# Fferm Solar Larnog

## Environmental Statement

## Volume II, Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual

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## Issue Sheet

Report Prepared for Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru

**Document Title**

Volume II, Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual

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# 6. Landscape and Visual

## 6.1. Introduction

6.1.1. This Chapter presents the assessment of likely significant effects of the Proposed Development with respect to Landscape and Visual Amenity receptors. The assessment is based on information obtained to date. It should be read in conjunction with the project description provided in **Chapter 5: Development Description**.

6.1.2. The assessment presented within this chapter is informed by the following technical chapters and should be read in conjunction with:

- **Chapter 7: Biodiversity**; and
- **Chapter 9: Historic Environment**.

6.1.3. This chapter also draws upon additional information to support the assessment, which is contained within the following technical appendices:

- **Appendix 6A: LVIA Methodology;**
- **Appendix 6B: LANDMAP Filtering Process;**
- **Appendix 6C: LANDMAP Aspect Areas: Baseline Descriptions and Sensitivity;**
- **Appendix 6D: LANDMAP Aspect Areas Assessment;**
- **Appendix 6E: Viewpoint Analysis;**
- **Appendix 6F: Visual Receptor Assessment**; and
- **Appendix 6G: Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan** (oLEMP)

6.1.4. This ES chapter describes:

- The legislation, policy and technical guidance that has informed the assessment (**Section 6.2**);
- The consultation and engagement that has been undertaken and how comments from consultees relating to Landscape and Visual Amenity have been addressed (**Section 6.3**);
- The study area utilised for the assessment (**Section 6.4**);
- The scope of the assessment for Landscape and Visual Amenity (**Section 6.5**);
- Methods used for baseline data gathering (**Section 6.6**);
- The overall baseline (**Section 6.7**);
- The methods used for the assessment (**Section 6.8**);
- The embedded measures relevant to Landscape and Visual Amenity (**Section 6.9**);
- The assessment of Landscape and Visual Amenity effects (**Section 6.10**);
- Additional measures proposed (**Section 6.11**);
- The determined Landscape and Visual Amenity residual effects (**Section 6.12**);
- The assessment of cumulative (inter-project) effects (**Section 6.13**);

- Any monitoring requirements (**Section 6.14**);
- A summary of the significance conclusions (**Section 6.15**); and
- An outline of further work to be undertaken for the ES (**Section 6.16**).

6.1.5. Throughout this chapter, fields within the Site and wider ownership boundary have been referred to by numbers. These field numbers are identified in **Figure 6.8** which should be read alongside this chapter.

6.1.6. This chapter has been prepared by WSP on behalf of the Applicant in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017, as amended[1]. A statement outlining the relevant expertise and qualifications of competent experts is provided in **Chapter 1: Introduction.**

## 6.2. Legislative Framework, Policy and Guidance

6.2.1. This section identifies the legislation, planning policy and technical guidance that has informed the assessment of effects with respect to Landscape and Visual Amenity.

### Legislative Framework

6.2.2. A list of the relevant legislation applicable to Landscape and Visual Amenity is provided below with further descriptions provided in Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015; and in **Appendix 6A: LVIA Legislative Framework, Policy Context and Methodology**.

- Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015[2]; and
- Environment (Wales) Act 2016[3].

### Policy

6.2.3. A list of the relevant policy applicable to Landscape and Visual Amenity is provided below with further descriptions provided in Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015; and in **Appendix 6A: LVIA Legislative Framework, Policy Context and Methodology**.

- Future Wales – The National Plan 2040[4]:
- Policy 17.

[1] UK Government (2017). The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017. Available online at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2017/567/contents. (Accessed August 2026).
[2] National Assembly for Wales. (2015). Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Available online at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/2 [Accessed August 2026].
[3] National Assembly for Wales. (2016). Environment (Wales) Act 2016. Available online at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2016/3/contents/enacted [Accessed August 2026].
[4] Welsh Government (2021). Future Wales: the national plan 2040. Available online at: https://www.gov.wales/future-wales-national-plan-2040 [Accessed August 2026].

- Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 12[5].
- Adopted Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011-2026[6]:
- SP10 - Built and Natural Environment;
- MD1 - Location of New Development;
- MD2 - Design of New Development;
- MD7 - Environmental Protection;
- MD9 - Promoting Biodiversity; and
- MD19 - Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Generation.
- Vale of Glamorgan Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG):
- Renewable Energy SPG (March 2019)[7];
- Design in Landscape SPG[8];
- Biodiversity and Development SPG[9];
- Trees, Woodlands, Hedgerows and Development SPG[10]; and
- Sustainable Development SPG[11].
- Emerging Vale of Glamorgan Deposit Replacement Local Development Plan 2021-2036[12]:
- SP4 – Placemaking;
- PGD1 – Creating Well Designed and Inclusive Places;

[5] Welsh Government (2024). Planning Policy Wales. Edition 12. Available online at: https://www.gov.wales/planning-policy-wales [Accessed August 2026].

[6] Vale of Glamorgan Council (2012). Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011-2026. Available online at: https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Living/Planning/Policy/LDP/LDP-Adoption/Adopted-LDP-Written-Statement-June-2017-final-interactive-web-version.pdf [Accessed August 2026]

[7] Renewable energy, Supplementary planning guidance (March2019). Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011-2026. Available online at: https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Living/Planning/Policy/SPG/Renewable-Energy-SPG-March-2019.pdf [Accessed August 2026]

[8] DESIGN IN THE LANDSCAPE, Supplementary planning guidance. The Vale of Glamorgan Unitary Development Plan 1996 – 2011. Available online at: https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Living/Planning/Policy/Design_Landscape_SPG.pdf [Accessed August 2026]

[9] Biodiversity and Development**,** Supplementary planning guidance (April2018). Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011- 2026.Available online at: https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Living/Planning/Policy/Biodiversity-and-Development-SPG-2018.pdf [Accessed August 2026]

[10] Trees, Woodlands, Hedgerows and Development, Supplementary planning guidance (Jan2025). Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011- 2026. Available online at: https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Living/Planning/Policy/SPG/Final-Trees-Woodlands-Hedgerows-and-Development-SPG-2025.pdf [Accessed August 2026]

[11] Sustainable Development, Supplementary planning guidance. Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 1996 – 2011.Available online at: https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Living/Planning/Policy/Sustainable_Dev_SPG.pdf [Accessed August 2026]

[12] Vale of Glamorgan Council (2023). Vale of Glamorgan Deposit Replacement Local Development Plan 2021-2036. Available online at: Vale of Glamorgan Council / Cyngor Bro Morgannwg - 1 Vale of Glamorgan Deposit Replacement Local Development Plan [Accessed November 2026]

- CC4 – Renewable, Low and Zero Carbon Energy Generation;
- SP19 – Green Infrastructure; and
- SP20 – Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience.

## Guidance

6.2.4. The key guidance documents applicable to this Chapter are:

- **G**uidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Third Edition)[13]: The third edition of this guidance (known as 'GLVIA3') which is produced by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Assessment is widely regarded by landscape and planning professions as the 'industry standard' together with best practice and professional experience. GLVIA3 provides the framework within which the LVIA has been undertaken. The methodology is set out in **Section 6.8** and **Appendix 6A: LVIA Methodology**.
- Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01 – Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition (GLVIA3)[14]:
- Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (GN46)[15]: This guidance outlines Natural Resources Wales (NRW) advice on how LANDMAP information should be used in LVIAs. It sets out typical search and Study Area extents for a range tall structures and describes the filtering process that should be applied to existing LANDMAP evidence to help focus the detailed assessment of potentially sensitive Landscape and Visual receptors on the aspect areas most likely to be affected.
- Technical Guidance Note 02/21 - Assessing landscape value outside national designations[16]: This technical guidance note provides information and guidance to landscape professionals and others who need to make judgments about the value of a landscape (outside national landscape designations) in the context of the Town and Country Planning system.

[13] Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, (2013). Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. 3rd edition. London. Routledge.
[14] Landscape Institute (2024). Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01 - Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition (GLVIA3). Available online at: EN010159-000700-LCC ISH2 written submission Appendix 1 LITGN-2024-01-GLVIA3-NC_Aug-2024.pdf [Accessed August 2026].
[15] Natural Resources Wales. (2021). Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments GN46. Available online at: https://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/planning-and-development/evidence-to-inform-development-planning/using-landmap-in-landscape-and-visual-impact-assessments-gn46/?lang=en [Accessed August 2026].
[16] Landscape Institute (2021). Technical Guidance Note 02/21 - Assessing landscape value outside national designations. Available online at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/publication/tgn-02-21-assessing-landscape-value-outside-national-designations/ [Accessed November 2025].
at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/visualisation/ [Accessed August 2026].

- Visual Representation of Development Proposals[17]: This Technical Guidance Note applies to visual representation of all forms of development.
- Technical Information Note 04/2020 – Infrastructure[18]: This Technical Guidance Note provides information on the planning, design and management of infrastructure to support the delivery of major infrastructure projects in the UK. Part 1 of the document explains what infrastructure is, the role of the Landscape Professional and the planning and design process in a major infrastructure project. Part 2 provides technical guidance and resources, introducing documents of relevance to different infrastructure types.
- Planning guidance for the development of large-scale ground mounted solar PV systems[19]: This guidance documents provides guidance on aspects of design for solar developments including general matters relating to landscape and views.
- Biodiversity Guidance for Solar Developments[20]: This guidance document provides advice on the design and management of landscape and ecological features within solar developments such as hedgerows, grassland, woodland and water bodies. It also establishes the expectation that they should be accompanied by an LEMP.

## 6.3. Consultation

6.3.1. The assessment has been informed by consultation responses and ongoing stakeholder engagement. An overview of the approach to consultation is provided in **Chapter 2: Approach to Environmental Impact Assessment.**

**Scoping Opinion**

6.3.2. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report was submitted to the Council in June 2026 in accordance with the EIA Regulations, seeking confirmation of the proposed scope and methodology for the EIA in relation to the Proposed Development.

6.3.3. Following consultation with prescribed consultees and other relevant stakeholders, the Council issued a Scoping Opinion on 7 October 2026. A summary of the relevant responses received in the Scoping Opinion in relation to Landscape and Visual amenity

[17] Landscape Institute. (2019). Technical Guidance Note 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals. London. Landscape Institute. Available online at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/visualisation/ [Accessed August 2026].
[18] Landscape Institute (2020). Technical Information Note 04/2020 – Infrastructure. Available online at: https://landscapewpstorage01.blob.core.windows.net/www-landscapeinstitute-org/2018/01/LI-Infrastructure-TGN-FINAL-200924.pdf [Accessed August 2026].
[19] Building Research Establishment (BRE) National Solar Centre. (2014). Biodiversity Guidance for Solar Developments. Available online at: NSC-Biodiversity-Guidance.pdf [Accessed August 2026].
[20] Building Research Establishment (BRE) National Solar Centre. (2014). Biodiversity Guidance for Solar Developments. (Online). Available online at: NSC-Biodiversity-Guidance.pdf [Accessed August 2026].

and confirmation of how these have been addressed within the assessment to date is presented in **Table 6.1**.

*Table 6.1 - Summary of Scoping Opinion Responses Relevant to Landscape and Visual*

| Consultee | Summary of Response | Consideration in the ES |
|---|---|---|
| The Council | *"It is understood from paragraph 6.8.1 of the* [scoping] *report that the ZTV takes account of surface features such as vegetation in defining potential visibility. However, it is unclear if this represents a summer or winter scenario as the latter could result in a wider area of potential visibility due to the screening capacity of the surrounding vegetation reducing significantly at this time of year. This would need to be clarified within the EIA and if the ZTV shown is based on a summer scenario, a winter scenario should also be produced as a 'worst case' scenario, which should in turn inform the selection of receptors and those to be scoped in and out."* | The ZTV has been generated using a LiDAR derived Digital Surface Model (DSM) as confirmed in **Appendix 6A: LVIA Methodology**. The time of year that the DSM data was obtained in unknown. However, the Study Area was visited at different times of year and viewpoint seasonal photography was obtained during September 2025 and March 2026 to reflect the visual environment with and without leaf coverage. Viewpoint photography is presented in **Figure 6.7** with a Viewpoint Analysis in **Appendix 6E** and a Visual Receptor Assessment provided in **Appendix 6F**. A summary of the findings that takes account of seasonal differences including the worst-case scenario is reported later in this chapter. |
| The Council | *"It is also advised that the viewpoints from within Marconi Holiday Village are reviewed, as views towards the site when entering, exiting and moving through may be impacted."* | Users of / visitors to Marconi Holiday Village have been included as visual receptors and considered in **Table 6F-2** within **Appendix 6F**. The judgements made are based on field observations made during previous site visits with reference to **Viewpoint 2** (**Figure 6.7**) which is located within Lavernock Point Nature Reserve near to the boundary of the Holiday Village. |
| The Council | *"The ZTV does indicate some intervisibility from Sully Island to the site, and this should be considered as an off-shore receptor."* | Significant effects to the overall visual amenity of Sully Island are not expected due to the visual experience of the island and the minimal extent of potential visibility of the Proposed Development indicated by the ZTV on **Figure 6.6**. Visitors to Sully Island will be scoped out as visual receptors in the detailed assessment. |
| The Council | *"…consideration should be given to the scoping in of users of Lavernock* | Users of Lavernock Road (B4267) including pedestrians and cyclists have been included as visual |

| Consultee | Summary of Response | Consideration in the ES |
|---|---|---|
| | *Road, as not all are travelling at speed i.e. cyclists."* | receptors and considered in **Table 6F-3** within **Appendix 6F**. The judgements made are based on field observations made during previous site visits together with representative Viewpoint 3 in **Figure 6.7**. |
| The Council | "*…if the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment includes an assessment from upper floors where views may be more extensive than from the publicly accessible area…*" | The effects to the visual amenity of residents of nearby properties will be considered as part of a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) to accompany the Final ES which will include potential views from upper floor windows. |
| The Council | Visual impacts on "*future residents of 'Land at Upper Cosmeston Farm' (ref: 2020/01170/OUT) and the associated public open space is questioned as the ZTV indicates potential visibility on a substantial part of the site*." | The nature of views and potential change arising from the Proposed Development including from upper floor windows of the future Residential Development and POS Allocation (approved) has been considered in **Table 6E-8** within **Appendix 6E: Viewpoint Analysis** which was informed by the field observations made during site visits. This established that significant effects are unlikely to arise, so the future residents were not included in the detailed assessment. |
| The Council | *"The proposed assessment methodology identifies the following developments as having potential for cumulative effects: Sully to Cosmeston active travel route (ref. 2025/00493/RG3), Land at Lower Cosmeston Farm (ref. 2022/01113/RG3), and Land at Upper Cosmeston Farm (ref. 2020/01170/OUT). It is concluded that the only scheme with the potential for cumulative effects is the residential development at Land at Upper Cosmeston Farm, and therefore a cumulative assessment of the Landscape and Visual effects on Landscape Character is to be included. The LPA agrees with this approach."* | The cumulative effects of the approved outline planning application for residential development at Land at Upper Cosmeston Farm (2020/1170/OUT) has been included in **Section 6.13** of this chapter. |

## 6.4. Study Area

6.4.1. The Study Area has been defined to encompass all receptors relevant to Landscape and Visual Amenity that could reasonably be affected by the Proposed Development, taking into account the nature and characteristics of the Proposed Development, the potential impact pathways and relevant guidance and best practice. The LVIA study area has been defined as land within 1km of the Site boundary.

6.4.2. The extent of the study area has been established in accordance with the principles of proportionality set out within the ISEP[21] (formally IEMA) guidance recommends a proportionate EIA focused on the potential likely significant effects of a development. The LVIA Study Area must therefore be large enough to capture all likely significant effects. However, not so large that it may be considered disproportionate, if it makes understanding the key effects of the project more difficult by including extraneous baseline information, and hence receptors that are unlikely to be significantly affected by the Proposed Development.

6.4.3. This is supported by the Landscape Institute[22] Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition (GLVIA3)) (paragraph 3.16) which recommends that "*The level of detail provided should be that which is reasonably required to assess the likely significant effects*." Paragraph 5.2 also states that "*The LVIA Study Area should include the site itself and the full extent of the wider landscape around it which the project may influence in a significant manner*."

6.4.4. At the outset, a broader 5km Survey Area from the Land Ownership Boundary was reviewed to establish the wider landscape context and evaluate the potential geographical extent of Landscape and Visual effects. This precautionary extent reflected the preliminary stages of the scheme development, prior to confirmation of the development footprint and associated infrastructure. Subsequent field surveys and detailed appraisal of the Site and surrounding landscape demonstrated that the extent of landscape interaction is considerably constrained by the characteristics of the receiving environment.

6.4.5. The Site is situated within a strongly structured rural landscape where existing vegetation, including mature hedgerows, tree belts and woodland blocks, exerts a significant influence on visibility. In combination with the locally undulating topography, these features create a series of contained visual envelopes which limit outward and inward views and reduce the extent of intervisibility between the Site and the wider landscape. Field observations undertaken from settlements, local roads, Public Rights

[21] Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP). Available online at: https://www.isepglobal.org/ [Accessed August 2026]
[22] Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, (2013). Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. 3rd edition. London. Routledge [Accessed November 2025].

of Way and other publicly accessible locations confirmed that visibility is generally localised and fragmented, rather than extensive across the wider landscape.

6.4.6. Furthermore, a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) (**Figure 6.6**) has been produced to inform the selection of receptors and forms the basis of the LVIA. The ZTV was generated with computer modelling using points set at 3.5m high representing solar panels and points also set at heights of 3.5m high representing the height of the building containing the technical elements within the substation compound. This was applied across the LiDAR Digital Surface Model (DSM). This confirmed that the potential visibility of the Proposed Development would be concentrated within the 1km study area from the boundary of the Site where panels and associated infrastructure are to be located, where any potential significant effects to the landscape character or visual amenity of the area are most likely to be perceived. The study area does not make allowance for parts of the Site that are identified solely for ecological mitigation which would comprise a change to agricultural management/procedures and will not include the presence of development. As this would not result in a material or visually prominent change to the landscape significant effects are not expected.

6.4.7. The refinement of the Proposed Development layout reinforced these findings. The Proposed Development comprises predominantly low-profile solar infrastructure, with the majority of built elements remaining close to existing ground levels. Consequently, the development does not introduce structures capable of exerting a widespread influence on the landscape or visual amenity across the wider area. The primary Landscape and Visual interactions are therefore anticipated to occur within the immediate setting of the Proposed Development and adjacent receptor locations.

6.4.8. On the basis of desktop review, field assessment and professional judgement, a 1km study area is considered both robust and proportionate. The extent captures the area within which the Proposed Development has the greatest potential to influence landscape character and visual amenity and encompasses those receptors most likely to experience potentially significant effects. Beyond this distance, the influence of the Proposed Development is substantially reduced by landform, vegetation cover and intervening landscape structure, such that significant Landscape and Visual effects are not anticipated. Accordingly, a 1km study area provides an appropriate basis for the assessment of likely significant effects.

6.4.9. The Study Area adopted for this assessment is shown on **Figure 6.1**.

## 6.5. Scope of Assessment

6.5.1. This chapter is presented as a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) undertaken and reviewed by Chartered Landscape Architects. Landscape and Visual assessments are separate although linked processes, describing closely related but distinct sets of effects.

- Landscape effects are a combination of the physical changes to the fabric of the landscape arising from the Proposed Development and perceptual changes – the way these physical changes alter how the landscape is perceived. The landscape assessment considered the effects on the landscape as a whole, effects on individual elements of the landscape, and effects on characteristic combinations or patterns of elements and how these are seen to affect its character and quality.
- The visual assessment is concerned with the views that are available to people using the landscape who may be affected by the Proposed Development, and their perception of and response to changes in these views. Visual effects arise from changes in the composition and character of views, and the assessment considers how that change is likely to be experienced. Including the effects on both specific views and on general visual amenity – the pleasantness of the view or outlook – that the people potentially affected enjoy. For the purposes of assessment, whilst it is the people living, working, passing through or enjoying recreational activities in the area who actually see the views and enjoy the visual amenity, it is the places they may occupy that are mapped and described as visual receptors.

6.5.2. The assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the findings of the EIA Scoping Report, the EIA Scoping Opinion issued by the Council and in accordance with the relevant guidance (ISEP (formally IEMA and GLVIA3) and best practice. The scope has subsequently been refined, where necessary, to reflect the evolution of the Proposed Development and improved understanding of baseline conditions obtained through desk-based studies, field surveys, site appraisal and ZTV analysis. The assessment focuses on those Landscape and Visual receptors for which there is potential for likely significant effects and accords with the principles of a proportionate EIA.

6.5.3. The ES assesses likely significant effects (including direct, indirect and cumulative effects), sets out mitigation and compensation measures, and identifies any technical limitations encountered.

## Elements Scoped into the Assessment

6.5.4. Taking into account the Scoping Opinion (**Appendix 1C**), the effects on Landscape and Visual receptors which have the potential to be significant and have been taken forward for detailed assessment are summarised in **Table 6.2**.

*Table 6.2 - Elements scoped into the assessment*

| Element Scoped In | Relevant Phase | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| **Landscape Receptors** | | |
| Lavernock Hinterland VSAA and other relevant host and adjacent LANDMAP Aspect Areas (following the filtering | Construction / Operation / Decommissioning | Direct changes to the character of Aspect Areas where there is potential for localised significant |

| Element Scoped In | Relevant Phase | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| process as per GN46 LANDMAP guidance) covering:<br>• Geological Landscapes<br>• Landscape Habitats<br>• Visual and Sensory<br>• Historic Landscape<br>• Cultural Landscape Services | | effects within the immediate vicinity of the Site. |
| Consideration of cumulative landscape effects | Construction / Operation / Decommissioning | Potential for significant cumulative effects on the character of the area arising from the Proposed Development in combination with future residential development at Upper Cosmeston Farm (2020/01170/OUT) and the two options for the proposed grid connection for the Proposed Development via underground cable. |
| **Visual Receptors** | | |
| 6no. individual residential properties along Fort Road and St Mary's Well Bay Road within the immediate vicinity of the Site boundary | Construction / Operation / Decommissioning | Residents of residential properties in close proximity to the Site are scoped in and will be considered as part of a RVAA to be accompany the Final ES. |
| Recreational users of Wales Coastal Path (WCP) (Footpaths L/1/1/1 and L1/7/1 / L1/8/1 through the Site) | Construction / Operation / Decommissioning | Visual experience will change when passing through the Site and in close proximity due the Proposed Development, with potential for significant effects to the visual amenity of users. |
| Recreational users of Footpath L1/5/2 (though the Site) | Construction / Operation / Decommissioning | Visual experience will change when passing through the Site due to the Proposed Development and direct changes to the route arising from the proposed diversion with potential for significant effects to the visual amenity of users. |
| Recreational users of Footpath L1/1/1 (through Lavernock Point Nature Reserve) | Construction / Operation / Decommissioning | Potential for significant effects to visual amenity due to close proximity of the footpath to the Site and the nature of views. |

| Element Scoped In | Relevant Phase | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| Users of Fort Road | Construction / Operation / Decommissioning | Potential for significant effects to visual amenity due to close proximity of the road to the Site. |
| Users of St Mary's Well Bay Road | Construction / Operation / Decommissioning | Potential for significant effects to visual amenity due to close proximity of the road to the Site. |
| Users of Lavernock Road (B4267). | Construction / Decommissioning | Potential for significant effects to visual amenity due to close proximity of the road to one of the construction compounds for the Site. |
| Recreational users of Lavernock Point Nature Reserve | Construction / Operation / Decommissioning | Potential for significant effects to visual amenity due to close proximity of the nature reserve to the Site and the nature of views. |
| Visitors to The Bay Caravan Park | Construction / Operation / Decommissioning | Potential for significant effects to visual amenity due to close proximity of the Park to the Site. |
| Visitors to Marconi Holiday Village | Construction / Operation / Decommissioning | Potential for significant effects to visual amenity due to close proximity of the Park to the Site. |
| Consideration of cumulative visual effects | Construction / Operation / Decommissioning | Potential for significant cumulative effects on the visual amenity of the area arising from the Proposed Development in combination with future residential development at Upper Cosmeston Farm (2020/01170/OUT) and the two options for the proposed grid connection for the Proposed Development via underground cable. |
| **Future Visual Receptors** | | |
| Future users of the consented Active Travel Route Sully to Cosmeston (2025/00493/RG3) | Construction / Operation / Decommissioning | Potential for significant effects to visual amenity due to elevated position and close proximity to the Site. |

## Elements Scoped Out of the Assessment

6.5.5. Elements that do not to have the potential to give rise to likely significant effects have been scoped out of the assessment for Landscape and Visual Amenity as originally set out in the Scoping Report. They have therefore not been considered within the ES. A

summary of the impacts scoped out, together with justification, is presented in **Table 6.3**.

*Table 6.3 - Elements Scoped Out of the Assessment*

| Elements Scoped Out | Justification |
|---|---|
| **Landscape Receptors** | |
| NLCA35 Cardiff, Barry and Newport | Significant effects are unlikely due to the broad descriptions of characteristics and the scale of the Proposed Development compared to the NLCA. |
| MCA 29: Seven Estuary (Wales). | Limited inter-visibility with the Site as indicated by the ZTV. Therefore, unlikely that Key Characteristics of the MCA would be directly and significantly affected. |
| LCA 24 – Sully Ridge / Cosmeston | Significant effects are unlikely due to the limited descriptions and detail of characteristics and the scale of the Proposed Development compared to the LCA. |
| Effects on landscape character and visual amenity outside of 1km of the Proposed Development Area | Sparse coverage by the ZTV and in the field observations established that significant adverse effects are unlikely to occur beyond this distance due to the scale of the proposals in combination with the landform and intervening features. |
| **Visual Receptors** | |
| 3no. residential properties at eastern end of Fort Road around St Lawrence's Church | No inter-visibility between the receptors and the Site, due to intervening landform and/or features such as vegetation or buildings (as shown on the ZTV). |
| Residents on the southern edge of Cosmeston | Limited intervisibility, with the field observations establishing that the Proposed Development is not likely to cause significant adverse effect to their visual amenity, due to combination of distance and intervening field boundary vegetation. |
| Residential development at Swanbridge Road / Melrose Walk | Partial coverage by the ZTV suggesting that views of the Proposed Development would be intermittent and only from certain positions. In the field, observations established that views of the Site are heavily restricted where it is seen at a distance. Therefore, due to the nature of the views and the limited extent that views are available, it is considered that a significant effect would not arise. This is confirmed by **Viewpoint 11** and the judgements made in **Table 6E-11** in **Appendix 6E**. |
| Residents in the south eastern end of Sully. | No intervisibility, with the field observations establishing that the Proposed Development would not effect their visual amenity, due to combination of distance and intervening field boundary vegetation. |

| Elements Scoped Out | Justification |
|---|---|
| Recreational users of remaining length of WCP (including Footpaths L1/2/1, S12/9/1, S13/4/7 and S13/4/6) | Minimal coverage by the ZTV and closest fields were excluded from the Site following initial appraisal. As such, significant adverse effects on the visual amenity of users of this section of the WCP will be avoided. This is confirmed by **Viewpoint 7** and the judgements made in **Table 6E-7** in **Appendix 6E**. |
| Recreational users of Footpath L1/3/1, L1/4/2 / L1/4/1 / S13/2/1 (through agricultural fields south of Cosmeston Lakes) | Partial coverage by the ZTV suggesting that views of the Proposed Development would be intermittent and only from certain positions. In the field, observations established that views of the Site are heavily restricted where it is seen at a distance. Therefore, due to the nature of the views and the limited extent that views are available, it is considered that a significant effect would not arise. This is confirmed by **Viewpoint 9** and the judgements made in **Table 6E-9** in **Appendix 6E**. |
| Users of Swanbridge Road | Partial coverage by the ZTV, suggesting that views of the Proposed Development would be intermittent and only from certain positions. Field observations established that views of the Site are heavily restricted where it is seen at a distance. Therefore, due to the nature of the views and the limited extent that views are available, it is considered that a significant effect would not arise. This is confirmed by **Viewpoint 11** and the judgements made in **Table 6E-11** in **Appendix 6E**. |
| Cosmeston Lakes Country Park | Partial coverage by the ZTV, suggesting that views of the Proposed Development would be intermittent and only from certain positions. Field observations established that views of the Site are heavily restricted where it is seen at a distance. Therefore, due to the nature of the views and the limited extent that views are available, it is considered that a significant effect would not arise. This is confirmed by **Viewpoint 10** and the judgements made in **Table 6E-10** in **Appendix 6E**. |
| Offshore views including Sully Island. | Visual experience of Sully Island would be exposed with 360 degree views inland and of the Severn Estuary where the site would be seen in inland views at some distance and in the context of The Bay Caravan Park. There is minimal coverage by the ZTV specific to an area of elevated land at the eastern end of the island. Therefore, significant effects are not expect considering the current visual experience and the likely scale of change to views. |
| Visitors to The Spinney Holiday & Leisure Park | No intervisibility, with the field observations establishing that the Proposed Development would not |

| Elements Scoped Out | Justification |
|---|---|
| | effect their visual amenity, due to combination of distance and intervening field boundary vegetation. |
| Users of Sully Sports and Social Club / Sully Outdoor Bowls Club | No intervisibility, with the field observations establishing that the Proposed Development would not effect their visual amenity, due to combination of distance and intervening field boundary vegetation. |
| **Future Visual Receptors** | |
| Future residents of Land at Upper Cosmeston Farm (2020/01170/OUT) | Due to the distance between this location and the Site in combination with the intervening agricultural land that will remain, landscape features and landform offering screening and containment the introduction of a solar farm into views would only very slightly alter views when looking to the south-west. The Proposed Development is only likely to be visible as distant glimpses from this location and predominantly from first floor windows and above. Therefore, significant effects on the visual amenity of residents in this location are not likely to arise. This is confirmed by **Viewpoint 8** and the judgements made in **Table 6E-8** in **Appendix 6E**. |
| Future users of Public Open Space Allocation (10) (Policy MG28) within the future residential development above | Field observations established that views of the Site are heavily restricted where to minimal glimpses where it is seen at a distance. Therefore, due to the nature of the views and the limited extent that views would likely be available it is considered that a significant effect would not arise. This is confirmed by **Viewpoint 8** and the judgements made in **Table 6E-8** in **Appendix 6E**. According to the illustrative masterplan for the future development the main open space would be located within the field to the south of viewpoint 8 where there would be less visibility of the Site due to this field being at a slightly lower elevation. |

## Spatial Scope

6.5.6. The spatial scope of the assessment of Landscape and Visual Amenity has been defined by the extent of potential significant Landscape and Visual effects arising from the Proposed Development. It has been informed by review of landscape character, designated landscapes, topography, land cover, settlement pattern and an initial zone of theoretical visibility analysis. The study area has been refined through field observations during site visits and professional judgement to focus on those receptors with the potential to experience significant effects.

### Temporal Scope

6.5.7. The temporal scope of the assessment of Landscape and Visual Amenity is consistent with the period over which the Proposed Development would be carried out and therefore covers the following phases:

- Construction: Anticipated to commence in 2028 and last for approximately 6-9 months, followed by a commissioning period of approximately 3 months;
- Operation: The Proposed Development would have a design life of up to 40 years; and
- Decommissioning: Approximately 6-9 months.

6.5.8. As explained in **Section 6.9** of the Methodology in **Appendix 6A,** all phases of the Proposed Development including the operational phase would be considered as temporary. Although the operational phase would be for a long-term duration the Proposed Development is time limited, includes a decommissioning phase and as the land can be restored after the removal of the solar panels and associated infrastructure, the Proposed Development would be reversible.

## 6.6. Baseline Data Collection

### Desk Study

6.6.1. A summary of the organisations that have supplied data, together with the nature of that data is outlined in **Table 6.4.**

*Table 6.4 - Data sources used to inform the Landscape and Visual amenity assessment*

| Organisation | Data Source | Data Provided |
|---|---|---|
| National Resource Wales | Online: https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/maps/nlca/?lang=en | National Landscape Character Areas (NLCAs); |
| National Resource Wales | Online: https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/planning-and-development/evidence-to-inform-development-planning/landmap-the-welsh-landscape-baseline/?lang=ene | LANDMAP all Wales Geographic Information System maps and surveys; |
| Vale of Glamorgan Council | Online: https://www.gov.wales/vale-glamorgan-council-local-development-plan-government-responses<br>https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/geonode:nrw_special_landscape_area | National and local planning designations relevant to Landscape and Visual matters |
| Ordnance Survey, UK | Online: https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/ | Ordnance Survey Maps and aerial photography. |

### Site Visit / Surveys

6.6.2. Where relevant, site visits, surveys and data collection exercises have been undertaken to inform the assessment and establish the baseline conditions for Landscape and Visual Amenity. These activities have been carried out in accordance with relevant legislation, guidance and recognised industry best practice.

6.6.3. **Table 6.5** provides a summary of the site visits and surveys undertaken in support of this assessment, including the survey type, scope of works, and survey period. Where surveys have informed the identification of receptors, baseline conditions, constraints, or mitigation requirements, this is described within the relevant sections of this chapter.

*Table 6.5 - Site visits / surveys undertaken*

| Survey Type | Summary | Survey Period |
|---|---|---|
| Site Appraisal | Initial visit to the Site and the surrounding area to understand landscape character and context. Observations made during this visit were reported in the early Landscape and Visual Appraisal and informed field selection for the Proposed Development. | February 2025 |
| Viewpoint Photography | Obtained photography from locations to best represent the visual experience of users of the landscape where the Proposed Development is likely to be visible from. These photos represent the landscape when vegetation is in leaf. | September 2025 |
| Viewpoint Photography | Obtained photography from locations to best represent the visual experience of users of the landscape where the Proposed Development is likely to be visible from. These photos represent the landscape when vegetation is not in leaf. Photography taken during different times of year allows for seasonal analysis with these in March representing the worst-case scenario when the Proposed Development would be most visible in the landscape. | March 2026 |

## 6.7. Baseline Conditions

### Existing Baseline Conditions

#### Site Location and Context

6.7.1. The Site is located within the Vale of Glamorgan, approximately 500m south-west of Penarth and 550m east of Sully. It comprises approximately 46.54 ha of agricultural land situated on elevated coastal land overlooking the Severn Estuary.

6.7.2. The Site forms part of a wider agricultural landscape characterised by undulating, irregular medium-scale fields enclosed by hedgerows, tree belts, tree groups and

woodland blocks of varying condition. Agriculture represents the predominant land use throughout the Site and wider Study Area, mainly as pasture.

6.7.3. The Study Area extends between Penarth to the north-east and Sully to the west. The surrounding landscape is defined by a network of agricultural fields bounded by hedgerows, trees and woodland, with Hopkins Mount forming a distinctive wooded hill immediately west of the Site and a prominent feature within the local landscape.

6.7.4. The principal transport route within the Study Area is Lavernock Road (B4267), which connects Penarth and Sully.

6.7.5. The Study Area provides a range of recreational opportunities. The Wales Coast Path (WCP) follows the coastal cliffs and passes through Fields 8 and 11 along the western boundary of the southern part of the Site. Public footpath L1/5/2 crosses the Site in an east-west direction to the east of St Mary's Well Bay Road. Additional recreational routes are present within Cosmeston Lakes Country Park, including a public right of way (L/1/3/1, L1/4/2, L1/4/1 and S/13/2/1) crossing agricultural land in the northern part of the Study Area.

6.7.6. Lavernock Point Nature Reserve is located immediately adjacent to the south-eastern boundary of the Site and includes a section of the WCP. Three holiday and caravan sites are also located within the Study Area. The Bay Caravan Park lies adjacent to Fields 8 and 11 within the Site, Marconi Holiday Village is approximately 130m to the south east of Field 10 and The Spinney Holiday & Leaisure Park is located approximately 540m to the south east of Field 1.

**Access and Recreation**

6.7.7. The Site is currently accessed via **Fort Road** and **St Mary's Well Bay Road**, both of which connect to the wider highway network via the **B4267 Lavernock Road**. Fort Road provides access to residential properties, St Lawrence's Church, Lavernock Nature Reserve and Marconi Holiday Village. St Mary's Well Bay Road provides access to The Bay Caravan Park and residential properties.

6.7.8. A disused railway corridor runs generally east-west just to the north of the main Site separating the fields proposed for solar infrastructure from the triangular field to the north that is intended to accommodate the construction compound. The Council secured planning permission for the construction of an **Active Travel Route (ATR)** along the former railway alignment in October 2025.

6.7.9. The WCP is a key recreational resource within the Study Area. The route passes along the western edge of Field 8 and 11 within the Site adjacent to The Bay Caravan Park, linking St Mary's Well Bay Road with Lavernock Point Nature Reserve before continuing to Fort Road and then turning east towards the coastline. The WCP incorporates Public Footpaths L1/5/1 and L1/7/1 which intersect the Site through Field 8 and 11 while it

follows the routes of Footpaths L1/6/1 and L1/2/1 in the surrounding Study Area within the vicinity of the Site. In addition, Public Footpath L1/5/2 provides a connection between the WCP and Fort Road and following field boundaries through the Site boundary.

## Landscape Receptors

### National Landscape Character

6.7.10. NRW has divided Wales into 48 National Landscape Character Areas (NLCA) (Ref 11-17). The NRW National Landscape Character Map for Wales[23] is referred to for a strategic understanding of landscape character within the Study Area and is shown on **Figure 6.2.** This outlines the wider setting for the Proposed Development and provides a context for the description of local landscape character. As the information provided is given at a broader, macro scale the NCLA's are not taken further into the assessment.

6.7.11. The host character area containing the Site is the **NLCA35 Cardiff, Barry and Newport[24]** covering the entire inland Study Area. The NLCA35 profile provides the following description: The key characteristics identified as being of particular relevance to the Study Area and the Proposed Development are underlined below.

6.7.12. "*Two cities and associated suburbs and satellite towns dominate this part of south-east Wales. They include Wales' capital and largest settlement, Cardiff, as well as Newport, Cwmbran, Pontypool, Penarth and Barry. The area forms a busy transport and development corridor. It occupies the coastal lowlands between the Severn estuary with its levels, and the edge of the South Wales Valleys with their uplands. The area includes major ports at Cardiff, Barry and Newport, and associated industrial infrastructure. There are also extensive residential, suburban areas and major retail, business and recreational facilities. There is an intensive network of busy roads and railways, including part of the M4 corridor. Yet despite all this development, the area also includes Wales' only Green belt (around Cardiff) and appealing areas of sylvan woodland, pastures and hedgerows in open countryside. This is particularly notable in the section between greater Cardiff and Newport. Green wedges and corridors also penetrate urban areas, for example along river corridors such as the River Taff through Cardiff, and greenspace in the planned the new town of Cwmbran*."

6.7.13. The key characteristics of NLCA35 are described as:

[23] National Landscape Character 31/03/2014. Available online at: https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/maps/nlca/?lang=en
[24] National Landscape Character 31/03/2014 NLCA35 CARDIFF, BARRY AND NEWPORT. Available online at: https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/682621/nlca35-cardiff-and-newport-description.pdf?rmode=pad&v=1d35c98c356b3e0

- *"**Edge to the South Wales Coalfield** characterised by lowland landscapes along the south-eastern margins of the coalfield, underlain by mudstones and sandstones with local limestone outcrops and notable glacial moraine features;*
- ***Busy and heavily urbanised landscapes** containing Cardiff together with other major settlements including Penarth and Barry to the south-west, and Newport and Cwmbran to the east;*
- *Cardiff as the capital city and principal administrative centre of Wales, with an urban form that has expanded extensively into the surrounding landscape. Historic origins remain evident, while Cardiff Bay represents a significant focus of regeneration and redevelopment;*
- ***Ports and industrial waterfronts**, including Cardiff, Barry and Newport, contributing strongly to the area's economic and visual character;*
- ***Urban fringe and peri-urban landscapes**, including areas of mixed rural and developed character where settlement, infrastructure and open countryside interact;*
- *A well-wooded rural landscape comprising pasture fields and woodland blocks that provide a strong green setting and a marked contrast to adjoining urban influences. Medium-sized fields are typically enclosed by intact hedgerows with frequent hedgerow trees, creating a verdant, enclosed and tranquil landscape character;*
- *Prominent landmark structures, including the Principality Stadium in Cardiff, the bridges crossing the River Usk in Newport, and industrial installations that are visible over considerable distances;*
- ***The M4 motorway and main railway corridor**, forming a major transport route through the area and a defining influence on landscape character and visual experience;*
- *Green wedges and corridors extending into urban areas, including wooded river valleys and coastal landscapes;*
- ***Lowland river corridors** associated with the Rivers Taff, Ely, Rhymney, Usk and Ebbw, which provide important landscape structure and ecological connectivity; and*
- *Cultural and historic features of national importance, including St Fagans National Museum of History, comprising approximately 40 relocated vernacular buildings set within a historic landscape associated with St Fagans Castle*."

6.7.14. National Landscape Character Area (NLCA) 35 has not been identified as a landscape receptor within the assessment. Whilst the NLCA provides useful strategic context, its description and key characteristics are predominantly focused on the urban form, settlement structure and metropolitan influences that characterise the wider Cardiff area. These broad characteristics are not representative of the Study Area, which comprises a predominantly agricultural landscape with a distinct local character.

6.7.15. Furthermore, the NLCA is defined at a strategic scale considerably larger than that of the Proposed Development. Given the scale and nature of the Proposed Development, and the fact that the principal characteristics underpinning the NLCA would remain unchanged, the potential for significant effects on the NLCA as a whole is considered negligible. Consequently, NLCA 35 is referred to for contextual purposes only and is not taken forward as a landscape receptor within the detailed assessment.

**Regional Landscape Character**

6.7.16. The Vale of Glamorgan Landscape Character Assessment[25] identifies the Site as located within **LCA 24 – Sully Ridge / Cosmeston** which is described as "*a small, but distinctive areas underlain by carboniferous limestone, forming a locally prominent ridge. It affords extensive views across the Bristol Channel, however the sense of isolation is compromised by the adjacent suburbanisation associated with Penarth, Dinas Powys and Sully*. "

6.7.17. The aim of the Character Assessment was to review the Landscape Character Areas (LCA's) that has been identified in the previous assessment. The LCA's are based on an amalgamation of the five LANDMAP topic Aspect Areas which have been grouped tother where a recognisable "*sense of place*" or "*local identity*" has been identified. However, the document refers back to LANDMAP GIS data for more detailed information about each LCA.

6.7.18. Accordingly, LANDMAP has been relied upon as the principal landscape character resource, providing a detailed and geographically specific evidence base for understanding landscape character and informing the assessment of potential landscape effects associated with the Proposed Development. Also, given that significant effects are likely to occur to host and potentially adjacent Aspect Areas significant effects are not likely to occur to the larger LCA 24 due to its scale compared to that of the Site. For these reasons, LCA 24 – Sully Ridge / Cosmeston has been scoped out of the detailed assessment.

**Marine Character**

6.7.19. On behalf of the Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) commissioned LUC to prepare a National Seascape Assessment for Wales[26] (Ref 11-23) to inform the production of the Welsh National Marine Plan[27]. The seascape assessment covers all parts of Welsh inshore waters where land-sea interaction is focused which includes the

[25] TACP Consultants. (2008). Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council Designation of Landscape Character Areas Final Report August 2008. (Online). Available online at: Local Development Plan - Landscape Character Areas - August 2008 [Accessed August 2026].
[26] LUC. (2015). National Seascape Assessment for Wales. (Online). Available online at: Natural Resources Wales / Marine Character Areas [Accessed August 2026].
[27] Welsh Government. (2019). Welsh National Marine Plan. (Online). Available online at: Welsh National Marine Plan [Accessed August 2026].

area between the high-water mark and 12 nautical miles out to sea. The seascape assessment identified 29no. National Marine Character Areas (NMCAs) around the coastal waters of Wales within this area with a profiled for each describing Key Characteristics, influences and qualities.

6.7.20. In addition, the Marine Management Organisation commissioned a national seascape assessment for England, which included a Seascape Character Assessment for the South-West Inshore and Offshore Marine Plan[28] (Ref 11-23). This covers the whole of the Severn Estuary, acknowledging that there is overlap with the above NRW commissioned assessment. To avoid duplication, it is the NRW commissioned assessment that has been referred to in this chapter.

6.7.21. The NMCA relevant to the Study Area is **NMCA 29: Severn Estuary (Wales)[29]** and is shown on **Figure 6.2**. The Key Characteristics are set out in the profile for NMCA 29 within the seascape assessment. NMCA 29: Severn Estuary (Wales) has been reviewed to inform the wider seascape context of the Proposed Development. Whilst the MCA provides an important strategic understanding of the character of the Severn Estuary, its key characteristics are not considered to be directly representative of the Site or susceptible to effects arising from the Proposed Development.

6.7.22. Although the MCA is referenced within the LVIA baseline to provide contextual information, it has been scoped out as a specific landscape receptor for detailed assessment as set out in Section 6 of the EIA Scoping Report. This is because the Proposed Development is located within the inland agricultural landscape of the Lavernock Hinterland and is physically separated from the estuary by intervening landform, including the coastal cliff edge. Consequently, opportunities for intervisibility between the Proposed Development and the majority of the MCA are limited, and the defining characteristics of the Severn Estuary would remain intact.

6.7.23. On this basis, significant effects on the character, perceptual qualities or key characteristics of NMCA 29: Severn Estuary (Wales) are not anticipated. Therefore, NMCA29 is not taken forward as a receptor for assessment.

**Local Landscape Character - LANDMAP**

6.7.24. LANDMAP[30], is a national landscape resource developed by NRW. It is a GIS-based resource where landscape characteristics, qualities, and influences are evaluated into a nationally consistent dataset. It includes five datasets that cover aspects of geological

[28] LUC. (2018). Seascape Character Assessment for the South West Inshore and Offshore marine plan areas. (Online). Available online at: South_West_-_Seascape_character_assessment_report.pdf [Accessed August 2026].
[29] LUC. (2015). Marine Character Areas – MCA 29 Severn Estuary (Wales). (Online). Available online at: Marine Character Areas 29 [Accessed August 2026].
[30] National Resource Wales LANDMAP. Available online at: https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/planning-and-development/evidence-to-inform-development-planning/landmap-the-welsh-landscape-baseline/?lang=en

landscape, landscape habitats, visual and sensory qualities, historic landscapes, and cultural landscape services.

6.7.25. The NRW LANDMAP landscape character information has been reviewed to inform the understanding of landscape character within the Study Area and its surrounding context. LANDMAP provides a nationally consistent, all-Wales resource for the evaluation and classification of landscape characteristics, qualities and influences across five interrelated aspect layers. For the purposes of this LVIA, the host Visual and Sensory Aspect Area has been identified as the principal LANDMAP receptor as identified in **Figure 6.3**.

6.7.26. The Site falls wholly within the **Lavernock Hinterland (VLFGLVS787**) Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA), which is assigned an overall LANDMAP evaluation of Moderate. The key characteristics are described as:

- Gently rolling to undulating lowland landform, comprising a series of subtle ridges and slopes between the coastal edge and the hinterland;
- Predominantly rural agricultural landscape characterised by a mosaic of pastoral fields enclosed by hedgerows and occasional hedgerow trees;
- Strong vegetated framework created by mature hedgerows, tree belts and vegetation associated with the former railway corridor, providing enclosure and filtering views in places;
- Dispersed pattern of farms, rural properties and small settlements connected by a network of narrow rural lanes;
- Distinct coastal influence arising from proximity to the Bristol Channel, including intermittent sea views from elevated locations;
- Generally tranquil rural character, albeit with localised influences from tourism, recreation and residential development;
- Landscape in transition, with evidence of suburbanising influences and changes in land use contributing to a gradual erosion of traditional rural character in some locations; and
- Varied visual character resulting from the interaction of agricultural land, settlement, vegetation structure and occasional long-distance views towards the coast.

6.7.27. When considering the Cultural Landscape, as defined through LANDMAP, this relates to the connections between people and landscape, including how patterns of settlement, agriculture, movement and other human activity have shaped the landscape, as well as how the landscape is experienced, valued and understood. The former LANDMAP Cultural Landscape dataset includes recommendations and tolerance-to-change information intended to support sustainable landscape decision-making.

6.7.28. For the **Lavernock Hinterland Cultural Landscape Aspect Area (VLFGLCLS050)**, the following key considerations should inform the siting, design and integration of new infrastructure:

- **Retaining the predominantly rural and agricultural character** of the hinterland by avoiding unnecessary fragmentation of the established field pattern and minimising the introduction of conspicuous engineered features within open farmland;
- **Using the existing landscape framework** of field boundaries, hedgerows, tree groups and woodland blocks to guide the alignment and siting of infrastructure, so that development responds to the inherited organisation of the landscape rather than cutting arbitrarily across it;
- **Conserving historic field patterns and traditional boundary features**, including native hedgerows, hedgerow trees, banks and ditches, which contribute to the legibility of past land management and the cultural continuity of the agricultural landscape;
- **Avoiding extensive or continuous screen planting within open areas**, where this would introduce an uncharacteristic landscape structure, obscure the underlying field pattern or create an artificial enclosure. The objective should be landscape integration rather than complete visual screening;
- **Reinforcing existing vegetation patterns where appropriate**, using locally characteristic native species to extend or restore established hedgerows, tree groups and woodland edges. New planting should relate directly to the existing landscape structure and avoid isolated or geometric planting that appears unrelated to local character;
- **Integrating new or altered access routes with the established network of rural lanes, tracks and field accesses**, retaining their scale, alignment and informal character wherever practicable. Excessive road widening, engineered junctions, prominent kerbing, lighting and urbanising highway treatments should be avoided;
- **Reducing the perceived scale and engineered appearance of infrastructure** through careful grading, sensitive material selection and the restrained use of native planting, particularly where infrastructure would otherwise appear prominent against the open agricultural setting;
- Protecting the setting and interrelationship of settlements, farmsteads, historic routes and heritage features, including their visual and functional connections with the surrounding farmland;
- **Maintaining the experiential qualities of the hinterland**, including its relative tranquillity, rurality and sense of separation from the more developed coastal and urban areas nearby. Infrastructure lighting, signage, fencing and ancillary equipment should therefore be kept to the minimum necessary;

- **Creating appropriately located grassland and field-margin habitats** along new access routes, verges and disturbed ground, where these would be consistent with the agricultural landscape and could strengthen ecological connectivity without compromising historic landscape patterns;
- **Using landscape and ecological mitigation to reinforce cultural character**, rather than treating mitigation as a purely visual or biodiversity-led intervention. Measures should conserve and, where possible, restore the relationship between traditional land use, field boundaries, routes, vegetation and settlement; and
- **Providing proportionate compensatory measures where adverse effects cannot be avoided**, including the restoration of hedgerows, traditional boundaries, species-rich grassland and other locally characteristic landscape features. Such works should be informed by archaeological assessment where ground disturbance could affect buried cultural heritage.

6.7.29. The selection of LANDMAP Aspect Areas to be included in the LVIA has been carried out in accordance with the methodology provided in Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments GN46. The filtering process described within GN46 is set out in **Appendix 6B: LANDMAP Filtering Process** which identified the relevant Aspect Areas located within the 1km Study Area. Field observations and the Viewpoint Analysis presented in **Appendix 6E: Viewpoint Analysis** established that no significant visual effects are likely to occur beyond a distance of 1km. This will apply to the Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (VSAAs) as shown on **Figure 6.3** as this is of greatest relevance how the landscape within the context of the Site is experienced by people. For the remaining aspects areas that include Historic Landscape Aspect Areas (HLAAs), Geological Landscapes Aspect Areas (GLAAs), Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas (LHAAs) and Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas (CLSAAs) filtering process described within GN46 is applied and the relevant aspect areas are filtered in along with host aspect areas where significant effects or operations associated with the Proposed Development take place. Baseline descriptions and a landscape sensitivity assessment which considers both value and susceptibility in accordance with GLVIA3 is reported for each Aspect Area included in the LVIA in **Appendix 6C: LANDMAP Baseline Description and Sensitivity**.

6.7.30. The two GLAAs included in **Appendix 6C** and to be considered further in the assessment are the host areas as follows:

- Penarth (VLFGLGL238)- Host; and
- Sully (VLFGLGL955) - Host.

6.7.31. The only LHAAs included in **Appendix 6C** and to be considered further in the assessment is the host area as follows:

- Swanbridge (VLFGLLH376) – Host.

6.7.32. The three VSAAs within the 1km Study Area (illustrated on **Figure 6.3**) included in **Appendix 6C** which are to be considered further in the assessment are the host, adjacent area to the north and nearby area to the south-west as follows:

- Lavernock hinterland (VLFGLVS787)- Host;
- Sully Ridge (VLFGLVS637); and
- Sully Island (VLFGLVS903).

6.7.33. The two HLAAs included in **Appendix 6C** and to be considered further in the assessment are the host and nearby area to the north as follows:

- Lavernock (VLFGLHL010) – Host; and
- Cosmeston Country Park (VLFGLHL006).

6.7.34. The two CLSAAs included in **Appendix 6C** and to be considered further in the assessment are the host and adjacent area to the north as follows:

- Lavernock hinterland (VLFGLCLS050) – Host; and
- Sully Ridge (VLFGLCLS039).

## Landscape Planning Designations

### National Designated Landscapes

6.7.35. There are no nationally designated landscapes; National Parks and National Landscapes (former Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty), within the Study Area.

### Local Designated Landscapes/Landscape Policy Areas

6.7.36. The entire Site and the majority of the surrounding landscape to the south of Lavernock Road (B4267) between Penarth and Sully is located within the **South Penarth to Sully Green Wedge**[31]. Policy MG18 – Green Wedges of the Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011-202627 states:

*"Policy MG18 – Green Wedges:*

*[…] Green Wedges have been identified to prevent the coalescence of settlements and to retain the openness of land at the following locations:*

*6. South Penarth to Sully;*

*"Within these areas development which prejudices the open nature of the land will not be permitted." […]*

6.7.37. The Green Wedge designation seeks to protect vulnerable undeveloped land, prevent coalescence between settlements and maintain the open character of the area. It also

[31] Policy MG18 – Green Wedges of the Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011-202627. Available online at: https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Living/Planning/Policy/LDP/LDP-Adoption/Adopted-LDP-Written-Statement-June-2017-final-interactive-web-version.pdf

seeks to maintain the setting of adjacent built-up areas and preserve the separation between settlements.

6.7.38. Whilst the Green Wedge designation provides relevant planning context, it does not constitute a landscape character or visual receptor for the purposes of the LVIA. Accordingly, it has been scoped out of the detailed assessment as a landscape receptor within the LVIA.

**Visual Amenity**

6.7.39. The visual assessment has been informed by a review of the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping **(Figure 6.6),** desk-based studies, field survey work and detailed viewpoint analysis. The viewpoint analysis has been used to verify and refine the visual receptor baseline and identify those receptors to be taken forward for detailed assessment.

6.7.40. A ZTV for the Proposed Development is presented on **Figure 6.6** and has been generated to include the proposed ground-mounted solar arrays (yellow), associated infrastructure and the Project Substation Compound (orange). Generation of the ZTV used a LiDAR derived Digital Surface Model (DSM) so accounted for intervening surface features such as buildings and vegetation. Both the ZTV analysis and field survey work confirm that visual receptors with the greatest potential to experience notable effects are principally located within approximately 1 km of the Site. The coastal landform, cliff edge and undulating topography in combination with intervening boundary vegetation surrounding the Site act to constrain the visual envelope of the Proposed Development, with visibility largely focused within the immediate vicinity of the Site and only limited theoretical visibility extending into the wider Study Area.

6.7.41. Whilst the ZTV identifies some theoretical visibility beyond the 1 km Study Area, field survey observations confirmed that actual visibility is considerably more restricted in practice. Visibility from publicly accessible locations is generally limited due to the screening effects of intervening vegetation and local topography. Existing hedgerows, woodland blocks and field boundary vegetation further filter or restrict views towards the Site. In many cases, the patches of ZTV illustrated in **Figure 6.6** outside the 1km Study Area is the software picking up where views would potentially be available from the tops of buildings or trees, so in reality would not be available to people in the landscape. Consequently, the likelihood of significant adverse effects on visual amenity beyond the 1km Study Area is considered to be low. The assessment has therefore focused on visual receptors within the 1km Study Area, where there is a realistic potential for views of the Proposed Development and where effects on views and visual amenity are most likely to occur. These are assessed in the following types:

- View from Residential Properties/areas (including future visual receptors);
- View from Recreational Routes/Areas (including future visual receptors);

- Views experienced whilst travelling through the landscape by road users, walkers, and cyclists (where permitted); and
- Views from tourist and recreational destinations.

6.7.42. The presence of two caravan parks and the WCP directly adjacent to the Site Boundary, along with a third caravan site and the Cosmeston Lakes Country Park located in the Study Area, suggests that this is a well-used recreational landscape, particularly during peak holiday periods, in-between the settlements of Penarth and Sully.

## Visual Receptors

### Visual Receptors: Recreational Routes and Destinations

6.7.43. The Study Area includes a wide range of visual receptors undertaking outdoor recreational activities where the availability of views and their composition are likely to contribute to receptors' enjoyment of their activity. Recreational receptors within 1km of the Site and covered by the ZTV have been identified under the following categories:

- Designated long distance footpaths;
- Public Rights of Way (PRoWs); and
- Outdoor Recreational Facilities/Destinations.

6.7.44. Field observations established that potential views of the Proposed Development will be contained within 1km of the Site. Therefore, users of the following recreational routes and destinations will be included in the assessment as visual receptors, as shown on **Figure 6.6**:

- **Users of Wales Coastal Path (WCP):** The WCP is a 1,400km long distance path following the entire coastline of Wales valued for its coastal setting, panoramic views across the Severn Estuary and recreational experience. Through the 1km Study Area the route follows the top of coastal cliffs along the edge of agricultural fields from Penarth (VP 7) to the north-east of the Site before reaching Fort Road. From Fort Road it turns west into Lavernock Point Nature Reserve following Footpath L1/6/1 (VP 2). Turning north it enters the Site through the southern corner of Field 11 along Footpath L1/7/1 and follows the western boundary on along Footpath L1/8/1 through Field 8 (VP 1) where open views of the pastoral fields are available before turning west towards St Marys Well Bay Road. Here it turns south and follows the road away from the Site. As this is a nationally promoted and recognised long-distance route it is considered to be *highly* valued. Users are typically engaged with the surrounding landscape and are therefore considered highly susceptible to changes in views;
- **Users of individual local footpaths:** A series of local public footpaths within the Study Area connect surrounding roads and recreational destinations. These routes are generally used by walkers undertaking local recreational journeys and provide varying levels of visibility towards the Site depending on local topography and

vegetation cover. Receptor susceptibility is considered *high* due to the recreational nature of the activity;

- **Footpath L1/5/2**: Footpath L1/5/2 crosses the Site generally in an east-west between Fort Road and St Mary's Well Bay Road. At the time of Site visits the route was inaccessible from Fort Road as is passes between the vegetated field boundaries of Fields 6 and 10 which had become overgrown. However, from St Mary's Well Bay Road it runs inside the northern boundaries of Fields 8 and 9 where open views are available of the pastoral fields, as well as into Field 4 through the hedge gap to the north. Users are currently restricted to the western part of the footpath but should vegetation be cleared it would allow access along the entire route. Users are considered *highly* susceptible as their primary focus is recreation and enjoyment of the landscape where the footpath is accessible and should it become fully accessible along the entire length in the future; and

- **Footpath L1/1/1 (within Lavernock Point Nature Reserve):** Footpath L1/1/1 runs east-west from Fort Road to St Mary's Well Bay Road passing through Lavernock Point Nature Reserve and south of The Bay Caravan Park along the way. The footpath provides access to the southern corner of Field 11 within the Site as well as coastal habitats and heritage features associated with Lavernock Point that allow for views across the Severn Estuary to the south. Views are influenced by local vegetation, woodland, scrub and landform, although intermittent glimpsed views towards the Site are available (similar to VP 2 but at a slightly lower level) from the north-eastern end. As the nature reserve is managed, operated and promoted by the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales it is considered to be *highly* valued. Users are considered *highly* susceptible as their primary focus is recreation and enjoyment of the landscape.

- **Lavernock Point Nature Reserve:** Lavernock Nature Reserve is a well-established recreational and nature conservation destination comprising coastal grassland, scrub, woodland and cliff-top habitats located adjacent the south-eastern boundary of Fields 10 and 11. The reserve includes public footpaths and informal walking routes and attracts visitors undertaking walking, wildlife observation and appreciation of the coastal landscape. Views are influenced by local vegetation, woodland, scrub and landform, although intermittent glimpsed views towards the Site are available as represented by VP 2 which illustrates where it is most visible from the higher south-eastern boundary. As the nature reserve is managed, operated and promoted by The Wildlife Trust of South & South West Wales it is considered to be *highly* valued. Visitors are considered *highly* susceptible visual

receptors due to their focus on the surrounding landscape and nature conservation interests;

- **The Bay Caravan Park:** The Bay Caravan Park is a recreational destination accommodating visitors who may experience views towards the surrounding landscape from caravans/pitches, internal circulation routes and associated facilities. The majority of views are directed and oriented south-east and south towards the Severn Estuary although the Site is located immediately adjacent to the north-east where glimpsed views could be obtained through the boundary vegetation. There are also views towards Field 7 when leaving the Caravan Site meeting St Mary's Well Bay Road available to people in vehicles and pedestrians. Receptor susceptibility is considered *high*, reflecting the recreational context and the expectation of enjoying the surrounding coastal and rural setting; and
- **The Marconi Holiday Village:** The Marconi Holiday Village is a recreational destination accommodating visitors who may experience views towards the surrounding landscape from caravans/pitches, internal circulation routes and associated facilities. The majority of views are directed and oriented south-east and south towards the Severn Estuary although the Site is located nearby across Lavernock Point Nature Reserve to the north-west where glimpsed views could be obtained amongst intervening vegetation (similar to VP 2). Receptor susceptibility is considered *high*, reflecting the recreational context and the expectation of enjoying the surrounding coastal and rural setting.

6.7.45. Judgements regarding the sensitivity of visual receptors that have a directly corresponding representative viewpoint have been made in **Appendix 6E**. Generally, the relevant recreational routes and destinations are located within a fairly typical agricultural landscape with some suburban influences but few visual detractors so is considered to be of a *Medium* value. Unless otherwise stated above due to being nationally recognised or promoted such as the WCP and Lavernock Point Nature Reserve which have a *High* value. As users will be engaged in recreational activities in all cases where their attention is likely to be on appreciating views of the surrounding landscape with plenty of opportunity to obtain views their susceptibility to visual change is considered to be *High*. When the value of the views is combined with the susceptibility of users the overall sensitivity of recreational receptors will be *High*. This is in accordance with the LVIA Methodology in **Appendix 6A**. A summary of the visual receptor sensitivity judgements is provided in **Table 6.8**.

**Visual Receptors: Transport Routes:**

6.7.46. Users of the following roads are within 1km of the Site and will be included in the assessment as visual receptors:

- **Fort Road (local road):** Fort Road provides access to Lavernock Point, Lavernock Point Nature Reserve, the WCP and residential properties. Users comprise local

residents and visitors predominantly travelling in vehicles. Users experience the surrounding agricultural landscape at close range, although visibility is frequently filtered by hedgerows, vegetation and local changes in topography. Views towards the Site are transient and for short durations through field gates and over the boundary hedgerows as it runs past the eastern boundary of Field 6 (VP 3). Receptor susceptibility is considered *medium*, reflecting the transient nature of the visual experienced but the close proximity of the Site;

- **St Mary's Well Bay Road (local road):** St Mary's Well Bay Road is a lightly trafficked local road serving residential properties and providing access to The Bay Caravan Park. Pedestrians are also likely to be using the roadside pavement accessing the WCP that follows this road further to the south as well as walking between the caravan park and Cosmeston Lakes Country Park further to the north. Users experience the surrounding agricultural landscape at close range, although visibility is frequently filtered by hedgerows, vegetation and local changes in topography. Views towards the Site are transient while running between Fields 3 and 4 (VP 4b) to the east and 2 and 7 to the west (VP 4a) where they are available through gaps in and over roadside hedgerows and through field gates. Susceptibility of users in vehicles is considered *medium*, reflecting the transient nature of the visual experienced but the close proximity of the Site while pedestrians would be *high* as they are more likely to be enjoying views of the surrounding landscape with more opportunity to obtain them; and
- **Lavernock Road (B4267):** The Lavernock Road (B4267) is the principal road connecting Penarth, Sully and Lavernock. It accommodates a greater volume of traffic than local roads providing access to the wider area with vehicles travelling at faster speeds. Views towards the Site are transient as it passes Field 12 and are influenced by the roadside hedgerow which is currently clipped and maintained quite low. It represents an important transport receptor owing to the number of road users potentially affected. Susceptibility of users in vehicles is considered *low*, reflecting the transient nature of the visual experience while travelling at speed but the close proximity of the Site while pedestrians would be *high* as they are more likely to be enjoying views of the surrounding landscape with more opportunity to obtain them.

6.7.47. Judgements regarding the sensitivity of visual receptors that have a directly corresponding representative viewpoint have been made in **Appendix 6E**. Generally, the relevant transport routes are located within a fairly typical agricultural landscape with some suburban influences but few visual detractors so is considered to be of a *Medium* value. The majority of users will be engaged in thew activity of driving where the visual experience is transient so their susceptibility is considered to be *medium* or *low* due to the speed of travel whereas pedestrians are more likely to be engaged recreational activities with their attention on appreciating views of the surrounding

landscape so their susceptibility to visual change is considered to be *High*. When the value of the views is combined with the susceptibility of users the overall sensitivity of recreational receptors will be *Medium or* Low for vehicle users and *High* for pedestrians. This is in accordance with the LVIA Methodology in **Appendix 6A**. A summary of the visual receptor sensitivity judgements is provided in **Table 6.8**.

**Future Baseline Conditions**

6.7.48. The Proposed Development will cover a period of approximately up to 41 years and 9 months (including construction, operation and decommissioning). The approximate time periods associated with the Proposed Development, and whether they are predominantly long-term or short-term (in accordance with the LVIA Methodology in **Appendix 6A**) are listed as follows:

- Construction: up to 9 months (followed by 3-month commissioning) (short-term);
- Operation: up to 40 years (long-term and reversible); and
- Decommissioning: up to 9 months (short-term).

6.7.49. The LVIA considers that during this period, the predicted future baseline and evolution of Landscape and Visual receptors is unlikely to change significantly under the current regime of landscape management and maintenance. However, land management, and consequently landscape character, is dependent on a number of economic and environmental factors including the future effects of climate change and human adaptation which are difficult to predict at a local level and not a matter for this assessment. It is however likely that mitigation and adaptation in response to changing climate and biodiversity pressures will continue to have an influence on this area in the form of increased renewable energy and other environmental changes which are likely to alter the landscape baseline as follows:

- Change resulting from an increased reliance on renewable energy, including solar farm development;
- Change to current land management techniques, which may lead to an increase in vegetation cover;
- Warmer, wetter winters and drier summers or prolonged periods of drought may lead to a change in the hydrology of the landscape, leading to changes in agricultural practices or changes to the vegetation patterns; and
- Increase in storms may lead to older trees being pushed over, reducing their presence within the landscape and changing some of the landscape features that contribute to the character of the area.

6.7.50. A review of committed development within the Study Area has identified schemes that have the potential to change the baseline character if the area and/or introduce future visual receptors with views towards the Proposed Development. These future receptors

have been considered as part of the future baseline and have been reviewed to determine whether there is potential for significant visual effects to arise.

6.7.51. Potential future visual receptors comprise:

- Future residents of **Land at Upper Cosmeston Farm** (Planning Application Ref. 2020/01170/OUT[32]);
- Future users of the associated **Public Open Space Allocation** (10) (Policy MG28); and
- Future users of the **Sully to Cosmeston Active Travel Route** (Planning Application Ref. 2025/00493/RG3[33]).

**Future Visual Receptor: Residents of Land at Upper Cosmeston Farm**

6.7.52. The consented residential-led development at Land at Upper Cosmeston Farm has the potential to introduce new residential receptors and users of associated public open space within the future baseline. This location was visited and viewpoint photography has been included in **Figure 6.7 (VP 8)**. Field survey observations supported by a review of the approved masterplan informed the Viewpoint Analysis carried out in **Table 6E-8** in **Appendix 6E**. This established that the Site would be viewed at a distance and that intervening agricultural land, hedgerows, tree belts, vegetation and local variations in topography provide substantial visual containment and screening restricting any views of the Site and the Proposed Development to glimpses that would only slightly alter the composition of views. Any views of the Proposed Development that are available would likely be obtained from first floor windows and above of the future properties and not likely to affect the main front or rear aspects. As a result, the Proposed Development would not form a prominent component of the visual experience and significant effects to the visual amenity of residents is unlikely to occur. While viewpoint photography and analysis has been included, the future residents of properties at Land at Upper Cosmeston Farm have been scoped out of the detailed assessment.

**Future Visual Receptor: Users of Open Space Allocation**

6.7.53. Whilst users of the proposed public open space allocation may have the potential to obtain occasional views towards the Site, these would be of a similar nature to those illustrated in viewpoint 8. According to the approved masterplan, the area of POS would be located to the south of the field containing viewpoint 8 which is at a slightly lower level. Views of the Site and the Proposed Development would therefore be curtailed further by the intervening landform and vegetation and seen a distance. Consequently, significant effects on visual amenity are not anticipated for the future users of the

[32] Planning application 2020/01170/OUT –Vale of Glamorgan Planning Register. Available online at: Planning application: 2020/01170/OUT - Vale of Glamorgan District Council [Accessed August 2026]
[33] Planning application 2025/00493/RG3–Vale of Glamorgan Planning Register. Available online at: Planning application: 2025/00493/RG3 - Vale of Glamorgan District Council [Accessed August 2026]

allocated public open space associated with the approved residential development. These receptors have therefore been scoped out of the detailed assessment.

**Future Visual Receptor: Users of Sully Cosmeston Active Travel Route**

6.7.54. Future users of the Sully to Cosmeston Active Travel Route have been scoped into the assessment. The route passes through areas of higher elevation following the existing railway embankments and is located in close proximity to the Site where users would be engaged in recreational activity that would include enjoying views of the surrounding landscape including potentially towards the Site where they are available.

6.7.55. The routes follows a disused railway line that is located within a fairly typical agricultural landscape with some suburban influences but few visual detractors so is considered to be of a *Medium* value. As users will be engaged in recreational activities which would include appreciating views of the surrounding landscape their susceptibility to visual change is considered to be *High*. How the visual experience of the route is likely to change during construction and in the future is explained in the preceding paragraphs. When the value of the views is combined with the susceptibility of users the overall sensitivity of recreational receptors will be *High*. This is in accordance with the LVIA Methodology in **Appendix 6A**. A summary of the visual receptor sensitivity judgements is provided in **Table 6.8** below.

6.7.56. Review of the planning application documents established that the majority of the works would take place within the existing rail track consisting of the creation of a shared path for pedestrians and cyclist with associated minor verges either side. In the proximity of the Site, the works within the rail track would include where the route of the track runs through cuttings below ground level, embankments above ground level and some sections at ground level. The majority of the route in proximity of the Site and within the Study Area is enclosed by groups of trees/vegetation on both sides so the visual environment is likely to be quite enclosed. However, the Planning Statement explains that the works requires the removal of existing trees and vegetation. The Arboricultural Report accompanying the application provides some clarity on the extent of tree/vegetation loss/removal that is likely to take place.

6.7.57. The Arboricultural Report[34] explains that where tree groups are identified as 'Some Potential Tree Removal' the tree groups will only be removed in part, specifically areas which abut the proposed footway/cycleway. This means that the majority of the tree groups will be retained with obvious benefits in terms of visual amenity and landscape integrity. It is therefore likely that the overall visual experience of the route being enclosed by vegetation is likely to remain and any views to the surrounding landscape

[34] TR33 Environments. (2024). Arboricultural Report for Proposed Development at Sully to Cosmeston Active Travel Route. (Online). Available online at: Arboricultural Report.pdf [Accessed October 2026].

would be as through gaps between these tree groups. This is relevant to the existing tree groups adjacent Field 1 (G169) and north of Field 3 (G163 and G161).

6.7.58. However, the Arboricultural Report also identified trees and tree groups that contain a significant amount of Ash trees that would be susceptible to tree loss due to Ash Dieback disease. The report explains that where tree groups are identified as 'Tree Removal Due To Ash Dieback Disease' the *presence of Ash Dieback means that tree groups G160, G166, G167 and G168 have limited future viability as cohesive units and that they will be predisposed to a loss of both quality and value irrespective of any future development*. This is relevant to the existing tree groups north of Field 2 (G167) and to the north-east of the Site on the opposite side of Fort Road (G160).

6.7.59. The Soft Landscape Plans (Sheets 3[35], 4[36], 5[37], 6[38] and 7[39]) that accompany the planning application illustrate that within the vicinity of the Site there is no tree planting proposed to replace any lost either during construction or as a result of Ash Dieback.

6.7.60. The construction phase for the Proposed Development is scheduled for 2028 and lasts for approximately up to 12 months (including a 3-month commissioning period). There is not likely to be substantial tree loss should the ATR be implemented within this timeframe as there is limited removal required for its construction and any loss due to Ash Dieback would be in the long-term. With this in mind it is not expected that the visual environment of the ATR would change during the construction period of the Proposed Development. Any views would be restricted to views as glimpses through gaps between the surrounding trees/vegetation and small framed views such as when passing over bridges so any potential effects to visual amenity would be limited. This will be confirmed during the detailed assessment.

6.7.61. In the long-term, the screening and restricted visibility is likely to remain along the ATR including for those tree groups that are identified as 'Some Potential Tree Removal'. However, there is a potential scenario where trees could be removed in groups that are identified as 'Tree Removal Due To Ash Dieback Disease'. This leads to the potential for views to open up towards the Proposed Development along short sections of the ATR during the operational and decommissioning stages. The full extent of any potential loss/removal is not known. What is also unknown at this stage is if there would be a strategy for replacement tree planting should they be removed. If there were to be

[35] ARCADIS. (2024). Soft Landscape Design Sheet 3 of 11. (Online). Available online at: 10056562-ARC-AT-300-DR-A-00003.pdf [Accessed October 2026].
[36] ARCADIS. (2024). Soft Landscape Design Sheet 4 of 11. (Online). Available online at: 10056562-ARC-AT-300-DR-A-00004.pdf [Accessed October 2026].
[37] ARCADIS. (2024). Soft Landscape Design Sheet 5 of 11. (Online). Available online at: 10056562-ARC-AT-300-DR-A-00005(1).pdf [Accessed October 2026].
[38] ARCADIS. (2024). Soft Landscape Design Sheet 6 of 11. (Online). Available online at: 10056562-ARC-AT-300-DR-A-00006(1).pdf [Accessed October 2026].
[39] ARCADIS. (2024). Soft Landscape Design Sheet 7 of 11. (Online). Available online at: 10056562-ARC-AT-300-DR-A-00007.pdf [Accessed October 2026].

replacement planting it could reinstate the visual experience to its current condition in the long-term, potentially still within the timeframe of the Proposed Development depending on when any replacement planting takes place.

**Receptors**

6.7.62. A list of existing and future receptors considered within Landscape and Visual amenity is included in **Table 6.6**. The receptors identified will be assessed at all phases of the Proposed Development including Construction, Operation and Decommissioning.

*Table 6.6 - Existing and Future Sensitive Receptors*

| Landscape and Visual Receptor | Sensitivity |
|---|---|
| **Landscape Receptors** | |
| GLAA: Penarth (VLFGLGL238)- Host | Medium |
| GLAA: Sully (VLFGLGL955) - Host | Medium |
| LHAA: Swanbridge (VLFGLLH376) – Host | Medium |
| VSAA: Lavernock hinterland (VLFGLVS787)- Host | Medium |
| VSAA: Sully Ridge (VLFGLVS637) | Medium |
| VSAA: Sully Island (VLFGLVS903) | High |
| HLAA Lavernock (VLFGLHL010) – Host | Low |
| HLAA: Cosmeston Country Park (VLFGLHL006) | Medium |
| CLSAA: Lavernock Hinterland (VLFGLCLS050) - Host | Medium |
| CLSAA: Sully Ridge (VLFGLCLS039) | Medium |
| **Visual Receptors** | |
| Recreational users of WCP (Footpaths L1/7/1 / L1/8/1 through the Site and L/1/6/1 through Lavernock Point Nature Reserve) | High |
| Recreational users of Footpath L1/5/2 (though the Site) | High |
| Recreational users of Footpath L1/1/1 (through Lavernock Point Nature Reserve) | High |
| Recreational users of Lavernock Point Nature Reserve | High |
| Visitors to The Bay Caravan Park | High |
| Visitors to Marconi Holiday Village | High |
| Users of Fort Road (vehicles users) | Medium |
| Users of St Mary's Well Bay Road (vehicle users) | Medium |
| Users of St Mary's Well Bay Road (pedestrians/cyclists) | High |
| Users of Lavernock Road (B4267) (Vehicle users) | Low |

| Landscape and Visual Receptor | Sensitivity |
|---|---|
| Users of Lavernock Road (B4267) (pedestrians/cyclists) | High |
| **Future Visual Receptors** | |
| Future users of the consented Active Travel Route Sully to Cosmeston (2025/00493/RG3) | High |

## 6.8. Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria

### Assessment Approach

6.8.1. The generic project-wide approach to the assessment methodology is set out in **Chapter 2: Approach to EIA.** However, whilst this has informed the approach that has been used in this LVIA, it is necessary to set out how this methodology has been applied, and adapted as appropriate, to address the specific needs of this LVIA.

6.8.2. The LVIA assesses the likely effects of the Proposed Development on the Landscape and Visual resource, encompassing effects on landscape elements, characteristics and landscape character, designated landscapes, visual effects and cumulative effects.

6.8.3. Essentially, the Landscape and Visual effects (and whether they are significant) are determined by an assessment of the nature or 'sensitivity' of each receptor or group of receptors and the nature of the effect or 'magnitude of change' that would result from the Proposed Development. The evaluation of sensitivity takes account of the value and susceptibility of the receptor to the type of Proposed Development. This is combined with an assessment of the magnitude of change which takes into account factors such as the size and scale of the proposed change and the geographical extent over which the change is felt. Other factors regarding the nature of the effect such as the duration of change and whether the effect is cumulative are also noted. By combining assessments of sensitivity and magnitude of change, a level of landscape or visual effect as well as the nature of that effect can be evaluated and determined.

6.8.4. The type or nature of effect is described as either direct or indirect; temporary or permanent (reversible); cumulative; and positive, neutral or negative. The assessment has also considered the cumulative effects resulting from the Proposed Development in combination with other developments that are currently under construction or proposed at the planning application stage (Pre-application, under Consideration or Consented) within the study area.

6.8.5. The time period for the assessment covers phases of development related to the construction of the Proposed Development and associated infrastructure, its operation, and decommissioning.

6.8.6. LVIA unavoidably involves a combination of both quantitative and subjective assessment and wherever possible a consensus of professional opinion has been sought through consultation, internal peer review, and the adoption of a systematic, impartial, and professional approach.

6.8.7. The LVIA has been undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in **Appendix 6A** and conforms to GLVIA3 which is widely accepted throughout the UK as the appropriate approach to use. Other technical guidance set out below has also informed the methodology included in **Appendix 6A**. The assessment presented in this chapter has been undertaken in accordance with the following guidance:

- Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments GN46;
- Technical Guidance Note 02/21 - Assessing landscape value outside national designations;
- Planning Guidance for the Development of Large-Scale Ground Mounted Solar PV Systems, Building Research Establishment, 2014[40];
- Visual Representation of Development Proposals, TGN 06/19, Landscape Institute, September 2019[41];
- Technical Information Note 04/2020 – Infrastructure; and
- Biodiversity Guidance for Solar Development[42].

**Receptor Sensitivity**

6.8.8. Landscape sensitivity often varies in response to both the type and phase of the development proposed and its location, such that sensitivity needs to be considered on a case-by-case basis. It is the combination of the judgements made regarding landscape value and its susceptibility to the type of development proposed within that particular study area that results in its sensitivity in each case which would account for any relevant 'inherent sensitivity'. Full details of the factors considered when making judgements of landscape sensitivity are provided in the Methodology included in **Appendix 6A** with summaries provided in **Table 6A-1 – Landscape Value Indicators** and **Table 6A-2 – Landscape Susceptibility Indicators**.

6.8.9. The sensitivity of visual receptors is determined by a combination of the value of the view and the susceptibility of the visual receptors to the change likely to result from the Proposed Development on the view and visual amenity. Full details of the factors

[40] Building Research Establishment (BRE) National Solar Centre, (2013). Planning guidance for the development of large scale ground mounted solar PV systems. (Online). Available at: KN5524_Planning_Guidance_reduced.pdf (Accessed November 2024).
[41] Building Research Establishment (BRE) National Solar Centre, (2013). Planning guidance for the development of large scale ground mounted solar PV systems. (Online). Available at: KN5524_Planning_Guidance_reduced.pdf (Accessed November 2024).
[42] Building Research Establishment (BRE) National Solar Centre, (2013). Planning guidance for the development of large scale ground mounted solar PV systems. (Online). Available at: KN5524_Planning_Guidance_reduced.pdf (Accessed November 2024).

considered when making judgements of visual sensitivity are provided in the Methodology included in **Appendix 6A** with summaries provided in **Table 6A-3 – Visual Value Indicators** and **Table 6A-4 – Visual Susceptibility Indicators**.

6.8.10. The criteria for defining receptor sensitivity for LVIA are outlined in **Table 6.7**.

*Table 6.7 - Sensitivity Criteria*

| Sensitivity | Definition |
|---|---|
| High | Receptors of international or national importance, often high value and high susceptibility to change, or limited capacity to accommodate the proposed impact without significant consequences. |
| Medium | Receptors of regional or sub-regional importance, often moderate value and moderate susceptibility to change, or some capacity to accommodate the proposed impact. |
| Low | Receptors of local importance, often lower value and lower susceptibility to change, or a relatively high capacity to accommodate the proposed impact. |
| Negligible | Receptors of very limited value or importance, with little susceptibility to change and a high capacity to accommodate the proposed impact without discernible consequences. |

6.8.11. The diagrams presented as **Plate 6A-1** and **6A-2** in **Appendix 6A** illustrates how value and susceptibility can be combined. When determining overall sensitivity, it should be noted that the levels are indicative and fall on a sliding scale from high to negligible and professional judgement is always used to determine the overall level of sensitivity.

6.8.12. Any receptors assigned a negligible level of sensitivity will not be further considered as part of the assessment on the basis that significant effects are highly unlikely as demonstrated by **Table 6A-8** and **Table 6A-10** in **Appendix 6A** and to ensure a proportionate assessment.

## Magnitude of Impact

6.8.13. The magnitude of impact reflects the degree of change that would occur to a receptor or resource as a result of the Proposed Development. The criteria used to define magnitude of impact have been developed with reference to relevant legislation, guidance and professional judgement.

6.8.14. The magnitude of change affecting receptors is an expression of the scale of change that would result from the Proposed Development combined with the geographical extent, and duration/reversibility of the change. Combining these factors together requires careful consideration and professional judgement. As such, the LVIA will separately consider each aspect to form the judgement of overall magnitude. Landscape and Visual specific descriptions of these aspects and how they are combined is set out in **Appendix 6A**. **Tables 6A-7 to 6A-9** explain the parameters for the

consideration of aspects of scale, extent and duration for both Landscape and Visual receptors.

6.8.15. **Plate 6A-3** and **Plate 6A-4** of **Appendix 6A** illustrate how the constituent aspects of magnitude are combined through a two-step process. First by considering size and scale together with the geographical extent in step one. The result of this provides a preliminary magnitude of change result. For step two, the preliminary result from step 1 is then considered alongside the duration and reversibility which can either increase or decrease the rating accordingly. For example, a high magnitude of change could be reduced if this is only going to be experienced over a short period of time. This is typical of construction activities where they are both short term and of a temporary nature.

*Table 6.8 - Magnitude of impact*

| Magnitude | Description |
|---|---|
| High | Fundamental change to the receptor or resource resulting in a substantial alteration to baseline conditions. |
| Medium | Noticeable change to the receptor or resource resulting in a material alteration to baseline conditions. |
| Low | Limited change to the receptor or resource resulting in a small alteration to baseline conditions. |
| Negligible | Barely perceptible or no measurable change to the receptor or resource compared with baseline conditions. |

## Significance of Effects

6.8.16. The significance of effects is determined through consideration of the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of impact. The assessment identifies the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development during construction, operation and decommissioning.

6.8.17. As set out in **Chapter 2 – Approach to EIA,** using professional judgement and with reference to the relevant EIA regulations, it is important to determine whether the effects, assessed as a result of the Proposed Development, are likely to be significant. Significant Landscape and Visual effects relate to all those effects that result in a '**Major**' level of effect as indicated in **Table 6.9**. Some '**Moderate**' levels of effect also have the potential, subject to the assessors opinion, to be considered as significant and these exceptions will be explained as part of the assessment, where they occur. In accordance with the overall significance matrix in **Table 6.9** generally levels of effect of '**Minor**' or less are determined as 'not significant.'

## Significance Criteria

6.8.18. This chapter reports on the likely significant Landscape and Visual effects for the construction, operational, and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.

6.8.19. The following criteria will be considered when determining significance:

- Relevant legislation and planning policy;
- International, national, regional, and local standards / guidance;
- Probability of occurrence of likely effect;
- Geographical extent of likely effect;
- Magnitude and complexity of likely effect;
- Sensitivity / value / importance of the receptor / receiving environment;
- Duration (short up to one year, medium one to 10 years, or long-term over 10 years), frequency and reversibility of effect (temporary / permanent); and
- Inter-relationship between effects (both cumulatively and in terms of potential effect interactions).

6.8.20. The method for assessing significance of effect varies between environmental factors but in principle will be based on the environmental sensitivity of a receptor and the magnitude of change from baseline conditions. Both the sensitivity and the magnitude of change will be assessed on a scale of high, medium, low, and negligible (refer to **Table 6.9**).

6.8.21. The matrix presented in **Table 6.9** is used as a guide to illustrate the LVIA process. In line with the emphasis placed in GLVIA3 upon the application of professional judgement, an overly mechanistic reliance upon a matrix is avoided through the provision of clear and accessible narrative explanations of the rationale underlying the assessment made for each Landscape and Visual receptor. Such narrative assessments provide a level of detail over and above the outline assessment provided by use of the matrix alone.

6.8.22. The LVIA unavoidably involves a combination of quantitative and qualitative assessment, and wherever possible cross references will be made to objective evidence, baseline figures and / or to viewpoint photography to support the assessment conclusions. Often a consensus of professional opinion has been sought through consultation, internal peer review, and the adoption of a systematic, impartial, and professional approach. Importantly each effect results from its own unique set of circumstances and have been assessed on a case-by-case basis. The matrix as presented in **Table 6.9** should therefore be considered as a guide and any deviation from this guide will be clearly explained in the assessment.

*Table 6.9 - Matrix for Determining Significance of Effect*

| | | Sensitivity (Value / Importance) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | **High** | **Medium** | **Low** | **Negligible** |
| **Magnitude of Change** | **High** | Major | Moderate / Major | Minor / Moderate | Negligible |
| | **Medium** | Moderate / Major | Moderate | Minor | Negligible |
| | **Low** | Minor / Moderate | Minor | Negligible / Minor | Negligible |
| | **Negligible** | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible |

**Assessment Assumptions and Limitations**

6.8.23. To ensure transparency within the EIA process, the following limitations and assumptions have been identified:

- All assessments have been undertaken from publicly accessible locations, no private access has been secured for the purposes of the assessment.

6.8.24. Overall, the information used to inform the baseline environment and assessment of effects for Landscape and Visual is considered sufficient, suitable and proportionate for the purposes of the EIA. Consequently, it is considered that the available information provides a robust basis upon which to assess the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development.

## 6.9. Embedded Mitigation

6.9.1. A description of the design process to determine the Site is provided in **Chapter 4 – Design Evolution and Alternatives**. A summary of the specific Landscape and Visual related mitigation measures embedded into the Proposed Development to control, avoid or reduce any effects for the construction, operation, or decommissioning is provided in **Table 6.10**.

*Table 6.10 - Summary of Embedded Mitigation*

| Embedded Mitigation Measure | Purpose | Relevant Phase | Securing Mechanism |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field 12 to contain the construction compound will be returned to its current condition once construction is complete. | To reduce the duration over which adverse effects arise from the construction phase. | Construction | To be implemented through the CEMP, which would be secured via planning condition. |

| Embedded Mitigation Measure | Purpose | Relevant Phase | Securing Mechanism |
|---|---|---|---|
| Field selection for the Proposed Development layout, including the position of the substation, was informed by early appraisal work. | To identify fields within the Applicant's control that could best accommodate solar panels to keep adverse Landscape and Visual effects and the influence of the Proposed Development over the surrounding landscape as low as possible. | Operation | Secured through the design. |
| The western half of Field 7 is to remain outside of the Site Boundary of the Proposed Development. | Solar panels will be restricted to the lower eastern half of the field. The western part of the field will remain free of panels thus retaining open pastoral character of the slopes of Hopkins Mount and forming an open visual buffer within the setting of the neighbouring residential property to the south. | Construction, Operation and Decommissioning | Secured through the design. |
| The proposed solar panel arrays have been arranged within field boundaries. | Retain as much existing boundary vegetation as possible to retain field pattern/structure and character while also breaking up the visual mass of panels across the Site. | Operation | Secured through the design. Implemented through the LEMP, which would be secured via planning condition. |
| Solar panels have been avoided in the southern part of Field 6. | Forming an open visual buffer within the setting of the neighbouring residential property to the east. This has also allowed for the creation of an orchard adding amenity and biodiversity value as well as for the diversion of Footpath L1/5/2 which will reduce the adverse effects to the visual amenity of this route. | Construction, Operation and Decommissioning | Secured through the design. Implemented through the LEMP, which would be secured via planning condition. |

| Embedded Mitigation Measure | Purpose | Relevant Phase | Securing Mechanism |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10m buffer from existing hedgerow boundaries / trees and tree blocks to proposed solar panels. | To ensure that existing trees and hedges are retained. Buffer zones can also be used for additional habitat creation. | Construction, Operation and Decommissioning | Secured through the design. Implemented through the LEMP, which would be secured via planning condition. |
| 15m buffer from the existing boundary hedgerow/trees and solar panels along south-western edge of Fields 8 and 11. | Provide additional width to accommodate the WCP and maintain a sense of openness along this popular recreational route. | Construction, Operation and Decommissioning | Secured through the design. Implemented through the LEMP, which would be secured via planning condition. |
| Cable runs and internal access tracks make use of existing hedgerow gaps wherever possible. | To keep the amount of existing hedgerow removal to a minimum. | Construction, Operation and Decommissioning | Secured through the design. Implemented through the LEMP, which would be secured via planning condition. |
| Infill and supplementary planting in gaps within existing boundary hedgerows. | Strengthen landscape structure / character and improve habitat connectivity. | Operation, Decommissioning. | Secured through the design. Implemented through the LEMP, which would be secured via planning condition. |
| All existing hedgerows within the Site to be maintained at a minimum height of 2m. | To ensure that the proposed panels appear to be contained within the landscape structure and break up their overall visual mass for the duration of the development. | Operation. | Secured through the design. Implemented through the LEMP, which would be secured via planning condition. |

| Embedded Mitigation Measure | Purpose | Relevant Phase | Securing Mechanism |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hedgerows on the boundaries of Fields 2, 4 and 7 either side of St Mary's Well Bay Road, the south-western boundary of Fields 8 and 11 and the boundary on the northern side of the residential property known as Sutton Farm to be maintained at 3m high. | To provide additional visual screening in views from users of the road, The Bay Caravan Site and Sutton Farm neighbouring the Site, including of the substation within Field 2. | Operation and Decommissioning. | Secured through the design. Implemented through the LEMP, which would be secured via planning condition. |
| New hedgerow planting on the western edge of the Site within Field 7. | Define the edge of the solar farm and soften the appearance of the panels in views of residents from Dros-y-Mor. | Operation and Decommissioning. | Secured through the design. Implemented through the LEMP, which would be secured via planning condition. |
| New hedgerow planting along Footpath L1/5/2 between the route of the footpath and the fenceline on the northern edge of the Proposed Development within Field 8. Hedge to be maintained at a minimum of 2m high. | Provide screening of the panels in views from users of the footpath. Also, create additional habitat connectivity and biodiversity. | Operation, Decommissioning. | Secured through the design. Implemented through the LEMP, which would be secured via planning condition. |
| New scrub planting within the buffer between the WCP and the fenceline on the south-western edge of the Proposed Development. | Will screen, soften and break up the appearance of panels in views from users of the WCP while also providing additional biodiversity in combination with tussocky grassland creative a mosaic of habitats along this section of the route. | Operation, Decommissioning. | Secured through the design. Implemented through the LEMP, which would be secured via planning condition. |

| Embedded Mitigation Measure | Purpose | Relevant Phase | Securing Mechanism |
|---|---|---|---|
| New tree and scrub planting to the north, east and south of the substation within Field 2. | Provide additional containment and screening in views from users along St Mary's Well Bay Road. | Operation and Decommissioning. | Secured through the design. Implemented through the LEMP, which would be secured via planning condition. |
| Orchard planting in the southern part of Field 6. | Provide additional visual screening and amenity value in views from Sutton Farm and users of the diverted Footpath L1/5/2. | Operation, Decommissioning. | Secured through the design. Implemented through the LEMP, which would be secured via planning condition. |
| Tussocky grassland and wildflower meadow to be provided within field margins and buffers. | Provide additional biodiversity value across the site. | Operation, Decommissioning. | Secured through the design. Implemented through the LEMP, which would be secured via planning condition. |
| Grass sward below the panels within the fields to be maintained by sheep grazing. | Provide additional biodiversity value while also retaining a characteristic land use across the site. | Operation. | Secured through the design. Implemented through the LEMP, which would be secured via planning condition. |

## 6.10. Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

6.10.1. Detailed assessments of the likely effects to Landscape and Visual receptors are carried out in **Appendix 6D: LANDMAP Aspect Areas Assessment** and **Appendix 6F: Visual Receptor Assessment**, with reference to **Appendix 6E: Viewpoint Analysis**. A summary of effects is provided below.

### Construction Phase – Landscape Effects

#### Assessment of Landscape Effects: LANDMAP Aspect Areas

6.10.2. It is accepted that construction activities would likely present a discordant, noticeable and prominent feature in the landscape that would result in a High scale of change. However, the influence on the character of the area is likely to be constrained to within

the immediate setting of the Site affecting predominantly small proportions of host Aspect Areas (Low extent) and would be for a short term (Low) duration. Overall, the magnitude of the impact during construction is likely to be **Low** and the sensitivity of the host Aspect Area receptors are **Medium** (other than Lavernock HLAA (VLFGLHL010) which is **Low**). The effect will, therefore, be **temporary minor adverse**, which is **not significant**.

6.10.3. With regards the Sully Island (VLFGLVS903) VSAA, construction activities would be noticeable in certain limited views from an elevated area at the eastern end of the island, affecting its perceptual character, but would not have a direct effect on the overriding character of the overall VSAA itself. This would result in a Medium scale of change to a very small area (Negligible extent) and would be for a short term (Low) duration. Overall, the magnitude of the impact during construction is likely to be **Low** and the sensitivity of this Aspect Area receptor is **High**. The effect will, therefore, be **temporary minor adverse**, which is **not significant**.

## Construction Phase – Visual Effects

### Assessment of Visual Effects: Recreational Routes and Destinations

6.10.4. A summary of effects to the visual amenity of recreational routes and destinations is provided in **Table 6.11** with a detailed assessment carried out in **Appendix 6F**. Where significant effects have been identified further information is provided after the table under the heading of the relevant receptor effected.

*Table 6.11 - Summary of Construction Effects: Recreational Routes and Destinations*

| Receptor | Overall Visual Sensitivity | Magnitude of Change | Significance of Effect |
|---|---|---|---|
| Recreational users of WCP (Footpaths L1/7/1 / L1/8/1 through the Site and L/1/6/1 through Lavernock Point Nature Reserve)<br>(Representative Viewpoints 1 and 2) | High | Low Adverse | Minor Adverse (Not Significant) |
| Recreational users of Footpath L1/5/2 (though the Site)<br>(Representative Viewpoints 1) | High | Medium Adverse | **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** |
| Recreational users of Footpath L1/1/1 (through Lavernock Point Nature Reserve)<br>(Representative Viewpoint 2 but at a slightly lower level) | High | Low Adverse | Minor Adverse (Not Significant) |
| Recreational users of Lavernock Point Nature Reserve | High | Medium Adverse | Moderate Adverse (Not Significant) |

| Receptor | Overall Visual Sensitivity | Magnitude of Change | Significance of Effect |
|---|---|---|---|
| (Representative Viewpoint 2 where the viewpoint photo shows worst-case at the highest point) | | | |
| Visitors to The Bay Caravan Park<br>(Representative Viewpoint 1 although behind the boundary vegetation and Viewpoint 5) | High | Low Adverse | Minor Adverse (Not Significant) |
| Visitors to Marconi Holiday Village<br>(Representative Viewpoint 2 although behind the boundary vegetation) | High | Low Adverse | Minor Adverse (Not Significant) |

*Recreational users of Footpath L1/5/2 (through the Site)*

6.10.5. 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 have some sections cleared of vegetation to allow access, will be re-routed and diverted while works take place. Overall, the magnitude of the impact is **Medium** and the sensitivity of the receptor is **High**. The effect will, therefore, be **temporary** and **Moderate Adverse**, which is **Significant**. This is considered significant due to the direct changes to the footpath and its visual experience during the works.

*Recreational users of Lavernock Point Nature Reserve*

6.10.6. 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. Overall, the magnitude of the impact is **Medium**, and the sensitivity of the receptor is **High**. The effect will, therefore, be **temporary** and **Moderate Adverse**, which is **Not Significant**. 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.

**Assessment of Visual Effects: Transport Routes**

6.10.7. A summary of effects to the visual amenity of transport routes is provided in **Table 6.12** with a detailed assessment carried out in **Appendix 6F**. Where significant effects have been identified further information is provided after the table under the heading of the relevant receptor effected.

*Table 6.12 - Summary of Construction Effects: Transport Routes*

| Receptor | Overall Visual Sensitivity | Magnitude of Change | Significance of Effect |
|---|---|---|---|
| Users of Fort Road (vehicles users) (Representative viewpoint 3) | Medium | Low Adverse | Minor Adverse (Not Significant) |
| Users of St Mary's Well Bay Road (vehicle users) (Representative viewpoints 4a, 4b and 5) | Medium | Medium Adverse | Moderate Adverse (Not Significant) |
| Users of St Mary's Well Bay Road (pedestrians/cyclists) (Representative viewpoints 4a, 4b and 5) | High | Medium Adverse | Moderate Adverse (Not Significant) |
| Users of Lavernock Road (B4267) (Vehicle users) (Representative viewpoint 6) | Low | Low Adverse | Minor Adverse (Not Significant) |
| Users of Lavernock Road (B4267) (pedestrians/cyclists) (Representative viewpoint 6) | High | Low Adverse | Minor Adverse (Not Significant) |

*Users of St Mary's Well Bay Road (vehicles and pedestrians/cyclists)*

6.10.8. 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. Overall, the magnitude of the impact is **Medium**, and the sensitivity of the vehicle users is **Medium**, while the sensitivity of pedestrians/cyclists is **High**. The effect will, therefore, be **temporary** and **Moderate Adverse**, which is **Not Significant**. The moderate level of effects applies to both receptor groups due to the short-term nature of this phase of the Proposed Development. This is considered not significant to due to the short-term duration of the construction activities (and the way in which vehicle users will experience the views).

**Assessment of Future Visual Effects**

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

6.10.9. A summary of effects to the visual amenity of the future users of the ATR is provided in **Table 6.13** with a detailed assessment carried out in **Appendix 6F**.

*Table 6.13 - Summary of Construction Effects: Future Transport Routes*

| Receptor | Overall Visual Sensitivity | Magnitude of Change | Significance of Effect |
|---|---|---|---|
| Future recreational users of Sully Cosmeston Active Travel Route | High | Low Adverse | Minor Adverse (Not Significant) |

## Operational Phase – Landscape Effects

6.10.10. For the operational phase the assessment will include a judgement for Year 1 after completion of the construction phase, and again in Year 15. This allows for any changes to take effect in relation to contribution to landscape character or screening provided once the proposed planting has established and matured over time. The effects reported for Year 15 are reported as the Residual Effects in Landscape and Visual terms as these are the effects that would remain in the landscape once mitigation has taken place.

### Assessment of Landscape Effects: LANDMAP Aspect Areas

6.10.11. The assessment has identified where significant effects are likely to arise in relation to the LANDMAP Aspect Areas during the operation of the Proposed Development. A detailed assessment of the effects upon all Aspect Area receptors which have been scoped into the assessment is set out in **Appendix 6D** with a summary provided below.

6.10.12. Where the terms outstanding and moderate are used in the LANDMAP aspect area descriptions, they have been interpreted as being High and Medium for the purposes of aligning with the methodology as outlined in **Appendix 6A**.

### Geological Landscape Aspect Areas (GLAAs)

6.10.13. The detailed assessment in **Appendix 6D**, summarised in **Table 6.14**, confirmed that there would be **no significant** landscape effects to the GLAAs that were scoped in.

*Table 6.14 - Summary of Effects: GLAAs (operational phase)*

| Aspect Area | Value | Susceptibility | Overall Sensitivity | Magnitude of Change | Significance of Effect |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Penarth VLFGLGL238 - Host | Medium (LANDMAP evaluation – Moderate) | Medium | Medium | Low | Minor Adverse and Not Significant |
| Sully VLFGLGL955 - Host | Medium (LANDMAP evaluation – Moderate) | Medium | Medium | Negligible | Negligible Adverse and Not Significant |

### Landscape Habitat Aspect Areas (LHAA)

6.10.14. The detailed assessment in **Appendix 6D**, summarised in **Table 6.15**, confirmed that there would be **no significant** landscape effects to the host LHAA. It did determine that

initially there would be a **Minor Adverse** effect due to the minimal loss of landscape features and suitable habitat for certain species. However, due to the mitigation and enhancement measures incorporated into the Proposed Development, over time during the operational phase there would be a **Minor Beneficial** effect to the host LHAA.

*Table 6.15 - Summary of Effects: LHAAs (operational phase)*

| Aspect Area | Value | Susceptibility | Overall Sensitivity | Magnitude of Change | Significance of Effect |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Swanbridge VLFGLLH376 – Host | Medium (LANDMAP evaluation – Moderate) | Medium | Medium | Low | Minor Adverse and Not Significant, becoming Minor Beneficial and Not Significant over time |

**Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (VSAAs)**

6.10.15. The detailed assessment in **Appendix 6D**, summarised in **Table 6.16**, confirmed that there would be significant effects to the host VSAA due to the introduction of a technical element into the landscape, and the influence it would have over the surrounding area. However, this would be constrained to the Site and its immediate setting within the host VSAA. Overall, the magnitude of the impact to the host Lavernock Hinterland VSAA is **Medium**, and the sensitivity of the receptor is **Medium**. The effect will, therefore, be **temporary** and **Moderate Adverse,** which is **Significant**. This is considered to be significant due to the size of the Proposed Development area that would introduce a technical and uncharacteristic element altering the overall character and experience of the area within the immediate vicinity of the Site.

*Table 6.16 - Summary of Effects: VSAAs (operational phase)*

| Aspect Area | Value | Susceptibility | Overall Sensitivity | Magnitude of Change | Significance of Effect |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lavernock Hinterland (VLFGLVS787) - Host | Medium (LANDMAP evaluation – Moderate) | Medium | Medium | Medium | **Moderate Adverse and Significant** |
| Sully Ridge (VLFGLVS637) | Medium (LANDMAP evaluation – Moderate) | Medium | Medium | Low | Minor Adverse and Not Significant |
| Sully Island (VLFGLVS903) | High (LANDMAP evaluation – Outstanding) | High | High | Negligible | Negligible Adverse and Not Significant |

### Historic Landscape Aspect Areas (HLAAs)

6.10.16. The detailed assessment in **Appendix 6D**, summarised in **Table 6.17** below, confirmed that there would be **no significant** landscape effects to the HLAAs that were scoped in.

*Table 6.17 - Summary of Effects: HLAAs (operational phase)*

| Aspect Area | Value | Susceptibility | Overall Sensitivity | Magnitude of Change | Significance of Effect |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lavernock (VLFGLHL010) – Host | Medium (LANDMAP evaluation – Moderate) | Low | Low | Medium | Minor Adverse and Not Significant |
| Cosmeston Country Park (VLFGLHL006) | High (LANDMAP evaluation – High) | Medium | Medium | No Change | Neutral |

### Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas (CLSAAs)

6.10.17. The detailed assessment in **Appendix 6D**, summarised in **Table 6.18**, confirmed that there would be significant effects to the host CLSAA, due to the introduction of a technical element into the landscape and the influence it would have over the surrounding area. However, this would be constrained to the Site and its immediate setting within the host CLSAA. Overall, the magnitude of the impact to the host Lavernock Hinterland CLSAA is **Medium**, and the sensitivity of the receptor is **Medium**. The effect will, therefore, be **temporary** and **Moderate Adverse**, which is **Significant**. This is considered to be significant due to the size of the Proposed Development area that would introduce a technical and uncharacteristic element altering the overall character and experience of the area within the immediate vicinity of the Site.

*Table 6.18 - Summary of Effects: CLSAAs (operational phase)*

| Aspect Area | Value | Susceptibility | Overall Sensitivity | Magnitude of Change | Significance of Effect |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lavernock Hinterland (VLFGLCLS050) - Host | Medium | Medium | Medium | Medium | **Moderate Adverse and Significant** |
| Sully Ridge (VLFGLCLS039) | Medium | Medium | Medium | Low | Minor Adverse and Not Significant |

## Operational Phase – Visual Effects

### Assessment of Visual Effects: Recreational Routes and Destinations

6.10.18. A summary of effects to the visual amenity of recreational routes and destinations is provided in **Table 6.19** with a detailed assessment carried out in **Appendix 6F**. Where

significant effects have been identified further information is provided after the table under the heading of the relevant receptor effected.

*Table 6.19 - Summary of Operational Effects: Recreational Routes and Destinations*

| Receptor | Overall Visual Sensitivity | Magnitude of Change | Significance of Effect |
|---|---|---|---|
| Recreational users of WCP (Footpaths L1/7/1 / L1/8/1 through the Site and L/1/6/1 through Lavernock Point Nature Reserve)<br>(Representative Viewpoints 1 and 2) | High | Medium Adverse reducing to Low Adverse over time | Moderate Adverse (Not Significant) reducing to Minor Adverse (Not Significant) over time |
| Recreational users of Footpath L1/5/2 (though the Site)<br>(Representative Viewpoints 1) | High | High Adverse reducing to Medium Adverse over time | **Major Adverse (Significant)** reducing to **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** over time |
| Recreational users of Footpath L1/1/1 (through Lavernock Point Nature Reserve)<br>(Representative Viewpoint 2 but at a slightly lower level) | High | Low Adverse | Minor Adverse (Not Significant) |
| Recreational users of Lavernock Point Nature Reserve<br>(Representative Viewpoint 2 where the viewpoint photo shows worst-case at the highest point) | High | Medium Adverse | Moderate Adverse (Not Significant) |
| Visitors to The Bay Caravan Park<br>(Representative Viewpoint 1 although behind the boundary vegetation and Viewpoint 5) | High | Low Adverse reducing to Negligible Adverse | Minor Adverse (Not Significant) reducing to Negligible Adverse (Not Significant) |
| Visitors to Marconi Holiday Village<br>(Representative Viewpoint 2 although behind the boundary vegetation) | High | Low Adverse | Minor Adverse (Not Significant) |

*Recreational users of WCP (Footpaths L1/7/1 / L1/8/1 through the Site and L/1/6/1 through Lavernock Point Nature Reserve)*

6.10.19. 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 through the Site 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

visible but would appear contained within the pastoral landscape so would not dominate. The magnitude of the impact at this stage is **Medium** and the sensitivity of the receptor is **High**. The effect will, therefore, be **temporary** and **Moderate Adverse**, which is **Not Significant**. 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).

6.10.20. 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 2m 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. Overall, in the long-term, the magnitude of the impact is **Low** and the sensitivity of the receptor is **High**. The effect will, therefore, be **temporary** and **Minor Adverse**, which is **Not Significant**.

*Recreational users of Footpath L1/5/2 (though the Site)*

6.10.21. At completion 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 magnitude of the impact at this stage is **High** and the sensitivity of the receptor is **High**. The effect will, therefore, be **temporary** and **Major Adverse**, which is **Significant**.

6.10.22. Over time, the proposed hedge planting along footpath through Field 8 would mature and be maintained at 2m 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 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. Overall, in the long-term, the magnitude of the impact is **Medium** and the sensitivity of the receptor is **High**. The effect will, therefore, be **temporary** and **Moderate Adverse**, which is **Significant**. 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.

*Recreational users of Lavernock Point Nature Reserve*

6.10.23. 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. Overall, the magnitude of the impact is **Medium** and the sensitivity of the receptor is **High**. The effect will, therefore, be **temporary** and **Moderate Adverse,** which is **Not Significant**. 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 so the medium magnitude and Moderate Adverse effects would remain. 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.

**Assessment of Visual Effects: Transport Routes**

6.10.24. A summary of effects to the visual amenity of transport routes is provided in **Table 6.20** with a detailed assessment carried out in **Appendix 6F**. Where significant effects have been identified, further information is provided after the table under the heading of the relevant receptor effected.

*Table 6.20 - Summary of Operational Effects: Transport Routes*

| Receptor | Overall Visual Sensitivity | Magnitude of Change | Significance of Effect |
|---|---|---|---|
| Users of Fort Road (vehicles users)<br>(Representative viewpoint 3) | Medium | Low Adverse | Minor Adverse (Not Significant) |
| Users of St Mary's Well Bay Road (vehicle users)<br>(Representative viewpoints 4a, 4b and 5) | Medium | Medium Adverse reducing to Low Adverse over time | Moderate Adverse (Not Significant) reducing to Minor Adverse (Not Significant) over time |
| Users of St Mary's Well Bay Road (pedestrians/cyclists)<br>(Representative viewpoints 4a, 4b and 5) | High | Medium Adverse reducing to Low Adverse over time | **Major Adverse (Significant)** reducing to Minor Adverse (Not Significant) over time |

| Receptor | Overall Visual Sensitivity | Magnitude of Change | Significance of Effect |
|---|---|---|---|
| Users of Lavernock Road (B4267) (Vehicle users)<br>(Representative viewpoint 6) | Low | Negligible Adverse | Negligible Adverse (Not Significant) |
| Users of Lavernock Road (B4267) (pedestrians/cyclists)<br>(Representative viewpoint 6) | High | Negligible Adverse | Negligible Adverse (Not Significant) |

*Users of St Mary's Well Bay Road (vehicles and pedestrians/cyclists)*

6.10.25. 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 the east where gaps are more extensive. The Project Substation Compound 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 minimise its prominence. The substation would be seen through small gaps in boundary vegetation rather than as a direct view through a field gate. The magnitude of the impact at this stage is **Medium**.

6.10.26. The sensitivity of the vehicle users is **Medium**. The effect will, therefore, be **temporary** and **Moderate Adverse**, which is **Not Significant**. This is considered not significant for vehicle users due to the way in which they will experience the views and effects would be mitigated in the long-term.

6.10.27. The sensitivity of the pedestrians/cyclists is **High**. The effect will, therefore, be temporary and **Major Adverse**, which is **Significant** due to the extent of the route affected and sensitivity of receptors. While this would be significant for pedestrians/cyclists due to their higher sensitivity effects would be mitigated in the long-term.

6.10.28. Over time, the infilling within the boundary hedges and their management at 3m high would obscure the panels and the 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 a current section of low/gappy hedge. An additional layer of tree/scrub planting around the substation will provide further screening of this element in views from the road. Overall, in the long-term, the magnitude of the impact is **Low**.

6.10.29. The sensitivity of the vehicle users is **Medium**. The effect will, therefore, be **temporary** and **Minor Adverse**, which is **Not Significant**.

6.10.30. The sensitivity of the pedestrians/cyclists is **High**. Due to the level of screening provided and the nature of views remaining the effect is also considered to be **temporary** and **Minor Adverse**, which is **Not Significant**.

**Assessment of Future Visual Effects**

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

6.10.31. 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. The building would not appear taller than the 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.

6.10.32. The appearance of the panels including any embedded mitigation is not likely to change considerably 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 noticeable change. Generally, the appearance of the Proposed Development would not alter the scale of change in the view over time. Overall, the magnitude of the impact during operation would be **Low** and the sensitivity of the receptor is **High**. The effect will, therefore, be **temporary** and **Minor Adverse**, which is **Not Significant**.

6.10.33. 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 of the Proposed Development 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 the south of the route would be of a solar farm rather than pastoral fields so could appear as a dominant feature.

6.10.34. 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 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 operational phase and if there is a replacement tree planting strategy.

6.10.35. Given the likely nature and extent of views that could become available it is likely that the effects to the visual amenity of the ATR arising from the Proposed Development would be **Not Significant**.

## Decommissioning Phase – Landscape Effects

### Assessment of Landscape Effects: LANDMAP Aspect Areas

6.10.36. Decommissioning activities would be similar to those during the construction phase that would result in a High scale of change. Again, the influence on the character of the area is likely to be constrained to within the immediate setting of the Site effecting predominantly small proportions of host Aspect Areas (Low extent) and would be for a similar short term (Low) duration. Overall, the magnitude of the impact during decommissioning is likely to be **Low** and the sensitivity of the host Aspect Area receptors are **Medium** (other than Lavernock HLAA (VLFGLHL010) which is **Low**). The effect will, therefore, be **temporary Minor adverse**, which is **Not Significant**.

6.10.37. With regards the Sully Island (VLFGLVS903) VSAA decommissioning activities would be experienced in a similar way to those during the construction phase so would be noticeable in certain limited views from an elevated area at the eastern end of the island effecting its perceptual character, but would not have a direct effect on the overriding character of the overall VSAA itself. This would result in a Medium scale of change to a very small area (Negligible extent) and would be for a short term (Low) duration. Overall, the magnitude of the impact during construction is likely to be **Low** and the sensitivity of this Aspect Area receptor is **High**. The effect will, therefore, be **temporary Minor adverse**, which is **Not Significant**.

## Decommissioning Phase – Visual Effects

### Assessment of Visual Effects: Recreational Routes and Destinations

6.10.38. A summary of effects to the visual amenity of recreational routes and destinations is provided in **Table 6.21** with a detailed assessment carried out in **Appendix 6F**. Where significant effects have been identified further information is provided after the table under the heading of the relevant receptor effected.

*Table 6.21 - Summary of Decommissioning Effects: Recreational Routes and Destinations*

| Receptor | Overall Visual Sensitivity | Magnitude of Change | Significance of Effect |
|---|---|---|---|
| Recreational users of WCP (Footpaths L1/7/1 / L1/8/1 through the Site and L/1/6/1 through Lavernock Point Nature Reserve)<br>(Representative Viewpoints 1 and 2) | High | Low Adverse | Minor Adverse (Not Significant) |

| Receptor | Overall Visual Sensitivity | Magnitude of Change | Significance of Effect |
|---|---|---|---|
| Recreational users of Footpath L1/5/2 (though the Site)<br>(Representative Viewpoints 1) | High | Medium Adverse | Moderate Adverse (Not Significant) |
| Recreational users of Footpath L1/1/1 (through Lavernock Point Nature Reserve)<br>(Representative Viewpoint 2 but at a slightly lower level) | High | Low Adverse | Minor Adverse (Not Significant) |
| Recreational users of Lavernock Point Nature Reserve<br>(Representative Viewpoint 2 where the viewpoint photo shows worst-case at the highest point) | High | Medium Adverse | Moderate Adverse (Not Significant) |
| Visitors to The Bay Caravan Park<br>(Representative Viewpoint 1 although behind the boundary vegetation and Viewpoint 5) | High | Negligible Adverse | Negligible Adverse (Not Significant) |
| Visitors to Marconi Holiday Village<br>(Representative Viewpoint 2 although behind the boundary vegetation) | High | Low Adverse | Minor Adverse (Not Significant) |

*Recreational users of Footpath L1/5/2 (though the Site)*

6.10.39. 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. Overall, the magnitude of the impact is **Medium**, and the sensitivity of the receptor is **High**. The effect will, therefore, be **temporary** and **Moderate Adverse**, which is **Not Significant**. 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 Lavernock Point Nature Reserve*

6.10.40. During the decommissioning stage, the activities would be seen in a similar way to the construction stage where 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. Overall, the magnitude of the impact is **Medium**, and the sensitivity of the receptor is **High**. The effect will, therefore, be temporary and **Moderate Adverse**, which is Not **Significant**. 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.

### Assessment of Visual Effects: Transport Routes

6.10.41. No significant effects have been identified during decommissioning stage due to the short-term timeframe for this stage and embedded mitigation measures that will provide screening of the activities in views from these routes. A summary of effects to the visual amenity of transport routes is provided in **Table 6.22** with a detailed assessment carried out in **Appendix 6F**.

*Table 6.22 - Summary of Decommissioning Effects: Transport Routes*

| Receptor | Overall Visual Sensitivity | Magnitude of Change | Significance of Effect |
|---|---|---|---|
| Users of Fort Road (vehicles users) (Representative viewpoint 3) | Medium | Low Adverse | Minor Adverse (Not Significant) |
| Users of St Mary's Well Bay Road (vehicle users) (Representative viewpoints 4a, 4b and 5) | Medium | Low Adverse | Minor Adverse (Not Significant) |
| Users of St Mary's Well Bay Road (pedestrians/cyclists) (Representative viewpoints 4a, 4b and 5) | High | Low Adverse | Minor Adverse (Not Significant) |
| Users of Lavernock Road (B4267) (Vehicle users) (Representative viewpoint 6) | Low | Low Adverse | Minor Adverse (Not Significant) |
| Users of Lavernock Road (B4267) (pedestrians/cyclists) (Representative viewpoint 6) | High | Low Adverse | Minor Adverse (Not Significant) |

### Assessment of Future Visual Effects

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

6.10.42. 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 surrounding vegetation and trees. The area of the compound will be returned to agricultural use after this phase. Overall, the magnitude of the impact is **Low** and the sensitivity of the receptor is **High**. The effect will, therefore, be **temporary** and **Minor Adverse**, which is **Not Significant**.

6.10.43. 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**.

## 6.11. Additional Mitigation Measures

6.11.1. All mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Proposed Development which are illustrated on the **Landscape and Ecological Masterplan** so are embedded. No additional mitigation measures are proposed. Therefore, all embedded mitigation is considered in the assessment above.

## 6.12. Residual Effects

6.12.1. Residual effects are those that remain when all the implemented embedded Landscape and Visual mitigation measures described within this assessment have taken effect. Any resulting reduction in effects would be felt once the proposed mitigation planting has matured which is commonly recognised as being considered at year 15 after implementation.

6.12.2. The residual effects of the Proposed Development are anticipated to comprise the presence of a solar farm as a technical element in the landscape that will have an influence on the character of the immediately surrounding area. The Proposed Development will be well contained within the field structure and undulating landform of the predominantly agricultural landscape which is considered to be of Medium sensitivity but the change from mainly pastureland to a solar farm will be apparent within the immediate vicinity of the Site that would cause a Medium magnitude of change. This would result in a **Moderate Adverse** effect to the character of the host Lavernock Hinterland Visual and Sensory and Cultural Landscape Services LANDMAP Aspect Areas which would be **Significant**. This will arise at the conclusion of the construction and remain during the operation of the Development. Any influence over these Aspect Areas beyond the immediate vicinity of the Site and any surrounding Aspect Areas would be limited to none so would not be significant.

6.12.3. Where users of the landscape pass through or are immediately adjacent the Site they would obtain views of the Proposed Development where the appearance of the panels and the change from pastoral fields to solar farm would be very noticeable and, in some cases, dominate those views. This would include recreational users of a local footpaths/PRoW and users of roadside pavements. As the majority of these users would be engaged in activities that include enjoyment and appreciation of views of the surrounding landscape with plenty of opportunity to obtain prolonged views they have a High sensitivity. In general, the effects arising to the visual amenity of these users as a result of the Proposed Development would be **Moderate Adverse** during the construction phase and then **Major Adverse** initially during the early operational phase. This is due to a considerable proportion, or the entire extent, of the visual experience

being adversely affected, which would be **Significant**. However, in all cases, the Major Adverse effects can be mitigated and reduced but **Significant Moderate Adverse** effects would still remain. The visual experience of Footpath L1/5/2 would change from being surrounded by pastoral fields to a solar farm, although mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Proposed Development to reduce adverse effects in the long-term and keep them as low as possible.

## 6.13. Cumulative Effects

6.13.1. A cumulative effects assessment (CEA) has been undertaken for the Proposed Development which considers the combined impacts with other developments on the same single receptor or resource (inter-project effects). The detailed method followed in identifying and assessing potential cumulative effects is set out in **Chapter 2: Approach to EIA**.

6.13.2. A long list of developments was compiled through a review of planning applications, local development allocations and other committed developments within the Study Area. These developments were screened to identify those with the potential to interact with the Proposed Development and give rise to cumulative effects. The developments agreed at the Scoping stage to be taken forward to the detailed cumulative effects assessment are presented in **Table 6.23**. This only included the Residential Development at Land and Upper Cosmeston Farm but the grid connection options have been added to the cumulative assessment.

*Table 6.23 - Developments Included within the Cumulative Effects Assessment*

| Development | Planning Reference | Development Description | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grid Connection | N/A | Connection of the Proposed Development to the National Grid Electricity Distribution at either Penarth Primary Substation or Sully Grid Bulk Supply Point via underground electrical cabling. | Unknown |
| Residential development at Land at Upper Cosmeston Farm, Lavernock Road, Penarth | 2020/1170/OUT | Outline application for residential development, a primary school, community space and public open space with all matters reserved other than access. | Consented |

6.13.3. The potential for cumulative effects has been considered for the construction, operation and, where relevant, decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. The assessment takes account of the geographical and temporal overlap between the Proposed Development and other developments included within the cumulative assessment.

6.13.4. The cumulative assessment considers whether the interaction of effects from multiple developments could result in effects that are greater than those identified for the Proposed Development in isolation. Where no credible pathway for cumulative effects has been identified, this is stated and justified within the assessment.

## Grid Connection

6.13.5. Detail regarding the connection to be made to the grid connection is set out in **Chapter 5: Project Description** and **Appendix 2A: Indicative Grid Connection Appraisal**. As the grid connection would be subject to a separate consenting process from the Proposed Development it is considered cumulative development within the EIA.

6.13.6. It is assumed that the grid connection works will take place during the construction phase of the Proposed Development with the trench backfilled once the cable has been installed. Once complete the grid connection cable will be underground with no above ground infrastructure so there will be no visible features or activities associated with it during operation. At the end of the operational phased the cable will remain in-situ so there will be no decommissioning activities. Therefore, the combined effects arising from the Proposed Development together with the activities associated with the grid connection would only arise during the construction phase of the Proposed Development. Assessment of cumulative effects will be made against the judgements of the Proposed Development during the construction phase only.

6.13.7. The potential cable route options are illustrated on **Figure 5.6: Indicative Grid Connection**. The grid connection cable route is anticipated to be predominantly located within the public highway corridor and would be made via underground electrical cabling. Within the Study Area the cable route would leave the Project Substation and Field 2 into St Mary's Well Bay Road and turn north to meet Lavernock Road (B4267). It would then follow the B4267 either east or west depending on which option is selected to a Substation outside of the Study Area. There is potential that the installation of the underground cable could require removal of a short section of hedgerow/trees on the eastern boundary of Field 2 as it leaves the substation into St Mary's Well Bay Road.

### Construction Phase – Cumulative Landscape Effects

*Cumulative Assessment of Landscape Effects: LANDMAP Aspect Areas*

6.13.8. Construction activities for the grid connection would be noticeable and prominent although when experienced in the context of the road network would not appear completely out of place but still result in a Medium scale of change. The influence on the character of the area is likely to be contained within the highway corridor with limited effect on wider landscape character of host Aspect Areas, although depending on which option is selected would run through multiple Aspect Areas. Where there is potential for these activities to be experienced in the context of the construction

activities associated with the Proposed Development and therefore having a combined effect would be for short sections of the highway corridor within the immediate vicinity of the Site, on the boundary of two Aspect Areas in some instances (Negligible extent) and would be for a short term (Low) duration. Overall, the magnitude of the impact arising from the installation of the underground cable is likely to be **Low** and the sensitivity of the host Aspect Area receptors are **Medium**. The effect will, therefore, be **temporary minor adverse**, which is **Not Significant**. When considered against the effects of the Proposed Development during the construction phase the additional and combined effects would be **temporary** and **Minor Adverse**, which is **Not Significant** and attributed to both activities.

**Construction Phase – Cumulative Visual Effects**

6.13.9. Construction activities for the installation of the underground cable would be contained within the highway corridor. Given the short-term nature of the works and the type of activities taking place together with the character of the landscape including surrounding landform, vegetation and buildings it is likely that significant effects to visual amenity arising from the works would be constrained predominantly to users of the transport routes that would be directly affected due to activities taking place within their boundaries.

6.13.10. Other than the transport routes directly affected by the installation of the cable the detailed assessment of the construction effects arising from the Proposed Development did not identify significant effects to any receptors within the vicinity of these routes. Therefore, there is not likely to be significant cumulative effects to the visual amenity of receptors beyond the vicinity of these routes.

6.13.11. The visual receptors that have potential to experience cumulative effects to their visual amenity arising from the installation of the cable corridor together with the Proposed Development are:

- Users of St Mary's Well Bay Road (vehicles and pedestrians/cyclists)
- Users of Lavernock Road (B4267) (vehicles and pedestrians/cyclists)

**Cumulative Assessment of Visual Effects: Transport Routes**

*Users of St Mary's Well Bay Road (vehicles and pedestrians/cyclists)*

6.13.12. Activities associated with the installation of the underground cable would dominate the visual experience of the road (if still accessible) which would result in a high scale of change. It would affect a short section of the road between the substation within Field 2 and the junction with Lavernock Road (B4267) (low extent) that would also be affected by views of the construction activities for the Proposed Development within the fields either side of the road for a brief-term (negligible) duration. Overall, the magnitude of the impact arising from the installation of the underground cable is likely

to be **Low** and the sensitivity of the vehicle users is **Medium**, while the sensitivity of pedestrians/cyclists is **High**. The effect will, therefore, be temporary and **Minor Adverse**, which is **Not Significant**. The minor level of effects applies to both receptor groups due to the short-term nature of these activities. When considered against the effects of the Proposed Development during the construction phase the additional and combined effects would be **temporary** and **Moderate Adverse**, which is **Not Significant** and attributed to the Proposed Development.

*Users of Lavernock Road (B4267) (vehicles and pedestrians/cyclists)*

6.13.13. Activities associated with the installation of the underground cable would dominate the visual experience of the road (if still accessible) which would result in a high scale of change. It would affect a considerable proportion from the road, through the agricultural landscape and into/through settlements in either direction depending on which option is selected (high extent) for a brief-term (negligible) duration. Overall, the magnitude of the impact arising from the installation of the underground cable is likely to be **Low**. Should Option 1 be taken forward the operations associated with the installation of the cable would take place along a section of the B4267 that would not be affected by views of the construction activities for the Proposed Development within Site. With Option 2 the activities associated with the installation of the cable are likely to be seen in combination with the Construction Compound that will be located within Field 12. In either case the activities associated with both developments would be viewed sequentially along the road and the activities associated with the installation of the underground cable would continue effects for a much larger extent along the road.

6.13.14. The sensitivity of the vehicle users is **Low**. The effect will, therefore, be **temporary** and **Negligible Adverse**, which is **Not Significant**. When considered against the effects of the Proposed Development during the construction phase the additional and combined effects would be **temporary** and **Minor Adverse**, which is **Not Significant** and attributed to the Proposed Development. They would be viewed sequentially along the road and the activities associated with the underground cable would continue the effects for a much larger extent along the road as well as being seen in combination with the Construction Compound in Field 12 should Option 2 be taken forward.

6.13.15. The sensitivity of the pedestrians/cyclists is **High**. The effect will, therefore, be **temporary** and **Minor Adverse**, which is **Not Significant**. When considered against the effects of the Proposed Development during the construction phase the additional and combined effects would be **temporary** and **Minor Adverse**, which is **Not Significant** and attributed to both Developments. They would be viewed sequentially along the road with the activities associated with the underground cable continuing the activities and therefore the adverse effects for a much larger extent along the road as well as being seen in combination with the Construction Compound in Field 12 should Option 2 be

taken forward, which would be viewed by sensitive receptors albeit for only a brief duration.

**Residential development at Land at Upper Cosmeston Farm**

6.13.16. Outline planning permission for the residential development was granted in March 2024[43]. No specific timeline was provided for the construction and occupation of the residential development and detailed proposals would need to be approved but there is potential for construction activities at Upper Cosmeston Farm to be taking place during the construction phase of the Proposed Development in 2028. Given the scale of the residential development and that it would be delivered in phases, it is likely that the construction period for that development would last longer than the maximum 12 month period (including commissioning) set for the Proposed Development. This cumulative assessment will therefore consider effects of construction activities in both locations taking place at the same time during the construction phase and then when both developments are operational/occupied.

6.13.17. A Landscape and Visual Chapter was included in the ES that accompanied the outline planning application for the residential development. The findings of that chapter have been used in the consideration of the likely cumulative effects below. Judgements regarding magnitude of change and significance of effects of the approved residential development given below have been taken directly from that chapter so have not been made as part of this cumulative assessment[44]. Both developments would occupy the same host LANDMAP Aspect Areas and also have some visual receptors in common which will be discussed for each phase in turn.

6.13.18. Comparison of the ZTVs[45] produced for each of the developments illustrates that there is very little overlap in the extent of their potential visibility on the landscape. Even less so when compared with the Zone of Primary Visibility and even the Secondary Visibility established for the residential development. This, together with the distance between the two developments and the way in which users in the landscape (visual receptors) would experience them independently (as explained below) demonstrates that a separation and a gap of undulating agricultural landscape would remain between the edge of the settlement at Cosmeston and the solar farm (Proposed Development). Any cumulative adverse effects that would arise from the Proposed Development would be temporary, albeit long-term and reversible.

[43] Planning application 2020/01170/OUT –Vale of Glamorgan Planning Register. Available online at: Planning application: 2020/01170/OUT - Vale of Glamorgan District Council [Accessed August 2026]
[44] The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd. (2022). Technical Appendix 7.3: Assessment of Effects. (Online). Available online at: Appendix 7.3 - Updated Assessment of Effects.pdf [Accessed October 2026].
[45] The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd. (2022). Technical Appendix 7.1: Landscape and Visual Baseline. (Online). Available online at: Appendix 7.1 - Landscape and Visual Baseline.pdf [Accessed October 2026].

**Construction Phase – Cumulative Landscape Effects**

*Cumulative Assessment of Landscape Effects: LANDMAP Aspect Areas*

6.13.19. Construction of the residential development would cause wholesale changes to the site area of the residential development itself but would quickly dissipate as distance from the operations increases. Effects arising from the construction activities would therefore be contained to a limited proportion of the Aspect Areas and would be medium to long-term. Overall, the magnitude of the impact arising from the construction of the residential development is likely to be **Low** and the sensitivity of the host Aspect Area receptors are **Medium**. The effect will, therefore, be **temporary Minor Adverse**, which is **Not Significant**. When considered against the effects of the Proposed Development during the construction phase the additional and combined effects would be **temporary** and **Minor Adverse**, which is **Not Significant** and attributed to both activities that would likely be experienced separately in the landscape due to the distance and undulating agricultural landscape between them.

**Construction Phase – Cumulative Visual Effects**

*Cumulative Assessment of Visual Effects: Recreational Routes and Destinations*

**Recreational users of Wales Coast Path (WCP)**

6.13.20. Construction activities would be noticeable alongside the residential development sites eastern boundary although this would be limited to infrequent glimpses though vegetation and dissipate as distance increases. Therefore, this would only affect a short section of the route. Overall, the magnitude of the impact arising from the construction of the residential development is likely to be **Low** and the sensitivity of the users is **High**. The effect will, therefore, be **temporary** and **Moderate Adverse**, which is **Significant**. When considered against the effects of the Proposed Development during the construction phase, the additional effects would be **temporary** and **Moderate Adverse**, which is **Significant** and attributed to the residential development. This would be felt to the section of the route between Cosmeston and Sully. The developments would be viewed sequentially when walking along the route and there would be separation between views of the construction activities along the route with no opportunity for them to be viewed in combination from the same location.

*Cumulative Assessment of Visual Effects: Transport Routes*

**Users of Fort Road (vehicles users)**

6.13.21. Construction activities associated with the residential development would potentially be noticeable over the roadside hedge for users of taller vehicles where they would be seen in the middle distance with a backdrop of existing built form and amongst tree belts. Overall, the magnitude of the impact arising from the construction of the residential development is likely to be **Medium** and the sensitivity of the users is **Medium**. The effect will, therefore, be **temporary** and **Moderate/Minor Adverse**,

which is **Not Significant**. When considered against the effects of the Proposed Development during the construction phase the additional effects would be **temporary** and **Moderate/Minor Adverse**, which is **Not Significant** and attributed to the residential development. There would be separation between views of the construction activities so they would be seen sequentially and from a different proximity along the road with no opportunity for them to be viewed in combination from the same location.

**Users of Lavernock Road (B4267) (vehicles and pedestrians/cyclists)**

6.13.22. Construction activities associated with the residential development would be most notable from a short section of the route which runs directly adjacent to the site boundary and moving away from the site boundary the visible impacts of construction would reduce. Overall, the magnitude of the impact arising from the construction of the residential development is likely to be **High**.

6.13.23. The sensitivity of the vehicle users is **Low**. The effect arising from the residential development will, therefore, be **temporary** and **Moderate/Minor Adverse**, which is **Not Significant**. When considered against the effects of the Proposed Development during the construction phase the additional effects would be **temporary** and **Moderate/Minor Adverse**, which is **Not Significant** and attributed to the residential development. There would be separation between views of the construction activities along the road so they would be seen sequentially with no opportunity for them to be viewed in combination from the same location.

6.13.24. Pedestrians/cyclists were not included as separate users in the Landscape and Visual Assessment for the residential development in this location. If they were included as is the case for the Proposed Development their sensitivity is likely to be **High** so effects would be higher and likely be temporary and **Significant**. When considered against the effects of the Proposed Development during the construction phase the additional effects would be **temporary** and likely **Moderate Adverse** or higher, which would likely be **Significant** and attributed to the residential development. Significant cumulative effects were not attributed to the Proposed Development as they are expected to be Minor Adverse during the construction phase. There would be separation between views of the construction activities along the road so they would be seen sequentially with no opportunity for them to be viewed in combination from the same location. Given the distance between the two locations along the road it is likely that there would be very few of these sensitive receptors that would actually experience views of both activities in these locations.

**Operational Phase – Cumulative Landscape Effects**

*Cumulative Assessment of Landscape Effects: LANDMAP Aspect Areas*

6.13.25. In the Landscape and Visual Assessment for the residential development, all Aspect Areas have been considered as one with a single overall judgement of effects. The

development would extend the settlement of Cosmeston into the agricultural landscape and increase the perception of its 'urban character'. But across the Aspect Areas the extent that this influence would be felt is limited. Initially, the magnitude of the effect arising from the residential development is likely to be **Medium** and the sensitivity of the host Aspect Area receptors are **Medium**. The effect will, therefore, be **temporary Moderate/Minor adverse**, which is **Not Significant**.

6.13.26. Over time, by year 15 adverse effects arising from the residential development would be tempered as mitigation planting matures and contributes to a well-designed improved urban-rural interface, albeit with an extended urban edge further into the coastal agricultural landscape. Overall, the magnitude of the impact arising from the residential development is likely to reduce to **Low** and the sensitivity of the host Aspect Area receptors are **Medium**. The effect will, therefore, be **permanent Minor adverse**, which is **Not Significant**.

6.13.27. When considered against the effects of the Proposed Development on the Visual and Sensory (VSAA) and Cultural Landscape Services (CLSAA) Aspect Areas during the operational phase the additional effects would be **temporary** and **Moderate Adverse**, which is **Significant** and attributed to the Proposed Development. The effects arising from the Proposed Development are temporary and reversible in the long term, and separation between the settlement edge and the solar farm would be retained where the two developments would be experienced as different features in the landscape and not in combination from the same location.

**Operational Phase – Cumulative Visual Effects**

*Cumulative Assessment of Visual Effects: Recreational Routes and Destinations*

**Recreational users of Wales Coast Path (WCP)**

6.13.28. According to the Landscape and Visual Assessment for the residential development the WCP is to be diverted and re-routed through part of the parkland to be provided as part of the residential development which would change the character of a short section of the path within the site. Form the wider extent new development would only ever be seen in part when approaching form the south where views are currently uninfluenced by built form. Residential development on the south-eastern boundary would appear as a new element on the skyline. The presence of the development would not appear out of character from the north. Initially, the magnitude of the impact arising from the residential development is likely to be **Medium** and the sensitivity of the users is **High**. The effect will, therefore, be **temporary** and **Major/Moderate Adverse**, which is **Significant**.

6.13.29. Over time, by year 15 mitigation planting incorporated into the residential development will have matured considerably. This would only minorly alter the close range views through the parkland within the development but would reduce the perceived visual

impacts when approaching from the south, by breaking up the appearance of the built form seen upon the brow of the landscape. Overall, the magnitude of the impact arising from the residential development is likely to be **Very Low** and the sensitivity of the users is **High**. The effect will, therefore, be **permanent** and **Moderate/Minor Adverse**, which is **Not Significant**.

6.13.30. When considered against the residual effects of the Proposed Development in the long-term, the additional effects to the section of the WCP between Cosmeston and Sully would be **permanent** and **Moderate/Minor Adverse**, which is **Not Significant** and attributed to the residential development. The effects arising from the Proposed Development are temporary and reversible in the long term and there would be separation between views of the developments so they would be seen sequentially when walking along the route with no opportunity for them to be viewed in combination from the same location.

*Cumulative Assessment of Visual Effects: Transport Routes*

**Users of Fort Road (vehicles users)**

6.13.31. In the Landscape and Visual Assessment for the residential development it is described as potentially visible over the roadside hedge for users of taller vehicles but would not be considered out of character with the baseline condition, nor would it extend built form markedly towards the road route or horizontally within the view when compared to that currently present. Initially, the magnitude of the impact arising from the residential development is likely to be **Medium** and the sensitivity of the users is **Medium**. The effect will, therefore, be **temporary** and **Moderate/Minor Adverse**, which is **Not Significant**.

6.13.32. Over time, by year 15 mitigation planting within the residential development, and along the south-western boundary will have matured sufficiently to provide a filtering effect of the development softening the presence of built form within the view. Overall, the magnitude of the impact arising from the residential development is likely to be **Low** and the sensitivity of the users is **Medium**. The effect will, therefore, be **permanent** and **Minor Adverse**, which is **Not Significant**. This would only be over the roadside hedge for users of taller vehicles.

6.13.33. When considered against the effects of the Proposed Development the additional effects would be **Minor Adverse**, which is **Not Significant** and attributed to both developments. Although the effects arising from the residential development would be **permanent** while those arising from the Proposed Development would be **temporary**. The effects arising from the Proposed Development are temporary and reversible in the long term and there would be separation between views of the developments so they would be seen sequentially when travelling along the route with no opportunity for them to be viewed in combination from the same location.

**Users of Lavernock Road (B4267) (vehicles and pedestrians/cyclists)**

6.13.34. Any effects on the visual amenity of users of Lavernock Road (B4267) arising from the Proposed Development are principally from the construction phase due to the presence of the compound in Field 12. Any effects during the operational period would be negligible and only initially once construction is complete. Therefore, there would be no cumulative effects to the visual amenity of this road.

**Decommissioning Phase**

6.13.35. By the time of the Decommissioning Phase of the Proposed Development, the residential development will be established in the landscape and effectively form part of the baseline situation at that stage. Therefore, any effects that arise from the Proposed Development would likely be experienced in their own right rather than cumulatively within the residential development.

## 6.14. Monitoring Requirements

6.14.1. No monitoring is required for any residual effects or mitigation pertaining to Landscape and Visual matters. The management responsibilities, intentions and long-term objectives for existing and proposed planting including those provided as mitigation measures are set out in the oLEMP (Appendix 6G) that accompanies the submission. Detailed specifications and prescriptions for the existing and proposed planting will be provided at a at a later stage when permission is secured and could be controlled by planning conditions.

## 6.15. Summary

6.15.1. The Study Area for the early desktop studies, site surveys and initial appraisal was set at 5km radius. Field observations during this appraisal informed field selection to accommodate the Proposed Development and established that significant effects to the landscape character and visual amenity of the area were unlikely to occur beyond 1km of this Site boundary. Therefore, this formed the focus and formal study area for the assessment and reporting in this chapter.

6.15.2. The main conclusions to be drawn from this assessment is that the Proposed Development would likely have significant adverse impacts on:

- Lavernock Hinterland host LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area and Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Area (VLFGLVS787 and VLFGLCLS050) (Operational phase);
- Recreational users of Footpath L1/5/2 (Construction and Operational phases due to the Proposed Development and associated activities, as well as the proposed diversion having direct effects on the route itself and its visual experience); and

- Pedestrians/Cyclists using St Mary's Well Bay Road (Early Operational phase but can be mitigated to avoid significant effects in the long-term).

6.15.3. The judgements made take account of all embedded mitigation measures incorporated into the Proposed Development. Significant adverse effects arise as a result of the introduction of technical elements into the landscape changing the character from pastoral fields to a solar farm which can be viewed from the immediate vicinity of the Site. However, impacts will typically be well contained inside of and within the immediate vicinity of the Site due to the presence of existing vegetation predominantly on field boundaries in combination with the undulating landscape in the surrounding area. Therefore, significant adverse effects arising from the Proposed Development would be very localised and only affect a limited number of Landscape and Visual receptors.

*Table 6.24 - Summary of Significant Effects*

| Receptor and Summary of Predicted Effects | Embedded Mitigation | Sensitivity of Receptor | Magnitude of Change | Significance of Effect | Additional Mitigation | Residual Effect | Monitoring |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Construction Phase – Visual Effects** | | | | | | | |
| **Recreational users if Footpath L1/5/2** – diversion of the route and surrounding construction activities as it passes through the Site. | Southern part of Field 6 remains free of panels where footpath is to be diverted. | High | Medium | **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** | N/A | **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** | None |
| **Operational Phase – Landscape Effects** | | | | | | | |
| **Lavernock Hinterland VSAA (VLFGLVS787)** - introduction of a technical element into the landscape and the influence it would have over the immediately surrounding area. | Field selection including the position of the substation, was informed by early appraisal work. Panels are arranged within existing field structure with minimum 10m buffers from boundary vegetation.<br>Supplementary planting and management of hedges at 2m high across the Site. | Medium | Medium | **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** | N/A | **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** | None |
| **Lavernock Hinterland CLSAA (VLFGLCLS050) -** introduction of a technical element into the landscape and the influence it would have over the immediately surrounding area. | Field selection including the position of the substation, was informed by early appraisal work. Panels are arranged within existing field structure with minimum 10m buffers from boundary vegetation. | Medium | Medium | **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** | N/A | **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** | None |

| Receptor and Summary of Predicted Effects | Embedded Mitigation | Sensitivity of Receptor | Magnitude of Change | Significance of Effect | Additional Mitigation | Residual Effect | Monitoring |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Supplementary planting and management of hedges at 2m high across the Site. | | | | | | |
| **Operational Phase – Visual Effects** | | | | | | | |
| **Recreational users of Footpath L1/5/2** – diversion of the route and views of panels when passing through the Site. | Southern part of Field 6 remains free of panels where footpath is to be diverted.<br>New hedge planting along the route as it passes through Field 8 and orchard plating within Field 6. | High | High | **Major Adverse (Significant)** reducing to **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** over time [at Year 15] | N/A | **Major Adverse (Significant)** reducing to **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** over time [at Year 15] | None |
| **Users of St Mary's Well Bay Road (pedestrians/ cyclists)** – views of solar panels within the Site either side of the road including the project substation. | Panels are arranged within existing field structure with minimum 10m buffers from boundary vegetation.<br>Supplementary planting and management of hedges at 3m high either side of this road. | High | Medium | **Major Adverse (Significant)** reducing to Minor Adverse (Not Significant) over time [at Year 15] | N/A | **Major Adverse (Significant)** reducing to Minor Adverse (Not Significant) over time [at Year 15] | None |
| **Decommissioning Phase – Visual Effects** | | | | | | | |
| No significant effects | | | | | | | |

## 6.16. Further Work to be Undertaken

6.16.1. The final assessment of potential significant effects will be reported in the Final ES. The final assessment reported within this chapter will take account of relevant consultation responses received during the EIA process, including feedback obtained through the Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) process, discussions with statutory consultees and stakeholders, and any subsequent refinements to the Proposed Development.

6.16.2. The potential effects arising from the Proposed Development to the visual amenity of residents of the six residential properties within close proximity of the Site will be considered in a RVAA to accompany the Final ES.