenic Quality**	**Remoteness and Tranquillity**	**Openness and enclosure**	**Skyline**	**Surrounding Context**	**Overall susceptibility**	
Sully Island (VLFGLVS903)											
High (LANDMAP evaluation – *Outstanding*)	Low Large scale	Medium Rolling/ Undulating, Large scale	Low Open Land, Random	High Minor fortifications, no settlements, infrequent access, generally appropriate materials	High Attractive views within and out, also detractive views out, tranquil, exposed, wild	High The island feels isolated and exposed, infrequent access, tranquil, wild, spiritual.	High No boundaries, Exposed	High exposed island	Medium with surrounding sea and strand that connects island to coast at low tide – not relevant to the Site	High	**High**

Historic Landscape Aspect Areas (HLAAs)

1.3.9. The landscape value and susceptibility of the HLAAs is considered in relation to the following criteria:

Landscape Value:

- Q23 and Q40 of the HLAA LANDMAP Survey Sheet.

Landscape Susceptibility:

- **Landscape Pattern**: Q4, Q5 & Q12 of the HLAA LANDMAP Survey Sheet and OS/aerial assessment. Low would represent unenclosed land or rectilinear field patterns which may complement the modern aesthetic of solar farms characteristics that are less susceptible to solar farms. High would represent irregular small-scale patchwork or medieval field patterns where solar farms may overwhelm the scale and landscape pattern, characteristics that are more susceptible to solar farms;
- **Built Environment**: Q4 & Q5 of the HLAA LANDMAP Survey Sheet, Q3, Q6 & Q20 of the corresponding VSAA Survey Sheet and OS map/aerial / field survey observations. Indicators of lower susceptibility would include the presence of modern structures such as wind turbines, transport, overhead lines or communications infrastructure as well as industrial and large-scale commercial development and the visible influences of quarrying or landfill, or land reclaimed from coal extraction. Areas which are characterised by long-established, traditional or historic built forms including historic structures such as traditional stone-built farmsteads, stone-built field barns and stone field boundary walls are likely to be more susceptible to solar farm development;
- **Views to/from Historic Landscape and Cultural Heritage Features**: Q16, Q17, Q18, Q19, Q20, Q21 & Q22 of the LANDMAP Survey Sheet and OS map/aerial/field survey observations. Indicators of low susceptibility would include no or little presence of or intervisibility between designated areas or key focal sites (such as World Heritage Sites (WHS), Registered Historic Landscapes, Registered Parks and Gardens, Conservation Areas; Scheduled Monuments, landmarks or visitor attractions, such as historic hill forts/castles/church towers and monuments or memorials). High susceptibility would represent areas of significant intrinsic historic landscape character and potential for preserved archaeological evidence or landscapes which are important to the views within - or the setting of - key designated landscape and cultural heritage areas/focal features; and
- **Surrounding Context**: Q2 of the LANDMAP Survey Sheet if special or functional links available and OS map/aerial assessment. Low would represent self-contained landscape with limited relationship with adjacent areas., characteristics that are less susceptible to solar farms. High would represent Landscapes that are closely

connected to the adjacent/surrounding areas in terms of similar character or visual backdrop, characteristics that are more susceptible to solar farms.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.3.10. The landscape sensitivity assessment for the two HLAAs scoped into the LVIA is set out in **Table 6C.9**.

Table 6C.9 - Assessment of Sensitivity: Historic Landscape Aspect Areas (HLAAs)

Aspect Area reference	Landscape Value	Landscape Susceptibility					Overall Landscape Sensitivity
	Overall Evaluation (Q23/40)	Landscape Pattern	Built Environment	Views to/from Historic/Cultural Heritage Features	Surrounding Context	Overall susceptibility	
Lavernock (VLFGLHL010) – Host	Medium (LANDMAP evaluation – *Moderate*)	Medium Small regular fieldscape, present landscape form is the result of extensive hedgerow removal and the amalgamation of seven farms, nucleated settlement, hedgerow inc with trees and mortared wall	Low did contain an earlier medieval settlement at Lavernock, centred on the St Lawrence''s Church, amalgamation of seven farms early in the 19th century, with Cog Farm at its centre. Cog Farm is a "model farm" in E-plan, nucleated settlement Predominantly rural with village, dispersed farms and hamlets, Holiday/caravan parks, localised suburban influences, linear pattern, infrequent access, rural and suburban.	Low Limited inter-visibility with Site SM Yes 2, LBs Yes 9, RHP&G No, CAs No, WHS No, Reg Landscape of Historic Interest No	Low No links with surrounding HLAAs	Low	**Low**

Aspect Area reference	Landscape Value	Landscape Susceptibility					Overall Landscape Sensitivity
	Overall Evaluation (Q23/40)	Landscape Pattern	Built Environment	Views to/from Historic/Cultural Heritage Features	Surrounding Context	Overall susceptibility	
Cosmeston Country Park (VLFGLHL006)	High (LANDMAP evaluation – *High*)	Medium Significantly sized recreational area, previous quarry/landfill flooded by underground springs and spoil landscaped, reclaimed land, designed landscape, woodland, hedgerow, dry stone walls, wooden fence.	Medium The area was quarried for limestone from at least the 1890s. The quarrying ceased in 1970 and this saw one of the quarry sites being used for landfill. Elsewhere underground springs flooded the remaining quarried area creating the lakes we see today. The quarry spoil areas were landscaped and together with the lakes form the main features of the park. strong medieval influence in the form of a fortified manor house and deserted village. The village dates to the 13th and 14th centuries and	Low Limited inter-visibility with Site SM No, LBs No, RHP&G No, CAs No WHS No, Reg Landscape of Historic Interest No	Low No links with surrounding HLAAs	Medium	**Medium**

Aspect Area reference	Landscape Value	Landscape Susceptibility					Overall Landscape Sensitivity
	Overall Evaluation (Q23/40)	Landscape Pattern	Built Environment	Views to/from Historic/Cultural Heritage Features	Surrounding Context	Overall susceptibility	
			has been fully reconstructed and includes a longhouse, barn, kiln-house, corbelled pigsty and a farmstead of three buildings surrounding a central courtyard. There are no settlements, however there is some limited commerical development at the visitor centre and also the reconstructed Medieval Village adjacent the B4267. Urban.				

Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas (CLSAAs)

1.3.11. The landscape value and susceptibility of the CLSAAs is considered in relation to the following criteria:

Landscape Value:

- None provided in CLSAA LANDMAP Survey Sheet: Collation of Landscape Condition (VSAA Q27), Scenic Quality (CLSAA Q12), Sense of place/local distinctiveness (CLSAA Q8), Rarity (World Heritage Sites and HER assets) (CLSAA Q23, Q26 & Q28) and Artistic/folklore/events & tradition Value (CLSAA Q17, Q19, Q21).

Landscape Susceptibility:

- **Landscape Pattern**: Q5 & Q16 of the VSAA LANDMAP Survey Sheet and OS/aerial assessment. Low susceptibility would represent large scale regular or rectilinear field patterns which may complement the modern aesthetic of solar farms. High susceptibility would represent irregular small-scale patchwork or medieval field patterns where solar farms may overwhelm the scale and landscape pattern, characteristics that are more susceptible to solar farms.
- **Built Environment**: Q4 & Q5 of the HLAA LANDMAP Survey Sheet, Q3, Q6 & Q20 of the corresponding VSAA Survey Sheet and OS map/aerial/field survey observations. Indicators of lower susceptibility would include the presence of modern structures such as wind turbines, transport, overhead lines or communications infrastructure as well as industrial and large-scale commercial development and the visible influences of quarrying or landfill, or land reclaimed from coal extraction. Areas which are characterised by long-established, traditional or historic built forms including historic structures such as traditional stone-built farmsteads, stone-built field barns and stone field boundary walls are likely to be more susceptible to solar farm development.
- **Remoteness and Dark skies**. Q1, Q6 & Q7 of the CLSAA, Q3, Q18 & Q24 of the VSAA LANDMAP Survey Sheets and OS map/aerial assessment. Low would represent an area that feels closer to people and human activities (conversely a remote area not valued for wildness or tranquillity would have a lower number of visual receptors), characteristics that are less susceptible to solar farms. High would represent an area that feels remote from people and human activities (conversely, landscapes that are settled/built up would have a higher number of visual receptors), characteristics that are more susceptible to solar farms.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.3.12. The landscape sensitivity assessment for the two CLSAAs scoped into the LVIA is set out in **Table 6C.10**.

Table 6C.10 - Assessment of Sensitivity: Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas (CLSAAs)

Aspect Area	Landscape Value	Landscape Susceptibility				Overall Landscape Sensitivity
	Overall Evaluation	Landscape pattern	Built Environment	Remoteness and dark skies	Overall susceptibility	
Lavernock hinterland (VLFGLCLS050) - Host	Medium Fair, Moderate, Strong, No, 42, ?, N/A, N/A, N/A	Medium Taken from VSAA	Medium/Low Taken from VSAA and HLAA	Medium Medium from VSAA, Slight light pollution, +75% tranquil (Zone B), No Dark Sky Reserve	Medium	**Medium**
Sully Ridge (VLFGLCLS039)	Medium Good, High, Moderate, No, 35, ?, N/A, N/A, N/A	Medium Taken from VSAA	Medium/Low Taken from VSAA and HLAA	Medium Medium from VSAA, Slight light pollution, +75% tranquil (Zone B), No Dark Sky Reserve	Medium	**Medium**