PROPOSED NAVITUS BAY WIND PARK

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION 3

CHAPTER 29
ONSHORE LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

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NAVITUSBAY

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29. LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

29.1. Introduction

29.1 This chapter assesses the potential landscape and visual impacts arising from the construction, operation and maintenance ('O&M') and decommissioning phases of the proposed onshore elements of the Navitus Bay Wind Park ('the Project'). For the purpose of this assessment, the Onshore Development Area comprises the following project elements: the cable Landfall, a 35km onshore cable and associated accesses, temporary compounds and an Onshore Substation.

29.2 For details of the Project description used within this assessment refer to Chapter 2, Navitus Bay Wind Park Project.

29.3 The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment ('LVIA') considers the nature of change arising from the onshore compondents of the Project on receptors (people and landscapes) within a defined study area, agreed through consultation with relevant local planning authorities and Natural England ('NE'). Specifically, the LVIA addresses:

- Landscape impacts - Changes in relation to protected landscapes, areas of common landscape character (landscape character areas and/ or types) and on individual components of the landscape;
- Visual impacts - relating to how the surroundings of individuals or groups of people may be affected by change in the landscape, specifically in relation to fixed views and in the general visual amenity experienced by people in particular places.

29.4 This chapter is supported by an A1 size PEI visuals appendix. This appendix presents wireframes and photomontages for viewpoints 1-6 as identified in Figure 29.8.

29.5 This chapter should be read in conjuction with Chapter 13, Offshore Landscape and Visual, which assesses the offshore infrastructure of the Project.

29.2. Legislation, Policy and Guidance

29.6 This section outlines the legislation, policy and guidance relevant to the assessment of potential impact on the landscape and visual resource.

29.7 Other national, regional and local policies are considered within this assessment and professional opinion has been applied on their relevance and importance to the assessment.

29.2.1. International

29.8 There is no international legislation considered relevant to this assessment, although national procedures comply as a minimum with international standards and recommended practices namely, the European Landscape Convention (2000) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ('UNESCO') World Heritage Sites.

29.2.2. National

29.9 The Overarching National Policy Statement ('NPS') for Energy EN-1 ('EN-1') in conjunction with the NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure EN-3 ('EN-3'), and Electricity Networks Infrastructure EN-5 ('EN-5') provide the primary policy framework for the Project and will be considered during the application process for a Development Consent Order ('DCO'). Details of NPS EN-1, EN-3 and EN-5 and their relationship with the National Planning Policy Framework ('NPPF'), as well as regional and local policy is detailed in Table 29.1).

Table 29.1 Compliance with National Policy Statements

Summary of NPS provision	Consideration in PEI
NPS EN-1 part 5.9	
Paragraph 5.9.5: The landscape and visual assessment should include reference to any landscape character assessment and associated studies as a means of assessing landscape impacts relevant to the proposed project. The applicant's assessment should also take account of any relevant policies based on these assessments in local development documents in England and local	The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment ('LVIA') considers construction and operational and maintenance phases effects within the Impact Assessment

Table 29.1 Compliance with National Policy Statements	
Summary of NPS provision	Consideration in PEI
development plans in Wales.	section with specific references to effects on landscape components and character. Visual effects are considered separately during each phase.
Paragraph 5.9.6: The applicant's assessment should include the effects during construction of the project and the effects of the completed development and its operation on landscape components and landscape character.	
Paragraph 5.9.7: The assessment should include the visibility and conspicuousness of the project during construction and of the presence and operation of the project and potential impacts on views and visual amenity. This should include light pollution effects, including on local amenity, and nature conservation.	
NPS EN-3	
Paragraph 2.6.3: For clarification, any reference within this NPS to offshore wind farm infrastructure includes all the elements which may be part of an application, including wind turbines, all types of foundations, onshore and offshore substations, anemometry masts, accommodation platforms and cabling.	Noted and adopted as part of the approach and methodology throughout this chapter.
Paragraph 2.6.38: Where the applicant does not know the precise location of any cabling or any necessary onshore and/or offshore substations, a corridor should be identified within which the cable and any offshore substation is likely to be located. The EIA for the proposed project should assess the effects of including this infrastructure within that corridor.	The cable corridor is identified in Figure 29.2.
Paragraph 2.6.41: The onshore element of the grid connection (electric lines and substations) should be determined in accordance with the Electricity	

Table 29.1 Compliance with National Policy Statements	
Summary of NPS provision	Consideration in PEI
Networks Infrastructure NPS EN-5. Depending upon the scale and type of this onshore development, elements of it could constitute either associated development or an energy NSIP in its own right	
NPS EN 5	
Paragraph 2.2.5: recognises that in siting substations consideration should be given to how they are placed in the local landscape taking account of such things as local topography and the possibility of screening.	A description of the site selection strategy will be provided in the Environmental Statement that will form part of the application for development consent. Relevant site selection and design considerations are addressed in the Embedded Mitigation section.
Paragraph 2.2.6 further adds that new electricity networks infrastructure should "have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty; and … do what [they] reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside"	
Section 2.8 and Paragraph 2.8.2 sets out key landscape and visual considerations in relation to the siting and design of energy infrastructure and notes that "landscape and visual effects" can arise from substations and associated infrastructure	
Paragraphs 2.8.8 to 2.8.11 address potential impacts on landscape character and visual amenity arising from power lines (overhead and underground) and provide potential mitigation options for consideration.	All interconnecting cables are buried therefore visual impacts would only arise during the construction phase.

29.2.3. Local

29.10 The 'Plan Making' section of the NPPF is of most relevance to those who have responsibility for the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans. However, a number of policies are of relevance to the consideration of landscape and visual issues.

29.11 A summary of the key provision of the NPPF with relevance to this chapter is set out in Table 29.2, whilst Local Planning Authority boundaries are presented in Figures 29.1 (Onshore Substation) and 29.2 (Onshore Cable Corridor and Landfall). Local Plan policies relevant to this Chapter are presented in Table 29.3:

Table 29.2 Compliance with National Planning Policy Framework

Summary of nppf provision	Consideration in pei
Paragraph 114 refers to the character of the coast, and states that local planning authorities should "maintain the character of the undeveloped coast, protecting and enhancing its distinctive landscapes, particularly in areas defined as Heritage Coast and improve public access to and enjoyment of the coast".	The coastal elements (the landfall site) are assessed under the Impact Assessment section of this chapter.
Paragraph 162 states that local planning authorities should "take account of the need for strategic infrastructure including nationally significant infrastructure within their areas".	Noted
Paragraph 165 states that "planning policies and decisions should be based on up-to date information about the natural environment".	Reference has been made to relevant, up-to-date publicly accessible documents (see list of references for details).
Paragraph 170 states that "where appropriate, landscape character assessments should also be prepared, integrated with assessment of historic landscape character, and for areas where there are major expansion options assessments of landscape sensitivity."	Relevant published landscape character assessments have been used throughout to inform judgments – reference should be made to the Baseline environment section of this chapter.

29.12 The key landscape planning framework underpinning Local Development Plans considered relevant to the Project are summarised in Table 29.3.

Table 29.3 Local landscape planning framework

Development plan document	Key relevant provisions	Consideration in pei
East Dorset Local Plan (adopted January 2002).	The East Dorset Local Plan does not specifically identify the proposed Onshore Substation in landscape policy terms, although it is subject to general policies relating to development in the countryside and policy relating to development in the Green Belt.	The assessment considers Green Belt policy in the Impact Assessment section of this chapter.
	The Woodlands Area of Great Landscape Value ('AGLV') lies approximately 1.1 km to the west of the proposed Onshore Substation and northern extents of the proposed Cable Corridor and extends across much of Holt Heath (see Figure 29.1). AGLVs are designated as land of particularly high landscape quality; therefore any development that is permitted should be of such a standard that it would not be detrimental to the quality of that area. This may also extend to development in outlying areas which share intervisibility with the AGLV.	Assessment of impacts on the AGLV is presented in the Impact Assessment section of this chapter.
East Dorset District Council Areas of Great Landscape Value Supplementary Planning Guidance No. 19 (June 1997).	This defines the intrinsic landscape qualities of sub-areas within the AGLV. The description of Holt Heath sub area notes the importance of outward facing views from within the AGLV.	Assessment of impacts on the AGLV is presented in the Impact Assessment section of this chapter.

Table 29.3 Local landscape planning framework		
Development plan document	Key relevant provisions	Consideration in pei
The emerging (unadopted) Development Plan Documents ('DPD'), principally the Christchurch and East Dorset Core Strategy Options DPD (October 2010).	The Onshore Substation and Cable Corridor would lie wholly within the South-east Dorset Green Belt (see Figure 29.1). A principal purpose of Green Belt policy is in the protection of open land and the prevention of urban sprawl and coalescence of neighbouring settlements. Within Green Belt areas there is a presumption against all but a few, limited forms of development and particularly against most new buildings.	The assessment considers Green Belt policy within the Impact Assessment section of this chapter.
New Forest District Council Core Strategy (adopted in 2009, Part 1 of the new Local Plan) and policies which have been 'saved' from the Local Plan First Alteration (2005).	A strategic objective of the Core Strategy is stated as: "Protect and enhance the natural environment of the National Park, including the natural beauty of the landscape" (New Forest National Park Authority, 2010). This is delivered, in part, through Policies DP1: General Development Principles, CP3: Green Infrastructure, and DP5 Coastal Development.	There would be no impact on the reasons for designating the National Park as a result of the Project. This has been scoped out of the assessment.
The New Forest National Park Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD.	Conserving Local Distinctiveness: Objective 1 states an aim to: "Conserve and enhance the wealth of individual characteristics that contribute to the local distinctiveness of the villages and landscapes of the New Forest"	There would be no impact on the reasons for designating the National Park as a result of the Project. This has been scoped out of the assessment.

29.2.4. Guidance

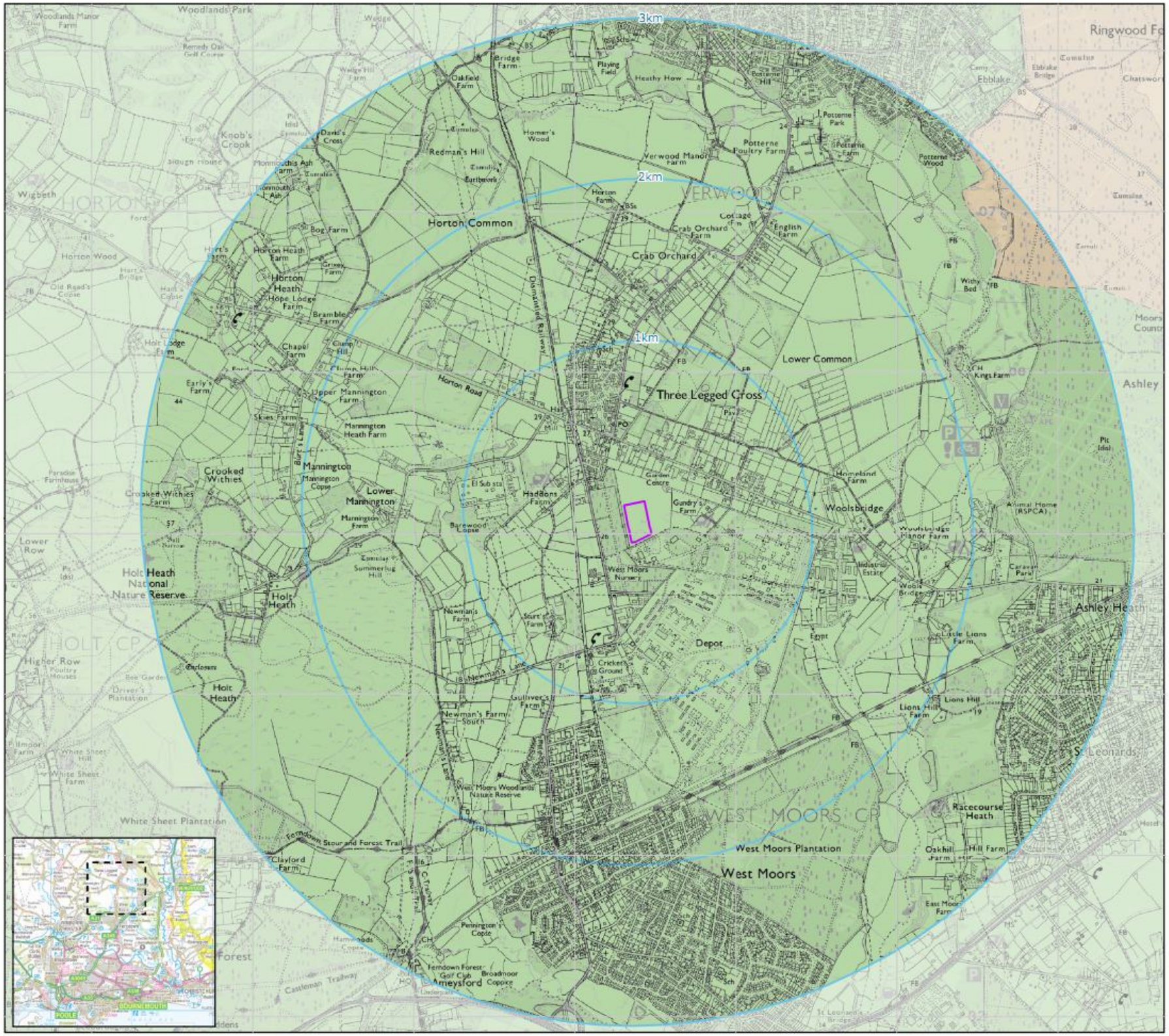
29.13 The following guidance documents have informed the preparation of this Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment ('LVIA'):

- The Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (2002). Second Edition ('GLVIA2')[1], Landscape Institute with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment ('IEMA');
- Visual representation of Windfarms (2007). Good Practice Guidance, Scottish Natural Heritage;
- Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland (2002). Scottish Natural Heritage ('SNH') and The Countryside Agency (now Natural England) (from here on referred to as 'SNH guidance');
- Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland (2004). Topic paper 6, Techniques and Criteria for Judging Capacity and Sensitivity, SNH/TCA;
- Landscape Institute Advice Note 01/11 (2011). Photography and photomontage in landscape and visual impact assessment.

[1] The updated IEMA Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3) were published in April 2013 (see Paragraph 11.13 of this ES chapter for more detail).

405000 406000 407000 408000 409000 410000 411000

108000 107000 106000 105000 104000 103000 102000



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Substation Site Location and Study Area

Legend

- Onshore Substation Site
- 1km, 2km & 3km Buffer around Proposed Substation Site

Local Planning Authorities

Dorset

- East Dorset District

Hampshire

- New Forest District

Fig. No.: Figure 29.1		**Date:** 14/08/2013
Author: DL	**Checked:** NT	**Approved:** WW
Scale@A3: 1:25,000		**Revision No.:** 03
Coordinate System: British National Grid		**Data Sources:** OS,PMSS, TCE
Datum: OSGB 1936	**Ref. No.:** 3419_12_1/LDA	

0 0.5 miles

0 0.5 1 km

N

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410000 415000 420000 425000

105000 100000 95000 90000

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Cable Route Location and Study Area

Legend

- Onshore Development Area
- Study Area (500m Corridor either side of Onshore Development Area)
- Onshore Substation Site

Local Planning Authorities

Dorset

- Christchurch District
- East Dorset District

Hampshire

- New Forest District

Unitary Authority

- Bournemouth
- Poole

Fig. No.: Figure 29.2		**Date:** 14/08/2013
Author: DL	**Checked:** NT	**Approved:** WW
Scale@A3: 1:75,000		**Revision No.:** 03
Coordinate System: British National Grid		**Data Sources:** OS,PMSS, TCE
Datum: OSGB 1936	**Ref. No.:** 3419_12_2/LDA	

0 1 2 miles

0 5 km

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410000 415000 420000 425000

105000 100000 95000 90000

RINGWOOD
NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK
NEW FOREST DISTRICT
BOURNEMOUTH
CHRISTCHURCH
BOURNEMOUTH
HENGISTBURY HEAD
CHRISTCHURCH BAY

Navitus Bay Development Ltd

Landscape Planning Policy

Legend

- Onshore Development Area
- Study Area (500m Corridor either side of Onshore Development Area)
- Onshore Substation Site
- 3km Buffer around Proposed Substation Site

Greenbelt Designation

- Greenbelt

National Landscape Designations

- New Forest National Park

Local Landscape Designations

- East Dorset - Areas of Great Landscape Value

Fig. No.: Figure 29.3		**Date:** 14/08/2013
Author: DL	**Checked:** NT	**Approved:** WW
Scale@A3: 1:75,000		**Revision No.:** 03
Coordinate System: British National Grid		**Data Sources:** OS,PMSS, TCE
Datum: OSGB 1936	**Ref. No.:** 3419_12_3/LDA	

0 1 2 miles

0 5 km

N

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29.3. Assessment Methodology

29.14 The assessment methodology draws upon the established guidelines as outlined in Legislation, Policy and Guidance section above and summarised in this section of the PEI.

29.15 The updated IEMA GLVIA3 was published in April 2013. The Landscape Institute has provided the following advice regarding its adoption for LVIA projects, which have commenced prior to the 2013 adoption date. It states that:

29.16 "An assessment started using GLVIA2 should be completed using that edition. However, if in the view of the professional a comparison should be undertaken with GLVIA3, and subsequently if necessary a re-assessment undertaken according to GLVIA3, then this should be discussed and agreed with the client in the first instance"; it further states that: "In general terms the approach and methodologies in the new edition are the same. The main difference is that GLVIA3 places greater emphasis on professional judgement and less emphasis on a formulaic approach." (Source: Landscape Institute website).

29.17 Given that the assessment process for the proposed Project commenced in August 2012 and substantially completed prior to April 2013, the decision was made to proceed using the GLVIA 2 approach in accordance with the Landscape Institute advice statement. On the basis of the above guidance, it is considered that the assessment using the GLVIA 2 methodology remains robust and fit-for-purpose.

29.3.1. Study area

29.18 In accordance with best practice guidance GLVIA2, a study area for the Project has been agreed through consultation with East Dorset District Council ('EDDC'), Christchurch District Council ('CDC'), New Forest District Council ('NFDC'), New Forest National Park Authority ('NFNPA'), Dorset County Council ('DCC'), Hampshire County Council ('HCC'), and Natural England ('NE')(Figures 29.1 and 29.2).

29.19 The study area includes the onshore Cable Corridor, the coastal landfall site (located to the east of Barton-on-Sea) and the Onshore Substation within the South-East Dorset Green Belt, located at Three Legged Cross in East Dorset. More specifically, and for the purpose of the LVIA, the following has been agreed:

- A 3 km radius study area (agreed through consultation with local planning authorities) for an assessment of landscape and visual effects relating to the Onshore Substation; and
- A 1 km study area (agreed through consultation with local planning authorities) for an assessment of landscape and visual effects relating to the cable corridor and landfall site, i.e. 500 m each side of the centre of the cable trench. This also includes an equivalent offset for temporary access roads and working areas.

29.20 Details of the consultation which has informed the LVIA process is provided in Table 29.4.

29.3.2. Consultations

29.21 This section provides information regarding the consultations undertaken to inform the assessment of the landscape and visual resource; reference is made to consultation responses received as part of the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) Scoping Opinion (November 2011) together with subsequent responses received from the relevant local planning authorities and statutory bodies in relation to the LVIA methodology and general approach .

29.22 The organisations consulted and the subject matter of each contact is provided in Table 29.4.

Table 29.4 Consultations		
Organisation	Summary of response	Where addressed
Scoping opinion response		
IPC	Paragraphs 3.94 – 3.98 requests consideration of impacts on: - access roads (permanent and temporary); - notable landscape features (TPOs, hedgerows, fences; - Public Rights of Way (PRoW), statutory designated land and Open Access Land; - Receptors arising from permanent/temporary lighting	Assessment of both landscape and visual receptors, PRoWs and access roads is provided in the Impact Assessment section of this chapter.
Natural England	(ref: letter dated 19/10/11) LVIA Assessment methodology should be in line with Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA)	This is described under Assessment Methodology section of this chapter.
	(ref: letter dated 19/10/11) - LVIA should include protected landscapes on mapping; and - Protected landscapes should be assigned the highest level of sensitivity	Protected landscapes are represented in the relevant figures within this chapter Assignment of sensitivity is presented in the Impact Assessment Methodology section

Table 29.4 Consultations		
Organisation	Summary of response	Where addressed
		of this chapter.
New Forest District Council	(ref: letter dated 20/10/11) Consideration needs to be given regarding the size, siting and design of the substation to ensure minimal impact	Consideration of these issues (including site selection) are included in this chapter.
	Request that the LVIA adopts the updated GLVIA guidance (GLVIA3, April 2013)	As GLVIA3 was not published until April 2013 the LVIA has used the guidance relevant at the time of the assessment; this is consistent with the Landscape Institute position statement referred to in the Legislation, Policy and Guidance section of this chapter.
New Forest National Park	Reference should be made to the relevant New Forest National Park (NFNP) Core Strategy policies; to the New Forest District Landscape Character Assessment (2000)	Refer to Table 29.3 and Table 29.5
	Requests clarity on assessment parameters	Refer to Table 29.14
Local Planning Authority/ Statutory Consultee Response (LVIA methodology and approach)		
East Dorset District Council	A response has yet to be received	

Table 29.4 Consultations		
Organisation	Summary of response	Where addressed
Christchurch Borough Council	A response has yet to be received	
New Forest District Council	Confirmed approval of methodology (noting that GLVIA 3 should be adopted once published) Position statement on GLVIA 3 methodology presented in Legislation, Policy and Guidance section of this chapter.	This is addressed in the Assessment Methodology section of this chapter
Hampshire County Council	Requested additional viewpoints: Golden Hill (between Ashley and Hordle)	Additional viewpoint included and identified within the Impact Assessment section
Dorset County Council	Confirmation of agreement to assessment viewpoints (email dated 2/7/13)	Viewpoint locations are presented in Table 29.13
New Forest National Park Authority	Requested additional viewpoints: From where vegetation is to be felled; To the east of Ashley (north of Golden Hill) if any works that would affect the railway embankment or grubbing out of hedgerows or potential felling of trees. Near to VP 13 relating to woodland Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) Extra views as applicable to capture impacts arising from constraints of level changes in landscape	Additional viewpoint included and identified within the Impact Assessment section of this chapter.

Table 29.4 Consultations

Organisation	Summary of response	Where addressed

29.3.3. Scope of the assessment

29.23 The scope of this assessment regarding viewpoints has been agreed through consultation with the relevant statutory and non-statutory organisations from whom responses have been received to date, and in accordance with the requirement of NPS EN-1, EN-3 and EN-5, and the guidance discussed in the Legislation, Policy and Guidance section. However, the use of GLVIA2 methodology rather than GLVIA3 has been used as the impact assessment was completed before the new guidance was published.

Green Belt

29.24 The Onshore Substation site lies within the South-East Dorset Green Belt. The NPPF provides the framework for Green Belt policy and requires local development plans to accord with this policy guidance. Paragraph 91 of the NPPF states that: "When located in the Green Belt, elements of many renewable energy projects will comprise inappropriate development. In such cases developers will need to demonstrate very special circumstances if projects are to proceed. Such very special circumstances may include the wider environmental benefit associated with increased production of energy from renewable sources."

29.25 Paragraph 80 of the NPPF establishes the five fundamental purposes of the Green Belt policy. Three of these have particular relevance in landscape and visual terms and comprise:

- To check unrestricted sprawl of large built up areas;

- To prevent coalescence of neighbouring towns;
- To assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment.

29.26 The assessment of landscape and visual impacts has presented information to enable consideration as to the implications of the Project for the aims of the Green Belt policy. Given that the Green Belt policy does not differentiate between construction and O&M of a development, the LVIA similarly assesses both phases together. The decommissioning phase is not assessed as, by implication, where development is removed there would be no change to the function of the Green Belt.

Issues scoped out

29.27 A preliminary appraisal of the potential impacts arising from the Project has led to a small number of receptors being scoped out of the assessment. These are described below:

Landscape character areas

29.28 Four of the LCAs within the 3 km study area (illustrated in Figures 29.6 and 29.7) have been scoped out of the assessment on the basis that there would be no intervisibility with the Onshore Substation (as indicated by the ZTV, Figure 29.12), and therefore no effects (indirect or direct) arising from the development. The LCAs that have been scoped out are:

- LCA 16: Moors River Valley
- LCA 18: Ringwood-Hurn Forest/Heath Mosaic
- LCA 19: West Moors Forest/Heath Mosaic
- LCA 8: Woodlands-Colehill & Hillbutts Farmland/Woodland Mosaic

Residential amenity assessment

29.29 Effects on the closest residential properties are commonly assessed separately to the representative viewpoints, specifically in order to identify whether the effects would result in an 'unacceptable harm' to residential amenity. The approach draws upon Public Inquiry decisions for wind farms and requires judgements to be made as to whether the visual amenity of residents will be affected to the degree that "the property concerned would come to be regarded as an unattractive and thus unsatisfactory (but not uninhabitable) place in which to live." (quotation taken from the Poplar Lane wind farm appeal decision).

29.30 A preliminary field-based assessment of residential properties within a 1 km radius of the substation development has been undertaken in order to establish a 'need' for undertaking a full residential amenity assessment. The 1 km search area was selected using professional judgement and informed by best practice arising from wind farm public inquiry outcomes to determine the thresholds within which 'unacceptable harm' would be expected to occur.

29.31 The study has concluded that residents of the nearest properties to the substation (located on the south side of Ringwood Road) would be extremely unlikely to experience such a substantial change in their views as to reach a threshold of 'unacceptable harm'. This is principally due to the density of intervening vegetation located along the northern Substation site boundary and the degree of separation of each property from the tallest components of the Onshore Substation.

29.32 On this basis, the need for a residential amenity assessment has been scoped out of the LVIA.

Decommisioning

29.33 It is assumed there would be no decommissioning phase impacts arising from the Onshore Cable Corridor as the below ground infrastructure would be left in-situ once the Onshore Substation has been decommissioned.

29.3.4. Impact assessment methodology

29.34 The assessment broadly follows the methodology described in PEI, Chapter 3 (EIA Methodology), but where appropriate the following four key stages as set out in the GLVIA2 guidance were undertaken:

- Baseline: This includes the gathering of documented information; scoping of the assessment and agreement of that scope with the Applicant, relevant consultees, EIA coordinator and LPAs; site visits and initial reports to applicant and/or EIA coordinator of issues that may need to be addressed within the design;

- ZTV studies: These assist in identifying potential viewpoints and indicate the potential visibility of the Onshore Substation, Onshore Cable Corridor and Landfall site;
- Design: Review of initial layout/options for the Onshore Substation and Onshore Cable Corridor and Landfall and mitigation options. Inputs to layout options were captured through an iterative process involving engineers and findings for the assessment;
- Assessment: This includes an assessment of the landscape and visual effects of the full scheme, requiring site based work and the completion of a full report and supporting graphics.

Sensitivity of a receptor

29.35 Sensitivity is assessed and assigned for both landscape receptors, such as designated areas and landscape character areas, and for visual receptors (people) at viewpoints where views of the Onshore Substation and Onshore Cable Corridor are available. It provides an indication of the sensitivity of that receptor to change of the type proposed.

29.36 The sensitivity of designated landscapes is assessed based on their relative value as reflected in their designation status (i.e. international, national, local). All landscapes are valued to a greater or lesser extent, and local people generally value open countryside regardless of whether or not it is designated. However, a despoiled or degraded landscape may be of Low value (and corresponding Low sensitivity in this respect). Undesignated, 'everyday' countryside would tend to be of Medium value. Nationally designated landscapes, which enjoy statutory protection (National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty), have a High value and thus a High sensitivity in this respect. Locally designated landscapes would have High-Medium value and sensitivity, as would Heritage Coasts, which though nationally defined, are protected only via local plan policy.

29.37 Sensitivity of landscape character areas is influenced by their characteristics and is frequently considered within documented landscape character assessments and capacity studies.

29.38 Sensitivity of visual receptors is primarily a function of the expectations and occupation or activity of the receptor and the importance of the view. A description of how sensitivity is assessed for each receptor type is included in Table 29.5.

Table 29.5 Sensitivity rating

Category	Definition
High	Receptors highly sensitive to changes to their character or visual amenity. Includes international and national designations such as National Parks ('NPs') and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty ('AONBs'), private residents or receptors of protected views.
Medium	Receptors reasonably tolerant of change to their character and visual amenity. Includes locally designated character (such as Areas of Great Landscape Value ('AGLV'), or locally valued views (such as Public Rights of Way ('PRoW')).
Low	Receptors tolerant of modest change to their character or visual amenity. Likely to be non-designated character areas or visual receptors with little interest in views beyond their immediate vicinity, such as indoor workers.
Very Low	Receptors tolerant of substantial change to their character or visual amenity. Likely to be areas of landscape which are deemed to be of least value and have a large capacity to accept change or visual receptors with little/no interest in views beyond their immediate vicinity.

29.39 In landscape and visual terms, assigning a rating (i.e. high, medium, low or very low) to sensitivity requires intermediate categories (i.e. medium-low) in recognition of the wide range of receptors and to enable a more informative assessment.

Magnitude of effect

29.40 Magnitude of effect is assessed for all identified receptors and indicates the degree of change which is likely to be 'experienced' by a specific receptor.

29.41 Magnitude of effect is assessed taking into account the following factors:

- The *scale* of the effect

- The *duration* of the effect – i.e. is it permanent, or temporary (and can be reversed); duration is assessed as long-term (in excess of 10 years), medium-term (within two to 10 years), or short term (less than two years)
- The *extent* of the effect relating to geographical areas over which effects would be experienced.

29.42 In considering the effects on designated areas, a number of factors need to be considered. The effects on the component landscape character areas and on views from within and towards the designated area need to be understood. These effects are then considered in light of the documented "special qualities" and purposes of the designation; and the proportion of the designated area that is affected, in order to arrive at an opinion of the magnitude of effect on the designated area.

29.43 A description of how magnitude is included in Table 29.6.

Table 29.6 Magnitude rating

Category	Definition
High	Total or major alteration to key elements, features or characteristics, or visual composition such that, post-development, the baseline situation would be fundamentally changed.
Medium	Partial alteration to key elements, features or characteristics, or visual composition such that, post–development, the baseline situation would be noticeably changed.
Low	Minor alteration to elements or limited key elements, features or characteristics, or visual composition such that, post–development, the baseline situation would be largely unchanged despite discernible differences.
Very Low	Very minor alteration to elements, features or characteristics, or visual composition such that post development the baseline situation would be fundamentally unchanged with barely perceptible differences.

29.44 In landscape and visual terms, assigning a rating (i.e. high, medium, low or very low) to magnitude requires intermediate categories (i.e. medium-low). This enables a more informative level of assessment.

Impact significance

29.45 Impact significance takes into account the sensitivity of a receptor and the magnitude of effect. This process is guided by the significance matrix illustrated in Table 29.7 and the terminology based on best practice guidance. The matrix differs to that described in Chapter 3, EIA Methodology as it uses the term 'minimal' to categorise impact significance rather than 'negligible', which is used to categorise sensitivity and magnitude.

Table 29.7 Description of impact significance

Magnitude of effect	Sensitivity of a receptor: High	Medium	Low	Very low
High	Major	Major or Moderate	Moderate or Minor	Minimal
Medium	Major or Moderate	Moderate or Minor	Minor	Minimal
Low	Moderate or Minor	Minor	Minor	Minimal
Very low	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal

29.46 Impacts that are considered to have a major or major/moderate are, for this assessment, deemed to have a 'likely significant adverse effect' in terms of the landscape and visual issues. This differs from the matrix described in Chapter 3, EIA Methodology.

29.47 Where intermediate ratings are given e.g. 'moderate to minor', this indicates an impact is both less than moderate but more than minor, rather than one which varies across the range. In such cases, the higher rating is always given first. However, this does not mean that the impact is closer to that higher rating.

29.3.5. Limitations and embedded mitigation

Limitations

29.48 The assessment of impacts on landscape character has drawn upon information within the published local landscape character assessments, which is between 11 and five years old; where possible and applicable this has been updated on the basis of site based observations.

Embedded mitigation

29.49 A number of embedded mitigation measures included in the Project are detailed in Chapter 2, Navitus Bay Wind Park Project. In addition to the design mitigation measures identified in Chapter 2, mitigation measures also include careful site selection in relation to the location of the Onshore Substation.

29.50 The approach adopted in relation to site selection will be described in detail in the ES. This process included an appraisal of existing vegetation on and adjacent to each site to ascertain its potential to provide an effective screen for the development in key views from within the wider landscape.

29.51 The appraisal concluded that the perimeter vegetation which surrounds the Gundry Farm site would offer a high degree of natural screening (in comparison with other alternative sites) and was one of the key factors which informed the decision to proceed with this site.

29.52 The perimeter vegetation to the west of the proposed site is Mill Nursery plantation, owned and managed by the Forestry Commission. The latest Forest Design Plan (Forestry Commission, 2009) identifies the plantation as being managed for continuous cover of conifer or mixed woodland to promote natural regeneration. No felling of this plantation is proposed and it is therefore included as part of the existing vegetation.

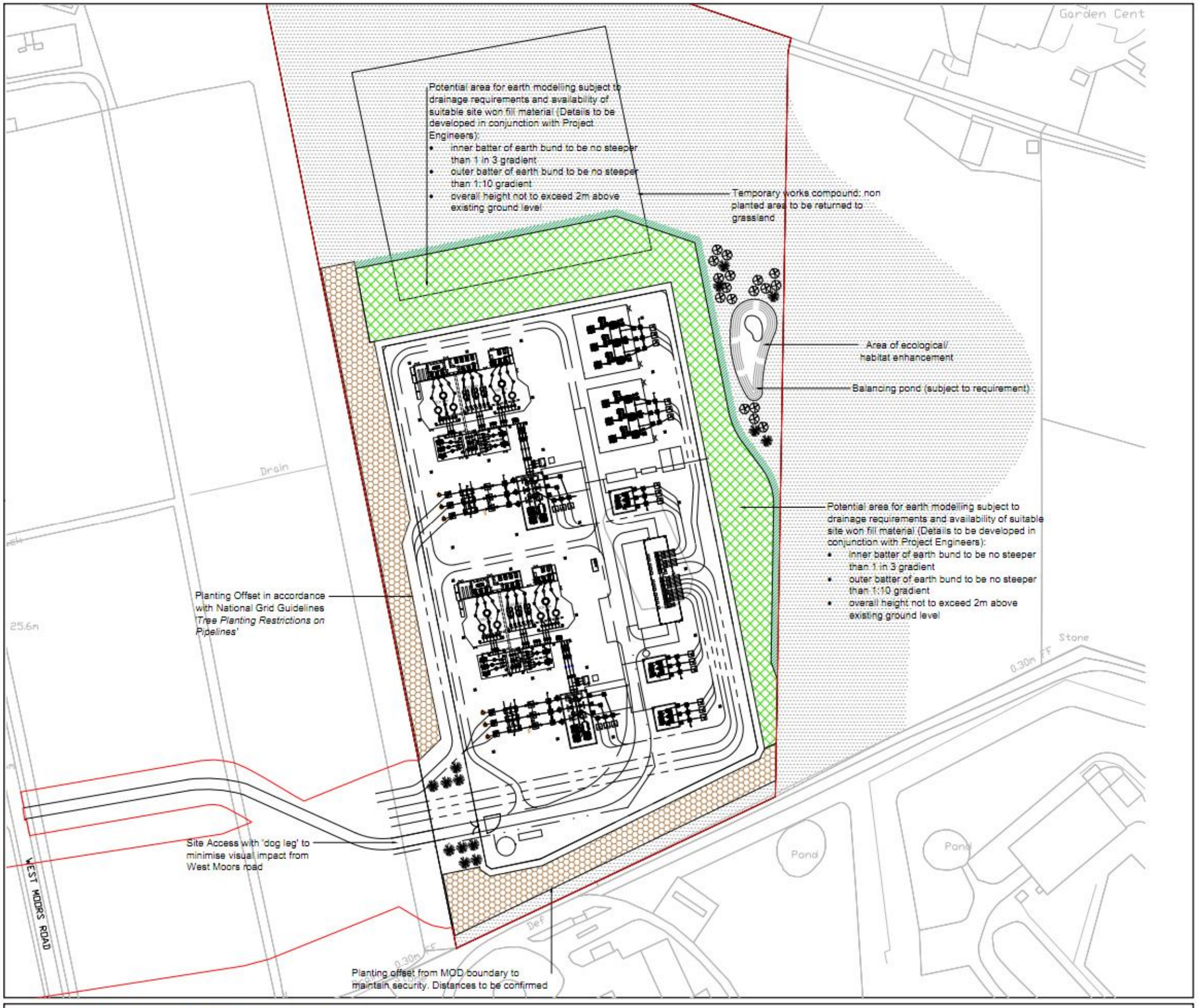
29.53 The proposed landscape planting around the Onshore Substation is considered to be embedded mitigation, whilst, where practicable, reinstatement planting along the Onshore Cable Corridor is considered to be a requirement of the DCO. Deep rooted trees cannot be reinstated over the cable easement (the width over which the cables are laid), however agricultural land, hedgerows and shallow rooted trees and shrubs may be planted.

29.54 An indicative landscape plan has been prepared for the Onshor Substation site which shows the general arrangement of planting based on the indicative scheme layout (refer to Figure 29.4).

29.55 The proposed perimeter landscape planting would help to integrate the Onshore Substation into the existing landscape framework through replication of the existing tree-lined boundary treatment. The planting would also reduce, over time, the visual impact of the proposed development in views from adjacent areas such as Gundry's Farm and the associated camping site and the northern perimeter of the MOD site.

29.56 The proposed screen planting would likely comprise indigenous mixed broadleaf and coniferous trees, planted in linear bands of variable widths along the Onshore Substation perimeter fence line. The pattern and orientation of the planting would likely relate to the existing linear plantation on the western boundary, whilst species selection would reflect locally occurring native species. The depth of tree and shrub planting would vary according to the spatial and operational constraints of the site but would be up to 30 m in areas along the eastern boundary where space and other operational constraints (such as access requirements and cable offsets) are the least prohibitive.

29.57 The Project incorporates the decision to install the cable underground instead of using overhead lines, and this is a key mitigation to avoid any long term landscape and visual implications to the cable corridor.



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Indicative Embedded Landscape Mitigation

Legend

- Native species edge mix
- Native species woodland planting - Mix A: Native broadleaved woodland comprising species of local provenance
- Native species woodland planting - Mix B: Predominantly coniferous tree species reflecting character of planting within the adjacent SINC (80% coniferous/ 20% broadleaf)
- Native species tree groups
- Proposed reseeding / retention of existing grass
- Substation site boundary

Fig. No.: Figure 29.4		**Date:** 17/06/2013
Author: RO	**Checked:** RO	**Approved:** WW
Scale@A3: NTS		**Revision No.:** 01
Coordinate System: British National Grid		**Data Sources:** OS, Bluesky
Datum: OSGB 1936	**Ref. No.:** 3419/11/11a	

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29.4. Baseline Environment

29.58 The following section details the baseline data gathering methodology for the assessment and data sources used.

29.4.1. Baseline data gathering methodology

Data sources

29.59 This section provides information on the organisations from which relevant contextual information was requested. The information gathered was used to determine the tasks undertaken to inform the site-specific baseline and the impact assessment (Table 29.8).

Table 29.8 Data sources

Organisation	Data requested	Data received
East Dorset District Council	Landscape character assessment	East Dorset District Landscape Character Assessment (2008).
Christchurch Borough Council	Landscape character assessment	Christchurch Borough-wide Landscape Character Assessment (2003).
New Forest District Council	Landscape character assessment	New Forest District Landscape Character Assessment (2002).
Ordnance Survey	OS Mapping	Ordnance Survey information.
Bing website	Aerial photography	Bing Online Aerial Mapping at http://www.bing.com/maps.

Survey methodology

29.60 The methodology for undertaking the relevant landscape and visual surveys were in accordance with the GLVIA2 and the Landscape Character Assessment Guidance, Countryside Agency (now Natural England), 2002.

29.61 Site-specific surveys have been undertaken at two key stages of the LVIA process. Initial site assessments were undertaken to:

- Inform the baseline assessment;
- To verify the viewpoint locations for the assessment of visual impacts;
- To verify, where appropriate, baseline research undertaken as a desk-based exercise.

29.62 Site surveys were similarly undertaken to consider both landscape and visual impacts arising from the proposed development. The assessment stage surveys for the Onshore Substation were informed by computer generated wireframes prepared for the agreed representative viewpoints (refer to the Assessment Methodology section).

Modelling methodology

29.63 The methodology for preparing ZTVs, wireframes and photomontages will be provided in the technical appendices of the Environmental Statement. Methodologies follow best practice and current guidance (see Legislation, Policy and Guidance section).

29.64 The preparation of Zone of Theoretical Visibility ('ZTV') comprises two separate studies. The first uses a topographic model alone (often referred to as a Bare Ground ZTV), in accordance with SNH guidance (2007). The second study is designed to include visual barriers from settlements (generally mapped in at an assumed average of 7.5 m above ground level) and woodlands (generally mapped in at an assumed average of 15 m high above ground level).

29.65 Wireframes are produced in six key stages:

- Professional photography is undertaken by a professional photographer using a digital Single-lens Reflex ('SLR') camera and 50 mm equivalent lens;
- Creation of a computer-generated ground model and 3D mesh;
- A 3D ground model and 3D mesh;
- Wireframe generation - viewpoints are added within the 3D model with each observer point being inserted at 2 m above the modelled ground plane;
- Wireframe matching - The wireframes are matched to the photographs; and

- Reproduction - the wireframe images are presented on sheets in accordance with SNH guidance (2007).

29.66 Photomontages are produced in four key stages:

- Wireframe preparation (as above);
- Preparation of a rendered 3D view of selected viewpoint;
- The rendered substation is then added to the photographs in the positions identified by the wireframe;

29.67 Reproduction - the wireframe images are presented on sheets in accordance with SNH guidance (2007).

29.4.2. Baseline: Onshore Substation

29.68 The Onshore Substation would be located at Three Legged Cross, to the immediate east of West Moors Road (B3072) and south of Ringwood Road, and approximately 700 m to the east of the existing Mannington substation (see Figure 29.1).

29.69 The Onshore Substation site is situated within the East Dorset Green Belt (see Figure 29.3), which encompasses much of the surrounding rural landscape within the East Dorset District. Small areas to the north-east and south-east lie within the New Forest District and Christchurch Boroughs respectively.

29.70 A number of small and medium sized settlements are located within the 3 km study area of the Onshore Substation and include Verwood to the north, St. Leonards, St Ives and Ashley Heath to the east, and West Moors and Ferndown to the south. Moreover, the Onshore Substation site currently forms part of an estate, which comprises open fields used as grazing pasture.

29.71 To the south of the Onshore Substation site, the boundary is formed by a series of Ministry of Defence ('MOD') buildings. These are located behind a secure perimeter fence line and set within a framework of tree planting.

29.72 In general, the area surrounding the proposed Onshore Substation site has scattered housing and isolated farmsteads. Extensive housing and associated facilities within Three Legged Cross extend in a broadly linear pattern along the B3072 and Ringwood Road. This includes the Woolsbridge and Gundry Moor Industrial Estates together with the large MOD Petroleum depot, which shares a boundary with the Onshore Substation site. The larger urban centres of Verwood, West Moors, Ferndown and Ashley Heath lie to the north, east and south of Three Legged Cross, and are separated from each other by a strong landscape framework within the Green Belt.

Landscape framework

29.73 There is a strong and established vegetation framework within the study area which comprises substantial areas of mixed broadleaf and coniferous woodland and copses together with large plantation forests to the south, east and west of the substation site. Tree cover helps to absorb and assimilate urban areas and some despoiled landscapes particularly in views from within the lower lying areas of the Moors river valley and from higher land to the north in the vicinity of Horton Common and the west on Holt Heath.

29.74 The Onshore Substation site is contained by a narrow band of mature plantation forest to the east of the B3072, which largely comprises coniferous species together with broad leaf planting alongside the highway. Linear belts of broadleaf tree species run contiguous to the northern Substation site boundary and collectively provide a substantial buffer between the open site and housing and commercial premises along Verwood Road.

29.75 To the immediate south and east of the Onshore Substation site, stands of broadleaf and coniferous trees within the Holt Heath and West Meadows SSSI help to integrate the MOD buildings and infrastructure into the landscape. This also provides a substantial buffer between the Onshore Substation site and its local hinterland.

29.76 Further afield are the distinctive and nationally important landscapes of the New Forest National Park and the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty ('AONB'). These areas lie beyond the study area and have no intervisibility with the Onshore Substation site.

29.4.3. Baseline: Onshore Cable Corridor and landfall site

29.77 The Onshore Cable Corridor route and Landfall site is presented in Figure 29.2. and extends for approximately 35 km between the Landfall site, located to the east of Barton on Sea, and the grid connection point at the

Mannington substation. The route passes through a predominantly rural and frequently rolling landscape comprising mostly agricultural land and plantation forestry. The Onshore Cable Corridor passes through the local administrative boundaries of New Forest District, Christchurch District, and East Dorset District.

29.78 The proposed cable(s) would be placed underground for its entire length, using an array of construction techniques, determined by site constraints. The final cable alignment would be fixed within the constraints of the Onshore Develeopment Area shown on Figure 29.2.

29.79 The Landfall site currently comprises a gently rolling pastoral landscape set on top of the elevated and heavily eroded coastal fringe where there are panoramic views across Christchurch Bay and the mouth of the Solent.

29.80 The landfall connection would require a temporary site compound (measuring approximately 100 m x 100 m), accessed from Milford Road to the immediate north, to accommodate drilling equipment, a control cabin and other ancillary plant and equipment. The landfall infrastructure would be placed beneath ground and the compound area restored on completion of the construction phase.

29.4.4. Baseline: Principal highways and local routes

29.81 The main routes potentially affected by the Onshore Cable Corridor are considered to be:

- The A31 at St Leonards
- The A3385 at Week Common
- The A35 at Hinton
- The A337 at Ashley
- Rural lanes between Sopley and Bransgore

Landscape framework

29.82 The Onshore Cable Corridor study area also encompasses a variety of landscape elements including agricultural farmland, wooded plantation, river valley, heathland and ending at the foreshore between Barton-on-Sea and Milton-on-Sea.

29.4.5. Baseline: Landscape designations and Landscape Character Areas

29.83 The landscape baseline within the study area is considered to comprise the following types of receptors:

- Statutory and non-statutory landscape designations - informed by a desktop study of published reports and policy documentation (see Legislation, Policy and Guidance section);
- Landscape character areas - informed initially by a desktop study of published landscape character assessments, and verified by field survey.

29.84 The sensitivity of each receptor to the type of change proposed (i.e. the Onshore Substation and associated infrastructure) is then assigned, with reference, as applicable, to other published sensitivity studies.

Landscape designations

29.85 Landscape designations are shown in Figure 29.3.

New Forest National Park

29.86 The primary purpose of the designation as defined by statute is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park and promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities (of the National Parks) by the public. Given that the New Forest National Park is recognised through statute as being of significant national value, the sensitivity towards the type of change proposed is considered to be **high**.

The Woodlands Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV)

29.87 The Woodlands AGLV is defined within the East Dorset Local Plan and the Supplementary Planning Guidance ('SPG') on AGLVs in the East Dorset District. It lies approximately 1.1 km to the west of the Onshore Substation site and northern extents of the Onshore Cable Corridor.

29.88 Common characteristics of the Woodlands AGLV are described as being:

- "Absence of major roads;

- Irregular road pattern, having an east-west emphasis with short north-south links. Narrow, winding lanes throughout the area, with high, dense hedgerows;
- Extensive network of public footpaths and woodland and other tracks;
- Farmhouses and other modest rural dwellings, some timber framed, especially in the south; few major historic buildings or churches;
- General absence of archaeological remains, except for tumuli on hilltops;
- Oak tree species predominate; many areas densely wooded; heavy concentration of Ancient Woodlands; coniferous woods;
- Quiet, peaceful countryside largely unaffected by modern development"(East Dorset District Council, June 1997)

29.89 The Woodlands AGLV is divided into a number of sub-areas, of which Sub-Area 2 (Woodlands – Mannington), and Sub-Area 3 (Hold Heath) partly lie within the Onshore Substation study area.

29.90 The sensitivity of the AGLV towards the type of change proposed is considered to be **high** in light of the documented "special qualities" and purposes of the designation which are considered in the context of a locally rather than nationally important landscape.

National Landscape Character Areas

29.91 Natural England's ('NE') "Landscape Character Map of England" (2005) defines National Character Areas ('NCAs') of broad strategic character for the whole of England. The map is currently in the process of being updated although the nature of the character areas is unlikely to alter significantly.

29.92 The following NCAs are located within the 3 km study area of the Onshore Substation site and the 1 km wide Onshore Cable Corridor (see Figure 29.5):

- 131 New Forest
- 135 Dorset Heaths

29.93 A summary of their sensitivity to the type of development proposed is presented at the end of this section in Table 29.9.

New Forest NCA 131

29.94 The key characteristics of the New Forest NCA are described as (see NE, 1999):

- "An extensive and complex mosaic of broadleaved and coniferous woodlands, unenclosed wood pasture, heath, grassland, and farmland;
- A constant presence of numerous grazing ponies and cattle, both a strong visual element and a significant impact on the land cover;
- Open and exposed plateaux and small valley, dominated by heath, with heather, gorse and grassland with scattered birch and pine. Bog vegetation in valley bottoms;
- Pockets of farmland and widely dispersed settlements with large isolated dwellings, bounded by high hedges, contained within the woodland;
- Wood-pasture of mature oak woodland, patches of bracken interspersed with glades and heavily grazed 'lawns', verges and commons;
- Large woodlands of mature broadleaves and an understorey of holly and bracken, contrasting with dark blocks of coniferous plantations;
- Fringe areas of farmland with villages. Small fields lined by full hedges, opening out to larger arable fields, with contrasts between the more intimate features of the Avon Valley, and the salt-marshes and shingle beaches on the southern coastal plain".

29.95 The sensitivity of this NCA to the type of development proposed is assessed to be **high** because the New Forest National Park occupies approximately 75% of land within the NCA.

Dorset Heaths NCA 135

29.96 The key characteristics of the Dorset Heaths NCA are described as (see NE, 1999):

- "An exposed, open, broad-scale landscape forming a strong contrast with the adjacent character areas;
- Undulating lowland heath with tracts of heather, stunted pines and gorse scrub;

- Blocks of conifers forming locally-prominent landmarks;
- Mosaics of heathland, farmland, woodland and scrub. Much is sparsely populated areas with scattered settlements and a few small villages and towns but the extensive conurbation of Poole-Bournemouth forms a major influence in the south and east;
- Flat-bottomed, open valleys with floodplain pastures and willows;
- An outer edge of low, rolling hills with an irregular patchwork of pasture, woodland and dense hedges marking the transition to the chalk".

29.97 The sensitivity of this NCA to the type of development proposed is assessed to be **high** due to the presence of highly valued landscapes of national importance which include 34 ha of the New Forest National Park, 10,189 ha of the Dorset AONB, 1,197 ha of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB and 5,388 ha of the Purbeck Heritage Coast.

Table 29.9 National landscape character area sensitivity

National landscape character area	Sensitivity to type ofproject
Nca 131: new forest	High
Nca 135: dorset heaths	High

Local Landscape Character Areas

29.98 An understanding of baseline local landscape character allows early judgements to be made in terms of site selection and design solutions. As such the development can be delivered in a manner that is sympathetic to the receiving landscape.

29.99 For the purposes of this LVIA, relevant Landscape Character Areas ('LCAs') have been defined as:

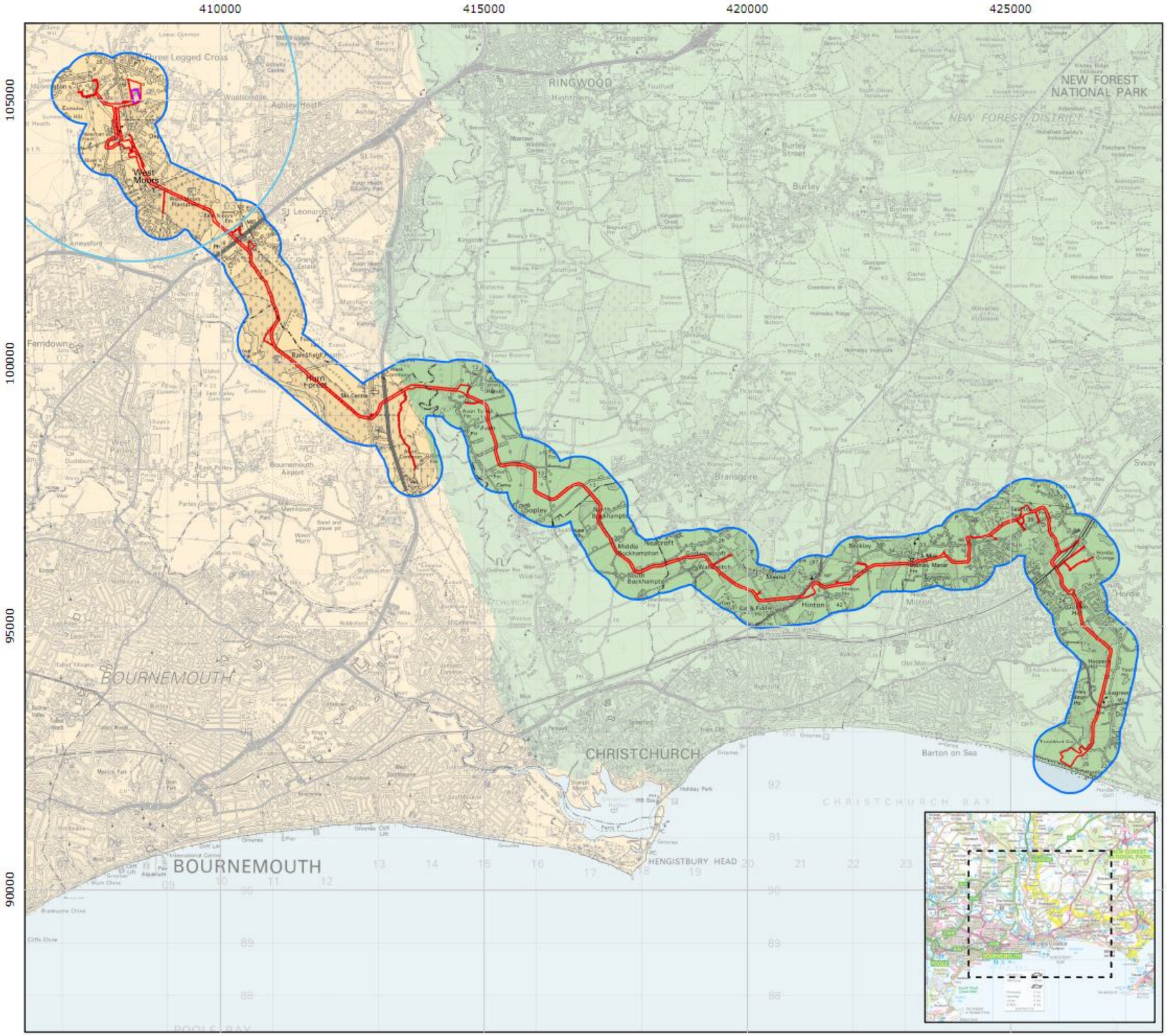
- Those areas/types which lie within the development footprint of the Onshore Substation site or Cable Corridor. These are most likely to be directly affected by the proposed development in terms of alteration to or removal of existing defining features;
- Those adjacent landscape character areas/types which have a significant degree of intervisibility with the Onshore Substation site or Cable Corridor where outward views from within the character area are a distinctive and defining characteristic.

29.100 There are a number of published landscape character assessments which cover the study areas for the Onshore Substation site and Cable Corridor at a regional and local scale. Of most relevance to this LVIA are:

- East Dorset District Landscape Character Assessment (East Dorset District Council, 2008);
- Christchurch Borough-wide Character Assessment (Christchurch Borough Council, 2003);
- New Forest District Landscape Character Assessment (New Forest District Council, 2001).

29.101 The Landscape Character Types ('LCTs') and Areas ('LCAs'), which are of greatest relevance to the onshore assessment (using the criteria listed above), are shown in Figures 29.6 and 29.7 and listed below in Tables 29.10 and 29.11.

29.102 The Christchurch Borough-wide Character Assessment refers to Rural Landscape Character Areas ('RL Area') instead of LCAs.



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National Landscape Character Areas

Legend

- Onshore Development Area
- Study Area (500m Corridor either side of Onshore Development Area)
- Onshore Substation Site
- 3km Buffer around Proposed Substation Site

National Landscape Character

- 131 - New Forest
- 135 - Dorset Heaths

Fig. No.: Figure 29.5		**Date:** 14/08/2013
Author: DL	**Checked:** NT	**Approved:** WW
Scale@A3: 1:75,000		**Revision No.:** 03
Coordinate System: British National Grid		**Data Sources:** OS,PMSS, TCE
Datum: OSGB 1936	**Ref. No.:** 3419_12_4/LDA	

0 1 2 miles

0 5 km

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Table 29.10 Local landscape character types/areas within substation site study area		
Landscape character type	Landscape character area	Approximate distance to substation site
Heath/ farmland mosaic	LCA 21: Horton Common – Three Legged Cross	0 km (within the substation site boundary)
Open rolling heath	LCA 22: Holt Heath	1.0 km west
River terrace	LCA 17: Dewlands-Rushmoor River Terrace	1.3 km east

Table 29.11 Local landscape character types/areas within cable corridor study area			
District assessment	Landscape character type	Landscape character area/rural landscape character area	Approximate distance to cable corridor
East dorset district	Heath / Farmland Mosaic	LCA 21: Horton Common – Three Legged Cross	0 km
	Forest Heath Mosaic	LCA 18: Ringwood – Hurn Forest / Heath Mosaic	0 km
		LCA 19: West Moors Forest / Heath Mosaic	0 km
	Lowland River Valley	LCA 16: Moors River Valley	0 km
Christchurch borough	-	RL Area 1: Avon River Terrace – East of Burton	0 km
	-	RL: Area 2: Avon Flood Plain	0 km
	-	RL Area 4: St Catherine's Hill – Hurn Forest	0 km
	-	RL Area 5: The Moors River	200 m
New forest district	River Terrace Farmlands	LCA 7: Lower Avon Valley	0 km
	Heathland	LCA 19: Bransgore Woods and Pastures	0 km
	Ancient Forest Farmland	LCA 18: Sway Pasture and Smallholdings	0 km

Table 29.11 Local landscape character types/areas within cable corridor study area			
District assessment	Landscape character type	Landscape character area/rural landscape character area	Approximate distance to cable corridor
	Coastal Plain Estates – Small Parliamentary Enclosures Barton and Milford Coastal Plain	LCA 17: Barton and Milford Coastal Plain	0 km

29.103 The following section describes the defining characteristics of the LCAs listed in Tables 29.10 and 29.11, and assigns a sensitivity category to the type of development proposed according to the methodology set out in the Assessment Methodology section.

29.4.6. Baseline: Onshore Substation LCAs

LCA 21: Horton Common - Three Legged Cross

29.104 The "East Dorset District Landscape Character Assessment" (2008) describes the area as one which:

- "Contains both remnant open as well as farmed heath and two significant developments; one being the housing area centred upon Three Legged Cross and the other the MOD Petroleum Depot at West Moors.
- Agriculture is a mixture of marginal farming, horticulture and pasture. Farms are set within an irregular mosaic of heath and scrub, with woodland clumps and roadside trees contributing to the area's character. Despite the proximity of development, the remnant heaths still retain much of their ecological value and are designated accordingly as SSSI" (East Dorset District Council, 2008).

29.105 The key characteristics are defined as:

- "Undulating land rising towards the north;
- Irregular mosaic of heathland and scrub;
- Belts of trees and scrub;
- Ribbon development;

- Small scale industrial uses at the urban fringe" (East Dorset District Council, 2008)

29.106 The key features considered of relevance are identified as:

- "Three Legged Cross developments;
- Woolsbridge Industrial Estate;
- Redman's Hill;
- West Moors MOD Petroleum site" (East Dorset District Council, 2008).

29.107 The sensitivity of the LCA to the type of development proposed is considered to be **low** given the influence of existing industrial and MOD facilities.

LCA 22: Holt Heath

29.108 The "East Dorset District Landscape Character Assessment" (2008) describes the area as being "elevated above the surrounding landscape" exhibiting an "open, largely tree-less character [which] affords panoramic, long distance views". Holt Heath has a "wild character which belies its artificial management. The area comprises mostly dry heath, but there are substantial areas of wet heath, especially in the east where willow and birch are characteristic". "Holt Heath is also managed for passive recreation, with a well-established network of informal paths and tracks."

29.109 The key characteristics are defined as:

- "Undulating elevated terrain;
- Exposed open landscape;
- Sparsely populated;
- High ecological value;
- Viewpoints" (East Dorset District Council, 2008).

29.110 The key features considered of relevance are identified as:

- "[long distance] views towards Bournemouth and the Isle of Wight;
- Overhead electricity lines [judged to be an] adverse impact" (East Dorset District Council, 2008).

29.111 The sensitivity of this LCA is considered to be **medium** given the open and 'natural' character of the landscape which is moderated by the presence of existing energy infrastructure.

LCA 17: Dewlands-Rushmoor River Terrace

29.112 The character area is set between Ringwood Road, Three Legged Cross and Verwood and is described to be predominantly pasture and grazing linked with smallholdings, with a small area at the Lower Common being remnant heathland.

29.113 The key characteristics are defined as:

- "Flat open fields;
- Sparse tree cover;
- Ecological interest in heathland;
- Urban fringe activities" (East Dorset District Council, 2008).

29.114 The key features according to the East District Character Assessment (2008) are identified as:

- "Golf Course (part);
- Woolsbridge Industrial Estate (part);
- Potterne Recreation Ground;
- Overhead lines (adverse impact)" (East Dorset District Council, 2008).

29.115 The sensitivity of this LCA to the type of development is considered to be **low** given the simplicity and unexceptional character of the rural landscape and the presence of urbanising influences.

29.4.7. Baseline: Onshore Cable Corridor and landfall site LCAs

LCA 16: Moors River Valley

29.116 The character area is recognised for its ecological diversity (part of it is designated as a Site of Specific Scientific Interest ('SSSI'), albeit not the Mannington Brook section. The distinctiveness of the character area is less pronounced within the Mannington Brook section where the alluvial valley tends to merge with the heath/farmland mosaic on either side. In this area

there is also a strong contrast between the rural qualities of the river valley and the urban areas and associated urban fringe uses to the south and east.

29.117 The key characteristics are defined as:

- "Flat landscape;
- Valley pasture;
- A presence of woodland blocks;
- Ecological interest along the river corridor;
- Urban influences" (East Dorset District Council, 2008).

29.118 The key features considered of relevance are identified as:

- "A presence of detracting overhead power lines" (East Dorset District Council, 2008).

29.119 The sensitivity of this LCA to the type of development proposed is assessed to be **low** given the urbanising influences of power lines and road networks in the valley.

LCA 18: Ringwood – Hurn Forest/Heath Mosaic

29.120 This LCA is situated to the east of the Substation Site and includes areas as far north as Ringwood Forest and the northern parts of Hurn Forest. The "East Dorset Landscape Character Assessment" (2008) notes the effect of human influences on the LCA in the form of plantations and road infrastructure. David's Hill, at the entrance to the North Park of Avon Heath Country Park is noted as a vantage point from which to obtain views southward, in which heathland, plantation and settlement are visible. The prominence of woodland is highlighted, the assessment stating "the large swathes of woodland help to unify the land" although the presence of heathland does lend to "an empty, wild character". In addition, the text notes the abundance of woodland serves to "screen and contain much of the extensive post-war urban developments that have taken place along many of the principal routes that cross the heaths".

29.121 The key characteristics are defined as:

- "Varied landform, with steep slopes especially to the east;
- Patchwork of heath, woodland and farmland;
- Extensive areas of pine forest and birch woodland;
- Remnant heathland areas;
- Urban Influences;
- Influence of major roads" (East Dorset District Council, 2008).

29.122 The key features considered of relevance are identified as:

- "David's Hill;
- Moors Valley and Avon Heath Country Parks;
- A31 and A336" (East Dorset District Council, 2008).

29.123 The sensitivity of this LCA to the type of development proposed is considered to be **medium** given the open and natural landscape, which is modified by urban influences.

LCA 19: West Moors Forest/Heath Mosaic

29.124 The West Moors Forest / Heath Mosaic LCA occupies a relatively small area to the south-east of Three Legged Cross. The character area comprises woodland plantation on former heathland, the "East Dorset Landscape Character Assessment" (2008) noting that the character area in terms of its character and appearance, "has more in common with the area of forest-heath to the east beyond the river than with the areas of farmed heath or river terrace to the north". The assessment also notes the extensive West Moors Petroleum Depot to the north of the LCA and the presence of the overhead power line running east to west through the plantation.

29.125 The key characteristics are defined as:

- "Flat land;
- Extensive areas of pine and birch woodland;
- Remnant heathland areas;
- Absence of fields and hedgerows" (East Dorset District Council, 2008).

29.126 The key features considered of relevance are identified as:

- "Former railway line now trailway;
- Overhead power line" (East Dorset District Council, 2008).

29.127 The sensitivity of the West Moors Forest/Heath Mosaic LCA to the type of development proposed is assessed to be **medium** given the extent of remnant heathland and woodland cover, which locally is moderated by urban detractors.

RL Area 1: Avon River Terrace LCA – East of Burton

29.128 The River Avon Terrace character area lies adjacent to the north of Christchurch in the east of the Borough. The character area comprises the alluvial terrace of the River Avon consisting of medium scale regular fields, low cut native hedges and narrow coniferous shelter belts. The Christchurch assessment notes the area is "visually enclosed by the dominant railway to the south and the rising ground and woodland to the east". Settlement follows a "linear" pattern along routes through the valley although some large scale modern agricultural related development is discernible. There is good access via public rights of way and minor lanes.

29.129 The key characteristics are defined as:

- "Wide expanse of flat landscape across deep alluvial soils;
- Medium scale enclosure landscape of low hedge/fence fields and occasional shelter belt;
- Glimpsed views of urban development and some intrusion, not a totally unspoilt landscape" (Christchurch Borough Council, 2003).

29.130 The field visit showed that much of this area contains expansive and largely featureless medium to large arable fields bounded by mature hedgerows and shelter belt planting.

29.131 The sensitivity of the Avon River Terrace RL Area to the type of development proposed is assessed to be **low**.

RL Area 2: Avon Flood Plain

29.132 The Avon Flood Plain is situated along the course of the River Avon running north-west adjacent to the A338 from the edge of Christchurch. The RL Area is characterised by low-lying water meadows, occasional carr (water-logged) woodland and the meandering river, all of which combine to create a pastoral character. However, urban influences such as pylons and transmission lines, sewage works and rail embankments prevail; the Character Assessment notes that, "whilst still inherently attractive, the flood plain landscape is heavily influenced by these surrounding urbanising elements". Access is generally limited within the area, the exception being The Avon Valley Way which crosses the river in the south but generally lies beyond the B3347 to the east. Large parts of the River and its floodplain are afforded statutory protection for their ecological value.

29.133 The key characteristics are defined as:

- "Low lying flood plain landscape with meandering natural river course;
- Tree cover of riverside willow and occasional blocks of carr woodland;
- The northern part of the flood plain is inaccessible and remote from a range of urban influences;
- The southern area is slightly more accessible but at the same time more influenced by the urban area" (Christchurch Borough Council, 2003).

29.134 The Christchurch LCA does not identify any key features.

29.135 During the site visit the area was observed to comprise the low-lying floodplain of the River Avon characterised by its saturated water meadows and scrubby carr woodland.

29.136 The sensitivity of the Avon Flood Plain RL Area to the type of development proposed is assessed to be **medium** given the relative absence of development apart from overhead power lines.

RL Area 4: St Catherine's Hill – Hurn Forest

29.137 The St Catherine's Hill – Hurn Forest RL Area comprises a large area of land running north-west from Christchurch along the A338. The area is characterised by a 'pronounced' ridge (softening towards the north) with tracts of coniferous forest and open heathland. St Catherine's Hill is noted as a "dominant landmark" and a "key part of Christchurch Borough's identity". The higher ground is generally free draining with few water courses whilst lower areas include numerous ponds and wet heath. However the proximity of the A338, Bournemouth Airport and the presence of transmission lines across parts of the open heathlands are noted as intrusive elements. The area has extensive open access and much of the heath is designated for its ecological value.

29.138 The key characteristics are identified as:

- "Localised ridge of high ground fading to gently rolling landform to the north;
- Free draining land with ponds and wet heath on lower slopes;
- Heathland and pine forest land cover;
- Background influence of urban area with trunk road traffic and aircraft noise;
- Prominent ridgeline and tree cover provide key landmark in local views and vantage point for views across the Borough and over Bournemouth" (Christchurch Borough Council, 2003).

29.139 Field study confirmed the preponderance of pine woodland plantation in this area, namely the Hurn Forest and the presence of the A338.

29.140 Whilst the landscape of the RL Area contributes to the 'identity' of Christchurch Borough through its distinctive topography and areas of unspoilt woodlands and heaths, the localised presence of urbanising elements reduces the overall sensitivity to the type of development proposed; on this basis the St Catherine's Hill – Hurn Forest RL Areas is judged to have a **medium** sensitivity to the type of development proposed.

RL Area 5: The Moors River

29.141 The Moors River RL Area is linear in shape following the course of the Moors River in the north of the Borough. The river has cut a defined narrow floodplain flowing through wet pastures encompassed by gently undulating topography along the edge of the Hurn Forest. The assessment document observes this is a "very secluded" landscape although the "presence of the nearby airport brings regular noise disturbance to the central section of the river corridor". The text also notes that this landscape is "a small scale and attractive landscape sensitive to severance, intrusion or management change".

29.142 Main characteristics are identified as:

- "Small scale landscape of secluded valley;
- River heavily contained by vegetation;
- Narrow floodplain divided into small water meadow pastures; and
- Private landscape with no public access" (Christchurch Borough Council, 2003).

29.143 Field survey confirmed this area to be a small scale landscape of secluded river valley with little public access.

29.144 The sensitivity of this RL Area to the type of development proposed is assessed to be **high**.

LCA 7: Lower Avon Valley

29.145 The Lower Avon Valley occupies the southern extent of the Avon Valley to the east of the A338. The area is characterised by the broad river valley of open water meadows and enclosed arable fields. Fields are enclosed by "unobtrusive post and wire fencing", hedgerows and thick shelter belts. Woodland and parkland at Bisterne is noted as is the tranquillity of the character area in general. The B3347 runs the length of the valley with many small villages "scattered at regular intervals along the route" and displaying local vernaculars of red brick, timber, thatch and slate.

29.146 The document notes the key characteristics:

- "Broad flat river floodplain of the meandering River Avon;
- Tranquil, pastoral scene on the floodplain, with open water meadows and mature floodplain trees;
- Regular patchwork of mixed farmland divided by hedgerows with hedgerow trees or thick mature tree belts;
- Long views and big skies" (New Forest District Council, 2001).

29.147 Observations made during the field survey noted that much of the LCA to the east comprises medium to large fields used for industrial scale pig rearing. To the west however, the character area reflects the river floodplain as detailed in the Avon Flood Plain LCA of the Christchurch landscape assessment. A small part of this character area falls within the fringes of the New Forest National Park designation although areas in the south, encompassing the Onshore Cable Corridor, do not.

29.148 The sensitivity of this landscape character to the type of development proposed is assessed to be **medium** given the ubiquity of large scale pig farming enterprises.

LCA 17: Barton and Milford Coastal Plain

29.149 The Barton and Milford Coastal Plain LCA is located in the south of the district, occupying the coastal area to the east of Christchurch. The area is described as "a large scale estate landscape dominated by 20th century seaside towns". Horticultural units, garden centres, caravan parks, holiday villages and expanded settlements are features of this area, the "busy roads" reflecting the proximity to "large urban centres". Fields are divided by fragmented hedgerows with small remnants of ancient semi-natural woodland along water courses providing "important structural and ecological corridors between open coastal edge and enclosed inland landscape".

29.150 Key characteristics are noted as being:

- "Large scale undulating wooded estate land landscape;
- Enclosed farmland is characterised by large scale fields divided by hedgerows, fencelines and blocks of woodland, bringing structure to the landscape;
- Linear deciduous woodlands along streams and tributaries;
- Golf courses, caravan parks, holiday parks, cliff top parking and cafes selling fish and chips are all typical of the sea front"(Christchurch Borough Council, 2003)

29.151 Field survey confirmed the undulating nature of the landscape supporting a patchwork of woodland blocks and medium sized arable fields. The sensitivity of this character area to the type of development proposed is assessed to be **medium**.

LCA 18: Sway Pasture and Smallholdings

29.152 The Sway Pasture and smallholdings LCA is located adjacent to the north of LCA17 to the south of Sway. The character area is described as "a landscape of plateau dissected by the steep sided wooded valleys of the Danes Stream and the Avon Water". The text notes this is a "historic farmed landscape" although present day uses are varied, comprising agricultural fields, paddocks and garden centres and private dwellings. The remnants of ancient woodland along watercourses provide a strong sense of enclosure. Settlement comprises "distinct linear ribbon settlements" along minor roads and more recent "extensive developments" such as Sway and Hordle that have "overwhelmed the 18 century landscape pattern".

29.153 Key characteristics are noted to be:

- "Farmed plateau and steep sided wooded valleys;
- Densely settled, small scale landscape with an urban fringe character and strong sense of enclosure;
- Forest smallholdings and dwellings with irregular ancient field pattern of small pastures and hedgerows"(New Forest District Council, 2001)

29.154 The small scale field pattern with a network of mature vegetative boundaries and scattered small holdings was observed as a characteristic during the field survey.

29.155 The sensitivity of LCA18 to the type of development proposed is assessed to be **medium** given the small scale field patterns with mature vegetative boundaries.

LCA 19: Bransgore Woods and Pastures

29.156 The Bransgore Woods and Pastures LCA is situated adjacent to the east of LCA7, centred on the village of Bransgore. The area is described as "a settled, enclosed landscape" forming a "transition between the River Avon floodplain and unenclosed lands of the Southern Moors and Enclosures of the New Forest Heritage Area". The character area "supports rich mosaic of woodland and mixed agricultural land" with the poorer soils of higher ground creating a "more open landscape of grassland and heath". The lower slopes are characterised by "smallholdings and dwellings with a strong sense of enclosure and ancient forest landscape". Traditional cottages of brick and thatch are found across the area with the ribbon settlement of Bransgove being the main concentration of development in the character area.

29.157 Key characteristics are noted to be:

- "Steep, undulating edge to the New Forest plateau forming a wooded backdrop to the Avon Valley;
- Enclosed and settled mosaic of ancient woodland, semi-improved grassland and plantation;

- Leafy roads wind up the valley side, contrasting with open lands which follow ridge tops;
- Bransgore forms a concentrated settlement with more recent ribbon development" (New Forest District Council, 2001).

29.158 During the field survey the preponderance of small scale pastoral fields and woodland was observed.

29.159 The sensitivity of LCA 19 to the type of development proposed is considered to be **high** due to the intimate scale of pastures and woodland of the area and its inclusion within the New Forest National Park.

Gundry's Farm (site-scale character area appraisal):

29.160 Key landscape features and attributes within and adjacent to the Onshore Substation site have been identified, which are important in defining the local site character and also in contributing to the character of the wider area as previously described.

29.161 Principal landscape features include:

- Simple, small scale agricultural pasture with individual field units defined by post and wire fencing;
- Open aspect within the site interior (though views to the wider landscape contained by boundary vegetation);
- Mature coniferous plantation woodland along the western boundary which creates a buffer between the site and main road corridor to the west. Planting also contributes to the vegetated setting of Three Legged Cross in views from elevated landscapes to the north and west;
- Mature broadleaf tree belts along the northern boundary that create a buffer between the site and housing/commercial properties along Ringwood Road. Planting also contributes to the vegetated setting of Three Legged Cross in views from elevated landscapes to the north and west.

29.162 Access:

- No public access to the site; and
- Currently no formal vehicular access to site other than for agricultural machinery.

29.163 Adjacent land uses include:

- Pylons and transmission lines extend to the west and are visible above the tree line;
- MOD land shares the southern boundary introducing an urbanising element in the immediate landscape;
- Residential and commercial properties lie within 500 m of the site boundary (though largely screened by boundary vegetation);
- Caravan park located to the immediate south (on land within the same ownership as the proposed development site).

29.164 Overall, the Onshore Substation site is considered to have a **low** sensitivity to the type of change proposed.

29.165 A summary of the above is presented in Table 29.12.

Table 29.12 Local landscape character sensitivity

LCA / RL area name	Approx. Distance to substation site	Approx. Distance to cable corridor	Sensitivity to type of development
Lca 21: horton common – three legged cross	0 km	0 km	Low
Lca 22: holt heath	1.0 km	-	Medium
Lca 16: moors river valley	-	0 km	Low
Lca 17: dewlands-rushmoor river terrace	1.3 km	-	Low
Lca 18: ringwood – hurn forest / heath mosaic	-	0 km	Medium
Lca 19: west moors forest / heath mosaic	-	0 km	Medium
Rl area 1: avon river terrace – east of burton	-	0 km	Low
Rl: area 2: avon flood plain	-	0 km	Medium
Rl area 4: st catherine's hill – hurn forest	-	0 km	Medium

Table 29.12 Local landscape character sensitivity			
LCA / RL area name	Approx. Distance to substation site	Approx. Distance to cable corridor	Sensitivity to type of development
Rl area 5: the moors river	-	200 m	High
Lca 7: lower avon valley	-	0 km	Medium
Lca 17: barton and milford coastal plain	-	0 km	Medium
Lca 18: sway pasture and smallholdings	-	0 km	Medium
Lca 19: bransgore woods and pastures	-	0 km	High
Gundry's farm (site-scale character area)	0 km	-	Low

29.4.8. Baseline: Visual amenity

29.166 This section considers the existing visual amenity of the Project and surrounding environment within the agreed study area.

29.167 The visual baseline for the Onshore Substation site has been defined with reference to computer generated Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), with further assessment of general intervisibility derived through field survey.

29.168 Through consultation (see Table 29.4), six principal viewpoints within the Onshore Substation study area and located within the ZTV were agreed (shown on Figure 29.8) for the assessment of the substation and supporting on-site infrastructure, whilst a further eleven viewpoints were agreed to assess the Onshore Cable Corridor and Landfall site (shown on Figure 29.9).

29.169 Table 29.13 provides a schedule of the agreed viewpoints, together with the principal receptor at each location, and the sensitivity of the receptor to the type of development proposed.

29.170 In addition to views from the fixed representative viewpoints, the nature and composition of views have also been considered from the following:

- Residential dwellings within 1 km of the Onshore Substation;
- Public rights of way ('PRoW') within 3 km of the Substation and 500 m either side of the Onshore Cable Corridor;
- Settlements within 3 km of the Onshore Substation;
- Principal highways and local routes within 3 km of the Onshore Substation and 500 m either side of the Onshore Cable Corridor.

29.171 The baseline environment in relation to these receptors is discussed below.

405000 406000 407000 408000 409000 410000 411000

108000 107000 106000 105000 104000 103000 102000

3km 2km 1km

Horton Common
Crab Orchard
Lower Common
Three Legged Cross
Woolsbridge
Ashley Heath
Depot
West Moors
West Moors Plantation
Holt Heath National Nature Reserve
Holt Heath
Mannington
Lower Mannington
Crooked Withies
Horton Road
Ferndown Stour and Forest Trail
Castleman Trailway
Dismantled Railway
HORTON CP
VERWOOD CP
HOLT CP
WEST MOORS CP

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Substation Local Landscape Character Areas

Legend

- Onshore Substation Site
- 1km, 2km & 3km Buffer around Proposed Substation Site

East Dorset District Landscape Character Areas

- LCA 21: Horton Common-Three Legged Cross (Heath/Farmland Mosaic LCT)
- LCA 16: Moors River Valley (Lowland River Valley LCT)
- LCA 22: Holt Heath (Open Rolling Heath LCT)
- LCA 17: Dewlands-Rushmoor River Terrace (River Terrace LCT)
- LCA 08: Woodlands-Colehill & Hillbutts Farmland/ Woodland Mosaic (Rolling Farmland/Woodland Mosaic LCT)
- LCA 18: Ringwood-Hurn Forest/Heath Mosaic (Forest Heath Mosaic LCT)
- LCA 19: West Moors Forest/Heath Mosaic (Forest Heath Mosaic LCT)
- Urban Area

Fig. No.: Figure 29.6		**Date:** 14/08/2013
Author: DL	**Checked:** NT	**Approved:** WW
Scale@A3: 1:25,000		**Revision No.:** 03
Coordinate System: British National Grid		**Data Sources:** OS,PMSS, TCE, East Dorset District Council
Datum: OSGB 1936	**Ref. No.:** 3419_12_5/LDA	

0 0.5 miles

0 0.5 1 km

N

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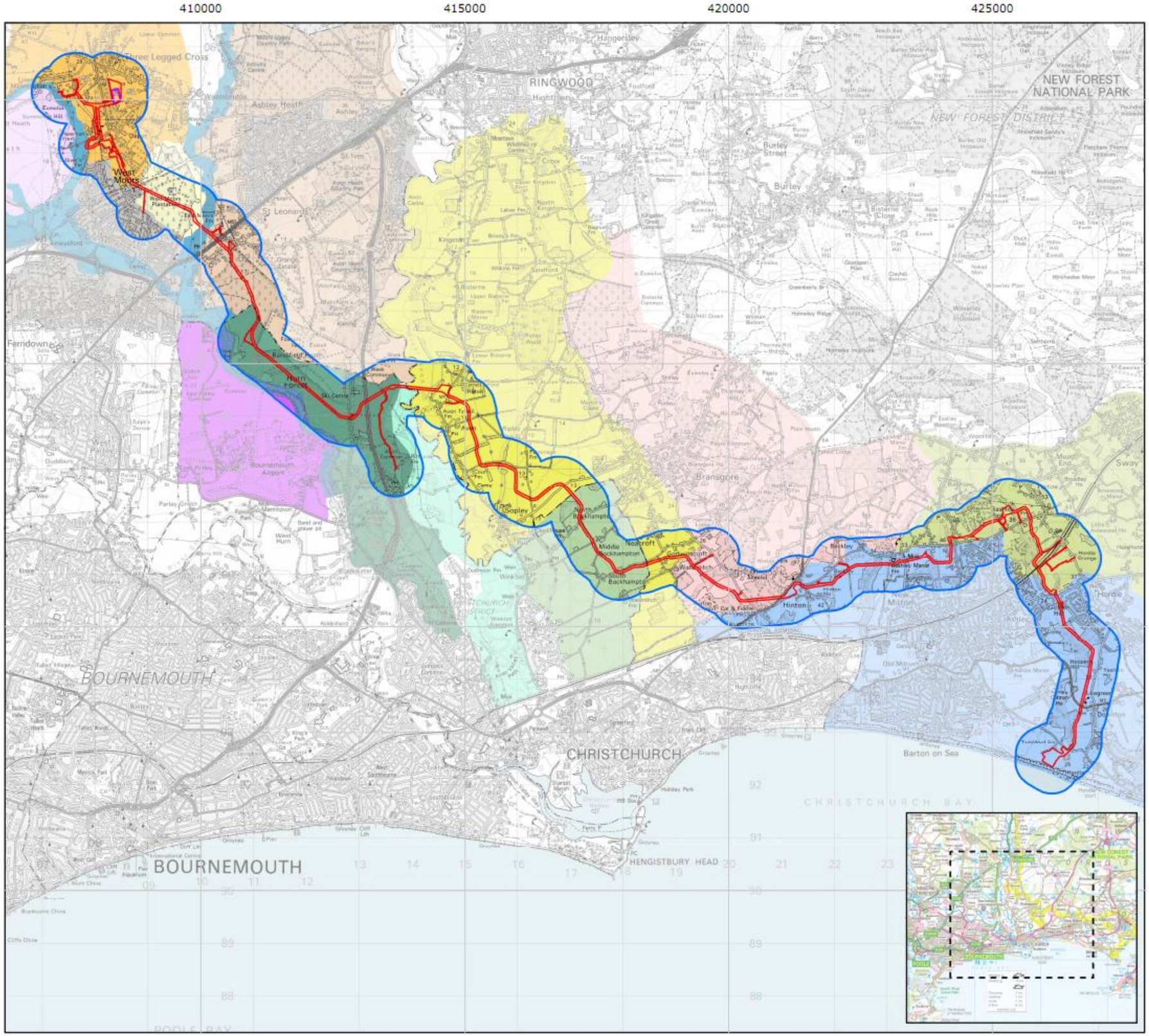
Cable Route Local Landscape Character Areas



Legend

- Onshore Development Area
- Study Area (500m Corridor either side of Onshore Development Area)
- Onshore Substation Site

East Dorset District Landscape Character Areas

- 21: Horton Common - Three Legged Cross
- 18: Ringwood-Hurn Forest/Heath Mosaic
- 16: Moors River Valley
- 19: West Moors Forest /Heath Mosaic
- 22: Holt Heath
- Urban Area

Christchurch Landscape Character Areas

- 4: St. Catherine's Hill - Hurn Forest
- 2: Avon Flood Plain
- 5: The Moors River
- 1: Avon River Terrace
- 9: Bournemouth Airport and East Parley Common

New Forest District Landscape Character Areas

- 7: Lower Avon Valley
- 18: Sway Pasture and Smallholdings
- 17: Barton and Milford Coastal Plain
- 19: Bransgore Woods and Pastures

Fig. No.: Figure 29.7		**Date:** 14/08/2013
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Scale@A3: 1:75,000		**Revision No.:** 03
Coordinate System: British National Grid		**Data Sources:** OS,PMSS, TCE
Datum: OSGB 1936	**Ref. No.:** 3419_12_6/LDA	

0 1 2 miles

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Table 29.13 Representative viewpoints and receptor sensitivity

Viewpoint	Approximate distance to onshore substation	Principal receptor	Receptor sensitivity to the type of development
VP1: Gundry's Farm	340 m	Private residents	High
VP2: PRoW to the north of Sturts Farm	580 m	Users of PRoW	High
VP3: Bridleway north of Woolsbridge Industrial Estate	1.78 km	Users of PRoW	High
VP4: PRoW on Holt Heath	2.12 km	Users of bridleway	High
VP5: Bridleway on Horton Common (near Redman Hill)	2.34 km	Users of bridleway	High
VP6: Redman's Hill	2.35 km	Users of Horton Common	High
VP7: West Moors Plantation	0 m	Users of National Cycle Route 256	High - Medium
VP8: Hurn Forest	0 m	Recreational users of Hurn Forest/ Hurn Link Greenway	High
VP9: Sabines Farm, B3347	40 m	Private residents Local road users	High Low
VP10: Avon Valley Path near Court Farm	0 m	Users of the Avon Valley Path	High
VP11: Lyndhurst Road	8 m	Users of National Cycle Route 2 (within NP)	High - Medium
VP12: Hinton	26 m	Private residents Road user of the A35	High Low
VP13: Footpath at Bashley	7 m	Private residents Users of PRoW	High High
VP14: Hordle	47m	Private residents, Noah's Ark and Lavender Farms Users of PRoW	High High
VP15: Downton	45 m	Private residents Road users of the A337	High Low
VP16: Taddiford Gap Car Park off the B3058 looking south	0 m	Visitors to the coast Road users of the B3058	High Low
VP17: Coastal footpath looking north	66 m	Users of the coastal footpath	High

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Substation Viewpoints and Landform

Legend

- Onshore Substation Site
- 1km, 2km & 3km Buffer around Proposed Substation Site
- Viewpoint Locations

Landform

70m - 75m AOD	35m - 40m AOD
65m - 70m AOD	30m - 35m AOD
60m - 65m AOD	25m - 30m AOD
55m - 60m AOD	20m - 25m AOD
50m - 55m AOD	15m - 20m AOD
45m - 50m AOD	10m - 15m AOD
40m - 45m AOD	

In Great Britain, terrain heights are measured from AOD (also referred to as ODN) which is defined as the Mean Sea Level at Newlyn in Cornwall between 1915 and 1921.

Fig. No.: Figure 29.8		**Date:** 14/08/2013
Author: DL	**Checked:** NT	**Approved:** WW
Scale@A3: 1:25,000		**Revision No.:** 03
Coordinate System: British National Grid		**Data Sources:** OS,PMSS, TCE
Datum: OSGB 1936	**Ref. No.:** 3419_12_7/LDA	

0 0.5 miles

0 0.5 1 km

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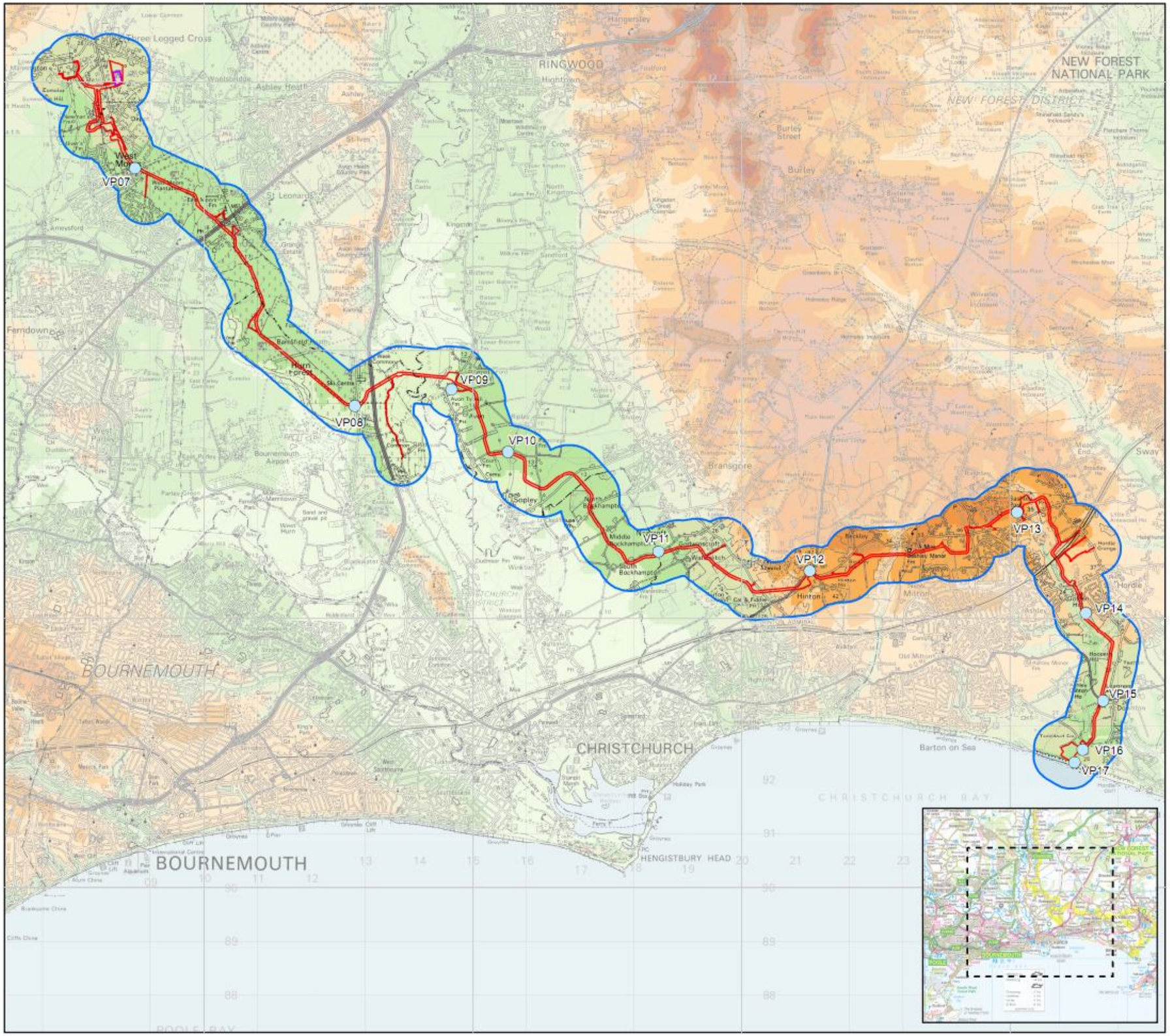

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Cable Route Viewpoints and Landform

Legend

- Onshore Development Area
- Study Area (500m Corridor either side of Onshore Development Area)
- Onshore Substation Site
- Viewpoint Locations

Landform

- 100m - 110m AOD
- 90m - 100m AOD
- 80m - 90m AOD
- 70m - 80m AOD
- 60m - 70m AOD
- 50m - 60m AOD
- 40m - 50m AOD
- 30m - 40m AOD
- 20m - 30m AOD
- 10m - 20m AOD
- 0m - 10m AOD

In Great Britain, terrain heights are measured from AOD (also referred to as ODN) which is defined as the Mean Sea Level at Newlyn in Cornwall between 1915 and 1921.

Fig. No.: Figure 29.9		**Date:** 14/08/2013
Author: DL	**Checked:** NT	**Approved:** WW
Scale@A3: 1:75,000		**Revision No.:** 03
Coordinate System: British National Grid		**Data Sources:** OS,PMSS, TCE
Datum: OSGB 1936	**Ref. No.:** 3419_12_8/LDA	

0 1 2 miles

0 5 km

N

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29.4.9. Baseline: Public Rights of Way

29.172 The PRoW network for the Onshore Substation and Cable Corridor is illustrated on Figures 29.10 and 29.11.

29.173 There is an extensive network of PRoW which extends across the 3 km Substation site study area. The rights of way are largely concentrated around the open heaths and commons which surround Three Legged Cross. The majority of routes within the study area, particularly those on slightly elevated ground, afford views towards the Onshore Substation Site.

29.174 There are no dedicated routes within or adjacent to the Onshore Substation site, although permissive paths extend through the plantation woodland along the western boundary.

29.175 The Onshore Substation study area includes a number of local PRoWs, and a couple of Long Distance Routes including the Ferndown Stour and Forest Trail and the Castleman Trailway.

29.176 The ZTV in Figure 29.12 indicates that very few local footpaths would afford views of the Onshore Substation.

29.177 Viewpoints 2 to 6 are both located on PRoWs and reference should be made to Figures 29.8 and 29.10.

29.178 The Onshore Cable Corridor would be viewed from a number of PRoWs. These include numerous local footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and other recreational tracks within the study area. The principal PRoWs potentially affected by the cable route development are:

- National Cycle Route 256
- The Avon Valley Path
- Cycle routes within Hurn Forest

29.4.10. Baseline: Settlement edges

29.179 Settlement edges that are potentially affected by the Project are Three Legged Cross to the immediate north of the Onshore Substation site, Ashley Heath and West Moors to the south, and Verwood to the north.

29.180 The main settlements and receptors potentially affected by the Onshore Cable Corridor are considered to be:

- Dwellings on the western edge of Hordle;
- Dwellings and caravan park at Bashley Park;
- Dwellings on the northern fringe of Hinton;
- Individual farmsteads and small hamlets between Sopley and Bransgore;
- Dwellings on the north-eastern edge of West Moors.

29.181 The effects on settlements are not rated in terms of their magnitude or impact significance as there is no proper basis for forming such an opinion. This is because each settlement will encompass a range of visual receptors, not just residents, who will be affected in different ways. Therefore, where the ZTV and site visits indicate it to be appropriate and informative, effects on settlements within a 3 km radius of the Onshore Substation site and Onshore Cable Corridor are generally described in such a way as to identify where views towards the Project are likely to arise, and what the nature of those views are likely to be. In some cases this will be further informed by a nearby viewpoint (such as from residential properties, places of work or public open space), and in others it will be informed with reference to the ZTVs, aerial photography and site visits.

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Substation Site
Public Rights of Way

Legend

- Onshore Substation Site
- 1km, 2km & 3km Buffer around Proposed Substation Site

Public Rights of Way

Dorset and Hampshire

- Footpath
- Bridleway
- Restricted Byway

Fig. No.: Figure 29.10		**Date:** 14/08/2013
Author: DL	**Checked:** NT	**Approved:** WW
Scale@A3: 1:25,000		**Revision No.:** 03
Coordinate System: British National Grid		**Data Sources:** OS,PMSS, TCE, Dorset and Hampshire Councils
Datum: OSGB 1936	**Ref. No.:** 3419_12_9/LDA	

0 0.5 miles

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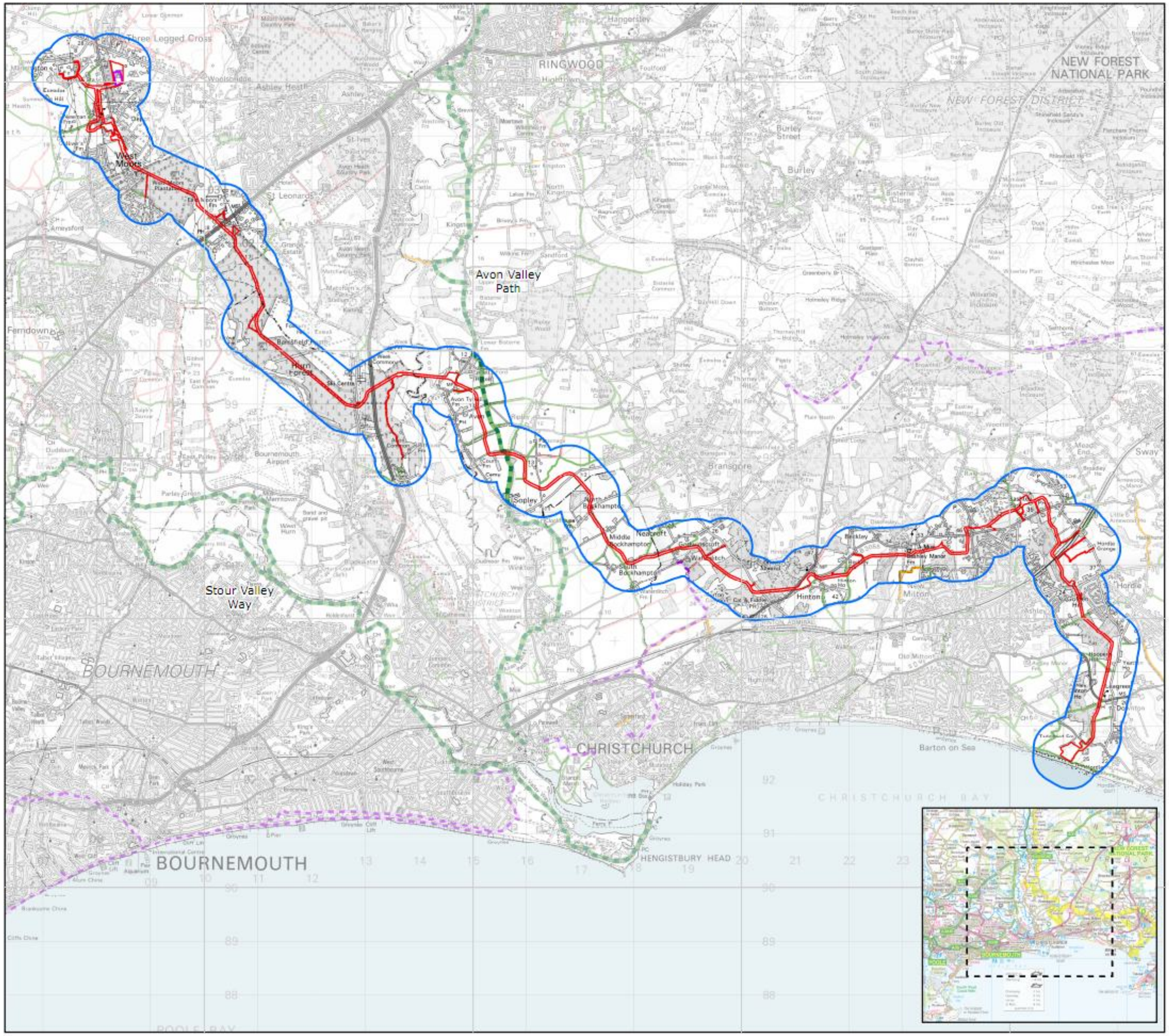

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Cable Route Public Rights of Way

Legend

- Onshore Development Area
- Study Area (500m Corridor either side of Onshore Development Area)
- Onshore Substation Site

Public Rights of Way

National Routes

- Long Distance Path
- SUSTRANS National Route

Dorset and Hampshire

- Footpath
- Bridleway
- Byway open to all traffic
- Restricted Byway

Fig. No.: Figure 29.11		**Date:** 14/08/2013
Author: DL	**Checked:** NT	**Approved:** WW
Scale@A3: 1:75,000		**Revision No.:** 03
Coordinate System: British National Grid		**Data Sources:** OS,PMSS, TCE, Dorset and Hampshire Councils
Datum: OSGB 1936	**Ref. No.:** 3419_12_10/LDA	

0 1 2 miles

0 5 km

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29.5. Impact Assessment

29.5.1. Assessment parameters

29.182 Specific design parameters set out in the Project Description (Chapter 2, Navitus Bay Wind Park Project), have been used to assess potential effects on landscape and visual resources. This includes design parameters for the Onshore Substation, the Onshore Cable Corridor and the Landfall site elements.

29.5.2. Impacts assessment: Onshore Substation landscape designations

Woodlands Area of Great Landscape Value

Construction

29.183 The Woodlands Area of Great Landscape Value ('AGLV') lies to the west of the Onshore Substation site.

29.184 The use of cranes to erect specific components of the Onshore Substation may give rise to very minor impacts on outward facing views from selective parts of the AGLV (such views are identified as a special quality of the AGLV). There would however be no impact as a result of ground-level construction activities due to the screening impact of intervening vegetation.

29.185 The magnitude of effect to the Woodlands AGLV during the construction phase is assessed to be **very low***;* this takes into consideration the extremely limited impact on the inherent character and qualities of the AGLV. Combined with a **high - medium** sensitivity, the impacts are deemed to be **minimal**. The overall likely adverse effect of construction activities on the AGLV is considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.186 Within the Onshore Substation site, only the lightning masts (which extend above 14 m in height) would potentially be visible from a small number of locations within the AGLV. Other components which sit below the tree line would be fully screened.

29.187 The magnitude of effect to the Woodlands AGLV during O&M is assessed to be **very low***;* this takes into consideration the extremely limited impact on the inherent character and qualities of the AGLV. Combined with a **high - medium** sensitivity, the impacts are deemed to be **minimal**. The overall likely adverse effects during O&M on the AGLV are considered **Not Significant**.

Decommissioning

29.188 During the decommissioning phase, the nature of impacts arising from the intervisibility of the Onshore Substation site would be the same as for the construction phase.

29.189 The magnitude of effect to the Woodlands AGLV during the decommissioning phase is assessed to be **very low***;* combined with a **high - medium** sensitivity, the impacts are deemed to be **minimal**. The overall likely adverse effects of decommissioning activities on the AGLV are considered **Not Significant**.

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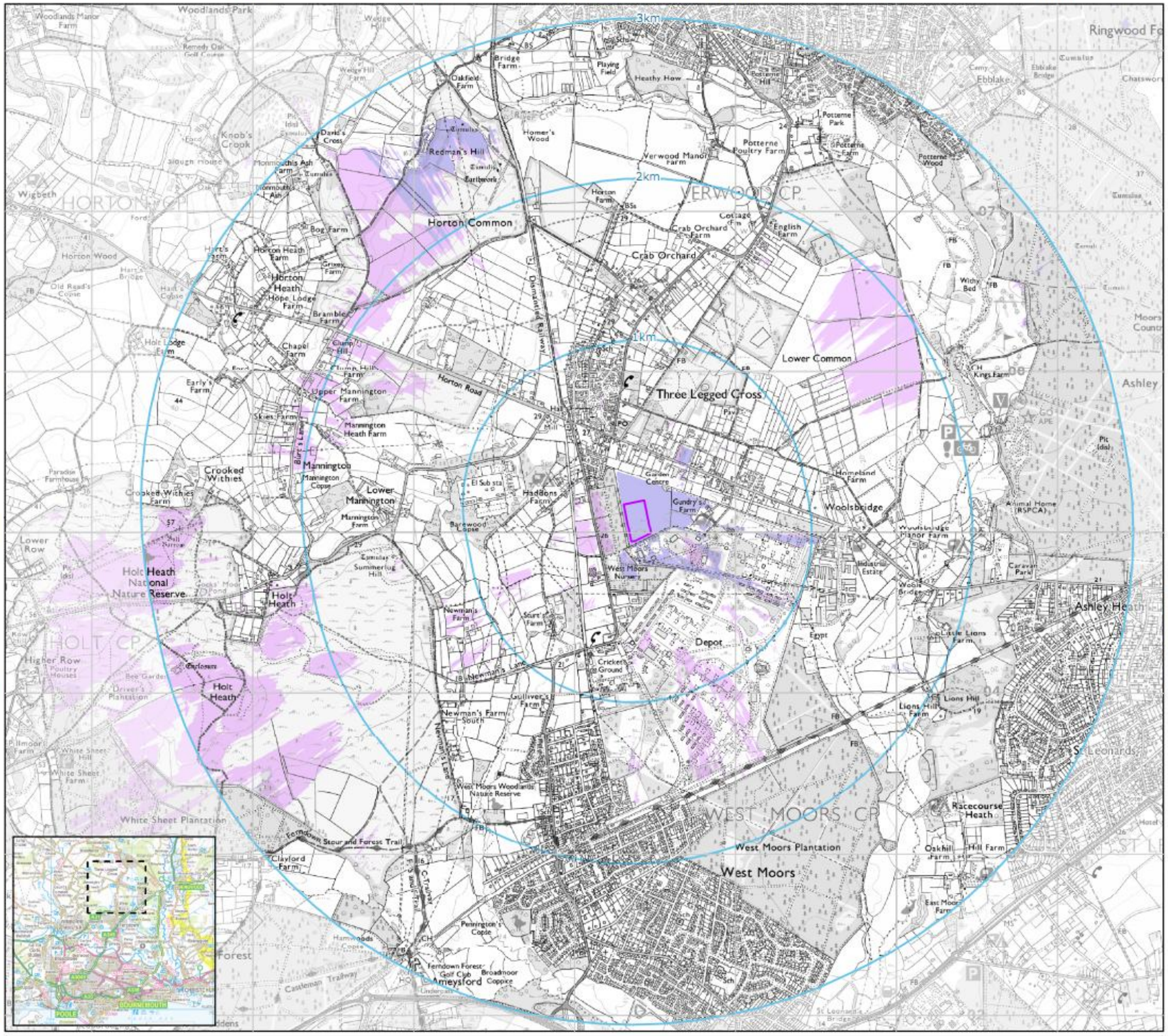

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Substation Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

Legend

- Onshore Substation Site
- 1km, 2km & 3km Buffer around Proposed Substation Site

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

- Proposed development up to 13m visible
- Proposed development 13 - 18m visible

This drawing is based upon computer generated ZTV studies run on a Digital Surface model. The Digital Surface model was created using terrain data derived from Aerial Photography which includes landform, woodlands, settlements and major hedgerows. Due to its resolution, the surface model does not take into account every localised feature such as walls, small hedgerows or mature trees and therefore only gives an impression of the extent of visibility.

The ZTV includes an adjustment that allows for the Curvature and Light Refraction of the Earth and has a 2m ² resolution.

Fig. No.: Figure 29.12		**Date:** 14/08/2013
Author: DL	**Checked:** NT	**Approved:** WW
Scale@A3: 1:25,000		**Revision No.:** 03
Coordinate System: British National Grid		**Data Sources:** OS,PMSS, TCE, Bluesky
Datum: OSGB 1936	**Ref. No.:** 3419_12_11/LDA	

0 0.5 miles

0 0.5 1 km

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NAVITUSBAY

Green Belt

Construction

29.191 As indicated by the ZTV in Figure 29.12 and confirmed by site survey, the site of the Onshore Substation is visually contained by mature vegetation and views out are limited. The site is located close to the settlements of Three Legged Cross and West Moors, and also in close vicinity to the MOD Depot. The site is not representative of, or can be considered part of, the open countryside given the degree of enclosure and the proximity of urban development on all sides. The contained nature of the site would also ensure that the Onshore Substation would not result in an extension of the settlement edge into the more open areas of Green Belt to the north.

29.192 Similarly, whilst the Onshore Substation may be regarded 'infill' development between properties off Ringwood Road and land to the south occupied by the MOD facility, an approximate 200 m gap would be retained along the northern edge, thus maintaining some meaningful separation between two developed areas.

29.193 Overall, it is judged that impacts on the function of the Green Belt arising from the Onshore Substation construction works will be extremely localised. Large areas of Green Belt would not be compromised, particularly those to the immediate north of the site which, it could reasonably be argued, are more important landscapes in terms of restricting sprawl, preventing coalescence and safeguarding the countryside from encroachment.

29.194 The magnitude of effect to the function of the Green Belt, throughout construction is assessed to be **very low**. Combined with a **high-medium** sensitivity, the impacts are deemed to be **minimal**. The overall likely adverse effects of operational and construction activities on the Green Belt are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.195 The assessment considers that the magnitude of effect and significance of impact arising from O&M of the Onshore Substation would be the same as for the construction period.

Decommissioning

29.196 The assessment considers that the magnitude of effect and significance of impact arising from the decommissioning of the Onshore Substation would be the same as for the construction period.

29.5.3. Impacts assessment: Onshore Cable Corridor and Landfall landscape designations

New Forest National Park

Construction

29.197 The sensitivity of the landscape of the New Forest National Park is assessed to be **high**. Construction of the Onshore Cable Corridor would cause some localised disruption to the landscape of the New Forest National Park. However, the landscape of the New Forest National Park through which the Onshore Cable Corridor would pass comprises relatively flat agricultural fields bounded by mature hedgerows and tree belts. These areas of landscape are not considered to provide a significant contribution to the special qualities of the New Forest National Park. Moreover, the flat topography and screening vegetation would limit disruption to the immediate areas of construction activity, such that the majority of the New Forest National Park would not be affected.

29.198 Therefore, a **low** magnitude of effect to the landscape of the New Forest National Park is concluded. This is, therefore, considered a **moderate** impact. The overall likely adverse effects of construction activities on the New Forest National Park are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.199 The impacts arising from construction operations would extend into the early period of O&M and relate to the presence of areas of disturbed and/or despoiled land where landscape reinstatement works (comprising planting and/or seeding) had been conducted. However, these impacts would be reversible, and of a short to medium-term duration. There would be an incremental assimilation of the reinstated land into the immediate and wider landscape, such that a **very low** magnitude of effect would be expected within one growing season for seeded areas and up to 10 years for areas of tree and hedgerow planting. Combined with a **high** sensitivity, the impacts

are deemed to be **minimal**. The overall likely adverse effects of operational and maintenance activities on the National Park are considered **Not Significant**.

Decommissioning

29.200 It is assumed that all cable infrastructure would remain in-situ during the decommissioning phase. Moreover, as decommissing activities would not exceed those experienced during construction, the effects are considered **Not Significant** on landscape and visual receptors.

Woodlands Areas of Great Landscape Value

29.201 The Woodlands AGLV is considered to be of **high-medium** sensitivity to the type of change proposed.

Construction

29.202 The Onshore Cable Corridor development would pass within approximately 650 m and 40 m of two separate subsections of the Woodlands AGLV. In these locations the flat topography and intervening vegetation mean that any direct views of construction would be heavily restricted.

29.203 Overall the magnitude of effect would be **low** and therefore impacts to the landscape character of the Woodlands AGLV would be **moderate - minor**. The overall likely adverse effects of construction activities on the AGLV are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.204 Given the extremely limited intervisibility of the Onshore Cable Corridor from areas within the AGLV, the magnitude of effect during O&M phase (relating to the presence in views of areas of disturbed/despoiled land) would be **very low**, and therefore impacts to the landscape character of the Woodlands AGLV would be **minimal**. The overall likely adverse effects during O&M phase on the AGLV are considered **Not Significant**.

Decommissioning

29.205 It is assumed that all cable infrastructure would remain in-situ during the decommissioning phase and, therefore, there would be no impacts.

29.5.4. Impact assessment: Onshore Substation on landscape character

NCA 135: Dorset Heath

29.206 The onshore Substation site lies within a portion of NCA 135, which is considered to be of **high** sensitivity to the type of change proposed.

Construction

29.207 Above ground construction activities (where visible above the tree belt surrounding the site) would be apparent in very limited areas of the NCA. The surrounding landscape is also heavily wooded by forestry plantation or deciduous woodland belts, and the topography is relatively flat or slightly undulating so that views are further limited. Where visible, only the tallest elements of the proposed Onshore Substation, such as the lightning protection masts, would be perceptible in the context of a wider panorama.

29.208 Changes to landscape fabric during the construction phase would be confined to a very small area of the NCA and, as a consequence, would not give rise to a recognisable change to the overall character of the NCA.

29.209 The magnitude of effect to NCA 135 as a result of the Onshore Substation during construction would be **very low**, given that direct impacts would be extremely localised and would not adversely compromise the inherent character and qualities of the NCA. Impacts on the defining characteristics of the NCA would therefore be **minimal**. The overall likely adverse effects of construction activities on the NCA are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.210 Impacts arising from the intervisibility of the lightning masts and tallest building structures would be restricted to very selective areas of the NCA. Given that there are large areas of the NCA where there would be no available views, the overall magnitude of effect is deemed to be **very low**. Impacts on the defining characteristics of the NCA would therefore be **minimal**. The overall likely adverse effects during O&M on the NCA are considered **Not Significant**.

Decommissioning

29.211 The assessment considers that the magnitude of effect and significance of impact arising from the decommissioning of the Onshore Substation would be the same as for the construction period. The overall likely adverse effects of decommissioning activities on the NCA are therefore considered **Not Significant**.

LCA 21: Horton Common-Three Legged Cross

29.212 The Onshore Substation site lies within LCA 21, which is considered to be of **low** sensitivity to the type of change proposed.

Construction

29.213 The construction of the Onshore Substation would result in a localised alteration to the landscape fabric within a small proportion of the LCA, limited to the confines of the site boundary. Direct effects, arising from intervisibility with ground level construction operations beyond the site boundary would be limited to the northern extents of the MOD land (located on the southern site boundary) and from Gundry's Farm to the immediate east.

29.214 Above ground operations using cranes to construct/dismantle the taller elements, such as the lightning masts and taller buildings, may however be more widely visible above the perimeter tree line; the impacts arising from these operations would be temporary, of an intermittent nature and of a short duration and would be commonly seen from within the LCA in the context of pylons and transmission lines (i.e. moderating elements), within close proximity to the site.

29.215 Overall, the magnitude of effect is assessed to be **low** for the duration of the construction phase. The impacts on the defining characteristics of the LCA are therefore considered to be **minor** whilst the overall likely adverse effects of construction activities on the LCA are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.216 During the O&M phase, direct changes to the LCA would arise as a result of the limited visibility of the Onshore Substation; this would principally be due to the presence of the lightning masts within the wider LCA, whilst the other main components would be visible within the immediate envelope of the site (along its perimeter).

29.217 The impact on perceptual qualities would, however, be moderated by the presence of pylons and transmission lines within the LCA which have a similar form though exert a greater visual presence than the more slender lighting masts. Screen planting along the eastern and northern site boundary would have little impact on moderating views during the early establishment period; however the effect of anchoring the scheme in the landscape in close views from the north and east would become increasingly apparent as the planting matures. At maturity (approximately 25 years), planting would be expected to screen or filter views from the east of the majority of the buildings below 15 m.

29.218 The magnitude of effect during the operational period is assessed to be **very low** given that effects would be very localised and barely perceptible for much of the LCA beyond the immediate site boundary. The impacts on the defining characteristics of the LCA are therefore considered to be **minimal** whilst the overall likely adverse effects during the O&M on the LCA are considered **Not Significant**.

Decommissioning

29.219 The assessment considers that the magnitude of effect and significance of impact arising from the decommissioning of the Onshore Substation would be the same as for the construction period, albeit some ground level activities to remove infrastructure may be screened more effectively in views from the east within the curtilage of Gundry's Farm. Impacts during decommissioning are therefore considered **Not Significant.**

LCA 22: Holt Heath

29.220 The Onshore Substation site lies approximately 1.0 km to the east of this LCA. LCA 22 is considered to be of **medium** sensitivity to the type of change proposed.

Construction

29.221 Ground level construction activities would be substantially screened by perimeter vegetation in views from all parts of the LCA. Above ground operations using cranes to construct/dismantle the taller elements, such as the lightning masts and taller buildings, may however be visible above the

perimeter tree line; the impacts arising from these operations would be temporary, of an intermittent nature and of a short duration and would be commonly seen from within the LCA in the context of pylons and transmission lines (i.e. moderating elements), within close proximity to the site.

29.222 Overall, direct effects arising from construction activities on the LCA are considered to be of an **very low** magnitude. The impacts on the defining characteristics of the LCA are therefore judged to be **minimal** whilst the overall likely adverse effects of construction activities on the LCA are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.223 During O&M, the ZTV (Figure 29.12) indicates that only the tallest elements of the Onshore Substation (over 14 m and up to 19 m height), comprising the lightning protection masts, would be visible from a small number of locations within the LCA (approximately 30% of the LCA within the study area). These would consistently be seen in the context of existing overhead lines and pylons which lie to the west of the Onshore Substation.

29.224 Given that the lightning masts would be slender elements set against an open skyline they are likely to be recessive features in east facing views and would not become the principal focus of such views, nor would they substantially alter perceptions of an open and exposed landscape which is an inherent quality of the LCA.

29.225 The magnitude of effect during the operational and maintenance phase is assessed to be **very low**. The impacts on the defining characteristics of the LCA are therefore considered to be **minimal** whilst the overall likely adverse effects during the operational and maintenance phase on the LCA are considered **Not Significant**.

Decommissioning

29.226 The assessment considers that the magnitude of effect and significance of impact arising from the decommissioning of the Onshore Substation would be the same as for the construction period. Decommissioning impacts are therefore considered **Not Significant**.

LCA 17: Dewlands-Rushmore River Terrace

29.227 The Onshore Substation site lies approximately 1.3 km to the west of this LCA, which is considered to be of **low** sensitivity to the type of change proposed.

Construction

29.228 Ground level construction activities would be substantially screened by perimeter vegetation in views from all parts of the LCA. Above ground operations using cranes to construct/dismantle the taller elements, such as the lightning masts and taller buildings, may however be visible above the perimeter tree line within a small proportion of the LCA in the vicinity of Lower Common (north-east of Three Legged Cross). The impacts arising from these activities would be temporary, of an intermittent nature and of a short duration.

29.229 Overall, direct effects arising from construction activities on the LCA are considered to be of an **very low** magnitude. The impacts on the defining characteristics of the LCA are therefore considered to be **minimal** whilst the overall likely adverse effects of construction activities on the LCA are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.230 During O&M the ZTV (Figure 29.12) indicates that only the tallest element of the Onshore Substation (over 14 m and up to 19 m height), comprising the lightning protection masts, would be visible from a very limited area within this LCA in the vicinity of Lower Common. Viewpoint 3 is located within this LCA.

29.231 Given that the lightning masts would be slender elements set against an open skyline they are likely to be recessive features in west facing views and would not become the principal focus in such views. Furthermore, the introduction of these elements would be seen in the context of urban fringe development, including the Woolsbridge Industrial Estate, which is cited in the East Dorset Character Assessment as defining characteristics of the LCA.

29.232 The magnitude of effect during the O&M is assessed to be **very low**. The impacts on the defining characteristics of the LCA are therefore considered

to be **minimal** whilst the overall likely adverse effects during the O&M on the LCA are considered **Not Significant**.

Decommissioning

29.233 The assessment considers that the magnitude of effect and significance of impact arising from the decommissioning of the Onshore Substation would be the same as for the construction period.

Gundry's Farm (Site-scale character area)

29.234 The Onshore Substation site lies within the western portion of the Gundry's Farm curtilage; it is considered to be of **low** sensitivity to the type of change proposed.

Construction

29.235 The general open character of the site would afford uninterrupted views of both ground level and above ground construction activity for the duration of the construction period. There would be a substantial alteration to the landscape fabric as grazing pasture is removed and replaced with construction compounds, secure fencing and hoarding, storage/set down areas, vehicle parking and access roads, and, incrementally, the emerging substation structure(s). Vehicle and plant movements would similarly be intermittent features throughout this period.

29.236 The magnitude of effect is considered to be **high***,* resulting in a **moderate** impact. The overall likely adverse effects of construction activities on the LCA are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.237 The Onshore Substation would have a commanding presence once completed such that it would inevitably become the defining characteristic of the Gundry's Farm character area. Perimeter planting, which forms part of the embedded design of the Onshore Substation, would anchor the development in the landscape and, over a period of time, would provide an incrementally greater degree of screening of the lower portions of the Substation.

29.238 The magnitude of effect is considered to be **high** throughout the operational and maintenance period*,* resulting in a **moderate** impact. The overall likely adverse effects on the LCA are considered **Not Significant**.

Decommissioning

29.239 The assessment considers that the magnitude of effect and significance of impact arising from the decommissioning of the Onshore Substation would be the same as for the construction period, albeit ground level activities would be substantially screened by mature perimeter vegetation in views from the east of the Gundry's Farm character area.

29.240 During the decommissioning period the magnitude of effect is considered to be **medium**, resulting in a **minor** significance of effect. The overall likely adverse effects on the LCA are considered **Not Significant**.

29.5.5. Impact assessment: Onshore Cable Corridor and Landfall Site on landscape character

29.241 The assessment considers in detail the impact on landscape and visual receptors during the construction phase when enabling works and cable laying operations would be anticipated to give rise to the greatest change to landscape character and visual amenity.

29.242 The impacts arising from construction activities would similarly extend into the early period of the operational and maintenance phase, and relate to the presence of areas of disturbed and/or despoiled land, where landscape reinstatement works (comprising planting and/or seeding and hedgerow reinstatement) have not become fully established. However, these impacts would be reversible and of a short to medium-term duration (between one and 10 years). During this period of establishment, there would be an incremental assimilation of the reinstated land into the immediate and wider landscape.

29.243 Impacts during the decommissioning phase are considered unlikely to arise on the assumption that cabling and other buried infrastructure would remain in-situ.

NCA 135: Dorset Heath

29.244 The construction of the Onshore Cable Corridor would stretch across a 40 m wide corridor of approximately 10 km in length within this NCA. The sensitivity of this NCA to the type of development is considered to be **high**.

Construction

29.245 The construction phase would require excavation across large open fields and the removal of stretches of hedgerows bounding the fields. Areas of woodland would have to be cleared, where the route cuts through the woodland. For the Dorset Heath NCA, the affected wooded areas would be Hurn Forest and West Moors Plantation, both predominantly consisting of coniferous trees.

29.246 The Onshore Cable Corridor would follow an existing ride through Hurn Forest and West Moors Plantation to minimise the clearance. It is also intended to further reduce the working widths. The construction phase would cause some localised changes to the field patterns along the route itself. The key characteristics of the whole NCA would remain unaffected beyond the working area.

29.247 In the context of the whole landscape character area the impacts are extremely localised. Therefore, the magnitude of effect is assessed to be **low – very low**, resulting in a **moderate – very low** impact according to the assessment matrix (though assessed as **minor** impact according to professional judgement) for the duration of the construction phase. The overall likely adverse effects of construction activities on the NCA are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.248 There would be an incremental assimilation of disturbed land into the immediate and wider landscape as a result of replacement planting/ seeding, such that a **very low** magnitude of effect would be expected within one growing season for seeded areas and up to 10 years for areas of tree and hedgerow planting. Within this timescale, the impact would reduce to **minimal**. The overall likely adverse effects during O&M on the NCA are considered **Not Significant**.

NCA 131: New Forest

29.249 The Onshore Cable Corridor would stretch across a 40 m wide corridor of approximately 25 km in length within this NCA. The sensitivity of this NCA to the type of development is considered to be **high**.

Construction

29.250 The construction phase of the Onshore Cable Corridor would require excavation across relatively open mixed farmland and would result in the removal of limited stretches of hedgerows and small areas of woodland, where the route cuts through. The woodlands affected along the route are situated north of Highcliffe and New Milton, as well as east and south of Ashley and include Honeylake Wood (near Downton) near the landfall of the cable, Breakhill Copse (south of Hordle), Stanley Copse (north of Ashley), Danes Stream Coppice (nr. Bashley), Great Woar Copse (north of New Milton), Beckley Moor Copse (east of Beckley), Cat Plantation (near Hinton), Allenworth Wood (near Waterditch), and Long Acre Plantation (near Ripley). Reference should also be made to the Project Description (Volume C, Chapter 3) on the detailed course of the Onshore Cable Corridor.

29.251 The mosaic of broadleaved and coniferous woodlands that would be affected by the construction works is one of the key characteristics of the New Forest NCA. However, the removal of woodland would be limited to very small areas and not alter the fabric and pattern of the NCA as a whole, as construction works would be limited to a 40 m wide working area and would be further reduced within woodland areas.

29.252 The magnitude of effect for the duration of the construction period is assessed to be **low – very low**, which would result in a **moderate – minimal** impact according to the assessment matrix (though assessed as **minor** impact according to professional opinion). The overall likely adverse effects of construction activities on the NCA are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.253 There would be an incremental assimilation of disturbed land into the immediate and wider landscape as a result of replacement planting/ seeding, such that a **very low** magnitude of effect would be expected within one growing season for seeded areas and up to 10 years for areas of tree and hedgerow planting; although trees would be taken down there would be sympathetic replanting of scrub/hedgerows in accordance with appropriate management plans. Within this timescale, the impact would reduce to **minimal**. The overall likely adverse effects during the O&M on the NCA are considered **Not Significant**.

LCA 16 Moors River Valley

29.254 The sensitivity of this LCA towards the type of change proposed is **low**. The Onshore Cable Corridor would cross this LCA over approximately 400 m in length between the A31 and West Moors Plantation, where the cable would cross the Moors River.

Construction

29.255 Given that the impacts associated with cable laying operations would be limited to an extremely small area of the LCA, the overall magnitude of effect for the LCA as a whole would be **very low**, which would result in a **minimal** impact. The overall likely adverse effects of construction activities on the LCA are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.256 As with the construction phase, the impacts arising from the presence of areas of disturbed and/or despoiled land during the early part of the operational period would be so localised as to have almost no impact on the character of the LCA as a whole. The overall magnitude of effect for the LCA as a whole would be **very low***,* which would result in a **minimal** impact. The overall likely adverse effects during the O&M on the LCA are considered **Not Significant**.

LCA 18: Ringwood-Hurn Forest/Heath Mosaic

29.257 The Onshore Cable Corridor would traverse this LCA over a distance of approximately 2 km through the northern most part of Hurn Forest. The Onshore Cable Corridor would utilise an existing track within the plantation. The sensitivity of this LCA towards the type of change proposed is **medium**.

Construction

29.258 The construction phase of the Onshore Cable Corridor would require selective removal of woodland from a narrow corridor within the Hurn Forest which follows the route of an existing ride through the plantation. Whilst there would be a limited loss of vegetation within the plantation this would largely replicate the localised character of the ride which is a common and established feature within plantation forestry. The works would also be visually contained by the woodland and would therefore not be apparent from other parts within the LCA.

29.259 The magnitude of effect during the construction period is assessed to be **low – very low**, as there would only be very minor and localised alterations to the key characteristics of this LCA. This would result in a **minor - minimal** impact. The overall likely adverse effects of construction activities on the LCA are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.260 Through reinstatement planting and seeding, there would be an incremental assimilation of disturbed land into the immediate landscape which is characterised by rotational felling, such that an **very low** magnitude of effect would be expected within 5 years for areas of plantation forestry. Within this timescale, the impact would reduce to **minimal***.* The overall likely adverse effects during the O&M on the LCA are considered **Not Significant**.

LCA 19: West Moors Plantation

29.261 The Onshore Cable Corridor would pass through this LCA for approximately 1.5 km in distance, running along an existing track through the woodland plantation, primarily consisting of pine and birch. The sensitivity of this LCA towards the type of change proposed is **medium**.

Construction

29.262 The Onshore Cable Corridor passes through West Moors Plantation utilising an existing ride. The ride establishes a linear corridor of cleared vegetation such that additional tree clearance (to accommodate the cable works) would replicate the existing character of the woodland. Furthermore, the existing retained woodland would intercept inward facing views from other areas of the LCA such that the perception of change would only be experienced from areas within and adjacent to the construction works corridor.

29.263 The magnitude of effect during the construction period is assessed to be **low – very low**, as there would only be very minor and localised alterations to the key characteristics of this LCA; this would result in a **minor – minimal** impact. The overall likely adverse effects of construction activities on the LCA are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.264 Through reinstatement planting and seeding, there would be an incremental assimilation of disturbed land into the immediate landscape which is characterised by rotational felling, such that a **very low** magnitude of effect would be expected within 5 years for areas of plantation forestry. Within this timescale, the impact would reduce to **minimal**. The overall likely adverse effects during the O&M on the LCA are considered **Not Significant**.

LCA 21: Horton Common – Three Legged Cross

29.265 The Onshore Cable Corridor would traverse this LCA over a distance of approximately 3 km, passing the MOD depot to its west before entering the existing Mannington substation from the south. The sensitivity of this LCA to the type of change proposed is **low**.

Construction

29.266 The construction phase would result in the limited removal of field boundary vegetation, which could include hedgerows, scrub and woodland belts. The works would take place in the context of small scale industrial uses, particularly the West Moors MOD site, which would have a moderating effect. The construction would also be very localised and only affect a small portion of the LCA.

29.267 The magnitude of effect during the construction period is assessed to be **low – very low**, as there would only be very minor and localised alterations to the key characteristics of this LCA; this would result in a **minor – minimal** impact. The overall likely adverse effects of construction activities on the LCA are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.268 There would be an incremental assimilation of disturbed land into the immediate and wider landscape as a result of replacement planting/seeding of hedgerows and scrub, such that a **very low** magnitude of effect would be expected within one growing season for seeded areas and up to 10 years for areas of tree and hedgerow planting. Within this timescale, the impact would reduce to **minimal**. The overall likely adverse effects during the O&M on the LCA are considered **Not Significant**.

RL Area 1: Avon River Terrace – East of Burton

29.269 The Onshore Cable Corridor traverses this RL Area over a distance of approximately 2 km, where it primarily crosses through a rural landscape and open fields. The sensitivity of this RL Area to the type of change proposed is considered to be **low**.

Construction

29.270 The construction of the Onshore Cable Corridor would primarily require the removal of field boundaries consisting of hedgerows and fences and occasional narrow shelter belts. These are considered to be important characteristics of the RL Area. The magnitude of effect is considered to be **medium** - **low** for the duration of the construction phase with partial alterations to the key characteristics of this RL Area (as noted above), which are likely to be visible from within a large proportion of the RL Area; this would result in a **minor** impact. The overall likely adverse effects of construction activities on the RL Area are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.271 There would be an incremental assimilation of disturbed land into the immediate and wider landscape as a result of replacement planting/ seeding, such that a **very low** magnitude of effect would be expected within one growing season for seeded areas and up to 10 years for areas of hedgerow planting. Within this timescale, the impact would reduce to **minimal**. The overall likely adverse effects during the O&M on the RL Area are considered **Not Significant**.

RL Area 2: Avon Flood Plain

29.272 The Onshore Cable Corridor crosses this RL Area over a distance of approximately 500 m, where it crosses the River Avon flood plain between Avon and the Hurn Forest. The sensitivity of this RL Area to the type of change proposed is considered to be **medium**.

Construction

29.273 Due to the limited length of the Onshore Cable Corridor located within this area, the impacts would be so localised as to not affect the inherent characteristics of the RL Area as a whole.

29.274 It is therefore considered that the magnitude of effect would be **very low** for the duration of the construction period; this would result in a **minimal** impact. The overall likely adverse effects of construction activities on the RL Area are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.275 The magnitude of effect and overall impact for the operational and maintenance phase is considered to be the same as for the construction period due to the extremely limited area in which disturbed/ despoiled land (arising from the construction period) would be apparent. The resulting impact is therefore considered **Not Significant**.

RL Area 4: St Catherine's Hill – Hurn Forest

29.276 The Onshore Cable Corridor traverses this RL Area over a distance of approximately 3.5 km and runs along an existing track within Hurn Forest. The sensitivity of this RL Area to the type of change proposed is considered to be **medium**.

Construction

29.277 The construction of the Onshore Cable Corridor would utilise an existing ride through the plantation; the ride, whilst not sufficiently wide to contain the whole of the construction corridor, would substantially limit the loss of trees to accommodate the cable. The works will also be visually contained within the woodland and therefore would not be perceptible from other parts from within the RL Area.

29.278 The magnitude of effect during the construction period is assessed to be **low – very low**, as there would only be localised alterations to the key characteristics of this RL Area with the majority of the RL Area being unaffected; this would result in a **minor - minimal** impact. The overall likely adverse effects of construction activities on the RL Area are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.279 There would be an incremental assimilation of disturbed land into the immediate landscape (as a result of replacement planting and seeding) which is characterised by rotational felling, such that a **very low** magnitude of effect would be expected within 5 years for areas of plantation forestry. Within this timescale, the impact would reduce to **minimal**. The overall likely adverse effects during the O&M on the RL Area are considered **Not Significant**.

RL Area 5: The Moors River

29.280 The 40 m wide Onshore Cable Corridor is not located within the RL Area. As such, there would be no direct effects on this character area as a result of construction works. However, the RL Area is within the 1 km Study Area such that direct effects are considered. The sensitivity of this RL Area to the type of change proposed is considered to be **high**.

Construction

29.281 The Onshore Cable Corridor is approximately 200 m to the north of this RL Area and lies within the adjacent RL Area 4, where the cable route runs through the centre of Hurn Forest. As such, the construction activities would be entirely contained within the woodland and would not be visible from RL Area 5.

29.282 The magnitude of direct change only is considered to be **very low** for the duration of the construction period; this would result in a **minimal** impact. The overall likely adverse effects of construction activities on the RL Area are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.283 The magnitude of effect and significance of impact for the operational and maintenance phase is considered to be the same as for the construction period due to the extremely limited intervisibility.

LCA 7: Lower Avon Valley

29.284 The Onshore Cable Corridor crosses this LCA in two segments; the first is approximately 3.5 km long and passes through this LCA from the River Avon to its southern boundary with RL Area 2, south of Derrit Lane near Bransgore. It then enters LCA 7 again near Waterditch and runs parallel to Lyndhurst Road for approximately 1 km towards Godwinscroft, where the Onshore Cable Corridor leaves LCA 7 to pass through the adjacent LCA 19. The sensitivity of this LCA to the type of change proposed is considered to be **medium**.

Construction

29.285 The Onshore Cable Corridor mostly traverses open farmland, divided by hedgerows with hedgerows trees and dispersed tree belts. The construction phase of Onshore Cable Corridor would require the limited removal of these vegetative field boundaries, including a cut through Long Acre Plantation (near Ripley).

29.286 The magnitude of effect during the construction period is assessed to be **low** as there would only be minor alterations to one of the key characteristics of this LCA at a localised level. The inherent characteristics of the LCA as a whole would remain unaffected; this would result in a **minor** impact. The overall likely adverse effects of construction activities on the LCA are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.287 There would be an incremental assimilation of disturbed land into the immediate and wider landscape as a result of replacement planting/ seeding, such that a **very low** magnitude of effect would be expected within one growing season for seeded areas up to 10 years for areas of tree and hedgerow planting. Within this timescale, the impact would reduce to **minimal**. The overall likely adverse effects during the O&M on the LCA are considered **Not Significant**.

LCA 17: Barton and Milford Coastal Plain

29.288 The Onshore Cable Corridor traverses this LCA in two segments; the first travels from its landfall location up to Hordle and is approximately 4 km long, and the second stretches over approximately 4 km from the A35 near Hinton Admiral to the B3055 south of Bashley and near the B3058. The sensitivity of this LCA towards the type of change proposed is considered to be **medium**.

Construction

29.289 The Onshore Cable Corridor avoids the characteristic seaside towns but would pass through the undulating wooded estate landscape, where there is a strong presence of woodland corridors and water courses. The construction phase of the Onshore Cable Corridor would result in cutting through and removing limited areas of woodland of the Honeylake Wood (near Downtown) and Breakhill Copse (near Hordle). These woodlands are often deciduous and are situated along streams and tributaries and are a characteristic of this LCA.

29.290 Where the Onshore Cable Corridor passes through open farmland, the construction phase would require field boundaries to be removed over the

widths of the working area, which would include hedgerows and narrow tree belts.

29.291 The magnitude of effect is considered to be **medium** for the duration of the construction phase with some key elements of this LCA noticeably changed; this would result in a **moderate** impact. The overall likely adverse effects of construction activities on the LCA are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.292 There would be an incremental assimilation of disturbed land into the immediate and wider landscape as a result of replacement planting/ seeding, such that a **very low** magnitude of effect would be expected within one growing season for seeded areas and up to 10 years for areas of hedgerow planting. Within this timescale, the impact would reduce to **minimal**. The overall likely adverse effects during the O&M on the LCA are considered **Not Significant**.

LCA 18: Sway Pasture and Smallholdings

29.293 The Onshore Cable Corridor traverses this LCA over a distance of approximately 3.5 km, between Hordle, Bashley and the B3055. The sensitivity of this LCA to the type of change proposed is considered to be **medium**.

Construction

29.294 The Onshore Cable Corridor mostly avoids the wooded valley of Danes Stream but cuts through a small area at Stanley's Copse. The construction phase would result in removing a limited area of this woodland. Where the Onshore Cable Corridor passes through open fields, the construction phase would lead to the removal of the often mature vegetated field boundaries.

29.295 The magnitude of effect is considered to be **medium** for the duration of the construction phase with some key elements of this LCA noticeably changed; this would result in a **moderate** impact. The overall likely adverse effects of construction activities on the LCA are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.296 There would be an incremental assimilation of disturbed land into the immediate and wider landscape as a result of replacement planting/ seeding of hedgerows and agricultural land, such that a **very low** magnitude of effect would be expected within one growing season for seeded areas and up to 10 years for areas of tree and hedgerow planting. Within this timescale, the impact would reduce to **minimal**. The overall likely adverse effects during the O&M on the LCA are considered **Not Significant**.

LCA 19: Bransgore Woods and Pastures

29.297 The Onshore Cable Corridor traverses this LCA over a distance of approximately 1.5 km, between Hinton and Godwinscroft and travels parallel to Ringwood Road. The sensitivity of this LCA to the type of change proposed is considered to be **high**.

Construction

29.298 The Onshore Cable Corridor crosses only a small proportion of this LCA and would cut through a small area of woodland of Allenworth Wood as well as three fields in pastoral use. The construction phase would result in the removal of a stretch of this wood and of native hedgerow field.

29.299 The magnitude of effect is considered to be **low – very low** for the duration of the construction phase due to the limited area affected, which would not alter the inherent characteristics of the LCA as a whole; this would result in a **moderate – minimal** impact according to the assessment matrix (though assessed as a **minor** impact according to professional opinion). The overall likely adverse effects of construction activities on the LCA are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.300 There would be an incremental assimilation of disturbed land into the immediate and wider landscape as a result of replacement planting/ seeding, such that a **very low** magnitude of effect would be expected within one growing season for seeded areas and up to 10 years for areas of hedgerow planting. Within this timescale, the impact would reduce to **minimal**. The overall likely adverse effects during the O&M on the LCA are considered **Not Significant**.

29.5.6. Impact assessment: Onshore Substation Representative Viewpoints

29.301 The 17 representative views detailed below represent a variety of visual receptors at a range of geographical locations from the Onshore Substation

or Onshore Cable Corridor/landfall site. The locations of the representative viewpoints are illustrated in Figures 29.8 and 29.9.

29.302 Illustrative viewpoints are provided as part of this PEI chapter appendix, these are for Viewpoints 1 to 6.

Viewpoint 1: Gundry's Farm

- Grid Ref: 408782 105169
- Principal Receptor: Private residents
- Approximate distance to Onshore Substation site: 340 m
- Elevation: 25 m

29.303 Reference should be made to the photomontage & wireframe included in the PEI visuals appendix.

29.304 This viewpoint is located within the Gundry's Farm Estate, to the immediate west of the principal dwellings of the farm estate and approximately 200 m from the eastern boundary of the Onshore Substation site. The view is typical of that experienced by the owners and by outdoor workers within the estate boundary and is broadly typical of the view experienced by residents and visitors. The receptors have a **high** sensitivity to the type of change proposed.

29.305 The view west towards the Onshore Substation Site is across open fields currently in pastoral use and delineated by post and wire fencing. The approximately 16 m high coniferous forestry plantation forms a distinctive feature within the middle ground view westwards. The view to the north-west consists of a mature deciduous tree belt that runs parallel to Ringwood Road. Glimpsed views can be gained through the tree belt towards some of the properties on Ringwood Road. An outbuilding is located at the northern edge of the field. The view to the south-west is also of a mature deciduous tree belt and scrub forming the boundary to the MOD depot. The top of pylons and transmission wires stretch across this portion of the view and are seen in conjunction with the security fencing to the MOD depot.

29.306 The very open nature of the site which would inevitably result in the onshore Substation being wholly visible from a number of locations within the estate boundary.

Construction

29.307 The general open character of the site would afford uninterrupted views of both ground level and above ground construction activities for the duration of the construction period. There would be a substantial alteration to the landscape fabric as grazing pasture is removed and replaced with construction compounds, secure fencing and hoarding, storage/set down areas, vehicle parking and access roads, and, incrementally, the emerging substation structure(s). Vehicle and plant movements would similarly be intermittent features throughout this period.

29.308 The magnitude of effect during construction is judged to be **high**; this would result in a **major** impact. The overall likely adverse visual effects of construction activities on receptors at viewpoint 1 are considered **Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.309 The Onshore Substation would have a commanding presence once completed (albeit limited to the curtilage of the Gundry Farm estate) such that it would inevitably become the focus of the view. Perimeter planting, which forms part of the embedded design of the Onshore Substation, would anchor the development in the landscape and, over a period of time, would provide an incrementally greater degree of screening of the lower portions of Substation in this view.

29.310 The magnitude of effect during the operational and maintenance phase is considered to be **high**; this would result in a **major** impact. The overall likely adverse visual effects during O&M on receptors at viewpoint 1 are considered **Significant**.

Decommissioning

29.311 The assessment considers that the magnitude of effect and significance of impact arising from the decommissioning of the Onshore Substation would be similar to the construction period, albeit ground level activities would be substantially screened by mature perimeter vegetation in this view.

29.312 The magnitude of effect during decommissioning is considered to be **high-medium**; this would result in a **moderate** impact. The overall likely adverse visual effects during the O&M on receptors at viewpoint 1 are considered **Not Significant**.

Viewpoint 2: PRoW to the north of Sturts Farm

- Grid Ref: 407803 104760
- Principal Receptor: Users of PRoW
- Approximate distance to Onshore Substation site: 0.58 km
- Elevation: 23 m AOD

29.313 Reference should be made to the photomontage & wireframe included in the PEI visuals appendix.

29.314 Viewpoint 2 is located approximately 0.58 km to the south-west of the development site boundary and is situated on a PRoW which extends between the B3072 (near Sturts Farm) and Newmans Lane to the south. The view is typical of that experienced by walkers using the footpath and by workers in the adjacent fields, which are of **high** sensitivity to the type of change proposed.

29.315 The view to the east is over open fields in arable use that are bound by mature hedgerows with trees. Pylons and wires stretch across the view in the immediate foreground. A deciduous woodland belt associated with the dismantled railway running parallel to the B3072 forms the background of the view in the middle distance. This woodland belt is higher than the coniferous forestry plantation to the west of the Onshore Substation site so that only glimpsed views of the coniferous woodland can be gained.

Construction

29.316 Ground level construction activities and movement of construction plant using the access road off the B3072 would not be perceptible due the screening effect of the mature woodland belt associated with the dismantled railway. Cranes used to erect the taller components would be visible where they extend above the tree line to the immediate east. Such visual effects would however be of a temporary and intermittent nature and last for a short duration. The visual impact of cranes would also be moderated to a degree by the imposing presence of existing pylons and transmission lines in the view.

29.317 The magnitude of effect during construction period is assessed to be **very low**; this would result in a **minimal** impact. The overall likely adverse visual effects of decommissioning activities on receptors at viewpoint 2 are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.318 Throughout the operational and maintenance period the deciduous woodland belt together with the forestry plantation along the western boundary of the site would prevent the rooflines of the Onshore Substation extending above the visible horizon line. However, the lightning protection masts are likely to be visible above the tree line as slender rods set against a background of open skies, and seen in the context of existing pylons and transmission wires. As such there would be only a very minor alteration to the existing visual composition.

29.319 The magnitude of effect during the operational and maintenance phase is judged to be **very low**; this would result in a **minimal** impact. The overall likely neutral visual effects during the O&M on receptors at viewpoint 2 are considered **Not Significant**.

Decommissioning

29.320 The impacts arising during the decommissioning period would be very similar to those described during the construction phase. The magnitude of effect throughout this period is considered to be **very low**; this would result in a **minimal** impact. The overall likely adverse visual effects during the decommissioning phase on receptors at viewpoint 2 are considered **Not Significant**.

Viewpoint 3: Bridleway to the north of Woolsbridge Industrial Estate

- Grid Ref: 410127 105755
- Principal Receptor: Users of PRoW
- Approximate distance to Onshore Substation site: 1.78 km
- Elevation: 20 m

29.321 Reference should be made to the photomontage & wireframe included in the PEI visuals appendix.

29.322 The viewpoint is located on a bridleway, approximately 1.78 km to the east of the site, and to the north of the Woolsbridge Industrial Estate. The viewpoint is situated on low lying ground and affords open views which are typical of those experienced by users of the bridleway (who have a **high**

sensitivity to the type of change proposed) together with visitors to, and users of, the adjacent paddocks and model car racing circuit.

29.323 The foreground of the view to the south-west consists of paddocks divided by temporary fencing and each with a small shelter for the horses and other equestrian related equipment (e.g. feeding/water buckets, wheel barrows, horse jumps). Two mobile toilet trailers are also prominent within the view and are located in close proximity to the large barns of Homeland Farm. The model car racing circuit is located in the immediate foreground to the south of the view. The paddocks with shelters and associated toilet facilities together with the farm buildings are set against a densely wooded background and horizon line which screens the settlement edge of Three Legged Cross. Pylons and wires are visible above the wooded horizon line.

Construction

29.324 Ground level construction activities and above ground operations to erect the taller elements would not be apparent from this viewpoint, due to the screening effect of the mature woodland belt in the middle distance.

29.325 The magnitude of effect during construction is assessed to be **very low**; this would result in a **minimal** impact. The overall likely adverse visual effects of decommissioning activities on receptors at viewpoint 3 are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.326 Views during the operational and maintenance period of the Onshore Substation and associated lightning protection masts would be substantially screened by intervening vegetation which extends along the northern boundary of Three Legged Cross, contiguous to Ringwood Road.

29.327 The magnitude of effect during the operational and maintenance phase is considered to be **very low**; this would result in a **minimal** impact. The overall likely neutral visual effects during the O&M on receptors at viewpoint 3 are considered **Not Significant**.

Decommissioning

29.328 The impacts arising during the decommissioning period would be very similar to those described during the construction phase. The magnitude of effect throughout this period is considered to be **very low**; this would result in a **minimal** impact. The overall likely adverse visual effects during the decommissioning phase on receptors at viewpoint 3 are considered **Not Significant**.

Viewpoint 4: PRoW on Holt Heath

- Grid Ref: 406304 104389
- Principal Receptor: Users of PRoW
- Approximate distance to Onshore Substation site: 2.1 km
- Elevation: 29 m

29.329 Reference should be made to the photomontage & wireframe included in the PEI visual appendix.

29.330 This viewpoint is located on a PRoW on elevated ground on Holt Heath, approximately 2.1 km to the west of the site. The view is typical of that experienced by walkers and equestrian users of footpaths and bridleways on Holt Heath, which have a **high** sensitivity to the type of change proposed.

29.331 The view to the east is open and over Holt Heath which consists of low heathland vegetation with predominantly pines and coniferous trees as well as gorse sparsely scattered across the middle ground of the view. The background of the view consists of a heavily wooded horizon consisting of a mixture of coniferous and deciduous trees. Noticeable are the numerous pylons and wires stretching above the wooded horizon line. Further vertical features are the telegraph poles that are visible at the edge of the heathland in the middle ground. Roads or settlements, such as isolated farms are not visible from this viewpoint.

Construction

29.332 Ground level construction activities and movement of construction plant would not be visible from this viewpoint due to the screening effect of existing mature woodland which follows the western edge of Holt Heath. Cranes used to erect the taller components would be visible where they extend above the tree line to the immediate east. Such effects would however be of a temporary and intermittent nature and last for a short duration. The visual impact of cranes would also be moderated to a degree by the imposing presence of existing pylons and transmission lines in the view.

29.333 The magnitude of effect during construction is assessed to be **very low**; this would result in a **minimal** impact. The overall likely adverse visual effects of decommissioning activities on receptors at viewpoint 4 are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.334 During O&M the Onshore Substation would sit below the wooded horizon line and would therefore not be visible from this location. The lightning protection masts are likely to extend above the tree line but would be seen in the context of numerous vertical features and appear as relatively recessive features against the backdrop of an open skyline.

29.335 The magnitude of effect during the O&M is considered to be **very low**; this would result in a **minimal** impact. The overall likely neutral visual effects during the O&M on receptors at viewpoint 4 are considered **Not Significant**.

Decommissioning

29.336 The impacts arising during the decommissioning period would be very similar to those described during the construction phase. The magnitude of effect throughout this period is considered to be **negligible**; this would result in a **minimal** impact. The overall likely adverse visual effects during the decommissioning phase on receptors at viewpoint 4 are considered **Not Significant**.

Viewpoint 5: Bridleway on Horton Common (near Redman Hill)

- Grid Ref: 406724 106907
- Principal Receptor: Users of bridleway
- Approximate distance to Onshore Substation site: 2.34 km
- Elevation: 62 m

29.337 Reference should be made to the photomontage & wireframe included in the PEI visual appendix.

29.338 The viewpoint is located on a bridleway to the west of Horton Common, approximately 2.34 km to the north-west of the site. The viewpoint lies in close proximity to a number of farm and residential properties which are accessed from a minor road which connects to Ringwood Road to the south. It is elevated in relation to the surrounding landscape and is typical of that experienced by users of the bridleway (**high** sensitivity), together with outdoor workers within adjacent fields (**medium** sensitivity).

29.339 The view to the south-east is over open fields in pastoral use in the foreground and a much more wooded rural landscape in the background. Distant views can be gained from this elevated location of mostly woodland with a strong presence of pylons and wires traversing the view in the foreground to the background. The existing Mannington substation and pylons provide an existing development context in the same field of view, though it should be noted that the existing substation itself is substantially screened except for the tallest elements and a recessive feature in a much broader panorama.

Construction

29.340 Direct views of ground level construction and decommissioning operations are likely to be very limited due to the screening effect of mature vegetation which extends across the broad valley floor to the south-east. Where filtered views are available these are likely to be only of above ground operations using cranes to erect the tallest building elements and lightning masts. Such effects would however be of a temporary and intermittent nature and last for a short duration.

29.341 The magnitude of effect during construction is assessed to be **very low**; this would result in a **minimal** impact. The overall likely adverse visual effects arising from construction activities on receptors at viewpoint 5 are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.342 During the operational and maintenance phase, the existing vegetation within the valley floor would assimilate the development into the local landscape when viewed from this distance such that site infrastructure would become largely indiscernible amongst the trees. The lightning masts would project above the tree line, though again, would be slender features and recessive in this more distant view.

29.343 The magnitude of effect during the operational and maintenance phase is judged to be **very low**; this would result in a **minimal** impact. The overall likely neutral visual effects during the O&M on receptors at viewpoint 5 are considered **Not Significant**.

Decommissioning

29.344 The impacts arising during the decommissioning period would be very similar to those described during the construction phase. The magnitude of effect throughout this period is considered to be **very low**; this would result in a **minimal** impact. The overall likely adverse visual effects during the decommissioning phase on receptors at viewpoint 3 are considered **Not Significant**.

Viewpoint 6: Redman's Hill

- Grid Ref: 407498 107388
- Principal Receptor: Users of Horton Common
- Approximate distance to Onshore Substation site: 2.35 km
- Elevation: 50 m

29.345 Reference should be made to the photomontage & wireframe included in the PEI visuals appendix.

29.346 The viewpoint is located on a bridleway (a **high** sensitivity receptor) within Horton Common near Redman's Hill and in close proximity to Homer's Wood. The bridleway is set within heathland predominantly consisting of a mixture of tall gorse, fern, pine and birch trees limiting views out to the surrounding landscape. Glimpsed views can be gained to the south-east of open fields and a wooded horizon with pylons and telegraph poles stretching across the middle ground of the view.

Construction

29.347 Direct views of ground level construction activities are likely to be very limited due to the screening effect of mature vegetation in the immediate foreground and within the valley floor. Where filtered views are available these are likely to be only of above ground operations using cranes to erect the tallest building elements and lightning masts. Such effects would however be of a temporary and intermittent nature and last for a short duration.

29.348 The magnitude of effect during construction is assessed to be **very low**; this would result in a **minimal** impact. The overall likely neutral visual effects of construction activities on receptors at viewpoint 6 are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.349 During the operational and maintenance phase, the Onshore Substation would barely be visible from this location during due to the screening/ filtering effects of vegetation in the immediate foreground. The lightning masts would project above the tree line and be seen as slender features which would not command the attention of the viewer at this location.

29.350 The magnitude of effect during the O&M is considered to be **very low;** the overall likely neutral visual effects during the O&M on receptors at viewpoint 6 are considered **Not Significant**.

Decommissioning

29.351 The impacts arising during the decommissioning period would be very similar to those described during the construction phase. The magnitude of effect throughout this period is considered to be **very low**; the overall likely neutral visual effects of decommissioning activities on receptors at viewpoint 6 are considered **Not Significant**.

29.5.7. Impact assessment: Onshore Cable Corridor Representative Viewpoints

Viewpoint 7: West Moors Plantation

- Grid Ref: 408717 103395
- Principal Receptor: Users of National Cycle Route
- Approximate distance to Onshore Cable Corridor: 0 m
- Elevation: 10 m

29.352 Viewpoint 7 is located on national cycle route 256 to the north of the West Moors Plantation. From this position, dense scrubby vegetation within West Moors screens and filters views over the immediate landscape to the north. Views along the route of the cycleway (in a south-west to north-east orientation) are available with further outward facing views where there are breaks in the mature vegetation.

29.353 Outward facing views from residential settlement at West Moors are largely screened by intervening vegetation, including areas of plantation forestry to the south. The intervisibility of pylons and MOD buildings create a sense of industrialisation to the composition.

29.354 Cyclists using the National Cycle Route are the principal receptors at this location and have a **high – medium** sensitivity to the type of change proposed.

Construction

29.355 The surrounding scrubby vegetation and woodland would be effective at screening views of construction activities. Consequently, impacts arising from construction work are likely to be limited to the immediate environs of the route and would not be conspicuous within wider environs. Views from neighbouring residential settlement would be largely screened by intervening vegetation. Where visible, construction activities would commonly be seen in conjunction with other detractors such as pylons and MOD installations and buildings. The alignment of the cable and its change of direction to the north-east also reduce the potential for long vistas along the corridor to occur. Nonetheless, temporary construction activities would be apparent in close proximity, though such activity would be of short term duration and intermittent, with impacts likely remain for a short to medium duration until landscape reinstatement works have become fully established.

29.356 A **low** magnitude of effect is therefore concluded resulting in a **moderate** – **minor** impact. The overall likely adverse visual effects of construction activities on receptors at viewpoint 7 are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.357 There would be an incremental assimilation of disturbed land into the immediate landscape (as a result of replacement planting and seeding) which is characterised by rotational felling, such that an **very low** magnitude of effect would be expected within 5 years for areas of plantation forestry. Within this timescale, the impact would reduce to **minimal**. The overall likely adverse effects during the early O&M on receptors at viewpoint 7 are considered **Not Significant**.

Viewpoint 8: Hurn Forest

- Grid Ref: 412805 98958
- Principal Receptor: Users of PRoW
- Approximate distance to Onshore Cable Corridor: 0 m
- Elevation: 10 m

29.358 Viewpoint 8 is located on the Hurn Link Greenway cycle track next to Matcham's Lane public car park. The plantation woodland of Hurn Forest frequently contains views in this area. The eye is drawn westward along the course of the cycle track, with plantation forestry lining the route. The proximity and maturity of the surrounding plantation woodland lends to an enclosed and secluded composition. Views eastward are also restricted by surrounding vegetation although enclosed views north and south along Matcham Lane are available.

29.359 Receptors at Viewpoint 8 are likely to include cyclists, walkers and other recreational users, all classified as having a **high** sensitivity to the type of development proposed.

Construction

29.360 The woodland plantation of Hurn Forest would act as an effective screen to construction works, limiting views to the immediate environs of construction. The Onshore Cable Corridor would predominately follow an existing cleared track though the woodland such that the number of trees required to be felled would be relatively low.

29.361 Where there are uninterrupted views of the construction activities, there would be a **low** magnitude of effect resulting in a **moderate** impact. Construction phase impacts would be intermittent, of a short duration and reversible. The overall likely adverse visual effects of construction activities on receptors at viewpoint 8 are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.362 There would be an incremental assimilation of the disturbed land into the immediate landscape (as a result of replacement planting and seeding) which is characterised by rotational felling, such that an **very low** magnitude of effect would be expected within 5 years for areas of plantation forestry. Within this timescale, the impact would reduce to **minimal**. The overall likely adverse effects during the early O&M on receptors at viewpoint 8 are considered **Not Significant**.

Viewpoint 9: Sabines Farm, B3347

- Grid Ref: 414603 99266
- Principal Receptor: Users of PRoW, Motorists

- Approximate distance to Onshore Cable Corridor: 40 m
- Elevation:10 m

29.363 From this location there are views of the Onshore Cable Corridor where it crosses the Avon Valley. Views from the river and floodplain itself are limited due to the lack of public access, leaving the only notable visual receptors to be the farmsteads of Sabines Farm and Week Farm where open views may be possible. Glimpsed views over adjacent countryside are possible from the B3347 although the vegetation bordering the road restricts these along the majority of the road. The river flood plain also contains an abundance of scrub and, adjacent to the A338 plantation woodland which further restrict views of the river.

29.364 The principal receptor at this location comprises private residents at Sabines Farm who are assessed as having a **high** sensitivity to the type of change proposed. Motorists are considered to have a **low** sensitivity to the type of change proposed.

Construction

29.365 The field in the foreground would be given over to a temporary laydown compound with the Onshore Cable Corridor aligned east to west crossing the field.

29.366 Views from residential receptors at Sabine's Farm would be limited given the flat topography and field boundary vegetation. Only the end property furthest west has views of the river itself.

29.367 Trenchless cable installation techniques would be utilised to lay the cable across the river floodplain, substantially reducing the potential for visual intrusion. Therefore, the only evidence of construction activities would be in close proximity to the temporary compound in a short stretch of the B3347.

29.368 The magnitude of effect at Sabines Farm would be **very low** given intervening vegetation, resulting in a **minimal** impact. For motorists, the magnitude of effect would be **low**, resulting in a **minor** impact. Construction phase impacts would be intermittent, of a short duration and reversible. The overall likely adverse visual effects of construction activities on receptors at viewpoint 9 are considered **Not Significant**

Operational and maintenance

29.369 Given that the magnitude of effect for the construction period is judged to be **very low**, it is considered that throughout the operational and maintenance period the magnitude of effect would similarly be **very low**, resulting in a **minimal** impact. The overall likely adverse visual effects during the O&M on receptors at viewpoint 9 are considered **Not Significant**.

Viewpoint 10: Avon Valley Path near Court Farm

- Grid Ref: 415656 98105
- Principal Receptor: Users of PRoW
- Approximate distance to Onshore Cable Corridor: 0 m
- Elevation:10 m

29.370 From this location there are views from the Avon Valley Path where it runs in close proximity to the Onshore Cable Corridor, namely to the north of Sopley. This area comprises medium to large, flat, rectilinear arable fields and piggery fields dissected by linear tree belts, dense hedgerows and a network of rural lanes, all of which serve to restrict views in this area. Settlement is also limited to isolated farmsteads and dwellings. Consequently, agricultural land uses dominate the composition creating a rural homogenous landscape.

29.371 The sensitivity of receptors on the Avon Valley Path is assessed as **high** given that the majority of users will be recreational walkers.

Construction

29.372 Construction would be visible within the large arable and piggery fields visible in viewpoint 10, the Onshore Cable Corridor passing east to west through this viewpoint location. The location is sited where the route traverses a small stream and would result in the removal of a small section of woodland bordering this brook. However, the majority of the area comprises arable fields with vegetation found only as field boundaries.

29.373 Settlement is scattered in this area, consisting in general of isolated farmsteads, therefore the potential to affect large numbers of private residential receptors is limited.

29.374 Only a short section of The Avon Valley Path runs in close proximity to the Onshore Cable Corridor (approximately 1 km of its 34 km total length). Consequently, the vast majority of the path would not experience any change to its recreational amenity.

29.375 From where views are possible, intervening boundary hedgerows would often filter views, aided by the flat topography.

29.376 The magnitude of effect is assessed to be **medium - low**, resulting in a **major/moderate** to **moderate** impact. Construction phase impacts would be intermittent, of a short duration and reversible. The overall likely adverse visual effects of construction activities on receptors at viewpoint 10 are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.377 There would be an incremental assimilation of disturbed land into the immediate and wider landscape as a result of replacement planting/ seeding, such that a **very low** magnitude of effect would be expected within one growing season for seeded areas and up to 10 years for areas of tree and hedgerow planting. Within this timescale, the impact would reduce to **minimal**. The overall likely adverse effects during the O&M receptors at viewpoint 10 are considered **Not Significant**.

Viewpoint 11: Lyndhurst Road

- Grid Ref418461 96250
- Principal Receptor: Users of National Cycle Route
- Approximate distance to Onshore Cable Corridor: 40 m
- Elevation: 5 m

29.378 Viewpoint 11 is representative of views in proximity to the Onshore Cable Corridor within the New Forest National Park to the north of Christchurch. Here the composition comprises a relatively flat topography consisting of medium to large arable fields. Settlement is largely limited to isolated farmsteads and small hamlets, set within the flat agricultural landscape. Vegetation however is still a notable feature in the form of woodland blocks and dense hedgerows, forming field boundaries and bordering the numerous lanes in the area. Individual mature trees are often present within these hedgerows creating focal points within views in what is a generally rural and undeveloped area. This location is within the New Forest National Park although the composition of agricultural fields is not archetypal of the designation.

29.379 The sensitivity of cyclists on National Cycle Route 2 that passes through this area is assessed to be **high - medium.**

Construction

29.380 The flat topography limits the potential for construction activities to be widely visible within the study area. The principal views of construction would be from PRoW and minor roads where they lie in close proximity to, or cross the Onshore Cable Corridor. In these locations, construction activities would be a focus of views, although works would commonly be seen association with agricultural operations.

29.381 The magnitude of effect is assessed to be **medium** at Viewpoint 11, resulting in a **major/moderate** to **moderate** impact. Construction phase impacts would be intermittent, of a short duration and reversible. The overall likely adverse visual effects of construction activities on receptors at viewpoint 11 are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.382 There would be an incremental assimilation of disturbed land into the immediate and wider landscape as a result of replacement planting/ seeding, such that a **very low** magnitude of effect would be expected within one growing season for seeded areas and up to 10 years for areas of hedgerow planting. Within this timescale, the impact would reduce to **minimal**. The overall likely adverse effects during the O&M receptors at viewpoint 11 are considered **Not Significant**.

Viewpoint 12: Hinton

- Grid Ref: 421274 95878
- Principal Receptor: Private residents, motorists
- Approximate distance to Onshore Cable Corridor: 26 m
- Elevation:45 m

29.383 The A35 dominates the composition of views from Hinton with the regular flow of traffic a constant visual and audible feature. The area comprises a

relatively flat landscape of medium scale agricultural fields bounded by dense hedgerows and large woodland blocks. Subsequently, views are often restricted to the confines of fields, with only limited glimpses beyond. In particular, mature hedgerows bordering the A35 are effective in screening many potential views southward over the adjacent agricultural land. Immediately to the north of the A35, the woodland of Hinton Park Woodland Burial Ground and St Michaels and All Angels Church form additional notable features. A small number of dwellings constitute the hamlet of Hinton, situated largely along the A35 and set within surrounding woodland, to the north of the Onshore Cable Corridor.

29.384 The sensitivity of receptors at private dwellings is **high**, whilst road users have a **low** sensitivity to the type of change proposed.

Construction

29.385 The hedgerow bordering the A35 forms an effective screen to construction in the area around Hinton. The temporary compound is to be located to the south of this hedgerow, limiting views from the Grade II listed St Michael's and All Angels Church to glimpses through and above the vegetation. This area comprises an arable field surrounded by woodland to the south and the hedgerow bordering the A35 to the north, limiting the potential for visual intrusion.

29.386 Other mature field boundaries and woodland blocks screen views to the south meaning that visual effects of construction are likely to be restricted to the immediate locality of the works.

29.387 No views of construction would be possible from Hinton Park further to the north of the A35.

29.388 The magnitude of effect is considered to be **low – very low**, resulting in a **minor** impact for residents and a **minor – minimal** impact for motorists. Construction phase impacts would be intermittent, of a short duration and reversible. The overall likely adverse visual effects of construction activities on receptors at viewpoint 12 are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.389 There would be an incremental assimilation of disturbed land into the immediate and wider landscape as a result of replacement planting/ seeding, such that a **very low** magnitude of effect would be expected within one growing season for seeded areas and up to 10 years for areas of hedgerow planting. Within this timescale, the impact would reduce to **minimal**. The overall likely adverse effects during the O&M receptors at viewpoint 12 are considered **Not Significant**.

Viewpoint 13: Footpath at Bashley

- Grid Ref: 425134 96981
- Principal Receptor: Private residents, Users of PRoW
- Approximate distance to Onshore Cable Corridor: 7 m
- Elevation:45 m

29.390 Views from the fringes of Bashley are truncated by the intricate network of small fields and mature hedgerows which serve to limit visibility. Consequently, views are often short range and small in scale with vegetation punctuated by mature trees the principal feature. The small field parcels visible in the foreground are given to paddocks for grazing of livestock and horses. Glimpses of Bashley Caravan Park can be seen through boundary vegetation and a small number of individual private dwellings at Danestream Farm are also visible to the east. This location is within the New Forest National Park albeit at its southern fringe where the urban influences of Bashley are more apparent.

29.391 The sensitivity of visual receptors at this locality is assessed to be **high** for residential receptors and **high** for PRoW users.

Construction

29.392 The patchwork of small paddocks and field boundaries would restrict the opportunities for views of construction in this area. Nonetheless, views of construction would be possible in close proximity of the Onshore Cable Corridor, namely from PRoW, local lanes and individual private dwellings. Views from properties at Bashley and on the northern fringe of New Milton would not be possible due to intervening vegetation. Construction would form a prominent feature in views from the footpath with filtered views also possible from Danestream Farm and Bashley Caravan Park. In these views it is the movement of machinery and removal of vegetation that is likely to be most apparent.

29.393 A temporary construction compound would be sited to the east of Bashley Caravan Park and although filtered views may be possible, the compound is expected to be largely screened from view from local receptors given the topography of the land and maturity of field boundaries.

29.394 The magnitude of impact is considered to be **medium – low** as filtered views of construction would be available, resulting in a **major/moderate** to **moderate** impact. Construction phase impacts would be intermittent, of a short duration and reversible. The overall likely adverse visual effects of construction activities on receptors at viewpoint 13 are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.395 There would be an incremental assimilation of disturbed land into the immediate and wider landscape as a result of replacement planting/ seeding, such that a **very low** magnitude of effect would be expected within one growing season for seeded areas and up to 10 years for areas of hedgerow planting. Within this timescale, the impact would reduce to **minimal**. The overall likely adverse effects during the O&M receptors at viewpoint 13 are considered **Not Significant**.

Viewpoint 14: Hordle

- Grid Ref: 426412 95093
- Principal Receptor: Private residents, Users of PRoW
- Approximate distance to Onshore Cable Corridor: 50 m
- Elevation: 30 m

29.396 The Danes Stream valley forms the dominant landform feature within views westward from Hordle. The topography slopes toward the valley (refer to Figure 12.8) which naturally draws the eye along the north to south alignment, towards woodland which forms the horizon to the north. The valley contains blocks of mixed woodland and isolated farmsteads surrounded by pasture which creates an attractive pastoral scene. Visual receptors are likely to include private dwellings on the western fringes of Hordle, Noah's Ark and Lavender Farms and walkers on local public rights of way.

29.397 The sensitivity of private residents and recreational users of local footpaths in this locality is assessed to be **high**.

Construction

29.398 Construction would occur within the Dane Stream valley, following its alignment in a south to north direction. The most prominent visual effects during construction would occur where the Onshore Cable Corridor passes through woodland owing to the removal of trees. In more open areas of the valley, construction would be visible but not overly prominent given its siting.

29.399 Direct views of construction would be possible from Noah's Ark Farm and Lavender Farm and by walkers on local public rights of way. Views from dwellings at Hordle would be limited to those on the western fringe of the settlement and would be filtered by intervening boundary vegetation. Construction would be contained within the valley, tucked within the landform, and is not anticipated to be overly intrusive in the wider landscape. Some key elements, namely the woodland, would be affected although the landform and wider composition would experience little disturbance.

29.400 A **medium - low** magnitude of effect is anticipated to visual receptors at Noah's Ark and Lavender Farms given their proximity to the Onshore Cable Corridor, resulting in a **major/ moderate** to **moderate** impact. Similarly receptors on the footpath that traverses the valley would experience a **medium - low** magnitude of effect, resulting in a **major/ moderate** to **moderate** impact. Construction phase impacts would be intermittent, of a short duration and reversible. The overall likely adverse visual effects of construction activities on receptors at viewpoint 14 are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.401 There would be an incremental assimilation of disturbed land into the immediate and wider landscape as a result of replacement planting/ seeding, such that a **very low** magnitude of effect would be expected within one growing season for seeded areas and up to 10 years for areas of hedgerow planting. Within this timescale, the impact would reduce to **minimal**. The overall likely adverse effects during the O&M receptors at viewpoint 14 are considered **Not Significant**.

Viewpoint 15: Downton

- Grid Ref: 426735 93457
- Principal Receptor: Private residents, Road users
- Approximate distance to Onshore Cable Corridor: 45 m
- Elevation: 25 m

29.402 The woodland vegetation along the Danes Stream valley is the prominent feature of views westward from this location. Large, agricultural fields occupy the foreground to the north and south of the B3058 allowing open views to the wooded valley which stretches in a continuous block and forms the horizon to the view. The eye is naturally drawn along the alignment of the road which forms a distinct feature bounded by clipped hedgerows.

29.403 Residential receptors at this location have a **high** sensitivity to the type of change proposed, whilst motorists using the A337 are considered to have a **low** sensitivity.

Construction

29.404 Construction of the Onshore Cable Corridor would be a visible feature within the middle ground, running along the foot of woodland, and spanning the full width of the view. However, the background of the woodland would reduce the prominence of construction; activities would not breach the horizon and would appear to merge with the wooded backdrop.

29.405 It is also of note that the few private dwellings at Downton are aligned north to south and do not face directly onto the construction activities.

29.406 Given that construction activities would largely blend into the wooded backdrop, a **low** magnitude of effect is anticipated, resulting in a **moderate** impact for residential receptors, and a **minor** impact for road users. Construction phase impacts would be intermittent, of a short duration and reversible. The overall likely adverse visual effects of construction activities on receptors at viewpoint 15 are considered **Not Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.407 There would be an incremental assimilation of disturbed land into the immediate and wider landscape as a result of replacement planting/ seeding, such that a **very low** magnitude of effect would be expected within one growing season for seeded areas and up to 10 years for areas of hedgerow planting. Within this timescale, the impact would reduce to **minimal**. The overall likely adverse effects during the O&M receptors at viewpoint 15 are considered **Not Significant**.

Viewpoint 16: Taddiford Gap Car Park

- Grid Ref: 426354 92552
- Principal Receptor: Users of PRoW
- Approximate distance to Onshore Cable Corridor: 0 m
- Elevation: 10 m

29.408 Dense vegetation acts as an effective screen to views from the Taddiford Gap public car park, limiting views over the surrounding countryside towards the cable route. However, views eastward are more open. The car park dominates the foreground with a mixture of scrubby hedgerow, bracken and coniferous trees beyond.

29.409 The sensitivity of visual receptors at this locality is assessed to be **high** for users of the PRoW and **low** for motorists using the B3058.

Construction

29.410 The car park would be used as a temporary laydown area for construction of the Onshore Cable Corridor and would, during this time be inaccessible to the public. Taller elements of plant within the Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) compound and temporary lay down compound would be visible from the immediate vicinity, namely a short section of the B3058 as it passes to the north. These construction elements would be discernible but not overly prominent within the wider landscape due to the undulating topography.

29.411 It is considered construction activities would form a discernible feature in local views; consequently, a **medium** magnitude of effect is anticipated, resulting in a **major/moderate** impact for receptors using the PRoW and a **minor** impact for motorists. Construction phase impacts would be intermittent, of a short duration and reversible. The overall likely adverse visual effects of construction activities on receptors at viewpoint 16 are considered **Significant** for users of the PRoW, though **Not Significant** for motorists.

Operational and maintenance

29.412 There would be an incremental assimilation of disturbed land into the immediate and wider landscape as a result of replacement planting/ seeding, such that a **very low** magnitude of effect would be expected within one growing season for seeded areas up to 10 years for areas of hedgerow planting. Within this timescale, the impact would reduce to **minimal**. The overall likely adverse effects during the O&M receptors at viewpoint 16 are considered **Not Significant**.

Viewpoint 17: Coastal Footpath

- Grid Ref: 426200 92316
- Principal Receptor: Users of the Coastal Path and local PRoW
- Approximate distance to Onshore Cable Corridor: 66 m
- Elevation: 25 m

29.413 The sea and coastal foreshore dominate the view and are likely to be the main focus of attention for receptors at this location. There are available views northward across undulating countryside to the landfall site and beyond. Gently undulating fields bounded by hedgerows and woodland blocks are characteristic of views north, the eye being drawn along the alignment of the shallow valley that runs northward towards the Taddiford Gap public car park. Visual receptors are likely to comprise those on the coastal footpath as well as users of the local footpath that connects to it.

29.414 The sensitivity of visual receptors on the Coastal Path is assessed to be **high**.

Construction

29.415 Construction of the landfall elements would be undertaken using HDD techniques, further details of which is provided in Chapter 2, Navitus Bay Wind Park Project. The cables would remain underground until the HDD set up area, approximately 200 m from the foreshore near to Taddiford Gap car park. Therefore, effects to the immediate landscape and visual amenity of the foreshore are anticipated to be limited, with the existing views out to sea being unaffected by construction of the Onshore Cable Corridor.

29.416 However, beyond the immediate foreshore, the HDD set up area would require a land take of approximately 10,000 sq m, accommodating heavy plant and materials. The compound would be sited on the western slope of the valley, within the fold of the valley, reducing its visual prominence.

29.417 Nonetheless the compound would form a notable feature in the immediate locality in what is at present a rural landscape of undulating fields and woodland blocks devoid of industrial features. Glimpses of construction activities within the temporary set down compound at Taddiford Gap car park may also be possible.

29.418 In light of the above, a **medium** magnitude of effect to the composition of the view is anticipated during the construction phase as the HDD compound will be a notable feature, although it would not substantially impinge on or affect any key features of the view; this would result in a **major/moderate** impact. Construction phase impacts would be intermittent, of a short duration and reversible. The overall likely adverse visual effects of construction activities on receptors at viewpoint 17 are considered **Significant**.

Operational and maintenance

29.419 There would be an incremental assimilation of disturbed land into the immediate and wider landscape as a result of replacement planting/ seeding, such that a **very low** magnitude of effect would be expected within one growing season for seeded areas and up to 10 years for areas of tree and hedgerow planting. Within this timescale, the impact would reduce to **minimal**. The overall likely adverse effects during the O&M receptors at viewpoint 10 are considered **Not Significant**.

29.5.8. Impact assessment: PRoWs

Onshore Substation

29.420 The Onshore Substation study area includes a number of local PRoWs, and Long Distance Routes comprising the Ferndown Stour and Forest Trail and the Castleman Trailway (see Figure 29.10).

29.421 Users of local footpaths and regionally important long distance trails are considered to be of a high sensitivity to the type of change proposed.

29.422 The ZTV in Figure 29.12 indicates that very few local footpaths would have potential views to the Onshore Substation. The long distance trails located

over 1 km to the south of the Substation site would experience no views towards the development.

29.423 The only PRoW within a 1 km radius of the Substation development that would potentially afford views of the Substation is the footpath located to the immediate west of the site, connecting Haddons Farm with Newman's Lane near the B3072. Viewpoint 2 is also located on this footpath and reference should be made to the photomontage included in the appendix of this chapter.

29.424 In selective views from this footpath, only above ground construction/ decommissioning activities using cranes are likely to be visible above the tree line to the east. Similarly, during the O&M only the uppermost parts of the lightning masts are likely to be visible against a backdrop of open skies, due to the screening effects of intervening vegetation.

29.425 Where such views are available the magnitude of effect would be **very low** during the construction, operational and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the development, giving rise to a **minimal** impact. Therefore, The overall likely adverse visual effects of construction activities on receptors are considered **Not Significant**.

29.426 The remainder of PRoWs within 1 km radius of the development would have no views of the development.

29.427 The majority of the PRoWs network beyond 1 km from the development would not afford views of the proposed development during the construction, operational and decommissioning periods, as indicated by the ZTV in Figure 29.12. Stretches of PRoWs that would experience glimpsed views of the lightning protection masts are PRoWs within Holt Heath, limited stretches of bridleways on Horton Common, near Redman's Hill and bridleways on the Lower Common north of Woolsbridge.

29.428 The magnitude of effect to PRoWs beyond 1 km radius of the development is judged to be **very low** during construction, O&M, and decommissioning phases due to the screening and filtering effects of intervening vegetation and the fact that only the tallest elements of the Substation such as the lightning protection masts would be visible in the context of other existing vertical structures, such as pylons and telegraph poles; this would give rise to a **minimal** impact. Therefore, The overall likely adverse visual effects of construction activities on receptors are considered **Not Significant**.

Onshore Cable Corridor

29.429 Despite the length of the Onshore Cable Corridor development, it is concluded that relatively few PRoW would be affected (Figure 29.11). This is due to the relatively low numbers of PRoW the route actually encounters, the flat topography and abundance of mature vegetative boundaries of the area. The most pronounced effects inevitably would be where the route crosses or runs adjacent to PRoW. Even in these circumstances it is likely that the Onshore Cable Corridor development would be apparent in short sections of the PRoW before being hidden by intervening vegetation. In areas of publicly accessible land, such as Forestry Commission land, the screening effects of surrounding woodland would limit the visual intrusion the Onshore Cable Corridor may have.

29.430 Overall, effects to the PRoW would be limited to the immediate localities where PRoW and the Onshore Cable Corridor meet and the wider network would remain unaffected. The magnitude of effect is assessed to be **very low**, resulting in a **minimal** impact. Construction phase impacts would be intermittent, of a short duration and reversible. The overall likely adverse visual effects are considered **Not Significant**.

29.431 Views from the National Cycle Route 256 at West Moors Plantation would be restricted to where the route crosses the Onshore Cable Corridor given the surrounding woodland. Although disruption would be apparent it would be limited to a small stretch of this route in the immediate vicinity of the crossing. The magnitude of effect is assessed to be **very low**, resulting in a **minimal** impact. Construction phase impacts would be intermittent, of a short duration and reversible. The overall likely adverse visual effects are considered **Not Significant**.

29.432 The Avon Valley Path runs crosses the Onshore Cable Corridor to the north of Sopley before running parallel to it for approximately 1.3 km. The landscape of this area is flat with a mature network of field boundary vegetation. This would serve to limit the visibililty of the Onshore Cable Corridor to the immediate locality and would likely resemble everyday agricultural workings. The magnitude of effect is assessed to be **very low**, resulting in a **minimal** impact. Construction phase impacts would be intermittent, of a short duration and reversible. The overall likely adverse visual effects are considered **Not Significant**.

29.433 The same is also true of effects to cycle routes within Hurn Forest as the surrounding plantation would screen views of the Onshore Cable Corridor although construction activities would be apparent in close proximity, particularly along the Hurn Link Greenway along which the cable corridor follows. Nonetheless, other routes through the forest would be unaffected and effects that are imposed would only be temporary, the route being restored following construction. The magnitude of effect is assessed to be **very low**, resulting in a **minimal** impact. Construction phase impacts would be intermittent, of a short duration and reversible. The overall likely adverse visual effects are considered **Not Significant**.

29.5.9. Impact assessment: Settlement Edges

Onshore Substation

29.434 As noted previously, the effects on settlements are not rated in terms of their magnitude or significance as there is no proper basis for forming such a judgement as each settlement will encompass a range of visual receptors, not just residents, who will be affected in different ways, varying from no view of the substation to very clear views.

29.435 The ZTV in Figure 29.12 indicates that there would be no visibility towards the development from Ashley Heath, West Moors or Verwood.

29.436 The majority of properties at the edge of Three Legged Cross would not be able to gain any views of the development. Properties located along Ringwood Road would gain very limited filtered views towards the lightning protection masts of the Substation over and through the dense woodland belt to the north of the site. However, views from back gardens of these properties may potentially be affected to a greater extent depending on the seasonal variations in views due to leaf cover, and the extent of vegetation within the garden boundaries.

29.437 Over time the proposed planting around the perimeter of the Onshore Substation would mitigate the impact of views from these locations, providing more substantial screening and filtering. This is illustrated in photomontages of the substation in views from Gundrys Farm (viewpoint 1, included as a photomontage in the appendix of this chapter) which show the anticipated impact of screen vegetation at year 1 and year 15 of the operational phase.

Onshore Cable Corridor

29.438 In many instances the flat landform and mature vegetation combine to form an effective screen to views from settlement edges. Notable screening vegetation includes West Moors Plantation to West Moors, Hurn Forest to Hurn, Walkford Brook to New Milton and Breakhill Copse to Hinton as well as numerous commons of scrub and gorse, tree belts and mature field boundary hedgerows. Consequently, views from settlement edges are generally restricted. The major conurbations of St Leonard's, Christchurch, Highcliffe and Barton-on-Sea are sufficiently distant to avoid any significant visual effects. Even in smaller settlements such as Sopley, Neacroft, Hinton and Bashley views are restricted due to the screening effects of mature field boundaries and tree belts, the efficacy of which is further aided by the flat topography.

29.439 It is also noted that construction phase impacts would be intermittent, of a short duration and reversible.

29.6. Potential mitigation

29.440 Mitigation of impacts has been addressed through embedded design, in the form of perimeter planting around the Onshore Substation and, in the case of the Onshore Cable Corridor, replacement hedgerow planting and seeding works; these proposals are described in the Assessment Methodology section.

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Glossary

TERM	DEFINITION
Cumulative impacts	The summation of effects that result from changes caused by a development in conjunction with other past, present or reasonably foreseeable actions.
Landscape character	The distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occur consistently in a particular type of landscape, and how these are perceived by people. It reflects particular combinations of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use and human settlement. It creates the particular sense of place of different areas of the landscape.
Landscape character type/ area	A landscape type will have broadly similar patterns of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use, settlement and field pattern discernible in maps and field survey records.
Landscape impacts	Change in the elements, characteristics, character and qualities of the landscape as a result of development. These effects can be negative or positive.
Landscape sensitivity	The extent to which a landscape can accept change of a particular type and scale without material effects on its character.
Landscape value	The summation of effects that result from changes caused by a development in conjunction with other past, present or reasonably foreseeable actions. It is concerned with the relative importance that is attached to different landscapes. In a policy context the usual basis for recognising certain highly valued landscapes is through the application of a local or national landscape designation. Yet a landscape may be valued by communities for many different reasons without any formal designation.
Mitigation	Measures, including any process, activity or design to avoid, reduce, remedy or compensate for adverse landscape and visual effects of a development project.
Receptor	Physical landscape resource, special interest or viewer group that will experience an effect.
Visual amenity	The value of a particular area or view in terms of what is seen.
Visual impact	Change in the appearance of the landscape as a result of development. This can be positive (i.e. beneficial or an improvement) or negative (i.e. adverse or a detraction).
Zone of theoretical visibility	Area within which a proposed development may have an influence or effect on visual amenity.

Abbreviations

TERM	DEFINITION
AGLV	Area of Great Landscape Value
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
DPD	Development Plan Document
ES	Environmental Statement
GLVIA	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LCT	Landscape Character Type
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
MOD	Ministry of Defence
NCA	National Character Area
NE	Natural England
NP	National Park
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPS	National Policy Statement
ODA	Onshore Development Area
PRoW	Public Rights of Ways
RL Area	Rural Landscape Character Area
SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
TPO	Tree Preservation Order
VP	Viewpoint
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

Appendix A: LVIA Visuals (wireframes and photomontages)