



**Reinforcement to the North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network:  
132kV Electrical Circuit from Oswestry to Wem**

**APPENDICES 7.1 – 7.5 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL**

**Preliminary Environmental Information Report**

**November 2017**

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# APPENDIX 7.1

## LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

## APPENDIX 7.1

### LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

#### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 This section outlines the technical methods used to determine what changes to the baseline are likely to occur as a result of the Proposed Development and sets out the significance criteria which will be used moving forward in to the Environmental Statement (ES) stage.

##### Assessment guidance and methods

1.1.2 The methodology for undertaking the landscape assessment has been developed in accordance with relevant guidance which is presented in the third edition of the 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Assessment' (GLVIA3)<sup>1</sup>. GLVIA3 is the established best practice guidance for landscape and visual impact assessment and complies with the requirements of the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)<sup>2</sup> and National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5)<sup>3</sup>.

##### Assumptions and Limitations

1.1.3 A number of assumptions and limitations are made in relation to the information presented in this chapter of the PEIR. These reflect the evolving nature and preliminary stage of the Proposed Development:

- All conclusions and assessments are by their nature preliminary. Further surveys will be carried out, if required, and the final assessment will be reported in the ES. All assessment work has and continues to apply a precautionary principle, in that where limited information is available (in terms of the development proposals), a realistic worst-case scenario is being assessed;
- The survey and assessment work for the landscape sensitivity appraisal has been completed to inform the various route option appraisals, such as the Updated Line Route Report. The PEIR focusses on those Shropshire landscape character areas (LCAs) which would potentially experience potentially significant effects;
- This chapter identifies only those effects identified as likely to be significant. These are categorised as moderate or major;
- A lighting assessment is not required because there is no requirement for night-time lighting during construction or operation;
- Given the type of development being proposed it is assumed that any predicted significant effects would be negative (also sometimes referred to as 'adverse' effects) unless otherwise stated; and
- The PEIR is based on an assessment of SP Manweb's Design Freeze 4, as of October 2017. This design could be subject to further changes following consultation and any design developments, and these changes will be reflected in the outcome of the final ES.

<sup>1</sup> Landscape Institute/IEMA, 2013

<sup>2</sup> Department for Energy and Climate Change, July 2011

<sup>3</sup> Department for Energy and Climate Change, July 2011

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## Baseline Data Gathering and Forecasting Methods

### Sources

1.1.4 Available desktop information which has been reviewed includes Ordnance Survey (OS) data, Google Earth Pro and stakeholder feedback.

1.1.5 Further information has been obtained from a review of the following documents:

- Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire Plain National Character Area (NCA 61)<sup>4</sup>;
- Oswestry Uplands (NCA 63)<sup>5</sup>; and
- The Shropshire Landscape Typology<sup>6</sup>

### Surveys to Date

1.1.6 The findings of the desktop study have been informed by a programme of seasonal site surveys undertaken since February 2017. Some survey work may be revisited if required, for instance if seasonal changes need to be checked or if required following the statutory consultation.

1.1.7 A series of viewpoint photographic surveys has been undertaken, which are representative of the views and local landscape within the study area, to inform the PEIR. A full set of viewpoint assessments will be presented in the ES. Further detail on the viewpoints, including how they were selected and what they represent, is provided in Appendices 7.3 and 7.4.

1.1.8 All photography and data collection is being undertaken in accordance with the Landscape Institute's (LI) Advice Note 01/11 'Photography and Photomontage in Landscape and Visual Assessment' and Scottish Natural Heritage's (SNH) 'Visual Representation of Wind Farms Version 2.1'. Whilst the latter is specifically intended for use in relation to wind farms, it is widely accepted as being applicable to other vertical infrastructure. The LI Advice Note 01/11 strongly advises members to follow this guidance where applicable in preference to any other guidance or methodology.

1.1.9 Site and viewpoint surveys allow assessors to obtain baseline photographs and gain further understanding and appreciation of the landscape and visual experience within the study area.

### Future Baseline

1.1.10 The landscape is dynamic and is influenced by social, economic, technological and climatic changes, all of which can influence patterns of land use, land cover and land management. As such, the baseline for the landscape assessment is constantly evolving. Because of this consideration is given to how the landscape may change in the future irrespective of the Proposed Development.

1.1.11 It is noted, however, that the route of the Proposed Development is almost exclusively arable or pastoral in nature and there are no foreseeable reasons for this to change in the near future. The SCC Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) Plan does not allocate land anywhere along the Preferred Route alignment for potential development or new purposes. Within other chapters of the PEIR, it is detailed that the agricultural land is generally of a high quality and that the risk of serious flooding is minimal.

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<sup>4</sup> An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (2014), Natural England

<sup>5</sup> An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (2014), Natural England

<sup>6</sup> Shropshire County Council, September 2006



1.1.12 In these circumstances it is not anticipated that the future baseline would differ notice-ably from the existing baseline.

## 1.2 LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT METHOD

1.2.1 Landscape effects are defined by the Landscape Institute in GLVIA3 as follows:

*'An assessment of landscape effects deals with the effects of change and development on landscape as a resource. The concern ... is with how the proposal will affect the elements that make up the landscape, the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape and its distinctive character.... The area of landscape that should be covered in assessing landscape effects should include the site itself and the full extent of the wider landscape around it which the proposed development may influence in a significant manner.'* (para 5.1 and 5.2)

1.2.2 The proposed development may have direct (physical) effects on the landscape as well as indirect effects on landscape character which may be perceived over a wide area.

1.2.3 Landscape assessment follows a standard approach:

- Establish baseline conditions against which the effects of the Proposed Development will be assessed. This will include consideration of how the landscape may change in the future irrespective of the Proposed Development;
- Determine the nature of the landscape receptor likely to be affected, i.e. its sensitivity (which in turn combines judgements about its susceptibility to change arising from a specific proposal with judgements about its relative value);
- Predict the nature or magnitude of the effect likely to occur (which combines judgements about the likely size and scale of the change, the geographical extent of the area over which it is likely to occur, whether it is direct or indirect) and positive, negative or neutral; and

1.2.4 Assess whether a significant effect on the landscape is likely to arise by considering the predicted magnitude of change together with the sensitivity of the receptor, taking into account any identified mitigation measures.

1.2.5 The landscape assessment involves a combination of quantitative and qualitative assessment and the application of professional judgement within a structured assessment framework. GLVIA3 notes:

*'...whilst there is some scope for quantitative measurement of some relatively objective matters, ...much of the assessment must rely on qualitative judgement, for example what effect the introduction of a new development or land use change may have on visual amenity, or about the significance of change in the character of the landscape and whether it is positive or negative'.* (para 2.23)

*'In all cases there is a need for judgements that are made to be reasonable and based on clear and transparent methods so that the reasoning applied at different stages can be traced and examined by others.'* (para 2.24)

### Spatial Scope of Study Area

1.2.6 The landscape assessment will focus on those areas which are likely to experience significant effects. This accords with the EIA Regulations<sup>7</sup>, which require the identification of the 'likely

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<sup>7</sup>The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) (2009), Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (as amended).

significant effects of the proposed development on the environment' (Schedule 4 Part 1 Para 20).

- 1.2.7 The study area for the landscape assessment was agreed with Shropshire Council and in the Scoping Opinion. The detailed study area encompasses the landscape up to 1km from the extent of the 25m Construction and Operations Corridor for the Preferred Line Route of the overhead line. A wider less detailed study area up to 5km from the 25m Construction and Operations Corridor for the Preferred Line Route of the overhead line was also presented. The study areas are shown in Figure 7.1, 'LVIA Study Areas'.
- 1.2.8 The detailed study area for the landscape assessments extends up to 1km because at a distance of 1km, a Trident wood pole, which on average would be 12m high, would appear approximately 7mm high in the view, which is highly unlikely to give rise to significant effects. Longer distance views of the overhead line may also result in significant landscape effects, particularly where the overhead line is viewed above the horizon – i.e. on the skyline, and the view from or to a landscape is integral to that landscape's character. To ensure that any such effects are identified, a wider area up to 5km from the Preferred Line Route is also considered. This is referred to as the '5km study area' and is also shown on Figure 7.1.
- 1.2.9 Each of the study areas extends from the boundary of the 25m wide Construction and Operation Corridor for the overhead line. The study areas do not extend from the boundaries of the proposed undergrounding work, temporary access routes or laydown areas, because potential effects in these locations would only be transient in nature except for the small amount of undergrounding work, but here any potential effects would be limited to direct effects on the landscape. There are no areas of proposed undergrounding work, temporary access routes or laydown areas that fall outside the agreed study area.
- 1.2.10 The study area will continue to be reviewed in the light of ongoing site surveys and stakeholder consultation as the Proposed Development develops. This is to ensure that all likely significant landscape effects will be captured by the assessment.

### Temporal Scope

- 1.2.11 The assessment takes account of the effects of the Proposed Development at the following points in time:
- Construction – the point at which the construction works would be visible;
  - Operation Year 1 – the point at which the Proposed Development would first be visible in its entirety; and
  - Operation year 15 – the point in time at which the Proposed Development would be visible, following further growth of any existing or new vegetation within the landscape.
- 1.2.12 Short-term effects are typically those which would arise during the construction phase of the Proposed Development. Construction of the Proposed Development is anticipated to take place between 2020 and 2021, and the intensity and scale of construction will vary along the route during this period. Works in any one location are anticipated to take no more than one week.
- 1.2.13 Medium and long-term effects are typically those which would arise during the operational phase of the Proposed Development. The opening year, when the overhead line is energised, will be used as the basis for assessing operational effects. This is anticipated to be 2021.
- 1.2.14 Long-term residual effects of the Proposed Development are typically those which would remain after a minimum fifteen years. When assessing landscape effects this includes the establishment of any mitigation planting which may be required and further growth of existing vegetation.

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 1.2.15 The first step in assessing the landscape effects is to determine the sensitivity of the landscape to the Proposed Development.

1.2.16 Paragraph 3.24 of GLVIA3 defines landscape sensitivity as being derived from ‘combining judgements about the susceptibility of the landscape to change arising from the specific proposals, with judgements about the value attached to the receptor’.

1.2.17 Judgements on the value attached to the landscape are unrelated to the nature of a development proposal, whilst judgements on susceptibility may vary in response to the type of development proposed and the attributes of the area in which it is to be located.

#### Determining Landscape Value

1.2.18 The relative value of the landscape (along the route of the overhead line and in the wider landscape) is a key contributing factor in determining the sensitivity of landscape receptors.

1.2.19 Paragraph 5.19 of GLVIA3 notes that:

*‘This means the relative value that is attached to different landscapes by society, bearing in mind that a landscape may be valued by different stakeholders for a whole variety of reasons.... a review of existing landscape designations is usually the starting point in understanding landscape value, but the value attached to undesignated landscapes also needs to be carefully considered.’*

1.2.20 The fact that an area of landscape is not designated either nationally or locally does not mean that it does not have any value. The European Landscape Convention promotes the need to take account of all landscapes, with less emphasis on the special and more recognition that ordinary landscapes also have their value. This can be achieved through the application of a criteria based comparative landscape approach to determining value.

1.2.21 The value of the landscape within each of the local LCAs will be described and evaluated with reference to the following six criteria, which are specific to the landscape context of the area:

- Landscape character and quality (condition);
- Scenic quality;
- Natural landscape interests;
- Historic landscape interests;
- Recreation value; and
- Perceptual aspects and tranquillity.

1.2.22 The criteria are listed in Table 7.1.1, together with an explanation as to how they can be applied to indicate higher or lower value. Table 7.1.1 also identifies which of the Holford Rules can be applied to each of the criteria.

1.2.23 For each criteria, professional judgement will be applied to make a judgement on the relative value. This will be informed by site visits and existing documentation including the Shropshire Landscape Typology, historic landscape character appraisal, stakeholder feedback and Conservation Area character appraisal. An overall value for each local LCA will be determined by bringing together the judgements made for each of the criteria. The resulting value will be described as high, medium-high, medium, medium-low and low<sup>8</sup>. The rationale in support of the

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<sup>8</sup> When assessing the value, susceptibility, sensitivity and magnitude of change, some of the threshold categories have been subdivided to better reflect the nuances of the local landscape or visual conditions found within the study area and therefore do not necessarily reflect the subdivisions presented in the methodology overview in Chapter 5 ‘PEIR Approach and General Methodology’ of this PEIR.

assessment will be explained for each receptor so that it is clear how each judgement has been made.

Table 7.1.1 – Criteria for Judging Landscape Value	
1. Landscape Character and Quality (Holford Rule 2)	
<p>Areas where the landscape character/quality is positive and intact, are likely to be more susceptible to a 132kV overhead line than areas where landscape character/quality has been lost or is perceived as negative.</p> <p>Intactness of the landscape is demonstrated by, amongst other things, the presence of characteristic natural and man-made elements, which are generally in good condition and absence of significant incongruous or detracting elements.</p> <p>This is a value judgement which will be informed by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Character Map and Shropshire Landscape Typology;</li> <li>• Local character assessments including Conservation Areas;</li> <li>• Aerial imagery; and</li> <li>• Site survey.</li> </ul>	
Low	A landscape in very poor condition. Few characteristic/naturalistic features remain and these are highly fragmented and/or spoilt by large-scale visually intrusive or other inharmonious development. Landscape character has been lost or is perceived as negative. Farmland is typified by a very large scale and regular field pattern with absent or heavily degraded field boundaries.
Medium-low	A landscape in generally poor condition. Occasional characteristic/naturalistic features remain intact but most are fragmented and/or spoilt by some large scale visually intrusive or other inharmonious development. A weak sense of place with little distinctive identity. Farmland is typified by a large scale and regular field pattern with absent or degraded field boundaries.
Medium	A landscape in reasonable condition. Some characteristic/naturalistic features remain intact but others are fragmented and/or spoilt by some large scale visually intrusive or other inharmonious development. The pattern of the landscape, its elements and features contribute to a local sense of place. Farmland is typified by a medium scale field pattern with generally intact field boundaries.
Medium-high	A landscape in mostly good condition and unspoilt by large scale visually intrusive or other inharmonious development. Characteristic/naturalistic features are mainly intact. The pattern of the landscape, its elements and features contribute to a regional or county sense of place. Farmland is typified by a medium/small scale irregular field pattern with mainly intact traditional field boundaries. Some historic field patterns are evident.
High	A landscape in a consistently good condition and unspoilt by large scale visually intrusive or other inharmonious development. Characteristic/naturalistic features are widespread and intact. The landscape has a very distinctive character and sense of place which may be iconic and help to define a national and international landscape identity. Farmland is typified by an intimate or small scale irregular field pattern with intact traditional field boundaries. Extensive historic field patterns are evident.
2. Scenic Quality (Holford Rule 2)	
<p>Scenic landscapes are typically those that appeal to the senses through, for example, combinations of some of the following: distinctive, dramatic or striking landform or patterns of land cover; strong aesthetic qualities such as scale, form, colour and texture; or visual diversity which contributes to the appreciation of the landscape.</p>	

**Table 7.1.1 – Criteria for Judging Landscape Value**

Areas of attractive scenery, sense of place and local distinctiveness are typically more susceptible to a 132kV overhead line than less scenic areas. This includes landscapes designated for their natural beauty but also areas of undesignated landscape.

This is a value judgement which will be informed by the following:

- National Character Map and Shropshire Landscape Typology; and
- Site survey.

Low	An unattractive landscape with very few or no aesthetically pleasing scenes. Very little visual interest in terms of scale, colour, form or texture. Also includes a landscape where different characteristics and elements visually compete and disrupt each other to create a chaotic and confused composition.
Medium-low	A landscape of generally low scenic quality with few aesthetically pleasing scenes. Little visual interest in terms of scale, colour, form or texture. Also includes landscapes where some characteristics and elements visually compete and disrupt each other to create a chaotic and confused composition.
Medium	A landscape with some aesthetically pleasing scenes of picturesque quality, which contribute to local value. Some variation in terms of scale, colour, form or texture. May includes some areas where characteristics and elements visually compete and disrupt each other to create a chaotic and confused composition. Such landscapes are typically valued locally.
Medium-high	An attractive landscape with many aesthetically pleasing scenes of picturesque quality and presence of some regionally important views, landmarks and/or scenic routes. Varied landscape in terms of scale, colour, form or texture resulting from combination of flora, fauna, geological and physiographic features. Most characteristics and elements visually contribute to a balanced and even composition. Such landscapes are typically valued regionally.
High	Very attractive and picturesque landscape with all or most of its scenic and special qualities retained, including flora, fauna, geological and physiographic features. Presence of nationally or internationally important views, landmarks and/or scenic routes. Landscape characteristics and elements visually contribute to a harmonious and concordant composition. Such landscapes are typically valued nationally and internationally.

### 3. Natural Landscape Interests (Holford Rules 1 and 2)

The natural landscape interest of each area will be demonstrated by the presence of designated ecological features and/or by the presence of distinctive species and/or habitats that contribute to the character of the landscape, including features such as veteran parkland trees, distinctive hedgerow species and ancient woodlands.

This is a value judgement which will be informed by the following:

- Ancient woodlands (including inventories of smaller ancient woodland sites 0.25 – 2ha);
- Veteran parkland trees
- National Nature Reserves (NNR);
- Local Nature Reserves (LNR);
- RSPB Reserves;
- Habitats of principal importance;
- Ramsar Sites;
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC);

**Table 7.1.1 – Criteria for Judging Landscape Value**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special Protection Areas (SPA); and</li> <li>• Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).</li> </ul>	
Low	Landscape characterised by low value habitats where the landscape is mainly arable land or improved pasture and fields are large and bounded by post and wire fences. No semi natural ancient woodland.
Medium-low	Landscape habitats of local importance, including areas of intensively farmed land where there are still robust managed hedgerows and occasional areas of native vegetation, e.g. fragmented woodlands.
Medium	Landscape habitats which are of local importance but also contains a local BAP or other native or semi natural habitat which may be a local wildlife site.
Medium-high	Landscape with some protected assets of national importance e.g. SSSIs which are enhanced by local features such as ponds, robust hedgerows, veteran trees, species rich areas of scrub and blocks of woodland, which form valuable wildlife corridors. It also includes areas where many diverse habitats are linked together by hedgerows or streams and may have a reasonably high concentration of protected species. May include small areas of ancient semi natural woodland.
High	Landscape with multiple protected assets, including internationally or nationally designated sites. Much of the area comprises national or local BAP habitats or a substantial proportion of SSSI habitats. Likely to have a high concentration of protected species. Large areas of ancient semi natural woodland.
<b>4. Historic Landscape Interests (Holford Rules 1 and 2)</b>	
<p>The historic landscape interest of each local LCA will be demonstrated by the presence of internationally or nationally designated heritage assets and/or historic landscape assets, which although not protected by designation are considered to be of national value, for example Registered Parks and Gardens.</p>	
<p>This is a value judgement which will be informed by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Character Map and Shropshire HCA;</li> <li>• World Heritage Sites;</li> <li>• Scheduled Monuments;</li> <li>• Registered Park and Gardens;</li> <li>• Listed Buildings;</li> <li>• Historic Battlefields;</li> <li>• Historic mapped features; and</li> <li>• Conservation Areas.</li> </ul>	
Low	Landscape with few or no archaeological or historic features of note. No visible presence of historic landscape in terms of settlement or field boundary patterns. Absence of traditional land management practices.
Medium-low	Landscape with few archaeological or historic features of note. Features present are widely distributed regionally and of no local interest. Little visible presence of historic landscape in terms of settlement or field boundary patterns. Little evidence of traditional land management practices.



**Table 7.1.1 – Criteria for Judging Landscape Value**

Medium	Landscape with some archaeological or historic features which are listed or designated and which contribute to landscape character. Includes features which although widely distributed regionally, may be of some local interest. Some evidence of historic landscape in terms of settlement or field boundary patterns, and continuity of historic land uses. Some traditional land management practices which contribute to scenic quality.
Medium-high	Landscape with multiple archaeological or historic features which are listed or designated and which contribute to landscape character. Includes features which are historically rare or exceptional in a regional context. Good evidence of historic landscape in terms of settlement or field boundary patterns, and continuity of historic land uses. Traditional land management practices contribute to scenic quality.
High	Landscape characterised by archaeological or historic features which are designated or listed and which are of exceptional historic importance and nationally or internationally rare or unique. Strong historic settlement and field patterns and continuity of historic land uses. Traditional field management practices contribute extensively to scenic quality.
<b>5. Recreation Value (Holford Rule 2)</b>	
The recreational value of each local LCA will consider the extent to which the experience of the landscape makes an important contribution to recreational use and enjoyment of an area. This is indicated by the presence of designated and non-designated recreational features. Landscapes can be highly valued at different scales ranging from large nationally valued landscapes such as AONBs, through smaller locally valued landscapes to those which are valued for recreation at a small scale community level.	
This is a value judgement which will be informed by the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Access Land (including Common Land);</li> <li>• Country Parks;</li> <li>• Nationally designated and regionally promoted trails;</li> <li>• Public Right of Way (PRoW) network (footpaths, cycle routes and bridleways);</li> <li>• Promoted viewpoints;</li> <li>• Key visitor attractions (e.g. castles/hillforts/church towers); and</li> <li>• Visitor facilities (e.g. car parks and picnic sites).</li> </ul>	
Low	Landscape with very few or no recreational facilities offering opportunities for open air recreation. The PRoW network is small and typically poorly maintained and/or doesn't appear well used
Medium-low	Landscape with few recreational facilities offering opportunities for open air recreation. The PRoW network is small and is mainly poorly maintained and/or doesn't appear well used.
Medium	Landscape with some recreational facilities offering opportunities for open air recreation. The PRoW network is small and but is reasonably well maintained and appears to be in use. The area may include a locally local recreation route e.g. village walk.
Medium-high	Landscape with recreational facilities offering opportunities for open air recreation e.g. Open Access Land, Common Land, national and regional trails and local recreational routes. The PRoW network is well maintained and appears to be well used. Visitor facilities such as car parks and picnic areas may be present.

**Table 7.1.1 – Criteria for Judging Landscape Value**

High	Landscape with many visitor and recreational facilities offering opportunities for open air recreation e.g. presence of Country Parks, Open Access Land, and Common Land, national and regional trails, local recreational routes. The PRoW network is extensive and well maintained, appears to be well used and is enhanced by visitor facilities such as car parks and picnic areas.
6. Perceptual Aspects & Tranquillity (Holford Rule 2)	
The extent to which the landscape provides opportunities to experience a sense of relative remoteness and/or tranquillity. This may be influenced by the presence or absence of modern development or infrastructure, which may introduce new and uncharacteristic features, which do not respond well to landscape context and which may detract from a sense of tranquillity and/or remoteness. Other factors which will be considered include the degree of seclusion or isolation experienced, perception of naturalness, level of screening afforded by landform or vegetation, levels of visual or audible road or rail traffic, levels of pedestrian movements and degree of light pollution.	
This is a value judgement which will be informed by the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lidar terrain data;</li> <li>• Aerial imagery;</li> <li>• Ordnance Survey mapping; and</li> <li>• CPRE tranquillity maps (2007).</li> </ul>	
Low	A landscape dominated by large scale, visually intrusive or other inharmonious development. High level of human activity with movement for much of the day, such as large settlement, motorway or busy road resulting in visual and/or audible intrusion and little sense of tranquillity or remoteness. High levels of artificial lighting.
Medium-low	A landscape with mostly large scale, visually intrusive or other inharmonious development. A frequent but interrupted stream of human activity with movement for much of the day, such as large village, motorway or busy road resulting in visual and/or audible intrusion and little sense of tranquillity or remoteness. Some artificial lighting.
Medium	A landscape with some large scale visually intrusive or other inharmonious development but also with areas which are more tranquil and remote. An infrequent flow of human activity for most of the day such as a quiet road or rail corridor, canal, park or footpath, small village or hamlet. Little artificial lighting.
Medium-high	A landscape which is mostly remote and tranquil with few detracting features and only occasional presence of human activity, with movement only a few times a week, such as most valley floor agricultural areas or very quiet rural back road or track.
High	A landscape which has a strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness, with no detracting features and only the very occasional presence of human activity such as high hilltops or unvisited woodland.

#### Determining Landscape Susceptibility

- 1.2.24 The susceptibility of the landscape (along the route and in the wider landscape) is the second key contributing factor in determining the sensitivity of landscape receptors.
- 1.2.25 Paragraph 5.40 of GLVIA3 defines the susceptibility of the landscape to change as ‘the ability of the landscape receptor (whether it be the overall character or quality/condition of a particular landscape type or area, or an individual element and/or features, or a particular aesthetic and perceptual aspect) to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies’.
- 1.2.26 The assessment of landscape susceptibility is tailored to the individual project, in this case the Proposed Development and requires:



- Identification of the key components of the landscape that are likely to be affected by the proposed development; and
- Identification of the various aspects of the Proposed Development, at all stages, that are likely to have an effect on those key components.

1.2.27 The susceptibility of each of the local landscape LCAs will be described and evaluated with reference to the following five criteria, which are specific to the landscape context of the area and to the Proposed Development.

- Landform;
- Landcover (including development);
- Landscape scale;
- Prominent landscape features and skylines; and
- Settlement pattern.

1.2.28 The criteria are listed in Table 7.1.2 together with an explanation as to how they can be applied to indicate higher or lower susceptibility. Table 7.1.2 also identifies which of the Holford Rules can be applied to each of the criteria.

1.2.29 For each criteria professional judgement will be applied to make a judgement on the susceptibility of the landscape within each local LCA. This will be informed by site visits and existing documentation including the Shropshire Landscape Typology, historic landscape character appraisal, stakeholder feedback and Conservation Area character appraisal. An overall value for each local LCA will be determined by bringing together the judgements made for each of the criteria. The resulting susceptibility will be described as high, medium-high, medium, medium-low and low<sup>9</sup>. The rationale in support of the assessment will be set out for each receptor so that it is clear how each judgement has been made.

Table 7.1.2 – Criteria for Judging Landscape Susceptibility	
1. Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5) (closely linked to land cover)	
<p>Steep, dramatic or elevated landforms will typically be more susceptible to a 132kV overhead line. This is because they are often prominent and distinctive in character and can also lead to skylining of overhead lines. Single and narrow ridges are particularly vulnerable especially where the slopes of the ridgeline are well defined/steep/or with rock outcrops. More complex landforms may provide some screening/backdropping opportunities for wood poles.</p> <p>Valleys and low rolling hills are generally less susceptible because they have greater potential to provide backdropping and enclosure, limiting the perceptibility of an overhead line.</p> <p>Landforms that are undulating may have greater potential to provide visual enclosure, thereby limiting the perceptibility of a 132kV overhead line (although this has to be balanced against other factors such as tree cover). Flat open landforms may be more susceptible where there is an absence of surrounding higher landform or vegetation to provide a backdrop, although again this has to be carefully balanced against other factors.</p>	
Judgement informed by GIS datasets on landform and Lidar terrain data.	

<sup>9</sup> When assessing the value, susceptibility, sensitivity and magnitude of change, some of the threshold categories have been subdivided to better reflect the nuances of the local landscape or visual conditions found within the study area and therefore do not necessarily reflect the subdivisions presented in the methodology overview in Chapter 5 'PEIR Approach and General Methodology' of this PEIR.

**Table 7.1.2 – Criteria for Judging Landscape Susceptibility**

Low	Low rolling/undulating lowland with hills orientated in direction of the route. Also includes valleys within upland areas.
Medium-low	Simple regular and low lying landform which is predominantly flat and has which has few distinctive physiographic features.
Medium	A landform with some distinctive physiographic feature which have to be avoided. Also includes low rolling lowland with hills orientated against the direction of the route.
Medium-high	Relatively distinctive or complex landform, with some dramatic or elevated features such as rock outcrops or ridgelines.
High	Highly prominent, steep, dramatic and elevated landform, including exposed upland plateau. Rugged with extensive rock outcrops and high ridgelines. Also very complex or intricate small scale landform e.g. drumlin field.
<b>2. Land Cover Pattern (Holford Rules 5 and 6)</b>	
<p>This factor is not concerned with the material sensitivity of the particular type of land cover (which is considered in other environmental topics), but with the character of the landscape created through the landscape pattern, which includes the distribution of vegetation. Whilst trees and woodland offer the potential to screen wood poles (particularly in combination with undulating landform), complex landscapes comprising a variety or mosaic of characteristic or susceptible landscape features such as trees and woodlands, hedgerows or traditional/historic field patterns, are typically more vulnerable to a 132kV overhead lines than simple uncluttered landscapes where there are few characteristic landscape features, or where such patterns have been obscured.</p> <p>Where landscape complexity is due to past or current commercial/industrial influences, this indicates lower rather than higher susceptibility. In rural areas a 132kV overhead line is likely to be less intrusive in a landscape that is characterised by large agricultural structures, areas of commercial forestry or intensive farming or by the presence of road or rail infrastructure.</p> <p>Judgement informed by GIS datasets (topography and woodland) and Lidar terrain data.</p>	
Low	Developed land, including commercial forestry, quarrying, large scale industrial or infrastructure. Tree cover concentrated into discrete woodlands with few hedgerow or field trees. Absence of historic field pattern and agricultural intensification resulting in a simple regular or uncluttered landscape with few or no distinctive features and extensive areas of uniform ground cover.
Medium-low	Some developed land, including commercial forestry, quarrying or infrastructure. Tree cover concentrated into discrete woodlands with few hedgerow or field trees. Absence of historic field pattern and agricultural intensification resulting in a simple, uniform or repetitive landcover pattern with few distinctive features and areas of uniform groundcover.
Medium	Landcover pattern of some complexity with some distinctive features and few visually intrusive or inharmonious land uses. High tree cover with some large woodlands and high prevalence of individual hedgerow and field trees. Historic field pattern present but showing evidence of agricultural intensification.
Medium-high	Complex landcover pattern with distinctive features and very few visually intrusive or inharmonious land uses. Very high tree cover with woodlands ad high prevalence of individual hedgerow and field trees. May include distinctive tree knolls or veteran parkland/avenue trees. Historic field pattern present with little evidence of agricultural intensification.
High	Intricate landcover pattern creating a complex and textured landscape with many distinctive features and no visually intrusive or inharmonious land uses. High tree cover with woodlands, individual hedgerow and field trees and strong presence of distinctive tree knolls or veteran parkland/avenue trees. Strong historic field pattern with robust traditional field boundaries and no evidence of agricultural intensification.

**Table 7.1.2 – Criteria for Judging Landscape Susceptibility**
**3. Landscape Scale**

Scale is typically related to landform or landcover. A small-medium scale landscape where the Trident wood poles would appear in proportion to landscape features (e.g. domestic buildings, trees), is likely to be of lower susceptibility than a large scale landscape where the wood poles would not be in proportion to the landform and/or landcover.

Judgement informed by GIS datasets including background mapping (field boundaries and contours), slope analysis and aerial imagery.

Low	Medium or small scale landscape where the wood poles would be of a similar scale to the trees/buildings and other human scale landscape components.
Medium-low	Medium or small scale landscape where the wood poles would be in proportion to most existing landscape features.
Medium	Large scale or small scale landscape but with some human scale features such as trees or domestic buildings, which would be more in proportion to the scale of the wood poles.
Medium-high	Mainly large scale or very small scale/intimate landscape. In both situations the wood poles would appear out of proportion to the scale of the existing landscape.
High	Very large scale landscape or very small scale/intimate landscape. In both situations the wood poles would appear out of proportion to the scale of the existing landscape.

**4. Prominent Landscape Features and Skylines (Holford Rule 4)**

Landscapes with distinctive ridges or skylines are likely to be more susceptible to a 132kV overhead line than skylines that are less prominent or have been affected by contemporary structures. The presence of distinctive or historic landscape features such as hilltop monuments, church towers, vernacular villages or other landmark features (e.g. country houses, mansions, historic features), increases susceptibility as overhead lines can detract from or conflict with these features. Skylines which form prominent settings for settlement are also likely to be more susceptible as an overhead line may interrupt the relationship between these features and their landscape settings.

Judgement informed by Shropshire Landscape Typology, GIS datasets (topography) and site survey.

Low	A landscape with few or no prominent or distinctive landscape features, where skylines are not distinctive and are characterised by large scale, visually intrusive or inharmonious development.
Medium-low	A landscape with some prominent and distinctive landscape features or skylines where legibility of such features would be susceptible to an overhead line, but more typically characterised by large scale, visually intrusive or inharmonious development.
Medium	A landscape where the skylines are typically mixed in character with some prominent and distinctive landscape features, but where some large scale visually intrusive or other inharmonious development may be present.
Medium-high	A landscape with mostly prominent and distinctive landscape features or skylines where legibility of such features would be susceptible to an overhead line. This includes naturalistic skylines with prominent physiographic features or woodlands, and skylines with prominent or iconic historic landmark features such as traditional hilltop villages, monuments, church towers/spires or designed landscape features.

**Table 7.1.2 – Criteria for Judging Landscape Susceptibility**

High	A landscape with highly prominent and distinctive landscape features or skylines, where legibility of such features would be susceptible to an overhead line. This includes naturalistic skylines with prominent physiographic features or woodlands, and skylines with prominent or iconic historic landmark features such as traditional hilltop villages, monuments, church towers/spires or designed landscape features.
<b>5. Settlement Pattern (Holford Rules 1 &amp; 2)</b>	
<p>This relates to settlement pattern in relation to landscape character, rather than to visibility and views, which is discussed separately. Because a 132kV Trident overhead line can deviate relatively easily around individual or small groups of properties, they are more flexible than overhead lines on heavy duty wood poles or steel lattice towers.</p> <p>A settlement pattern which is closely related to the pattern and form of the landscape, particularly where traditional patterns are intact, is potentially more sensitive to development. Conversely, a settlement pattern which is less closely related to landscape, for example larger-scale built development rising over ridgelines or masking field patterns, is likely to be less susceptible.</p>	
Judgement informed by GIS datasets (settlement pattern), OS Data/aerial imagery (Google Earth Pro) and site visits.	
Low	Settlement clustered into a few villages or hamlets.
Medium-low	Mainly clustered settlement pattern with occasional dispersed properties or large farm complexes.
Medium	Mixed settlement pattern with villages, hamlets and dispersed properties or farms.
Medium-high	Mixed settlement pattern with multiple villages, hamlets and dispersed properties or farms.
High	Historic settlement pattern with a high density of dispersed farmsteads and properties.

#### Determining Landscape Sensitivity

- 1.2.30 The judgements on susceptibility and value will be considered together to provide an overall profile of the sensitivity of the landscape within each local LCA to the Proposed Development. Each local LCA will be classified into one of five tiers, high, medium-high, medium, medium-low or low, between which there is a gradual transition. The relationship between susceptibility to change and value can be complex and is not linear. For example a highly valued landscape (such as an AONB) may in some areas have a low susceptibility to change, due to the characteristics of the landscape and the nature of the development being proposed.
- 1.2.31 In accordance with GLVIA3, the final assessment of sensitivity for each of the local LCAs will be based on informed professional judgement based on consideration of the susceptibility and value judgements and the relative weight attached to these which varies from landscape to landscape based on the indicative descriptions in Table 7.1.3. The presence of any combination of attributes within the criteria above may be considered when assessing the sensitivity of each of the LCAs. The rationale in support of the assessment will be set out for each receptor so that it is clear how each judgement has been made.

**Table 7.1.3 – Categories of Landscape Sensitivity to 132kV Overhead Lines**

Sensitivity	Definition of Sensitivity to Change from Overhead Lines
High	<p>A landscape whose overall character, its individual elements and/or features, or particular aesthetic or perceptual aspects are very vulnerable to change or loss and offer limited opportunities to accommodate a new overhead line. Typically includes:</p> <p>Landscapes of particularly distinctive character and/or high scenic quality which may be statutorily designated;</p> <p>Landscapes containing elements/features that are nationally scarce, including mature vegetation such as ancient woodland or veteran trees; and</p> <p>Landscapes defined by very distinctive aesthetic or perceptual aspects.</p>
Medium-high	
Medium	<p>A landscape whose overall character, its individual elements and/or features, or particular aesthetic or perceptual aspects are reasonably robust, vulnerable to change or loss and offer some opportunities to accommodate new overhead lines. Typically includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscapes of positive character but with some evidence of alteration to/degradation of elements/features resulting in areas of more mixed character;</li> <li>• Areas of degraded character but which are valued by local communities;</li> <li>• Landscapes containing elements/features that are locally commonplace;</li> <li>• Landscapes containing elements/features that are rare or unusual locally but are in degraded or poor condition; and</li> <li>• Landscapes with aesthetic or perceptual aspects that do not contribute particularly to local distinctiveness and quality.</li> </ul>
Medium-low	<p>A landscape which is of low quality whose overall character, individual elements and/or features, or particular aesthetic or perceptual aspects are robust, tolerant to change and offer good opportunities to accommodate wood pole overhead lines. Typically includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscapes of neutral character with few notable features;</li> <li>• Landscapes which have been adversely altered or degraded;</li> <li>• Landscapes containing elements/features that are nationally or regionally ubiquitous;</li> <li>• Landscapes containing elements/features that detract from landscape character e.g. other overhead lines, power stations, major roads; and</li> <li>• Landscapes whose key aesthetic or perceptual aspects are negative.</li> </ul>
Low	

### Magnitude of Change

1.2.32 As explained in GLVIA3 (para 5.48 – 5.52), the nature or magnitude of change that is likely to occur is determined by reference to its size/scale, geographical extent and duration/reversibility as follows:

- The size/scale of an effect is determined by considering the amount of change experienced by a receptor, including the extent or proportion of loss or addition of existing landscape elements, the degree to which aesthetic or perceptual aspects of the landscape may be altered and whether the change affects its key characteristics and overall character;
- The geographical extent is the area over which the effects are experienced. It is not the same as size/scale as a small-scale change may cover a wider area, or vice-versa. The geographical extent is described as being at the site level (within the PPB), within the immediate setting of the proposed development, at the scale of the local LCA or on a larger scale and affecting several local LCAs; and



- In accordance with GLVIA3, this is a separate, but linked consideration and the duration of effect may be described a short term (0-3 years), medium term (3 -15 years) or long term (> 15 years). For the purposes of the landscape and visual assessment construction effects are assumed to be short term and temporary, whilst operational effects are assumed to be long term and permanent, but generally reversible.

1.2.33 The judgements on the size/scale of effect and geographical extent will be considered together to derive an overall magnitude of predicted change or effect for each receptor, which will be determined through informed professional judgement guided by the descriptions in Table 7.1.4. Duration and reversibility are not considered at this stage as it is not linked concern. For example a high magnitude of change may occur over a short or long time frame and may, or may not, be reversible. The magnitude of landscape effect will be described as high, medium-high, medium, medium-low and low. The rationale in support of the assessment will be explained for each receptor so that it is clear how each judgement has been made.

Table 7.1.4 – Judging the Magnitude of Landscape Effect	
Magnitude of Change	Description
High	Considerable change to the landscape over a wide area or intensive change over a limited area with severe negative consequences for the elements, character and quality of the baseline landscape. The development will form a dominant landscape element and post development the baseline situation will be fundamentally changed, potentially creating a different landscape character. If designated, affecting the reasons for the designation.
Medium-High	Conspicuous change to the landscape over a wide area or considerable change over a limited area, with undesirable consequences for the elements, character and quality of the baseline landscape. The development will form a prominent landscape element and post development the baseline situation will be substantially changed. If designated, affecting the reasons for the designation.
Medium	Noticeable change to the landscape over a wide area or conspicuous change over a limited area, with some undesirable consequences for the elements, character and quality of the baseline landscape. The development will form a conspicuous landscape element and post development the baseline situation may be noticeably changed. If designated, unlikely to affect the reasons for the designation.
Medium-Low	Slight change to the landscape over a wide area or noticeable change over a limited area, with few undesirable consequences for the elements, character and quality of the baseline landscape. The development will be perceptible but post development, the baseline landscape will be largely unchanged. If designated, not affecting the reasons for the designation.
Low	Inconspicuous change to the landscape, with no undesirable consequences for elements, character and quality of the baseline landscape. The development will be just perceptible and post development, the baseline landscape will appear unchanged. If designated, not affecting the reasons for the designation.

1.2.34 The judgements on magnitude in Table 7.1.4 may need to be adjusted (either up or down) to reflect the duration of the change (i.e. short, medium or long term) and whether it is potentially reversible.

1.2.35 The assessment will also identifies areas where no landscape change is anticipated. In these instances, 'no change' will be inserted into the appropriate magnitude of effect column and the resulting effect will be described as 'none'.

### Determining Overall Significance

1.2.36 In accordance with the overall approach described in Chapter 5 'PEIR Approach and General Methodology' of this PEIR, the separate judgements about the sensitivity of the landscape

receptor and the magnitude of likely effect will be combined to allow a final judgement to be made about whether or not the effect is considered significant using guidance presented in Table 7.1.5.

Table 7.1.5 – Judging Significance of the Effect on the Landscape		
Less likely to be significant	↔	More likely to be significant
The development is generally well accommodated within the landscape and does not conflict or undermine its key characteristics. The effects are will be small in scale and typically (but not always) limited in its geographical extent. The effects are more likely to be short term, temporary and reversible.	↔	The development conflicts with the character of the landscape, forming an intrusive feature which substantially erodes the valued characteristics. The effects will be large in scale and will typically (but not always) be perceived across a wide geographical area. The effects are more likely to be long term, permanent and irreversible.

- 1.2.37 The relationship between receptors and effects is not generally a linear one and there are no hard or fast rules about what makes an effect significant. Judgements will therefore be supported by qualitative text to draw out the important issues, describe the effects and explain the underlying decision-making rationale.
- 1.2.38 Paragraph 5.54 of GLVIA3 notes that significance of landscape effects is not absolute and ‘can only be defined in relation to each development and its specific location’.
- 1.2.39 At opposite ends of the spectrum GLVIA3 notes that:
- *‘Major loss or irreversible negative effects, over an extensive area, on elements and/or aesthetic and perceptual aspects that are key to the character of nationally valued landscapes are likely to be of the greatest significance; and*
  - *Reversible negative effects of short duration, over a restricted area, on elements and/or aesthetic and perceptual aspects that contribute to but are not key characteristics of the character of landscapes of community value are likely to be of the least significance and may, depending on the circumstances, be judged as not significant.’*
  - *Where assessments of significance place landscape effects between these extremes, judgements will be been made about whether or not they are significant, with explanations of why these conclusions have been reached.’*
- 1.2.40 For the purposes of the PEIR only potentially significant impacts will be identified and they will not be described as major, moderate, minor or negligible, as they would within the final EIA. The final decision on the level of effect and therefore significance ultimately relies on professional judgement which has to be supported through clear and transparently explained text.

### Approach to Mitigation

- 1.2.41 An integral part of the iterative design and assessment process undertaken to date has been the consideration of mitigation through sensitive routeing and design in accordance with the Holford Rules. The aim has been to ensure that the development takes account of environmental constraints and opportunities and achieves the optimum environmental fit as part of an environmentally integrated design.
- 1.2.42 During the ongoing detailed design process, there will be a continuing exploration of further opportunities for mitigation of likely significant landscape effects through sensitive alignment and siting of the component parts of the Proposed Development including:

- Individual pole positions and their associated infrastructure;
- Temporary and permanent access arrangements; and
- Construction areas (in relation to important landscape characteristics, and receptors).

1.2.43 The aim will be to maximise use of screening landform and vegetation when siting the different elements of the Proposed Development. Wherever possible wood poles will be sited close to woodland blocks, individual trees and hedgerows to help better accommodate them within the landscape. Working areas and access tracks will be kept to a minimum and any areas disturbed will be reinstated, including the replacement of any sections of hedgerow removed (applies to construction access and underground cable sections). In addition, there may be an opportunity for new screen planting to be undertaken if required to mitigate significant effects.

### 1.3 VISUAL ASSESSMENT METHOD

1.3.1 Visual effects are defined by GLVIA3 as the changes in the content and character of views as a result of the change or loss of existing elements of the landscape and/or introduction of new elements.

1.3.2 The PEIR and EIA will build on the baseline work already undertaken which has identified receptors within the following groups of sensitive visual receptors, as detailed in Table 7.4.1 in Appendix 7.4 'Visual Baseline and Assessment':

- Settlements and residential properties;
- Visitor attractions and the setting of attractions, e.g., historic sites such as Whittington castle, and tourist routes;
- Informal recreational resources including regional and national trails, recreational waterways, cycle ways and public rights of way (PRoW), parks and gardens;
- Formal recreational resources including parks and gardens;
- Common land and open access areas;
- Main roads and routes, including and 'A' and 'B' class roads;
- Sensitive sites identified by stakeholders during the ongoing consultation process; and
- The locations of existing electricity infrastructure, including overhead lines, and the potential for combined visual effects.

1.3.3 The visual baseline uses information from the landscape baseline detailed in Chapter 7 'Landscape and Visual' of the PEIR and Appendix 7.2 'Landscape Baseline and Assessment'.

#### Zone of Theoretical Visibility

1.3.4 As suggested in the June 2016 Line Route Report<sup>10</sup> (page 10) and agreed with Shropshire Council at Stakeholder Meeting 1 on the 12th April 2016, computer generated Zone of Theoretical Visibility' (ZTV) maps<sup>11</sup> will not be produced because the general pattern of visibility within the study area is such that this tool would not provide meaningful results. Given the above ground

<sup>10</sup> SP Energy Networks (June 2016), North Shropshire Reinforcement Route Corridor Options Report

<sup>11</sup> These are typically based on topographic information<sup>11</sup> to identify areas from where the proposed development would be visible (known as 'bare ground' visibility).



height of a Trident pole, the locally undulating nature of the terrain and the amount of scattered mature tree cover would combine to screen many views of the line. The proposed Trident wood pole supports are of a similar height to the mature trees and so carry the conductors at a level/elevation which is generally below the horizon formed by mature trees. Therefore any analysis of visibility which doesn't take into account tree cover would produce a much larger zone of visibility than is likely to result in reality. Instead extensive field survey has been used to gain understanding of the likely extents of visibility. This was carried out at the same time as the landscape assessment. No access to properties was sought and the assessment is therefore based on a best assumption from publicly accessible locations outside or close to properties.

### Viewpoint Analysis

- 1.3.5 Viewpoint analysis has been conducted from a series of publicly accessible viewpoints. The analysis was used to assist preparation of the visual assessment, both in terms of assessing the level of effect for particular receptors and to help guide the iterative design and assessment process. A range of viewpoints was selected to represent the different groups of people who are likely to be affected<sup>12</sup>. Each viewpoint was visited and examined in detail to determine whether a significant effect is likely to arise. All information was recorded as a Fulcrum dataset<sup>13</sup>. The fieldwork was conducted in fine weather conditions and good visibility, whenever possible. The assessments will consider the seasonal effects of reduced leaf cover. Some viewpoints may require a further visit or new photographs to be taken prior to the production of the final ES.
- 1.3.6 The proposed viewpoints were agreed with Shropshire Council (email dated 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017). Following site survey work some viewpoints were moved due to practicalities on the ground such as selecting the most open view of the site. In total 76 viewpoints were selected and these are shown in Figure 7.8.
- 1.3.7 As explained in GLVIA3 (para 6.19), viewpoints have been deliberately selected to be either representative of the view experienced by different groups of people, to be specific to a particular location, or to demonstrate a particular effect. The selection took account of a number of factors, including:
- The accessibility to the public;
  - The potential type, relative number and sensitivity of the viewers who may be affected;
  - The viewing direction and distance (short, medium and long distance);
  - Whether the view is static or part of a sequential view along a route;
  - The view types (glimpsed, framed or panoramic); and
  - The potential for cumulative views of the Proposed Development in conjunction with other similar proposed developments.
- 1.3.8 It should be noted that the selected viewpoints are not intended to be representative sample of all the visual receptors, but are deliberately biased to be representative of the most sensitive visual receptor groups – namely residential areas and valued landscapes/sites.
- 1.3.9 No access to private land will be sought and the assessment will therefore be based on a best assumption from publicly accessible locations.

<sup>12</sup> It should be noted that it is the people who would be experiencing the view from the viewpoint that are the receptor, not the viewpoint itself. The location affords the view to the recipient, and whilst the location cannot change, the opinion of the viewer can be variable. These people will generally have different responses to a change in view depending on their location, the activity they are engaged in and other factors, including the weather and the time of day/year.

<sup>13</sup> Fulcrum is a hosted mobile platform for recording and storing data collected in the field. It will be customised for the Proposed Development.

- 1.3.10 Wherever possible, viewpoints were selected in places where they represent several different receptor groups (e.g. on the edge of a settlement where a footpath leaves the village; at a car park or picnic site on promoted footpath, or at a trig point in an area of Open Access Land).
- 1.3.11 Each viewpoint will be visited and a photographic record taken. The composition of the view will be described, including foreground, mid ground and background characteristics, as will the nature of the view towards the proposed development. As wood pole overhead lines do not require any artificial lighting, and construction is anticipated to take place during normal working hours, no significant effects arising from lighting are anticipated. Therefore a night time visual assessment will not be undertaken or included in the EIA and there is no requirement for night time photography.
- 1.3.12 Full details (assessment sheets) of those viewpoints which are considered to potentially experience a significant visual effect are included within this PEIR as Appendix 7.5. Full assessment details for the remaining viewpoints (i.e. no significant effects) will be provided within the final ES. A full schedule of all 76 viewpoints is provided in Appendix 7.4.

### Photography

- 1.3.13 All photographs taken for the viewpoint assessment sheets have been prepared in accordance with the Landscape Institute's (LI) Advice Note 01/11 'Photography and Photomontage in Landscape and Visual Assessment'<sup>14</sup> and Scottish Natural Heritage's (SNH) Visual Representation of Wind Farms Version 2.2<sup>15</sup>. Whilst the latter is specifically intended for use in relation to wind farms, it is widely accepted as being applicable to other vertical infrastructure including overhead lines. The Landscape Institute (LI) Advice Note 01/11 strongly advises members to follow this document where applicable in preference to any other guidance or methodology.
- 1.3.14 Visual assessment follows a standard approach:
- Establish baseline conditions against which the effects of the Proposed Development will be assessed. This will include consideration of how the landscape (and therefore views) may change in the future irrespective of the project;
  - Determine the nature of the receptor likely to be affected, i.e. its sensitivity (which in turn combines judgements about its susceptibility to change arising from a specific proposal with judgements about its value attached); and
  - Predict the nature or magnitude of the effect likely to occur (which combines judgements about the likely size and scale of the change, the extent of the area over which it is likely to occur, whether it is direct or indirect, reversible or irreversible, short, medium or long term in duration) and positive, negative or neutral.
- 1.3.15 Visual assessment involves a combination of quantitative and qualitative assessment and the application of professional judgement within a structured assessment framework outlined in the flowchart below. GLVIA3 notes:
- '...whilst there is some scope for quantitative measurement of some relatively objective matters, ...much of the assessment must rely on qualitative judgement, for example what effect the introduction of a new development or land use change may have on visual amenity, or about the significance of change in the character of the landscape and whether it is positive or negative'. (para 2.23)*

<sup>14</sup> Landscape Institute (LI) Advice Note 01/11 (2011), Photography and Photomontage in Landscape and Visual Assessment

<sup>15</sup> Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) (2017), Visual Representation of Wind Farms Version 2.2

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*'In all cases there is a need for judgements that are made to be reasonable and based on clear and transparent methods so that the reasoning applied at different stages can be traced and examined by others.'* (para 2.24)

### Spatial Scope of Study Area

- 1.3.16 The visual assessment will focus on those groups of receptors which are likely to experience significant effects. This accords with the EIA Regulations<sup>16</sup>, which require the identification of the 'likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment' (Schedule 4 Part 1 Para 20).
- 1.3.17 The design and route of the proposed 132kV overhead line, combined with the screening effects of landform and vegetation, means that its effects on views and visual amenity would generally be limited. Only those receptors close to the proposed development, would experience a significant change in their view. Although the overhead line may be visible in the distance, the effects on views further away would not be significant as it would be perceived as a small feature in the view and would generally blend into the background scenery.

### Public Views

- 1.3.18 The assessment of visual effects will address potential changes in people's views or visual amenity caused by the appearance and prominence of the proposed development in those views. In accordance with GLVIA3, the assessment will focus on publicly accessible rather than private viewpoints, and on those receptor groups who are likely to be most sensitive to the effects of an overhead line. Receptor groups which will be assessed include communities, where views contribute to the wider landscape setting enjoyed by residents in an area, road users and residents or visitors using recreational routes features and attractions. It will include an assessment of the effects on views from the edges of defined settlements and from aggregated groups of dispersed properties.
- 1.3.19 The study area for the visual assessment was agreed with Shropshire Council and in the Scoping Opinion. The detailed study area encompasses the landscape up to 1km from the extent of the 25m Construction and Operations Corridor for the Preferred Line Route of the overhead line. A wider less detailed study area up to 5km from the 25m Construction and Operations Corridor for the Preferred Line Route of the overhead line was also presented. The residential amenity study area was 200m from the extents of the 25m Construction and Operations Corridor for the Preferred Line Route of the overhead line. The study areas are shown in Figure 7.1, 'LVIA Study Areas'.
- 1.3.20 The detailed study area for the visual assessments extends up to 1km because at a distance of 1km, a Trident wood pole, which on average would be 12m high, would appear approximately 7mm high in the view, which is highly unlikely to give rise to significant effects. Longer distance views of the overhead line may also result in significant visual effects, particularly where the overhead line is viewed above the horizon – i.e. on the skyline. To ensure that any such effects are identified, a wider area up to 5km from the Preferred Line Route is considered. This is referred to as the '5km study area' and is also shown on Figure 7.1.
- 1.3.21 Each of the study areas extends from the boundary of the 25m wide Construction and Operation Corridor for the overhead line. The study areas do not extend from the boundaries of the proposed undergrounding work, temporary access routes or laydown areas, because potential effects in these locations would only be transient in nature except for the small amount of undergrounding work, but here any potential effects would be limited to direct effects on the landscape. There are no areas of proposed undergrounding work, temporary access routes or laydown areas that fall outside the agreed study area.
- 1.3.22 The study area will continue to be reviewed in the light of site surveys and ongoing stakeholder consultation as the Proposed Development develops. This is to ensure that all likely significant

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<sup>16</sup> The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) (2009), Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (as amended)

visual effects will be captured by the assessment.

### Residential Visual Amenity

- 1.3.23 The aim of the residential visual amenity assessment is to help identify whether the effects of the Proposed Development in views from a private house or garden would render that property as unattractive and thus unsatisfactory place in which to live. There is no published guidance that sets out the criteria for establishing whether or not the visual presence of a development impacts unacceptably on living conditions although the issue has been considered at a number of public inquiries. The approach taken by Inspectors in England confirms that in planning, no individual has a right to a particular view. However there may be a point when, by virtue of the proximity, size and scale of a development, a residential property would be rendered so unattractive a place to live that planning permission should be refused. Whilst the assessment of whether a change in outlook materially harms residential amenity or living conditions is ultimately a planning issue, a judgement on the visual component of residential amenity is often needed from a landscape architect to inform the planning judgement and this is increasingly being undertaken as part of an EIA.
- 1.3.24 GLVIA3 (para 6.3.6) notes that when undertaking a residential visual amenity assessment, it is occupiers of rooms normally occupied during waking or daylight hours (assumed to be downstairs), that are likely to be more susceptible to changes in their visual amenity as views from these rooms are likely to be experienced for longer. For the purposes of the assessment, therefore, and because the assessment has to be undertaken from publicly accessible locations, it is the view from the nearest downstairs window facing towards the proposed development which will be assessed (in addition to the view from the garden as noted previously). The actual process by which the assessment is undertaken will be the same as that for the main visual assessment. The aim will be to identify any residential properties where significant visual effects are likely to arise. This information will then be used by the Inspector in the decision making process.
- 1.3.25 The suggested study area for the residential visual amenity assessment is 200m either side of the Proposed Line Route. This distance is informed by work undertaken by Gillespies independently of this project and which won a Landscape Institute (Local Planning category) award in 2015<sup>17</sup>. This study, which was undertaken on behalf of three North Wales local authorities, concluded that significant visual effects are only likely to arise if a structure (for example, a Trident wood pole) appears 7.5 cm high (or greater) at arm's length from the viewer. Based on this work, a 12m Trident wood pole would have an apparent height<sup>18</sup> of 7.5cm when seen from a distance of 122m. Therefore by selecting a study area of 200m, all significant effects should be identified and a residential property located 200m from the proposed overhead line is highly unlikely to experience an overbearing effect on visual amenity given that the apparent height of the poles in the view would be much less than 7.5cm.
- 1.3.26 Receptors greater than 200m from the Preferred Line Route will be included where concerns about individual properties have been raised during the Stage One Consultation. For example, where there would be the potential for the proposed overhead line to be seen on the skyline or where the geographic extent of the effects was likely to be very large.

### Temporal Scope

- 1.3.27 The assessment takes account of the effects of the Proposed Development at the following points in time:
- Construction – the point at which the construction works would be visible;

<sup>17</sup> Gillespies (2014), Wind Turbines and Pylons: Guidance on the Application of Separation Distances from Residential Properties.

- Operation Year 1 – the point at which the Proposed Development would first be visible in its entirety; and
- Operation year 15 – the point in time at which the Proposed Development would be visible, taking into anticipated growth of existing and new vegetation within the landscape.

1.3.28 Short-term effects are typically those which would arise during the construction phase of the Proposed Development. Construction of the Proposed Development is anticipated to take place between 2020 and 2021, and the intensity and scale of construction will vary along the route during this period. Works in any one location are anticipated to take no more than one week.

1.3.29 Medium and long-term effects are typically those which would arise during the operational phase of the Proposed Development. The opening year, when the overhead line is energised, will be used as the basis for assessing operational effects. This is anticipated to be 2021.

1.3.30 Long-term residual effects of the Proposed Development are typically those which would remain after a minimum fifteen years. When assessing visual effects this includes the establishment of any mitigation planting which may be required and further growth of existing vegetation.

### Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

1.3.31 The first step in assessing visual effects is to identify the receptor groups and determine their sensitivity to the Proposed Development.

1.3.32 Paragraph 6.31 of GLVIA3 notes that the sensitivity of visual receptors 'should be assessed in terms of both their susceptibility to change in views and visual amenity and also the value attached to particular views'.

1.3.33 The susceptibility of a visual receptor is defined on page 158 of the Glossary of GLVIA3 as the, 'ability of a defined visual receptor to accommodate the specific proposed development without undue negative consequences'.

1.3.34 The susceptibility of visual receptors to change is discussed in GLVIA3 (para 6.32 – 6.36). These paragraphs explain that the susceptibility of visual receptors to changes in views and general visual amenity is primarily a function of:

- *'The occupation or activity of people experiencing the view at a particular location; and*
- *The extent to which their attention or visual interest may therefore be focussed on the views and the visual amenity they experience at particular locations.'*

1.3.35 The first bullet point and first part of the second bullet point relate to how much people are likely to be interested in their surroundings at a particular location. For example, people using a National Trail will have a special interest in their surroundings and are more likely to be susceptible to changes in the view than those using a sports pitch or working in an industrial unit where the landscape setting may not be the primary focus. This association between activity and susceptibility to changes in view is essentially a consideration of the expectations of the visual receptor.

1.3.36 The second part of the second bullet point, namely the visual amenity that people currently experience, and consideration of whether any particular value or importance is likely to be attributed to the view by them i.e. whether they have any expectation of a view is an important one. For example, travellers using a motorway (typically considered to be of lower susceptibility) may be more susceptible when driving along a highly scenic section. Similarly residents of a particular settlement (typically considered to be of higher susceptibility) may be considered less susceptible if the settlement has a degraded visual setting.

1.3.37 The type of development being proposed affects the expectations and therefore susceptibility of a visual receptor. For example walkers on a National Trail in a tranquil rural area with



occasional residential development, are more likely to be susceptible to a new overhead line than to a new residential property constructed in the local vernacular. Similarly if a section of National Trail passes through an urban area, it is likely that the expectations of people using that section of trail will be reduced.

- 1.3.38 The value/popularity of a viewpoint and/or relative numbers of viewers also plays a part in determining the sensitivity of different receptors groups. This can be estimated by reference to Ordnance Survey maps, observations made during site visits and publicly available information on user numbers. For example, tourist attractions, important landmarks or heritage sites, and nationally designated trails which are used by relatively high numbers of people are likely to be more sensitive than those which are used less frequently. Exceptions to this are travellers on motorways which although used by many people are typically assigned to the low sensitivity category. This is because the speed of travel makes appreciation of views difficult unless it is a very large scale landscape, and the appreciation of the views is not usually their primary motivation for undertaking a motorway journey. Similarly, people visiting remote areas such as hill walkers, are unlikely to be high in numbers but will have a high or very high sensitivity because the primary purpose of the visit is likely to be an appreciation of the landscape and the views and tranquillity that it offers.
- 1.3.39 These divisions are not black and white and the nature of the groups of people who are likely to be affected and the extent to which their attention is likely to be focused on views and visual amenity will be carefully considered. The specific circumstances behind individual judgements will be explained in each case and linked back to the visual baseline assessment.
- 1.3.40 Paragraph 6.37 of GLVIA3 notes that the value attached to a particular view is another contributing factor in determining the sensitivity of visual receptors. The value of a view depends on:
- *'Recognition of the value attached to particular views, for example in relation to heritage assets, or through planning designations; and*
  - *Indicators of the value attached by visitors, for example through appearances in guidebooks or on tourist maps, provision of facilities for their enjoyment and references to them in literature or art....'*
- 1.3.41 Judgements about the value of the view take account of:
- *'Planning designations specific to views;*
  - *Views which are important in relation to the special qualities of a designated landscape or which are identified in specific viewpoint studies;*
  - *Views recorded as important in relation to heritage assets;*
  - *Appearances in guidebooks or on tourist maps, or provision of facilities for their enjoyment, such as parking, picnic facilities and interpretation; and*
  - *Judgements about the quality or condition of the view as assessed by a landscape professional.'*
- 1.3.42 Views which are not widely recognised as valuable can still be important at a local scale. The identification of locally valued views will be informed by stakeholder discussions and the Proposed Development's assessment of local LCA which will be undertaken for the EIA. For example views related to local LCA judged to be of relatively low sensitivity will be considered of lower value whilst the views related to local LCA judged to be of relatively high sensitivity will be considered of higher value.
- 1.3.43 An assessment of the sensitivity of the visual receptors to the Proposed Development will be made by combining judgements about the value attached to the existing view and the susceptibility of the receptors to changes in their view or visual amenity.
- 1.3.44 Table 7.1.6 provides guidance on the evaluation of visual sensitivity. Receptors are classified into one of four sensitivity threshold categories, very high, high, medium, and low. These serve

to capture all visual receptor groups that might potentially be affected by the Proposed Development.

- 1.3.45 In formulating sensitivity categories it is important to acknowledge the special circumstances where peoples' expectations in relation to the view are enhanced and where a sensitivity category of 'very-high' has been introduced. This means for example that receptors experiencing views from locations in a National Park or AONBs will be defined as 'high' rather than 'very-high', with 'very-high' only applying to designed landscapes/parks/gardens and/or specific views, vistas, borrowed landscapes and visual experiences which are the main focus of the activity and fundamental to the appreciation of that location. If all receptors within nationally designated landscapes were defined as 'very-high' then this would undervalue the primacy of panoramic viewpoints (such as those identified on OS maps) and designed views or particularly valued viewpoints where the prime objective is for receptors to be able to absorb the valued view.
- 1.3.46 The rationale and justification behind attributing a 'high' rather than 'very-high' sensitivity for people living in local communities also needs clarification. People living in settlements are acknowledged as having a higher than average sensitivity to the proposed development. They do not, however, have the highest level of sensitivity unless standing at a specific destination and/or valued viewpoint in which case they are captured under that category of visitor.

Table 7.1.6 – Categories of Typical Visual Receptor Sensitivity	
Category	Typical Receptors
Very High	Locations which people might visit purely to experience the view and which typically offer a prolonged viewing opportunity, including: Panoramic viewpoints (often marked on OS plans and providing interpretation facilities); Mountain and hilltops; Tourist, visitor and other destinations where the view is an important contributor to the experience; Nationally designated walks, cycleways and bridleways; and Heritage destinations affording a specific, important and highly valued view.
High	Locations where people are likely to pause to appreciate the view, including: Occupiers of residential properties (assessed as part of the residential visual amenity assessment); People living and moving around their local community; Promoted scenic drives or tourist routes; Designed landscapes/parks and gardens with specific views/vistas/borrowed landscapes and visual experiences which are fundamental to the appreciation of the attraction; Tourist, visitor or heritage destinations where views of the surroundings are fundamental to the experience; Viewpoints marked on road atlases, or referred to in guidebooks and have brown road signage and/or interpretation boards; and Nationally designated/regionally promoted walks and cycle routes.
Medium	People with a general interest in their surroundings or with transient viewing opportunities, including: Incidental footpaths and local PRowWs; Residential distributor and local road network;

**Table 7.1.6 – Categories of Typical Visual Receptor Sensitivity**

Category	Typical Receptors
	General public open spaces, greenspace, recreation grounds and play areas; People in rural offices and business parks; and Rural outdoor workers and those engaged in marine surface-based activities such as fishing.
Low	People with limited opportunity to enjoy the view due either to the speed of travel or because their attention is elsewhere, including: Workers in industrial and commercial buildings; Main roads (although sensitivity may be higher in scenic locations); Indoor facilities; Commuters; and Those engaged in outdoor sport or recreation which does not depend on an appreciation of views of their surroundings.

- 1.3.47 Depending on the individual circumstances of each receptor, the judgements on sensitivity in Table 7.1.6 may then need to be adjusted (either up or down) to fully reflect the viewer's expectations at a particular location. At one end of the scale are locations where receptors experience a highly valued, impressive or well composed view, with no detracting features and where changes would be highly noticeable. At the other end of the scale are locations where the view is incidental or not important to the receptors and the nature of the view is of limited value or poorly composed with numerous detracting features and is tolerant of a large degree of change.
- 1.3.48 The assessment will also identifies areas where no change to the view is anticipated. In these instances, 'no change' will be inserted into the appropriate magnitude of effect column and the resulting effect will be identified as 'none'.
- 1.3.49 A reasoned narrative will be set out in the visual chapter of the final ES in order to justify the particular visual sensitivity allocated of each receptor so that it is clear how the judgement has been made.

### Magnitude of Change

- 1.3.50 As explained in GLVIA3 (para 6.38), the nature or magnitude of visual effect that is likely to occur is determined by reference to its size/scale, geographical extent and duration/reversibility.

### Size and Scale

- 1.3.51 The size/scale of visual effect is determined by considering the amount of change experienced by a receptor, which is influenced by a combination of the following factors:
- Scale: The scale of change in the view with respect to the loss or addition of features in the view and changes in its composition including the proportion of the view occupied by the development. This can be explained by reference to the relative height of the poles and the number of them which appear in the view as well as by the field of view that they occupy and is described by words such as 'dominant', 'prominent', 'noticeable' and 'negligible';
  - Contrast: The degree of contrast or integration of any new features or changes in the view with the existing or remaining landscape elements and characteristics in terms of form, scale and mass, line, height, colour and texture. Developments which contrast or appear incongruous with their surroundings are more likely to be visible and lead to a higher magnitude of



change;

- Speed: The duration and nature of the visual effect, whether temporary or permanent, intermittent or continuous, stationary or transient etc. This depends on the speed of travel which will affect how long a view will be experienced (continuously, intermittently, glimpsed either once or repeatedly and sequentially along a route) and the possibility that a development will be noticed;
- Screening: Screening by buildings, landform or vegetation (including seasonal effects due to variations in deciduous leaf cover<sup>19</sup>) may wholly or partly obstruct or screen views of a development. Visual receptors with open views, particularly where such views are a key characteristic, are likely to be able to see much more of a proposed development; and
- Skylining/backgrounding: Whether a development is viewed against the sky or against a solid, such as landform or vegetation, can affect the level of contrast and scale. For example wood poles, conductors (wires) and other electricity infrastructure are more difficult to discern when viewed against a textured background than against an open sky background. Any backgrounding minimises the scale of change on the view as is acknowledged in the Holford Rules.

### Geographical Extent

1.3.52 The geographical extent is the area over which the visual effects will be experienced. It is not the same as size/scale as a small scale change may be experienced over a wide area or vice-versa. The geographical extent will vary depending on the viewpoint and is likely to reflect:

- Angle of View: This applies both horizontally and vertically. Views up to a development are generally considered to be of greater magnitude due to the enhanced verticality of the structures than views down to a development where the height appears foreshortened or reduced. Developments which will be seen directly in front of the viewer are likely to be more visible than developments which will be seen obliquely. Road users are typically more aware of the views in the direction of travel, whilst rail users tend to be more aware of views to the side.
- Distance: The distance of the viewpoint from a development is measured objectively and used to determine the relative height of a development in the landscape at the viewpoint. Distance can be a strong indicator of the magnitude of visual change although, as explained above, apparent height of a development can be affected by the surrounding landscape.
- Extent of Visibility: the geographical extent of the area over which the changes to the view would be visible, which is defined by the distance, area and the horizontal and vertical field of the view affected.

### Duration and Reversibility

1.3.53 In accordance with GLVIA3, this is a separate, but linked consideration and the duration of effect may be described as short term (usually 0-3 years), medium term (usually 3 -15 years) or long term (usually greater than 15 years). For the purposes of the visual assessment construction effects are assumed to be short term and temporary, whilst operational effects are assumed to be long term and permanent, but generally reversible.

1.3.54 The judgements on the size/scale of effect and geographical extent will then be considered together to derive an overall magnitude of predicted change or effect for each receptor, which will be determined through informed professional judgement guided by the descriptions in Table 7.1.7. Duration and reversibility are not considered at this stage as it is not a linked concern. For

<sup>19</sup> In visual assessment terms, the worst case scenario prevails for winter views where there is minimal screening by vegetation and deciduous trees.

example a high magnitude of change may occur over a short or long time frame and may, or may not, be reversible. The magnitude of visual effect will be described as high, medium-high, medium, medium-low and low. The rationale in support of the assessment is set out for each receptor so that it is clear how each judgement has been made.

Table 7.1.7 – Indicative Criteria for Judging the Magnitude of Change in the View	
Magnitude	Typical Example
High	<p>The development will form a dominant element in the view and result in a dramatic change to the character and quality of the existing view and how it is perceived.</p> <p>Typically this would be where a development would be seen in very close proximity with a large proportion of the view affected by no/minimal filtering or backgrounding.</p> <p>The development will control the view and is likely to be seen by many people.</p>
Medium-High	<p>The development will form a prominent element in the view and result in a substantial change to the character and quality of the existing view and how it is perceived.</p> <p>Typically this would be where a development would be seen in close proximity with a large proportion of the view affected by little filtering or backgrounding.</p> <p>The development will affect the main focus of the view and is likely to be seen by many people.</p>
Medium	<p>The development will form a conspicuous element in the view and result in a noticeable change to the character and quality of the existing view and how it is perceived.</p> <p>Typically this would be where a development would be seen in views where a moderate promotion of the view is affected, although there may be some screening or backgrounding.</p> <p>The development will be clearly visible and well-defined and is also likely to be seen by a relatively high number of people.</p>
Medium-Low	<p>The development will form a small element in the view and result in a slight change to the character and quality of the existing view and how it is perceived.</p> <p>Typically this would be where a development would be seen in distant views, where only a small proportion of the view is affected, where the effect is reduced due to a high degree of filtering of backgrounding or where there is a low scale of change from the existing view.</p> <p>The development would be visible but be indistinct and/or partially obscured and is likely to be seen by few people.</p>
Low	<p>The development will form an inconspicuous element in the view and result in a barely perceptible change to the character and quality of the existing view and how it is perceived.</p> <p>Typically this would be where a development would be barely perceptible within a long distance panoramic view and/or where a very small proportion of the view is affected.</p> <p>The development would be barely discernible and likely to be visible only under certain weather or lighting conditions and is likely to be seen by very few people.</p>


1.3.55 The assessment of magnitude in Table 7.1.7 may then need to be adjusted (either up or down) to reflect the duration of the visual change and whether it is likely to be reversible.

1.3.56 The assessment will also identify areas where no visual change is anticipated. In these instances, 'no change' will be inserted into the appropriate magnitude of effect column and the resulting effect will be described as 'none'.

## Determining Overall Significance


- 1.3.57 In accordance with the overall approach described in Chapter 5 ‘PEIR and EIA Approach and Methodology’ of this PEIR, the separate judgements about the sensitivity of the visual receptor and the magnitude of likely effect will be combined to allow a final judgement to be made about whether or not the effect is considered significant using guidance presented in Table 7.1.8.

**Table 7.1.8 – Judging Significance of the Visual Effect**

Less likely to be significant		More likely to be significant
<p>The development is generally well accommodated in views and/or is small features within a view that does not have recognised value.</p> <p>The effects are more likely to be short term, temporary and reversible.</p>		<p>The development is dominant or prominent in views and the effect is typically large in scale, and/or within a view that is promoted or advertised.</p> <p>The effects are more likely to be short term, temporary and reversible.</p>

- 1.3.58 Once an assessment has been made of the effects at each viewpoint, these will be brought together in a summary assessment of the effect of the Proposed Development on each visual receptor group (e.g. users of PRow, people living and moving around settlements) will be made, taking an overview of the generalised assessment of the significance of effects and by including a broad judgement on the geographical extent of the effects and the numbers of people likely to be affected using guidance provided in Table 7.1.9.

**Table 7.1.9 – Criteria for Judging Significance of the effect on Visual Amenity of Receptor Groups.**

Less likely to be significant		More likely to be significant
<p>The development is seen at only a few locations, affects relatively few receptors and is limited in geographical extent. The development is generally well accommodated in views and the effect is typically small in scale.</p>		<p>The development is seen at many locations, affects many receptors and is widespread in geographical extent or is seen continuously along a route. The development is prominent in views and the effect is typically large in scale.</p>

- 1.3.59 The relationship between receptors and effects is not generally a linear one and there are no hard or fast rules about what makes an effect significant. Judgements will therefore be supported by qualitative text to draw out the important issues, describe the effects and explain the underlying decision-making rationale.
- 1.3.60 Paragraph 5.54 of GLVIA3 notes that significance of landscape effects is not absolute and ‘*can only be defined in relation to each development and its specific location*’.
- 1.3.61 At opposite ends of the spectrum GLVIA3 notes that:
- ‘Effects on people who are particularly sensitive to changes in views and visual amenity are more likely to be significant;
  - Effects on people at recognised and important viewpoints or from recognised scenic routes are more likely to be significant; and
  - Large-scale changes which introduce new, non-characteristic or discordant or intrusive elements into the view are more likely to be significant than small changes or changes involving features which are already present within the view.’

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1.3.62 For the purposes of the PEIR only potentially significant impacts will be identified.

1.3.63 The final decision on the level of effect and therefore significance ultimately relies on professional judgement which has to be supported through clear and transparently explained text.

#### Approach to Mitigation

1.3.64 An integral part of the iterative design and assessment process undertaken to date has been the consideration of mitigation through sensitive design development in accordance with the Holford Rules. The aim has been to ensure that the development takes account of environmental constraints and opportunities and achieves the optimum environmental fit as part of an environmentally integrated design.

1.3.65 During the ongoing design process, there has been a continuing exploration of opportunities for mitigation of likely significant visual effects through sensitive alignment and siting of the component parts of the Proposed Development including:

- Individual pole positions and their associated infrastructure;
- Temporary and permanent access arrangements; and
- Construction areas (in relation to important landscape characteristics, and visual receptors).

1.3.66 The aim will be to maximise use of existing landform and vegetation to screen the route and to finalise siting of the different elements of the Proposed Development. In addition, there may be an opportunity for new screen planting to be undertaken, if required, to mitigate significant effects.

# APPENDIX 7.2

## LANDSCAPE BASELINE AND ASSESSMENT

## APPENDIX 7.2:

### LANDSCAPE BASELINE AND ASSESSMENT

#### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 This section describes the landscape baseline and assesses the effects on landscape, with reference to the Proposed Development.

#### 1.2 BASELINE ENVIRONMENT

1.2.1 The landscape baseline forms the basis for the identification and description of the landscape changes that may result from the Proposed Development. It establishes the character of the area, based on reference to published characterisation studies, such as the National Character Area profiles and the Shropshire Landscape Character Assessment and on-site surveys. Designated landscapes (national and local) and other sensitive landscape receptors are identified via GIS data sets, other desk based research and responses from consultation feedback.

1.2.2 Potential landscape receptors are identified through a review of the baseline studies, by responses from consultees and through site survey. The landscape receptors for the Proposed Development are outlined below in the remainder of Section 1.2.

##### Existing Baseline

1.2.3 The following figures provide mapping of the study area:

- Figure 7.2: Shropshire Landscape Typologies;
- Figure 7.3: Landscape Character Areas;
- Figure 7.4: Landscape Designations;
- Figure 7.5: Topography – Elevation; and,
- Figure 7.6: Public Rights of Way and Areas of Open Access.

1.2.4 The 132kV overhead line will originate east of Oswestry and the A5, in farmland north of Middleton Road, just south of Round Wood. The Proposed Development then runs some 21km broadly east to west across the Settled Farmlands, Estate Farmlands and Lowland Moors of north Shropshire.

1.2.5 The 1km study area extends from the eastern residential area of Oswestry to the centre of Wem. To the north the boundary of the 1km study area cuts through the small settlements of Whittington, Cockshutt and Loppington. To the southern edge the boundary skirts Sleaf Airfield, the village of Bagley and Rednal Airfield.

1.2.6 The 5km study area extends from the west of Oswestry on the edge of the Oswestry Uplands at Old Oswestry Racecourse to 3km east of Wem, taking in the high ground at Lee Brockhurst. To the north the boundary of the 5km study area cuts through the town of Ellesmere. To the southern edge of the 5km study area the boundary goes through Measbury Marsh and lies just to the north of Baschurch and Harmer Hill.

1.2.7 Much of the 5km study area lies within the Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire Plain National Character Area (NCA 61), with a small section to the west of Oswestry that falls within the Oswestry Uplands (NCA 63). The regional landscape through which the Proposed Development passes is almost entirely agricultural however, it displays differing landscape characteristics



with areas of settled farmland sitting alongside estate farmland and lowland areas. These variations in character are represented in more detail by the landscape character areas (LCAs) identified in The Shropshire Landscape Typology (September 2006), which are illustrated in Figure 7.2. The LCAs were established following a study of the cultural (land use, settlement, tree cover) and physiographic (soils, landform, geology) character of the landscape, and were informed by the results of Shropshire County Council's Historic Landscape Characterisation Project. Our on-site surveys further categorised these areas using the Shropshire Landscape Typology as a base, as illustrated in Figure 7.3. Specific details of these landscape areas and the potential impacts on them are provided within Appendix 7.3 'LCA Assessment Sheets'.

- 1.2.8 At the western end, the Preferred Line Route originates 425m east of the edge of settlement at Oswestry. The intervening A5 carriageway and its mature boundary treatment facilitate a change in character from suburban settlement to flat and low-lying pastoral farmland (approximately 80-100m AOD), with scattered hedgerow trees, small woodland blocks and a small to medium-scale field pattern. The Preferred Line Route continues to run east crossing more open and flat low-lying (approximately 75-85m AOD) floodplain landscapes associated with local watercourses (rivers, canals and brooks). The largest of these floodplains lie close to the Montgomery Canal, the River Perry in the centre of the study area, and near Sleaf Brook and the River Roden to the east of the study area, near Wem. These are marked by networks of ditches and drains, and tend to have fewer landscape features such as trees and woodland. Estate Farmlands landscape typology typifies the landscape of the middle section of the Proposed Development. These are gently rolling with some slightly more elevated sections (approximately 80-115m AOD). They include farmland which has a parkland character, including some areas of planned woodland character and a medium to large, and occasionally irregular, field pattern. The settlement pattern is one of villages, small hamlets and scattered individual properties, with some country houses. The eastern end of the Proposed Development runs through an area of principal settled farmland, lowland areas (approximately 80-100m AOD), with mixed farming, a varied field pattern, some evidence of hedgerows and trees, scattered hamlets, farmsteads and small villages.
- 1.2.9 Within the wider study area, the Sandstone Hills to the south form discrete elevated areas near Haughton, just south of the disused Rednal Airfield, and near Boreatton Park, rising to an elevation of 125-130m AOD. Sandstone Hills also feature to the east of the Proposed Development near Lee Brockhurst. The northern edge of the study area, near Colemere, contains the Shropshire Meres and Mosses, a mosaic of wetlands important for wildlife, which extend north into neighbouring Wales and north-west into Cheshire. To the west of the urban centre at Oswestry, the landscape becomes more elevated with farmed hills and plateaus forming the edge of the study area, close to the Welsh border, and the Shropshire Way and Offa's Dyke at Baker's Hill (352m AOD). This area is marked by an increase in woodland, including the large stretch of woodland adjacent to the River Morda, east of Llawnt.
- 1.2.10 The Proposed Development crosses or passes close to a number of rivers, brooks and a canal. To the west is Common Brook and the Montgomery Canal. The Canal connects into the Llangollen Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal near Lower Frankton, and sits within a flat low-lying landscape. The Proposed Development crosses it adjacent to the relatively well-wooded Woodhouse Estate. At this location the canal is bordered by mature trees and lies adjacent to pasture and arable fields. The River Perry (which feeds into the River Severn south of Baschurch) flows from the north-west of the study area near Gobowen, to the south of the study area near Boreatton Park, and is crossed by the Proposed Development to the west of Lower Hordley, just north of Baggy Moor. The river follows a gently curved path through this low-lying area marked by ditches and drains, and the landscape is notable for its openness, the sparse scattering of mature trees and woodland, and the distinctive linear field pattern orientated towards the river as a result of the presence of drainage ditches. Wackley and Sleaf Brook, and a linear stretch of the River Roden, lie close to the eastern end of the Proposed Development near Noneley and Ruewood in a sparsely settled low-lying landscape of arable fields and pasture. The tightly meandering course of Sleaf Brook is marked by mature trees and lies close to the airfield at Sleaf. Within the wider study area, the Llangollen Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal can be found to the north near Colemere and Lower Frankton. The River Morda flows through the south-western edge of the study area.
- 1.2.11 The transport and communications pattern within the study area includes road and rail networks, including a section of the A5, from Weirbrook (to the south-east of Oswestry) to Gobowen

(north of Oswestry). The A5 lies to the west of the Proposed Development. The A495 crosses the north-west of the study area from the A5 and through Whittington. The A528 passes from the south-east of the study area at Myddle, to Ellesmere in the north. The A483 connects the south-western corner of the study area between Llynclys and the A5 junction at Mile End. These roads are supplemented by a network of B roads and minor roads, lanes and access tracks. The Shrewsbury to Crewe main line railway extends from Gobowen in the north-west of the study area, to Baschurch in the south. In addition there are two local airfields, one at Rednal and one at Sleaf, although Rednal is no longer in use.

### Designated Landscapes

- 1.2.12 The Clwydian Range (Bryniau Clwyd) is the closest Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and lies some 8km to the northwest of the Proposed Development, at its closest point. The Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty lies approximately 21km to the south of the Proposed Development. Views of the development will not be possible from either of these AONBs.
- 1.2.13 There are no nationally important designated landscapes or sites within the 1km study area. Excluding listed buildings, designated sites within the 1km study area are limited to:
- Gravenhall Ancient Woodland: east of Babbinswood, 740m north of the Preferred Route at its closest point;
  - Montgomery Canal, Aston Locks – Keepers Bridge SSSI: west of Rednal, the northern end of the SSSI is 870m south of the Preferred Route; and
  - Ruewood Pastures SSSI: east of Commonwood, 540m south of the Preferred Route at its closest point.
- 1.2.14 There are three local conservation areas within the 1km study area:
- The southern boundary of the Whittington Conservation Area is approximately 960m from the Preferred Route. Almost the entire conservation area is outside the study area;
  - Approximately the southern third of Loppington Conservation Area lies within the north of study area and its southern boundary is approximately 900m northwest of the Preferred Route; and
  - Approximately the western half of Wem Conservation Area is within the study area and its western boundary is approximately 650m east of the Preferred Route.
- 1.2.15 There is one Grade I listed building and five Grade II\* listed buildings within the 1km study area. These are:
- Church of St Michael, Loppington, Grade I listed, 900m northwest of the Preferred Route;
  - Woodhouse Hall, Rednal, 670m south of the Preferred Route;
  - Stanwardine Hall, Stanwardine-in-the-Wood, 370m south of the Preferred Route;
  - The Ditches Hall, Wem, 690m north of the Preferred Route;
  - Tilley Hall, Tilley, 990m southeast of the Preferred Route; and
  - Church of St Peter and St Paul, Wem, 910m east of the Preferred Route.
- 1.2.16 None of the listed designated landscapes will experience significant landscape effects as a result of the Proposed Development.



### Other Landscape or Landscape-related Designated and Undesignated Features

- 1.2.17 There are other features, both designated and undesignated, that either add character and value to the landscape, or provide evidence that the landscape is valued for a recreational activity where experience of the landscape is important. These include Open Access Areas identified under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CroW), Brogyntyn and Pradoc Registered Historic Parks and Gardens, ancient sites including two Scheduled Monuments within the 1km study area (Wem Castle 900m east of the route and Stanwardine moated site and fishpond 460m south of the route) and national and regional trails such as The Shropshire Way, Montgomery Canal Path and National Cycle Route 445 (formerly Regional Route 31).
- 1.2.18 Old Oswestry Hillfort is a prominent historic asset and Scheduled Monument within the 5km study area, located approximately 1.7km north-east from the start of the overhead line and 850m north-east of the underground cable.
- 1.2.19 None of the landscapes noted in paragraphs 1.2.16 or 1.2.17 will experience significant landscape effects as a result of the Proposed Development.

### Locally Valued Landscapes

- 1.2.20 Locally valued landscapes in the 5km study area include those where important views can be experienced (e.g., Old Oswestry Racecourse), landscapes experienced from recreation and important tourist routes (e.g. Offa's Dyke Path and the Shropshire Union Canal), designed landscapes (e.g. Tedsmore, Stanwardine Hall and Woodhouse Estate), landscapes valued for distinctiveness or cultural associations (e.g. Whittington Castle), notable landscape features and characteristics of the landscape, in particular trees and woodlands.

### Landscape Receptors

- 1.2.21 Other landscape receptors within the 1km and 5km study areas and not mentioned above are included within tables 7.2.1 and 7.2.2 below:

Table 7.2.1 – Landscape receptors within 1km of the Preferred Line Route	
Type of Receptor	Receptor Name
<b>Scheduled Monument</b>	Standwardine moated site and associated fishpond Sundial in parish churchyard, Loppington Wem Castle
<b>SSSI</b>	Montgomery Canal, Keepers Bridge Ruewood Pastures
<b>Shropshire North Conservation Areas</b>	Whittington Loppington Wem
<b>Ancient Woodland</b>	Gravenhall
<b>Listed Buildings (I or II* only)</b>	Church of St Michael, Loppington (Grade I) Woodhouse Hall, Rednal Stanwardine Hall, Stanwardine-in-the-Wood The Ditches Hall, Wem Tilley Hall, Tilley Church of St Peter and St Paul, Wem

Table 7.2.2 – Landscape receptors within 5km of the Preferred Line Route	
Type of Receptor	Receptor Name
<b>Scheduled Monument</b>	Whittington Castle Wat's Dyke Bryn-y-Castell Old Oswestry hillfort Oswestry Castle Motte castle at Hisland Bromwich Park Castle Brogyntyn Motte castle adjacent to St Michaels Church Moated site 320m north east of Petton Parish Church Bowl barrow 60m south east of Petton Parish Church The Berth Motte castle on the north bank of Crose Mere Northwood Hall double moated site Myddle Castle immediately south of Castle Farm Moated site 500m south east of Creamore Cottage Soulton moated site and formal garden remains
<b>SSSI</b>	Fernhill Pastures Montgomery Canal, Aston Locks- Keepers Bridge Sweat Mere and Crose Mere White Mere Cole Mere Brownheath Moss Prees Branch Canal
<b>Ramsar</b>	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2
<b>Shropshire North Conservation Areas</b>	Whittington Oswestry Twyford/Felton Grange Ellesmere Loppington Wem
<b>Registered Parks and Gardens</b>	Brogyntyn Pradoe

### Landscape Character Sensitivity

1.2.22 As part of the June 2016 Line Route Report, desk and field based work using information from the The Shropshire Landscape Typology was carried out to establish areas that could potentially be sensitive to the Proposed Development. Whilst these will be confirmed through further appraisal, these initial studies indicated that, whilst some areas are likely to have a low sensitivity to the Proposed Development, there are likely to be other areas where the sensitivity of the landscape to the Proposed Development may be higher:

- Landscapes with cultural importance and evidence of planned design such as Woodhouse Estate which sits within the Estate Farmlands of Shropshire;
- Landscapes associated with recreation including those close to recreational routes such as the Montgomery Canal;
- More elevated landscapes which are visible over a wider area (e.g. towards the middle section of the Proposed Development near Stanwardine and Kenwick);
- Landscapes that are open and where longer views can be experienced, including those associated with the Lowland Moors and watercourses identified within flood risk areas;
- Landscapes containing distinctive features such as field patterns (e.g. near Moor Fields Local Wildlife Site); and,
- Landscapes which contribute to the wider setting of a conservation area, a listed building or a hamlet (e.g., near Loppington and Noneley).

## 1.3 ISSUES IDENTIFIED

### Construction

- 1.3.1 The most immediate effects arising from construction of the proposed overhead line would be those associated with access and clearance of the line corridor. Landscape pattern can be affected by the felling of individual mature trees, woodland, shelterbelts or screen planting as these often provide the landscape with a distinctive character or local identity. Woodland cover also has an important role in defining landscape spaces and scale. The removal of tree cover may cause the opening up of landscape spaces by reducing the sense of enclosure provided by woodland cover and allowing views into other landscape spaces beyond. Wayleave corridors are required when a line passes through a wooded area and the straight and linear nature of these can be visually intrusive. Mitigation measures may include planting and landscape design techniques to enhance the visual appearance and strengthen wayleave edges against potential windthrow damage. The removal of hedgerows may be required to provide access for construction and or maintenance. Where new access tracks are required, potential landscape effects may occur when a new straight access track is routed across a grassy hillside or peat moor, creating a visible man-made mark on the landscape.
- 1.3.2 Construction of the proposed overhead line would take approximately 12 months, but this would be phased across the length of the route, with works in any one pole location taking approximately 1 – 2 days. The potential effect of constructing the proposed overhead line would be almost immediate. By contrast mitigation measures involving tree planting would take longer (typically 10-15 years) to become effective.
- 1.3.3 Removal of trees is normally regarded as a long term effect whereas hedges removed for access can be stored on site and reinstated within 48 hours. Creation of new access tracks, construction compounds and storage areas, and hardstandings may affect local landscape character, although in most instances such effects would be temporary as tracks and compounds would be reinstated upon completion of the works.

### Operation

- 1.3.4 The main effects of the proposed overhead line during its operational life would be the presence of additional wood pole structures within the countryside. Once constructed, however, there would be no moving parts or lighting and the line would only require very occasional visits by SP Manweb for maintenance and repair.
- 1.3.5 The main features of the overhead line which would give rise to landscape and visual effects would be the wood poles, their appearance, height and spacing. As with any external material, wood poles are susceptible to weathering and consequent colour variations. The colour of the poles at the time of construction would be dark brown but this would fade over time to a noticeably lighter silver-grey. The rate of colour change would depend on the prevailing weather conditions and to some degree on the type of timber and timber treatment that were used. Over time these changes would tend to reduce the perceptibility of elements viewed above the skyline, but may increase the visibility of structures when viewed against a dark background such as coniferous plantation. The metal bracing and the conductors would be constructed from aluminium, which is initially shiny but tends to dull over time to dark matt silver.
- 1.3.6 The findings of the surveys undertaken and discussions with stakeholders have led to the identification of the following locations, which are considered sensitive and required particular consideration in the iterative detailed design and assessment process:
- Localised areas of the Estate Farmlands LCA, with potential for landscape effects on the parkland character near Woodhouse and Petton, and on areas of localised higher ground close to Kenwick and Stanwardine;
  - Localised areas of the low-lying landscape of the Lowland Moors LCA, close to the Montgomery Canal, the River Perry, Wackley Brook, Sleaf Brook, Moor Fields Local Wildlife Site and the River Roden; and
  - Localised areas of the Principal Settled Farmlands LCA close to The Wood and Malt Kiln Farm, and the hamlets at Noneley and Commonwood.
- 1.3.7 Consideration has been given to likely landscape effects during the construction phase (as noted above), and at Year 1 during both summer and winter in the operational phase. This allows for consideration of seasonal variations in leaf cover and screening. The impacts at Year 15 are considered to be broadly similar to those at Year 1. Whilst there is potential for a slight reduction in any minor effects, for example, as a result of additional vegetation growth and areas of natural regeneration, it is anticipated that effects will remain within the same category of effect.

### 1.4 POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

- 1.4.1 The EIA will fully consider and detail the landscape effects on all the potential receptors referenced in Section 1.2 of this Appendix. Currently only one potentially significant landscape effect has been identified, as detailed below.

#### Effects During Construction

- 1.4.2 There are no landscape character areas or receptors which will potentially experience significant *regional, national or international* effects during construction due to the short term nature of the construction. However the following landscape character area will potentially experience very *localised* significant effects during construction:

**Table 7.2.3 – Operational phase potential significant landscape effects**

<b>LCA Estate Farmlands: Woodhouse</b>	<b>Medium-low sensitivity</b>
<p>Construction activity includes work at pole positions, stringing locations, access tracks and lay down areas close to Rednal Mill and at Rednal Industrial Estate. Tree removal necessary to accommodate the route includes a short section at the Canal crossing, the corner of a woodland block in private estate farmland (clearance of 2 to 3 hectares could be required) and clearance to narrow pockets of riverside vegetation along the River Perry at two crossing points near Rednal Mill. There is potential loss of short sections of hedgerow, and small numbers of trees subject to lopping or, if safety clearances require, felling. Permanent losses of trees as a result of the access areas are not anticipated. No changes to landform are required. There will be short-term disturbance to the rural scene, although this is a working landscape with pockets of industry. Overall the magnitude of change will be medium-high, and effects are moderate (significant).</p> <p>During construction overall the <b>magnitude of change will be medium-high and effects are moderate adverse</b> (significant).</p>	

1.4.3 Further detail on LCA Estate Farmlands: Woodhouse is provided within Appendix 7.3.

#### Effects During Operation

1.4.4 There are no landscape receptors which will potentially experience significant effects during operation on a local, regional, national or international level.





APPENDIX 7.3 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA ASSESSMENT SHEETS  
SP MANWEB - 132KV ELECTRICAL CIRCUIT FROM OSWESTRY TO WEM



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GILLESPIES		PROJECT TITLE	DOCUMENT TITLE		CLIENT
		PROPOSED NEW 132 KV OVERHEAD WOOD POLE LINE FROM OSWESTRY TO WEM	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT		SP ENERGY NETWORKS
REV.	DATE	DETAIL	MADE BY	CHECKED BY	APPROVED BY
00	OCTOBER 2017	PEIR - WORK IN PROGRESS	KL	ZF	SG





The map displays the Paris region with 11 numbered administrative districts (1-11) and numerous voting points (VP) marked with colored dots. The districts are color-coded and numbered as follows:

- District 1:** Light blue, located in the northwest.
- District 2:** Light blue, located in the northwest.
- District 3:** Orange, located in the north-central area.
- District 4:** Pink, located in the north-central area.
- District 5:** Green, located in the north-central area.
- District 6:** Yellow, located in the north-central area.
- District 7:** Purple, located in the north-central area.
- District 8:** Red, located in the east-central area.
- District 9:** Dark blue, located in the east-central area.
- District 10:** Yellow, located in the east-central area.
- District 11:** Light blue, located in the east-central area.

The voting points (VP) are marked with colored dots and labeled with codes such as VP1, VP2, VP3, VP4, VP5, VP6, VP7, VP8, VP9, VP10, VP11, VP12, VP13, VP14, VP15, VP16, VP17, VP18, VP19, VP20, VP21, VP22, VP23, VP24, VP25, VP26, VP27, VP28, VP29, VP30, VP31, VP32, VP33, VP34, VP35, VP36, VP37, VP38, VP39, VP40, VP41, VP42, VP43, VP44, VP45, VP46, VP47, VP48, VP49, VP50, VP51, VP52, VP53, VP54, VP55, VP56, VP57, VP58, VP59, VP60, VP61, VP62, VP63, VP64, VP65, VP66, VP67, VP68, VP69, VP70, VP71, VP72, VP73, VP74, VP75, VP76, VP77, VP78, VP79, VP80, VP81, VP82, VP83, VP84, VP85, VP86, VP87, VP88, VP89, VP90, VP91, VP92, VP93, VP94, VP95, VP96, VP97, VP98, VP99, VP100. The dots are colored blue, yellow, red, and black.



# LCA 1 URBAN: OSWESTRY EAST - SHEET A

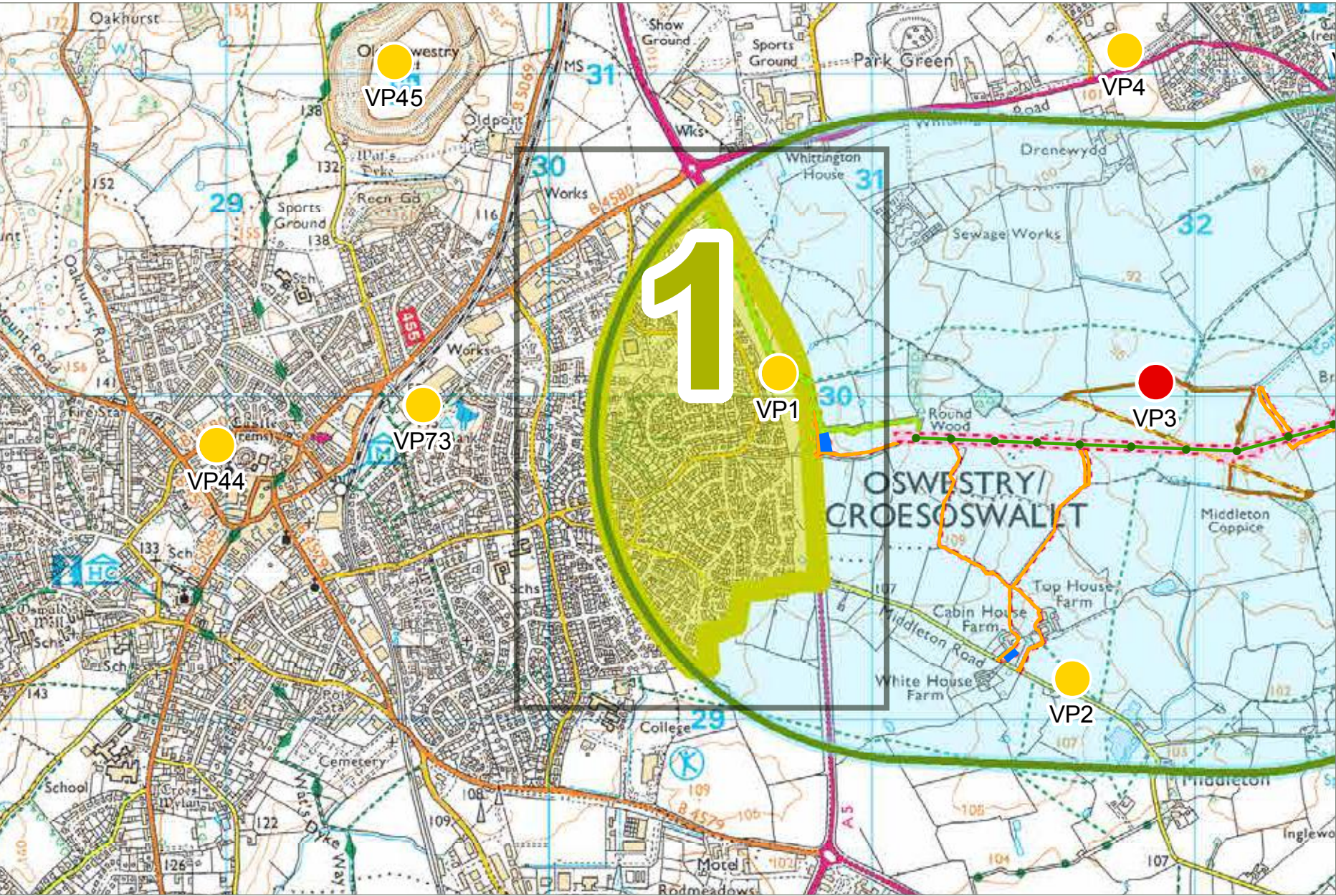
## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER BASELINE DESCRIPTION

**KEY CHARACTERISTICS TAKEN FROM THE SHROPSHIRE LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES:** An area identified as 'Urban.'  
**DESCRIPTION:** The Shropshire Landscape Typologies report identifies this area as 'Urban.' No other detail is provided.

**ADDITIONAL KEY CHARACTERISTICS NOTED IN THIS LOCALITY:** An area of mostly modern residential development east of Oswestry; located on very gently rising ground; forms a discrete residential character area, and is separated from the remainder of the study area by the A5; development is largely small in scale and comprises housing, schools, a church, a community centre and the edge of Oswestry substation in the north; landscape features include street trees, private gardens, recreational grounds, and informal recreation areas; a network of small roads connect the area to Oswestry and nearby villages, and cul-de-sac based suburban road layouts serve the estates; views are generally contained by development, with glimpses of higher ground to the west of Oswestry.

**DESCRIPTION:** This LCA consists of modern residential settlement on the eastern edge of the large historic market town of Oswestry. The LCA is located on relatively level ground that rises very gently from east to west, and forms a discrete and planned residential character area. This LCA is separated from the remainder of the landscape character study area by the A5, which is screened by a well-vegetated informal recreational area to the east of the housing estates. Development is largely small in scale and comprises single and two storey housing on planned housing estates, along with the Eastern Oswestry Community Centre, Cabin Lane Church and Meadows Primary School, all of which are modern development (dating from the late twentieth and early twenty-first century). The edge of Oswestry substation is located in the north of the LCA. Small areas of more historic housing and period properties (some with outhouses) have been retained, including those along Middleton Road. These properties are generally surrounded by more modern housing. The grade II listed Lys House is the only listed building within the LCA, a historic farmhouse now converted into flats, which sits surrounded by modern development. Landscape features include street trees, private gardens, recreational grounds, and the informal recreation area to the west of the LCA that borders the A5. This recreational area contains a small network of paths, a children's play area, grassed areas and densely planted trees that form part of the National Forest Inventory. One PRoW connects the LCA to Oswestry in the west, and Middleton village in the east. A network of small roads connect the residential settlement to Oswestry and nearby villages, and cul-de-sac based suburban road layouts serve the roads and houses within the residential estates. Views are generally contained by development, with occasional glimpses of higher ground to the west of Oswestry, in the direction of the Welsh border, and Old Oswestry Hill Fort to the northwest. Roof tops and trees are visible on the skyline, with taller equipment associated with the substation at Oswestry also visible in the north of the LCA. There is a sense of visual containment within much of this settled residential LCA.

FIGURE 1: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA IN CONTEXT



LOCATION MAP

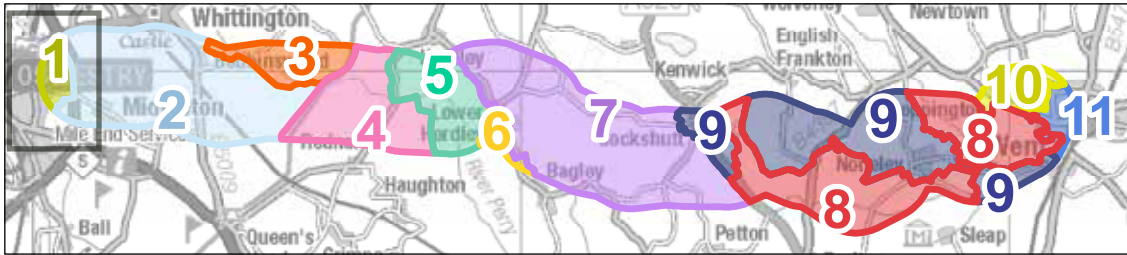


FIGURE 2: View over LCA 1 showing the modern estate housing adjacent to the well-vegetated path of the A5. LCA 2 is visible beyond the A5.

**KEY VALUE CHARACTERISTIC:**  
**SCENIC QUALITY**

Views are generally contained within the residential development due to the level ground and relatively dense pattern of settlement and trees along the A5.



FIGURE 3: Aerial image showing the road and housing layout within LCA1

**KEY VALUE CHARACTERISTIC:**  
**LANDSCAPE CHARACTER**

This LCA is characterised by planned modern residential development set within estates, on the eastern edge of Oswestry settlement, and bordered by the A5 to the east.



LCA 1 URBAN: OSWESTRY EAST- SHEET B

FIGURE 4: TYPICAL VIEW OF LCA TYPE - IMAGE TAKEN FROM OLD OSWESTRY HILL FORT OVERLOOKING LCA1, WHICH IS VISIBLE TO THE RIGHT OF THE VIEW (VP45)



LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

**Description of overall landscape value:** This roads and housing developments within this character area are generally well kept, but there are few naturalistic features remaining. Existing landscape features include occasional street trees, private gardens, recreational grounds, and an area of informal recreational ground alongside the A5, which features trees that are included in the National Forest Inventory. The area lacks a distinctive identity and there are few remaining historic features. Scenic value is limited by the dense settlement pattern, with only occasional views to upland areas in the west. A PRoW provide local connections through to the town centre in the west, , and to Middleton in the east. There is an area of informal recreation alongside the well-screened A5, which is predominantly used by dog walkers and local residents. The dense settlement pattern and lack of open areas reduces the tranquility and perceptual aspects of the LCA, as does the influence of the substation on the northern edge of the LCA. The overall landscape value is judged to be medium-low.

**Description of overall landscape susceptibility:** The proposed development is of a similar scale and height to existing features found in neighbouring landscapes, with skylines that already include wood pole OHLs and a substation on the edge of the LCA. The small-scale and densely settled LCA would struggle to accommodate the proposed development, and whilst of a similar scale to some of the existing features (taller trees and buildings), such a development would be visible on the skyline. No changes to landform would be required to accommodate this type of development on this level ground, and since there are relatively small numbers of trees and no woodland present in the LCA, few landscape features would be lost. Overall, the susceptibility is medium.

**Description of overall landscape sensitivity:** Whilst the LCA has limited scenic and historic value, it would be difficult to accommodate an OHL within the dense settlement and landcover pattern. The edge of the LCA is influenced by the presence of existing electricity infrastructure near the Oswestry substation in the north. Given the overall value (medium-low) and susceptibility (medium) the overall sensitivity of the LCA to the proposed development is judged to be medium-low.

MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE AND LEVEL OF EFFECTS

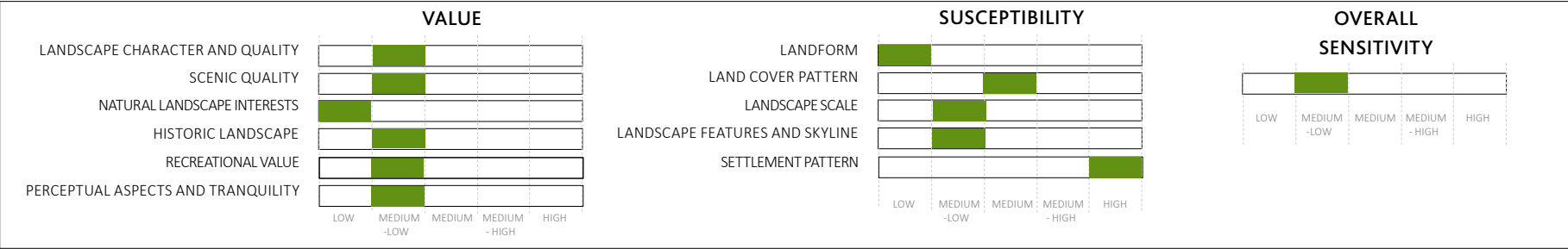
**Construction:** The alignment of the proposed overhead wood pole line does not pass through the LCA, and the alignment is not visible from the LCA due to the level nature of the landscape and the intervening screen of densely planted trees along the A5, to the east. The proposed underground cable from Oswestry substation passes through the northeastern edge of the LCA, along an open area within an informal wooded recreational area. Whilst there may be short-term disruption to this grassed recreational area, only a small number of roadside tree losses are anticipated at the point where the cable turns east to cross the A5. The magnitude of change will be low, since there will be a very localised loss of a small number of trees in one location, and effects are minor (not significant).

**Operation - Year 1 Winter:** The alignment of the proposed overhead wood pole line does not pass through the LCA, and the alignment is not visible from the LCA due to the level nature of the landscape and the intervening screen of densely planted trees along the A5, to the east. Any changes resulting from the laying of the underground cable are likely to be temporary and only felt during the construction phase. Effects are negligible (not significant).

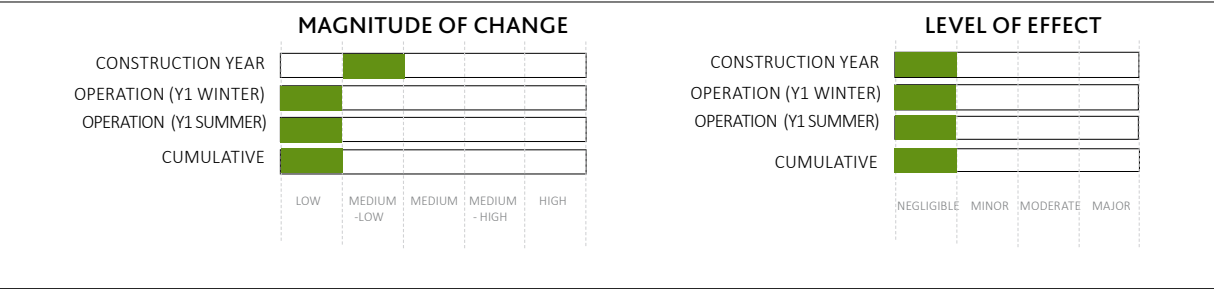
**Operation - Year 1 Summer:** As Winter. Effects are negligible (not significant).

**Cumulative:** There are no other proposed developments which would give rise to any cumulative effects when seen alongside the proposed development, therefore no cumulative effects.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT



SUMMARY OF EFFECTS





# LCA 2 SETTLED PASTORAL FARMLANDS: MIDDLETON TO BABBINSWOOD - SHEET A

## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER BASELINE DESCRIPTION

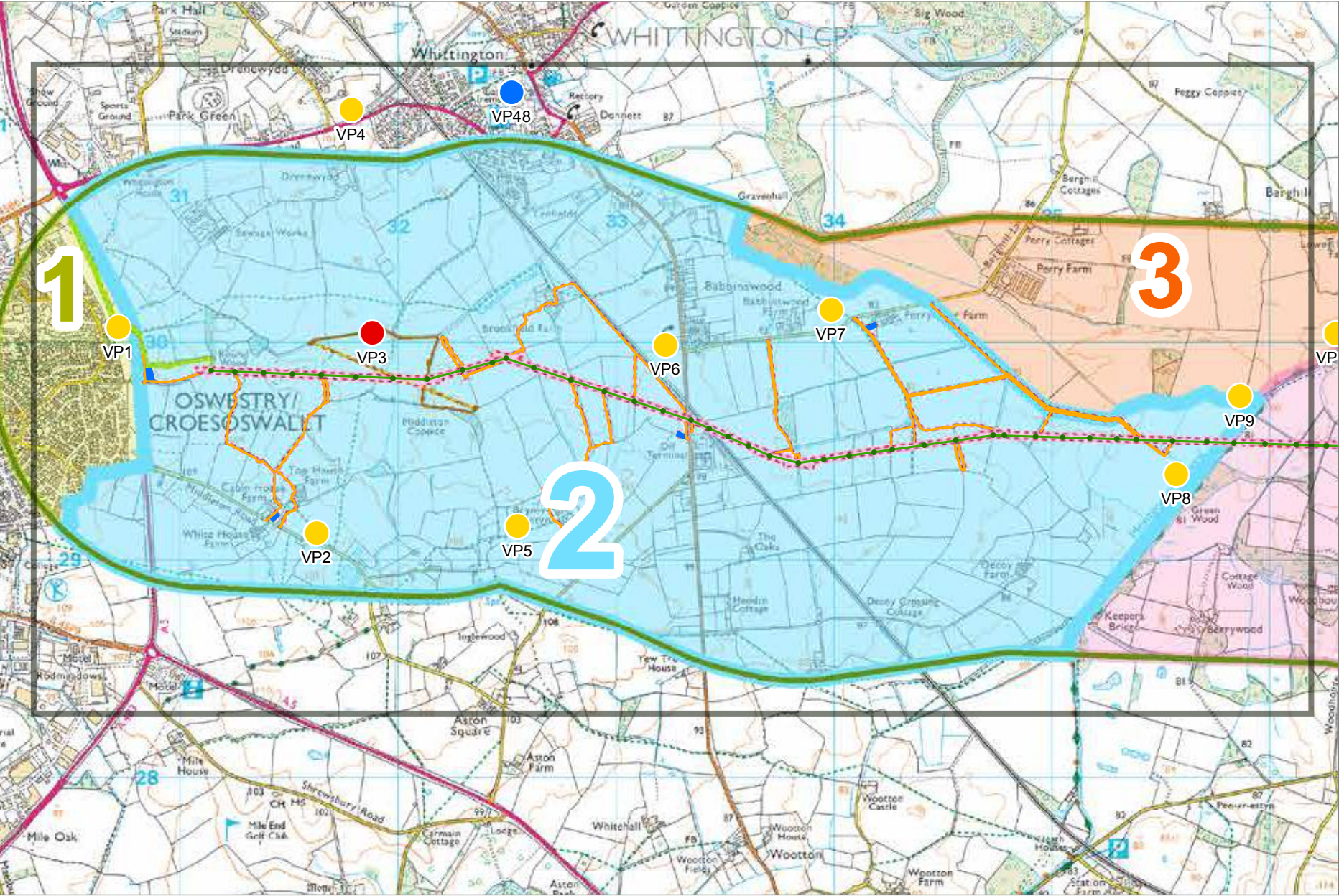
**KEY CHARACTERISTICS TAKEN FROM THE SHROPSHIRE LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES:** Heavy poorly drained soils; Pastoral land use; Scattered hedgerow trees; Irregular field pattern; Small to medium scale landscapes.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Shropshire Landscape Typologies report notes that the Settled Pastoral Farmlands are ‘... are lowland agricultural landscapes. Heavy, often poorly drained soils... traditionally associated with livestock farming... the historic pattern of small to medium, sub-regular, hedged fields has been retained in most places... tree cover is largely provided by scattered hedgerow oaks and Ash trees... a small to medium scale landscape with predominantly filtered views. A medium to high density dispersal of farmsteads and wayside cottages, linked by a sinuous network of lanes, represents the prevailing settlement pattern... the historic field patterns remain largely unchanged.’

**ADDITIONAL KEY CHARACTERISTICS NOTED IN THIS LOCALITY:** Scattered red brick farmsteads and agricultural buildings; small pockets of industry; landscape intersected by linear infrastructure including the A5, A495, B5009, the Shrewsbury to Chester rail line and the Montgomery Canal, and existing electricity networks east of the A5.

**DESCRIPTION:** Generally level with very gentle undulations as it rises slightly in the south and west, this is an agricultural landscape with neighbouring settlement to the west (Oswestry), south (Middleton) and north and east (Whittington/Babbinswood). The landscape is influenced by linear transport routes and electricity infrastructure that cross through this area. Fields are set aside to arable farming or pasture, with livestock farming evident. The historic pattern of small, sub-regular, hedged fields has been retained around Middleton and Decoy Farm. During the later 20th century agricultural intensification has resulted in some pasture improvement and the introduction of intensive arable cropping, particularly to the north and east, where the hedgerow pattern has been eroded and fields are medium in scale. Tree cover includes scattered hedgerow oaks and trees, and trees adjacent to ponds that are present in the more irregular fields around Middleton. A small number of relict pieces of woodland remain. Trees and field patterns result in a small to medium scale landscape with predominantly filtered views that extend across neighbouring low-lying fields. Where hedgerow trees are absent and in the larger scale fields to the north and east, longer views extend to more distant upland areas. There is a north-south/east-west network of (in places, inaccessible) public footpaths. Dispersed farmsteads and cottages, linked by local lanes, represent the prevailing settlement pattern in the more secluded and tranquil south (Middleton), with a denser and more modern residential pattern to the north and west (at Whittington and Babbinswood). The LCA just clips approx. 50m of the southern boundary of the Whittington Conservation Area, though there is little visual connectivity between the LCA and the conservation area due to intervening settlement. A grade II barn at Pool farm in Middleton clips the southern boundary of the LCA, and Grade II Drenwydd Farm clips the northern boundary. Small pockets of industry include a poultry farm and oil tank distributor close to the B5009 at Babbinswood. There is a sewage works to the north-west and a greater prevalence of electricity infrastructure to the east of the A5, though its influence is contained by screening from intervening field hedgerows and trees. Linear transport routes (including the A5, B5009, rail line and Montgomery Canal) intersect the landscape.

FIGURE 1: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA IN CONTEXT



LOCATION MAP

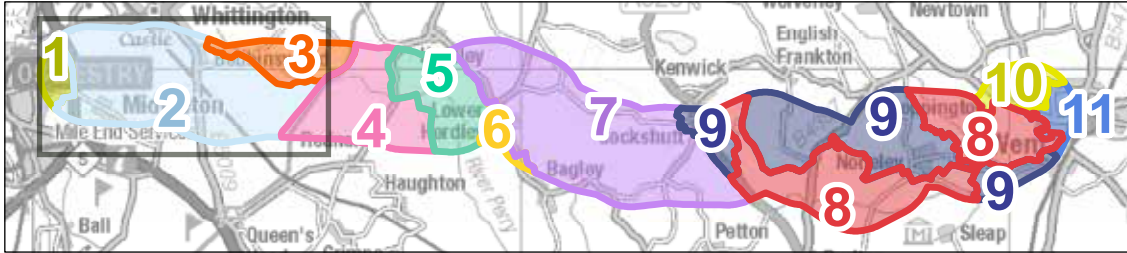


FIGURE 2: View over small scale pastoral field east of Middleton with low voltage OHL visible and scattered hedgerow trees.

### KEY VALUE CHARACTERISTIC:

**LANDSCAPE CHARACTER**  
Fields are set aside to arable farming or pasture, with livestock farming evident.



FIGURE 3: View northwest from the Shrewsbury - Chester rail line, taken from the B5009 south of Babbinswood.

### KEY VALUE CHARACTERISTIC:

**LANDSCAPE CHARACTER**  
**PERCEPTUAL ASPECTS AND TRANQUILITY**  
Landscape intersected by linear infrastructure including the A5, A495, B5009, the Shrewsbury to Chester rail line.



LCA 2 SETTLED PASTORAL FARMLANDS: MIDDLETON TO BABBINSWOOD - SHEET B

FIGURE 4: TYPICAL VIEW OF LCA TYPE - IMAGE TAKEN FROM PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY EAST OF OSWESTRY WITHIN SETTLED PASTORAL FARMLANDS LCA, NORTH OF MIDDLETON (VP03)



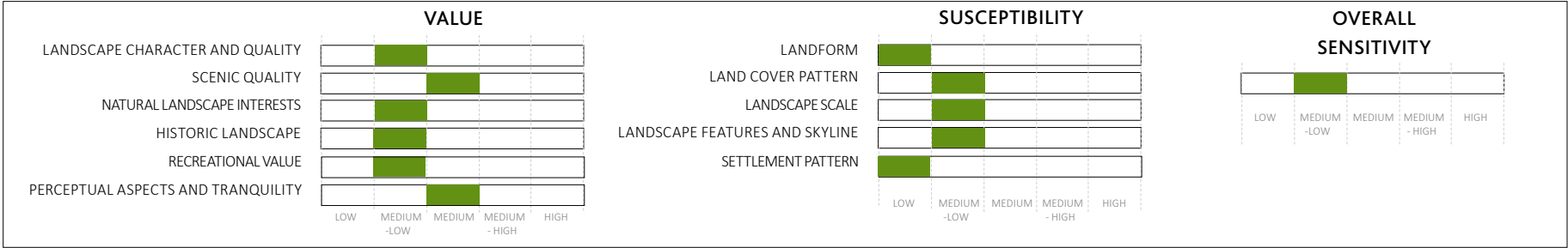
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

**Description of overall landscape value:** Parts of this LCA display small-scale remnant enclosure pattern with land set aside for pasture, livestock farming and arable crops, with fewer landscape features (such as woodland belts) that could be lost. To the north and east, the traditional field pattern has been eroded through 20th century field amalgamation and encroachment of settlement. PRoWs cross fields in the area and follow field boundaries, though access to some PRoWs is restricted by overgrown hedges and lack of boundary crossings (styles). Farms are generally well maintained, though there is evidence of partially derelict farms, e.g., Perrymoor Farm. Building styles vary, with modern properties scattered amongst more traditional buildings. There are no listed buildings. Transport routes intersect this landscape. Screening along the A5's eastern edge reduces its influence on the character of the area. The rail line lies in cutting near Babbinswood thus reducing its influence. The visibility of other roads and overhead lines generally extends across one or two field boundaries due to the screening effect of hedgerows and trees, and the relatively level topography. Planting on field boundaries also adds to a very localised sense of tranquility, which can change from one field to the next depending on the presence of agricultural sheds, local roads and overhead lines. This is a settled rural scene influenced by modern infrastructure and small pockets of industry and the overall landscape value is judged to be medium-low.

**Description of overall landscape susceptibility:** The generally level, small to medium-scale agricultural landscape has the potential to accommodate change relating to the proposed development. The presence of existing wood pole lines, edge of settlement and some large agricultural sheds (near Babbinswood) reduce susceptibility to the proposed development since the skyline, landcover pattern, settlement pattern and the perception of remoteness and tranquility have already been impacted, and the proposed development is of a similar scale to existing wood poles and mature trees. No changes to landform are anticipated and there is enough space between pockets of settlement to accommodate the line. The most prominent landscape features are trees and there is potential for loss of trees and hedgerows. Overall, the susceptibility of the landscape is medium-low.

**Description of overall landscape sensitivity:** The landscape has a sense of enclosure due to the small-medium scale, generally level topography and screening from hedgerows with trees, and its visual connection to neighbouring landscapes is contained, particularly to the south, east and west. The presence of wood lines, scattered properties, edge of settlement, and small pockets of industry/modern farm buildings further reduces the sensitivity of the landscape to change arising from the proposed development. Given the above, the overall sensitivity is judged to be medium-low.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT



MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE AND LEVEL OF EFFECTS

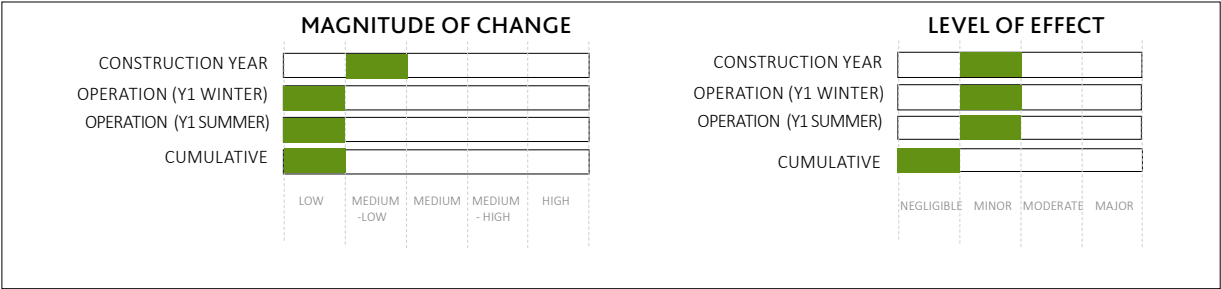
**Construction:** The proposed underground cable from Oswestry substation passes through the western edge of the LCA, through a small section of road-side trees next to the A5 and then alongside field boundaries. Whilst there may be short-term disruption, only a very small section of roadside tree losses are anticipated. Construction activity will include work at pole positions and stringing locations, access tracks and lay down areas at the A5, Top House Farm in Middleton, Brookfield Farm, Bryn-y-plentyn, on the B5009 opposite the oil terminal, Babbinswood Farm and at Perrymoor Farm. Temporary loss of short sections of hedgerow are likely, and a small number of trees subject to lopping or, if safety clearances require, felling. These losses are localised and will not be felt within the wider LCA. No woodland losses are anticipated. No permanent losses of trees as a result of the access areas are anticipated. No changes to landform are required. There will be short-term disturbance to the rural scene, although this is a working landscape with pockets of industry and larger-scale farming activities. Overall the magnitude of change will be medium-low and effects are minor adverse (not significant).

**Operation - Year 1 Winter:** The proposed development is in keeping with the scale of this well treed landscape, which features existing wood poles and pockets of farming, commercial activity and settlement. The influence of the development on the character of the area will be localised due to existing screening on field boundaries, and anticipated landscape losses resulting from the construction phase will not be felt across the wider LCA and will improve over time. Effects are minor adverse (not significant).

**Operation - Year 1 Summer:** As Winter, though the proposed development will be less visible due to screening from trees and hedgerows in leaf. Effects are minor adverse (not significant).

**Cumulative:** There are no other proposed developments which would give rise to any cumulative effects when seen alongside the proposed development, therefore no cumulative effects.

SUMMARY OF EFFECTS





# LCA 3 PRINCIPAL TIMBERED FARMLANDS: HALSTON HALL - SHEET A

## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER BASELINE DESCRIPTION

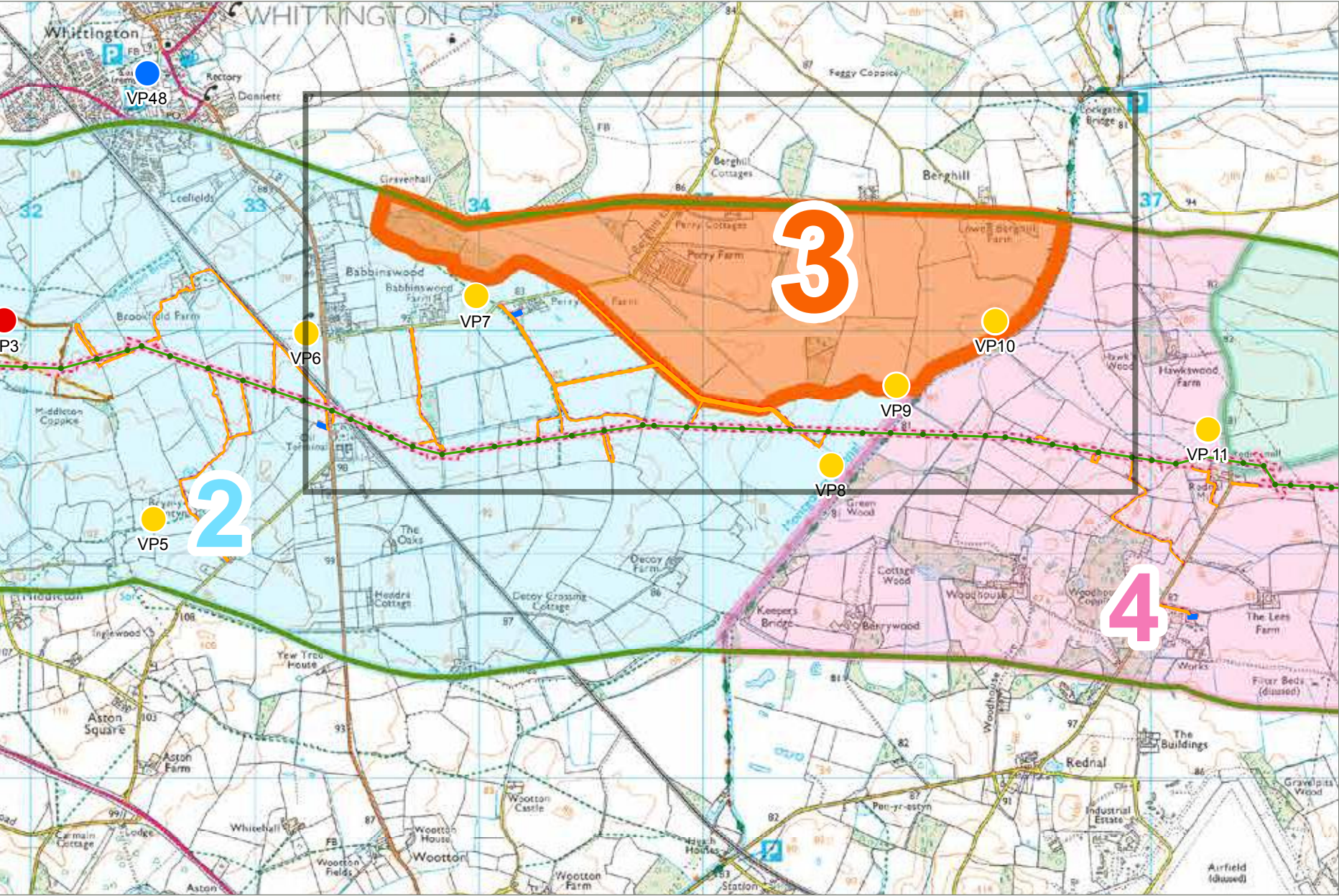
**KEY CHARACTERISTICS TAKEN FROM THE SHROPSHIRE LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES:** Rolling lowland with occasional steep sided hills; Relic ancient woodland; Hedged fields with scattered hedgerow trees; Predominantly dispersed settlement pattern; Small to medium scale landscapes with filtered views.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Shropshire Landscape Typologies report notes that the Principal Timbered Farmlands are '...predominantly rolling lowland landscapes ...characterised by a mosaic of agricultural land... dense stands of streamside trees, scattered hedgerow trees, and small to medium sized woodlands play an important role in structuring these landscapes, creating a small to medium scale and filtered views... settlement pattern typically comprises of a medium to high density dispersal of farms and wayside cottages, with occasional hamlets and small villages... agricultural land within this type was gradually enclosed... during the medieval and early modern periods... a network of winding lanes, scattered farmsteads, and small irregular fields... Enclosure of the remaining area of common land was completed in the 18th and 19th centuries, creating a regular pattern of fields and straight roads... the introduction of intensive arable farming in the later 20th century has resulted in field enlargement, creating more open conditions and a larger scale landscape.'

**ADDITIONAL KEY CHARACTERISTICS NOTED IN THIS LOCALITY:** Scattered red brick farmsteads and agricultural buildings surrounded by very gently undulating, medium-scale low-lying arable fields; low hedges and wooden fences, with occasional hedgerow trees and some individual field trees that formed part of now relict hedgerow field boundaries; scattered regular-shaped blocks of woodland remain (including ancient woodland), and a visual and landscape connection with the farmed landscape to the north that surrounds Halston Hall estate. There is a sparse settlement pattern.

**DESCRIPTION:** Within this character area east of Oswestry, part of the Halston Hall Heronry local wildlife site is located to the north-eastern edge, within a block of ancient woodland at Gravenhall. During the later 19th and 20th century, conifer plantations were established and there is evidence of linear planting within existing woodland in this area. Oak and Ash represent the main hedgerow tree species, whilst alder and willow can occur along watercourses. The settlement pattern comprises scattered farmsteads linked by local lanes and private tracks, with some wayside cottages. There are no footpaths, which adds to the sense of remoteness in this well-maintained working rural landscape. Enclosure of areas of common land in the 18th and 19th centuries has created a field pattern which includes rectilinear fields and straight roads, such as those near Perry Farm. Arable farming in the later 20th century resulted in some field enlargement, creating a more open and larger scale landscape. There are filtered and open views in and out of this gently undulating landscape, depending on the presence and level of screening provided by intervening woodland, vegetated watercourse boundaries, and occasional hedgerow trees. Views are rural in context, and extend to the elevated ridge at Welsh Frankton in the north and to the more distant upland areas west of Oswestry. The western edge of the Montgomery Canal and the Woodhouse Estate, and the meandering and then more linear course of the River Perry mark the eastern and southern extents of this landscape area. The northern edge forms part of the landscape that connects into the Halston Hall estate farmland and woodland areas. A high voltage pylon overhead line is visible on the skyline to the north and east of the area. Low voltage overhead lines are visible in the west and north-east, though their influence is contained by screening from intervening field hedgerows and trees.

FIGURE 1: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA IN CONTEXT



LOCATION MAP

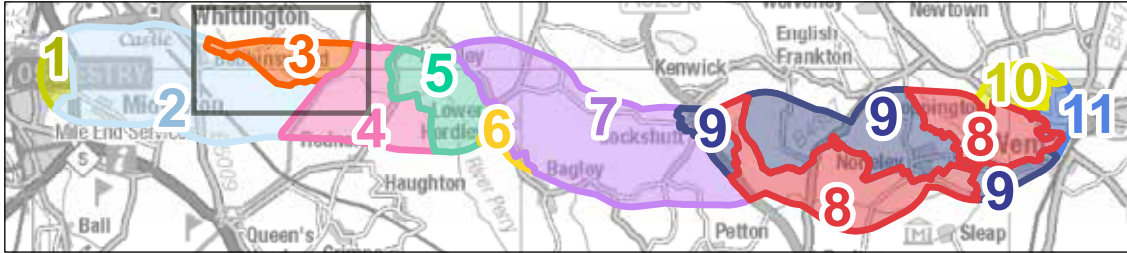


FIGURE 2: View over medium scale arable field west of the Montgomery Canal with pylons, woodland blocks, scattered hedgerow trees. Views towards Welsh Frankton to the right.

**KEY VALUE CHARACTERISTIC:**  
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER  
PERCEPTUAL ASPECTS AND  
TRANQUILITY

Long views to distant uplands with woodlands and pylons in the view.



FIGURE 3: Aerial Image of LCA 3 with Montgomery Canal to the eastern boundary

**KEY VALUE CHARACTERISTIC:**  
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER  
NATURAL LANDSCAPE  
INTERESTS

Medium scale fields bound by hedgerows with hedgerow trees, areas of woodland.



LCA 3 PRINCIPAL TIMBERED FARMLANDS: HALSTON HALL - SHEET B

FIGURE 4: TYPICAL VIEW OF LCA TYPE - IMAGE TAKEN FROM PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY (SHROPSHIRE WAY) ALONG MONTGOMERY CANAL WITHIN ESTATE FARMLANDS LCA



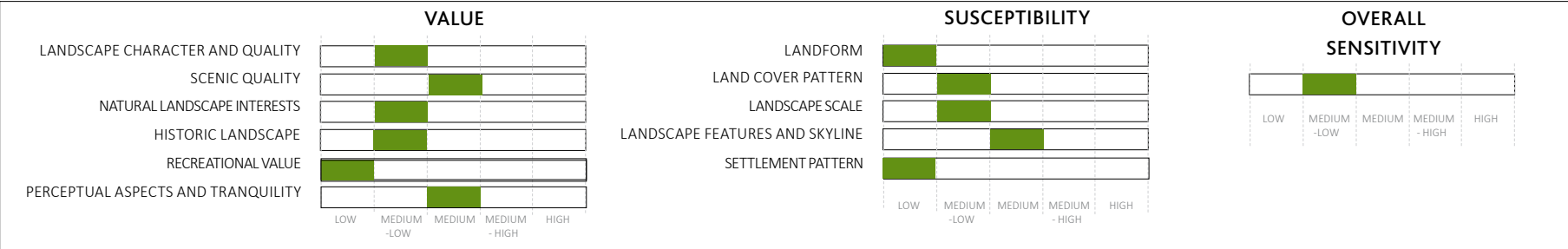
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

**Description of overall landscape value:** To the south and west of this LCA the traditional field pattern has been eroded through 20th century field amalgamation. An area of ancient woodland lies in the west of the LCA, and forms part of a stretch of woodland associated with Halston Hall and the LWS. There are no PRoWs. Farms are generally well maintained with pre-20th century red brick farmhouses, with traditional and modern associated buildings and a small number of wayside cottages, such as Perry Cottages. There are no listed buildings within this area. Transport routes include a rural lane that runs between Babbinswood and the A495 in the north, and private farm tracks. The visibility generally extends across neighbouring fields due to the small number of hedgerow trees and the relatively level topography, resulting a largely rural views with a sense of remoteness, but with larger electricity pylons visible on the skyline to the north and west. Distant upland areas are visible on the skyline when viewed from the larger fields. Large agricultural sheds (e.g., at Perry Farm) and existing overhead electricity infrastructure reduce the scenic quality, and the perception of remoteness has been impacted. This is a settled working rural scene with existing overhead electricity infrastructure, medium scale arable fields and small numbers of hedgerow trees and dispersed woodland blocks. The overall landscape value is judged to be medium-low.

**Description of overall landscape susceptibility:** This relatively open and very gently undulating, largely unsettled, medium scale agricultural landscape, has the potential to accommodate an overhead line. The most prominent landscape features are the small dispersed blocks of woodland that are susceptible to tree loss to accommodate an OHL. The proposed development is of a similar scale to existing wood poles and mature trees, but is susceptible to sky-lining in the more open medium scale fields. Overall, the susceptibility of the landscape is medium-low.

**Description of overall landscape sensitivity:** The very gently undulating medium-scale arable landscape with few trees and small dispersed blocks of woodland landscape has the capacity to accommodate the proposed development with minimal losses to landscape features. This working farmland is well-maintained but largely inaccessible to the public with no recreational facilities. The proposed development would be similar in scale (height) to mature trees. The presence of existing wood lines, steel pylons and more modern farm buildings further reduces the sensitivity of the landscape to change arising from the proposed development. Given the above, the overall sensitivity is judged to be medium-low.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT



MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE AND LEVEL OF EFFECTS

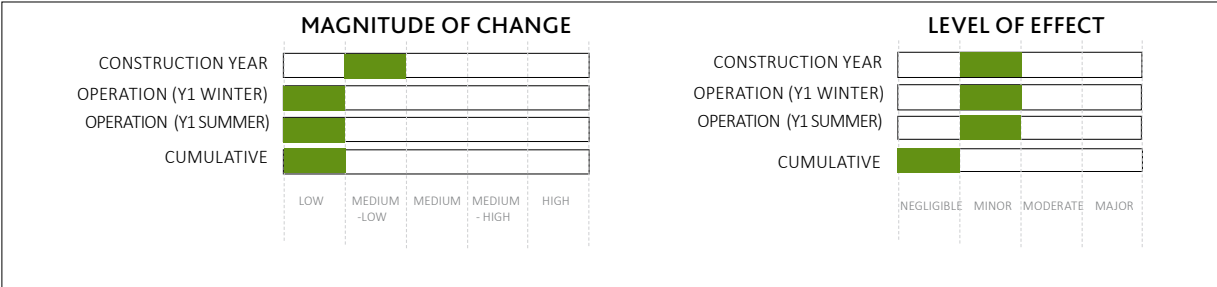
**Construction:** Most of the construction activity will occur in a neighbouring LCA, with one access track present on the boundary with this LCA. Works to the neighbouring LCA will include work at pole positions and stringing locations, and access tracks. No woodland losses are anticipated, there is potential for loss of short sections of hedgerow and no trees will be subject to lopping or felling. No permanent losses of trees as a result of the access areas are anticipated. No changes to landform are required. Whilst there will be short-term disturbance to the edge of this rural scene, this is a working landscape with frequent farming activities and the magnitude of change will be medium-low and effects are minor adverse (not significant).

**Operation - Year 1 Winter:** The proposed development passes to the south of this LCA, and is in keeping with the scale (height) of the trees in this landscape, which already features existing wood poles and farming activities. The influence of the proposed development on the character of the area will be localised due to its location in a neighbouring LCA and existing screening on field boundaries. Anticipated landscape losses (to hedgerows) resulting from the construction phase are minimal and will improve over time. Effects are minor adverse (not significant).

**Operation - Year 1 Summer:** As Winter, though the proposed development will be less visible due to the screening effect of deciduous trees and hedgerows in leaf. Effects are minor adverse (not significant).

**Cumulative:** There are no other proposed developments which would give rise to any cumulative effects when seen alongside the proposed development, therefore no cumulative effects.

SUMMARY OF EFFECTS





# LCA 4 ESTATE FARMLANDS: WOODHOUSE - SHEET A

## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER BASELINE DESCRIPTION

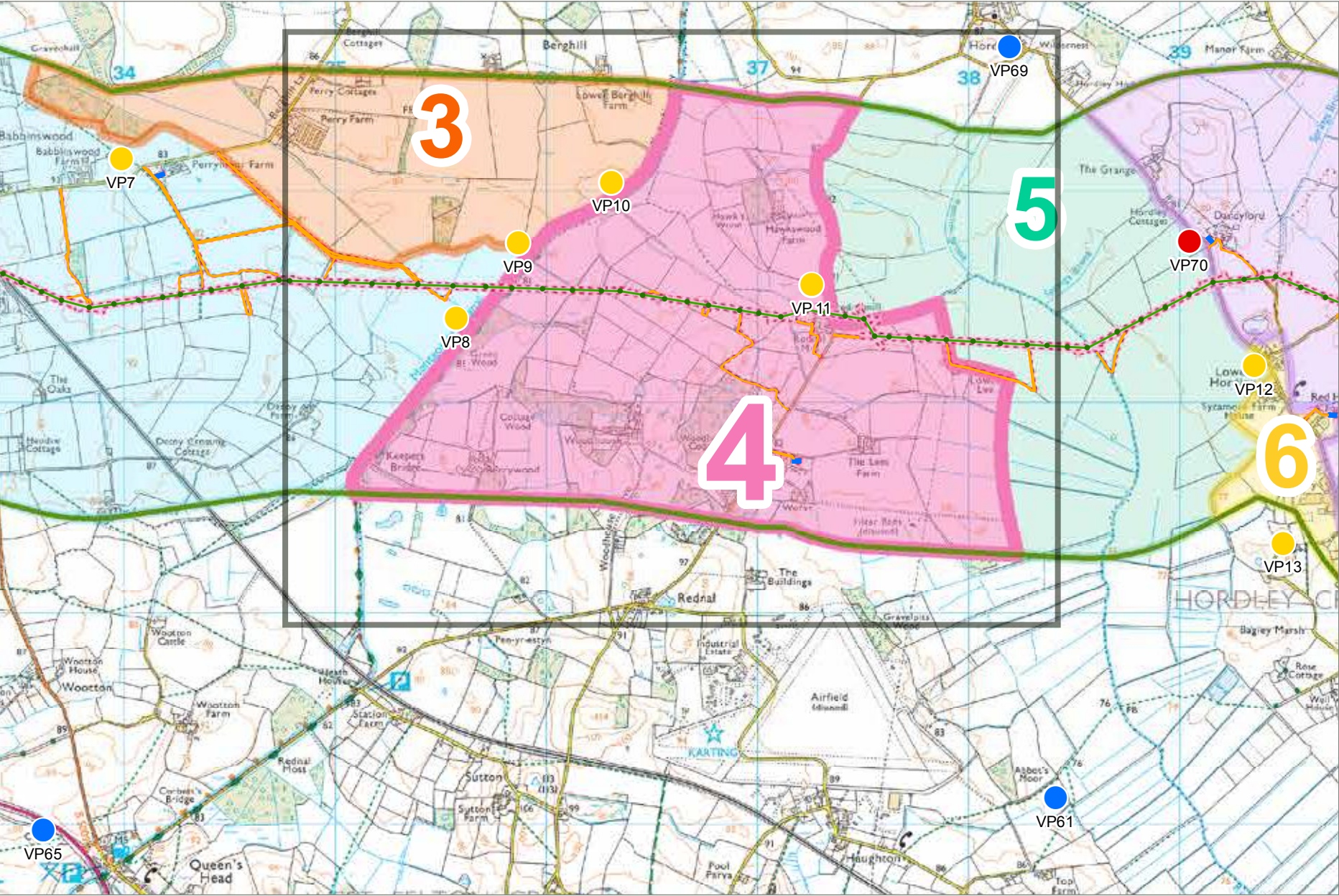
**KEY CHARACTERISTICS TAKEN FROM THE SHROPSHIRE LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES:** Mixed farming land use; Clustered settlement pattern; Large country houses with associated parklands; Planned woodland character; Medium to large scale landscapes with framed views.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Estate Farmlands described in the Shropshire Typologies are 'gently rolling lowland and valley floor landscapes that occur across large areas of Shropshire... these landscapes include some the best agricultural land in the county, which have traditionally been associated with mixed farming. Landscape character is largely determined by an ordered pattern of fields and woods. The majority of the woodlands have a planned appearance, although some plantations occupy the sites of older woods.'

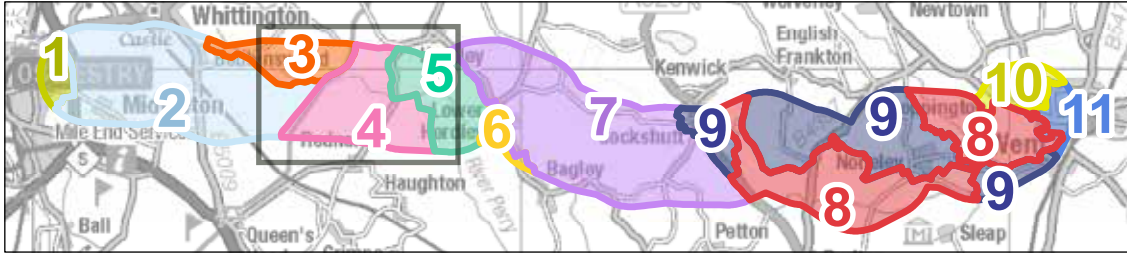
**ADDITIONAL KEY CHARACTERISTICS NOTED IN THIS LOCALITY:** Buildings associated with the Woodhouse Estate, including the Hall, ancillary buildings, farmsteads, agricultural buildings, cottages, lodges and Rednal Mill. Small industrial estates centred on the remnant war-time buildings from the airfield at Rednal. Very gently undulating, small to medium-scale low-lying arable fields, bound by low hedges and wooden fences, with occasional hedgerow trees and some individual field trees that formed part of now relict hedgerow field boundaries. Blocks of woodland and individual and specimen trees are concentrated around Woodhouse Hall and the formal grounds. Visual connections to the surrounding landscape are experienced from the edges of this mixed rural area.

**DESCRIPTION:** This localised character area has a small-medium scale pattern of fields bound by hedgerows with hedgerow trees and areas of mixed and planned woodland. An area of private parkland lies just to the east of the house at Woodhouse, with some veteran and specimen trees and pockets of woodland, which create a private landscape with little visible connection to the rest of the character area. Fields are utilised for arable farming and with pockets of pasture near Woodhouse, Berrywood and Hawkswood Farm. The Grade II\* listed house and its immediate parkland occupy the most elevated section of this character area. The well-treed linear course of the Montgomery Canal and Shropshire Way regional trail creates a well-defined physical and visual barrier to the west of the LCA. The small but well-treed course of the River Perry flows east-west across the LCA from Rednal Mill to the Canal, creating a further physical and visual barrier, but the LCA extends to Hawkswood Farm where a pocket of woodland remains and field patterns are in keeping with those within the estate. The transition to a larger scale field pattern occurs at the edge of this character area close to The Lees Farm and north of Hawkswood Farm. Here, field boundaries consist of hedgerows with some scattered hedgerow trees. The larger scale fields allow for longer views towards nearby elevated ridges such as Welsh Frankton to the north. The settlement pattern within this LCA is of scattered small scattered groupings associated with the estate including cottages, a mill, lodges and farms. Buildings associated with the airfield at Rednal currently function as Rednal industrial Estate (Site B). The influence of this small pocket of industry is felt along the north-south stretch of road (Woodhouse Lane) that bisects the centre of the character area, with large articulated vehicles servicing the site.

FIGURE 1: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA IN CONTEXT



LOCATION MAP



**FIGURE 2:** View into Rednal Industrial Estate.

**KEY VALUE CHARACTERISTIC:**  
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND QUALITY  
PERCEPTUAL ASPECTS AND TRANQUILITY  
Mixed landscape character with industrial influence and reduced tranquility.



**FIGURE 3:** View over Woodhouse Estate farmland and Rednal Mill taken from Woodhouse Lane, with 400KV pylons on the skyline.

**KEY VALUE CHARACTERISTIC:**  
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER  
NATURAL LANDSCAPE INTERESTS  
Small-medium scale pattern of fields bound by hedgerows with hedgerow trees, areas of mixed and planned woodland, and scattered pockets of settlement.



LCA 4 ESTATE FARMLANDS: WOODHOUSE - SHEET B

FIGURE 4: TYPICAL VIEW OF LCA TYPE - IMAGE TAKEN FROM PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY (SHROPSHIRE WAY) ALONG THE MONTGOMERY CANAL, WITHIN ESTATE FARMLANDS LCA (VP10)



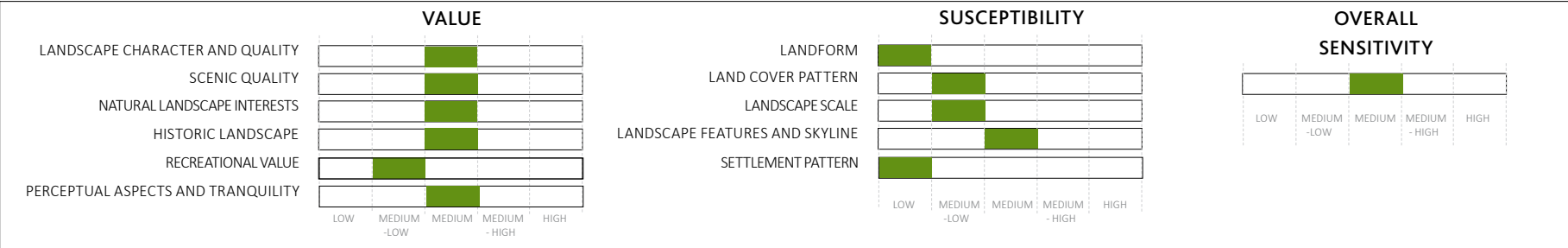
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

**Description of overall landscape value:** A small-medium scale field pattern prevails, much of which is unaffected by 20th century field amalgamation. Mixed woodland blocks (that form part of the National Forest Inventory) and mature tree specimens on hedgerows and in open fields are present, particularly in proximity to the private parkland areas within the Woodhouse estate and the canal add to the scenic value in the west of the LCA. Fields are set aside to arable farming and pasture. The Shropshire Way regional trail follows the scenic course of the Montgomery Canal, forming the western boundary of the LCA. The Perry Aquaduct occurs where the River Perry passes under the Canal. Farms are well maintained, with pre-20th century red brick farmhouses plus traditional and modern associated buildings, in addition to barns and cottages, and the mill at Rednal. The main house at Woodhouse is Grade II\* listed, along with three other associated structures. A north-south stretch of road (Woodhouse Lane) bisects the centre of the LCA and serves the small and incongruous industrial area to the east. Private tracks and lanes lead to individual farms and service the Woodhouse Estate. Visibility generally extends across just one or two of the neighbouring fields due to hedgerows, trees and woodland. There is a sense of remoteness in the west of the LCA, however, the overhead electricity infrastructure, industrial area and traffic movements along Woodhouse Lane reduce the scenic quality, and the perception of remoteness. The overall landscape value is judged to be medium.

**Description of overall landscape susceptibility:** This very gently undulating and sparsely settled landscape has the potential to accommodate the proposed development, which is of a similar scale to existing wood pole OHLs and trees, which could provide a suitably scaled backcloth for the proposed development, particularly along the watercourses and within the Woodhouse estate. The small to medium scale estate farmland, bound with hedgerow, hedgerow trees and woodland blocks, and with waterside vegetation, is susceptible to loss of trees to accommodate the line, and poles could be sky-lined in views. Overall, the susceptibility of the landscape is medium-low.

**Description of overall landscape sensitivity:** Given the overall value of this LCA (medium) and susceptibility (medium-low) the overall sensitivity of the LCA to the proposed development is judged to be medium.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT



MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE AND LEVEL OF EFFECTS

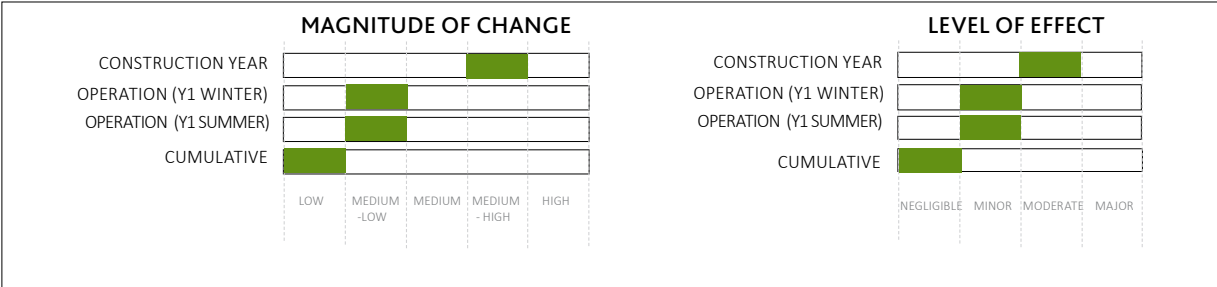
**Construction:** Construction activity includes work at pole positions, stringing locations, access tracks and lay down areas close to Rednal Mill and at Rednal Industrial Estate. Tree removal necessary to accommodate the route includes a short section at the Canal crossing, a swathe through the corner of a woodland block in private estate farmland (clearance of up to 0.25 hectares could be required) and clearance to narrow pockets of riverside vegetation along the River Perry at two crossing points near Rednal Mill. There is potential loss of short sections of hedgerow, and small numbers of trees subject to lopping or, if safety clearances require, felling. Permanent losses of trees as a result of the access areas are not anticipated. No changes to landform are required. There will be short-term disturbance to the rural scene, although this is a working landscape with pockets of industry. Overall the magnitude of change will be medium-high, and effects are moderate (significant).

**Operation - Year 1 Winter:** The proposed development is in keeping with this landscape, which features existing wood poles and pockets of farming, industry and settlement. The impact of landscape losses are localised due to existing screening from trees and woodland blocks. Natural regeneration and potential mitigation planting in some areas will, over time, soften the appearance and replace some of the lost features, which form a small scale element in the wider landscape. Long term effects are minor adverse (not significant).

**Operation - Year 1 Summer:** As Winter, though the proposed development will be less visible due to the screening effect of deciduous trees and hedgerows in leaf. Effects are minor (not significant).

**Cumulative:** There are no other proposed developments which would give rise to any cumulative effects when seen alongside the proposed development, therefore no cumulative effects.

SUMMARY OF EFFECTS





# LCA 5 LOWLAND MOORS: RIVER PERRY - SHEET A

## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER BASELINE DESCRIPTION

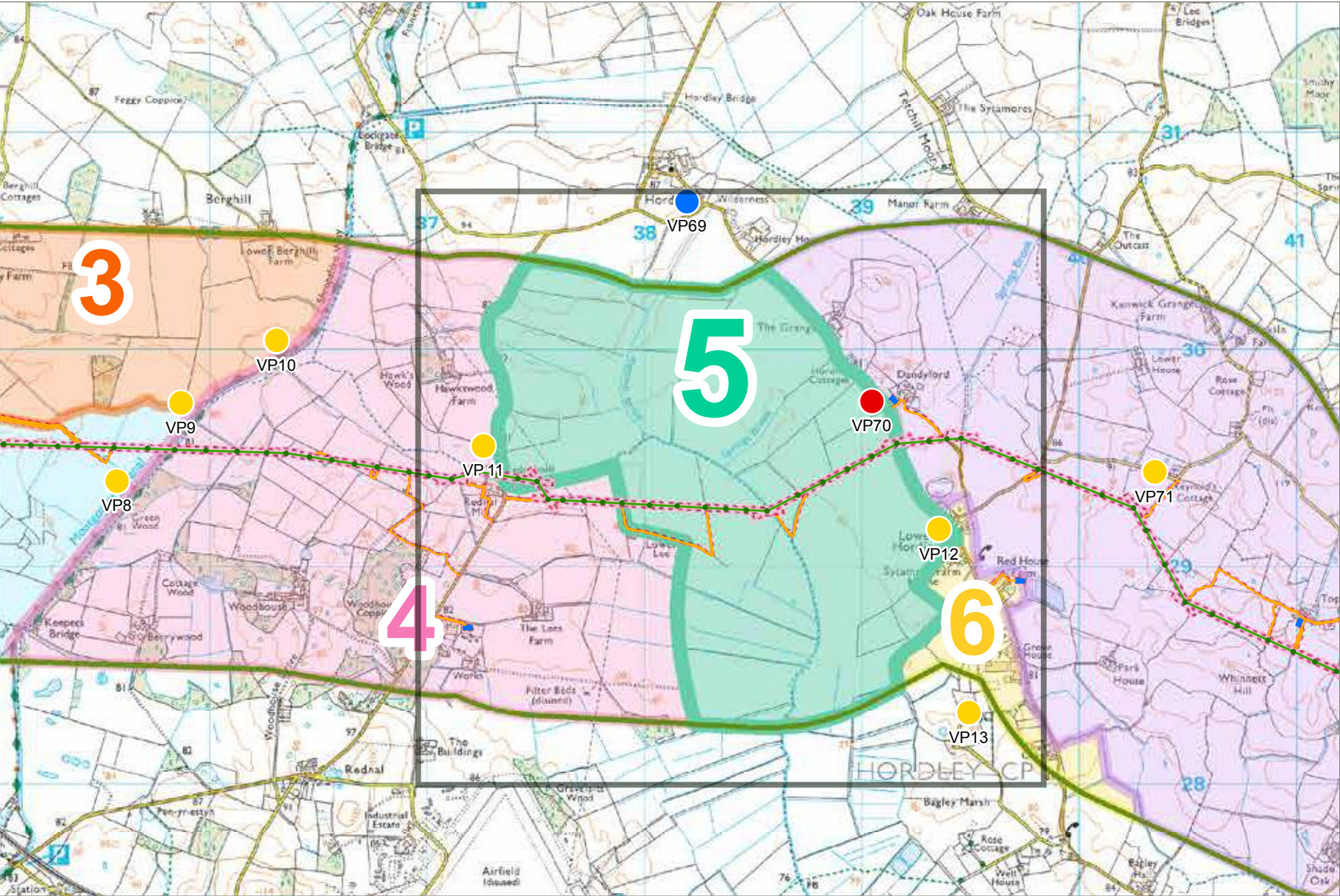
**KEY CHARACTERISTICS TAKEN FROM THE SHROPSHIRE LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES:** Flat, low-lying topography; Peaty soils; Wet ditches and drains; Open, unsettled landscape.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Shropshire Landscape Typology describes the Lowland Moors as 'flat, low-lying, wetland landscapes, which occupy shallow hollows in the glacial drifts deposits. Tree cover consists of scattered willows along the drains and other water channels, which also represent one of the defining characteristic of this landscape type... The historical wetness of the soils means that these landscapes remain largely devoid of settlements, whilst the few roads within them were created as part of the drainage schemes... By the later Middle Ages these landscapes provided extensive commons, which provided an important variety of resources, including peat (for fuel), fish, particularly eels, wildfowl and seasonal rough pasture. In some locations, small holders established cottages around the edges of these commons between the 16th and 18th centuries. Improvement of the Lowland Moors was undertaken by the larger landowners from 16th century onwards, culminating in the large, capital intensive drainage schemes of the late 18th and 19th centuries. The improved pastures that were established as a result enabled some of these wetlands, particularly the Weald Moors, to be used as fattening grounds for cattle and sheep... Ongoing drainage works in the later 20th century has permitted intensive arable cultivation in some locations, particularly on Baggy Moor...'

**ADDITIONAL KEY CHARACTERISTICS NOTED IN THIS LOCALITY:** This area lies north of Baggy Moor and is associated with River Perry. Small-medium scale slightly sloping agricultural fields, often rectilinear in shape, radiate out from the course of the gently meandering river. Field boundaries are generally low hedges with very few trees, with some drainage ditches that flow into the river for drainage purposes. There is no built form within this character area, **which** is marked by an absence of woodland and is prone to flooding. There are no roads, and no public rights of way, but there is a visual connection with the surrounding, more elevated landscapes, from this low-lying and sparsely vegetated rural area.

**DESCRIPTION:** This unsettled landscape to the north of Baggy Moor has no public connections through it, but is a working agricultural landscape completely set aside to arable crops and pasture, with no built form. A human influence is felt by the presence of irrigation systems and views of nearby individual wind turbines at Dandyford, Bagley Marsh and Top House Farm, and the 400kV pylon connection to the west. The LCA is bordered to the east by Lower Hordley, to the south by Bagley Marsh, and to the north by Hordley, with public roads forming the boundaries to the north-west, north and east. The absence of tall mature trees along fields boundaries and the shallow sloping, low-lying landform adds to a sense of openness and reduces the feeling of seclusion, with views to surrounding elevated areas to the north (Welsh Frankton) and east (Kenwick Park). The broadly curving and treed course of the River Perry passes from the north-west to the south of this LCA, with both Tetchill and Spring Brooks feeding the river from the north. The distinct rectilinear fields radiate from the river and are marked by drainage ditches. This field pattern continues further south, beyond the study area, past Bagley Marsh and towards Baggy Moor. Field boundaries generally consist of hedgerows or fencing, with a very small number of hedgerow trees. Trees feature on the banks of the River Perry and Tetchill Brook

FIGURE 1: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA IN CONTEXT



LOCATION MAP

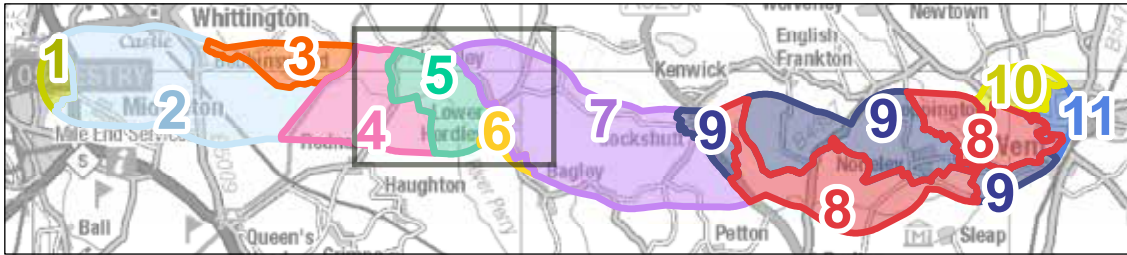


FIGURE 2: View looking south-west from Dandyford across the arable fields along the eastern edge of the LCA.

**KEY VALUE CHARACTERISTIC:**  
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND QUALITY  
SCENIC QUALITY

Unsettled, agricultural landscape with long open views and pylons visible in the skyline.



FIGURE 3: Aerial view of field patterns along-side the River Perry, and drainage ditches.

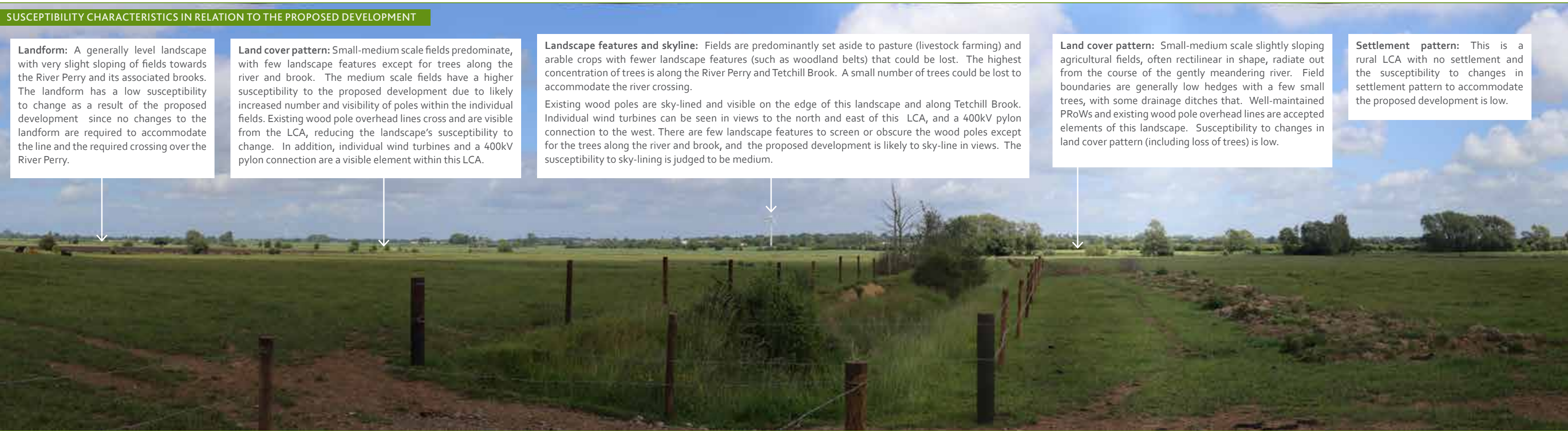
**KEY VALUE CHARACTERISTIC:**  
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER  
NATURAL LANDSCAPE INTERESTS

Broadly curving course of the River Perry with linear drainage ditches



LCA 5 LOWLAND MOORS: RIVER PERRY - SHEET B

FIGURE 4: TYPICAL VIEW OF LCA TYPE - IMAGE TAKEN FROM THE WEST OF HAUGHTON, LOOKING NORTH-EAST - THE LCA IS IN FIELDS TOWARDS THE HORIZON (VP61)



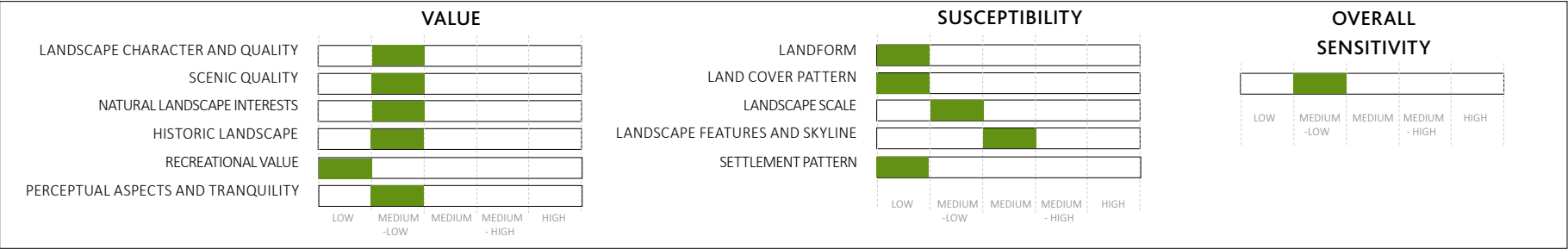
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

**Description of overall landscape value:** The field patterns associated with the 18/19th century improved pastures and drainage ditches are evident, with some erosion due to 20th century field amalgamation. Farmland is generally well maintained, with evidence of irrigation and management, but few landscape features such as mature trees. The course of the River Perry and radiating fields form a distinct landscape pattern associated with drainage ditches built to alleviate flooding of farmland in this area, and are part of a wider habitat for birds that use the River Perry and Baggy Moor. There are no roads and no PRowS within the LCA, no settlement and no built form, lending a sense of some seclusion. Roads have an influence on the edge of the LCA. The visibility of roads, existing overhead lines and individual wind turbines generally extends across field boundaries due to the lack of mature trees, and the relatively level topography, thus reducing the scenic quality, and the perception of remoteness and tranquility. This is an unsettled, agricultural landscape influenced by the visibility of electricity infrastructure, and the overall landscape value is judged to be medium-low.

**Description of overall landscape susceptibility:** The small-medium scale LCA has the potential to accommodate change relating to the proposed development due to the level landform and lack of settlement. There are few landscape features, and therefore few likely losses; the main consideration being the crossing of the River Perry, which in this low-lying landscape is not considered to pose any technical issues. The openness of the landscape means that wood poles are susceptible to being visible in the skyline, although the proposed development is of a similar scale to existing wood poles. Overall, the susceptibility of the landscape is medium-low.

**Description of overall landscape sensitivity:** This working rural landscape has a sense of intermittent tranquility and seclusion due to its inaccessibility and unsettled nature, but this is interspersed with periods of disturbance caused by agricultural operations. The small-medium scale, level topography and limited screening on field boundaries could extend the influence of the proposed development over a wider area within the LCA. However, the presence of existing wood lines, edge of settlement, neighbouring roads, existing electricity infrastructure and wind turbines reduces the sensitivity of the landscape to change arising from the proposed development. Given the overall value of this LCA (medium-low) and susceptibility (medium-low) the overall sensitivity of the LCA to the proposed development is judged to be medium-low.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT



MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE AND LEVEL OF EFFECTS

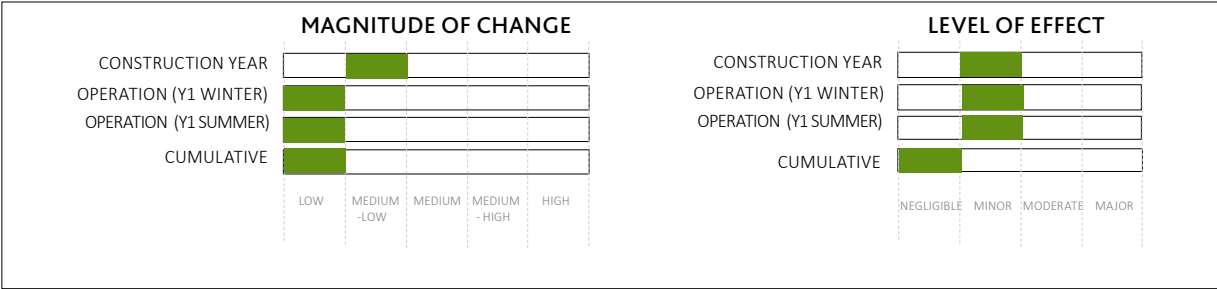
**Construction:** Construction activity will include work at pole positions, stringing locations and access tracks. Minimal landscape losses are anticipated; no woodland losses, potential loss of short sections of hedgerow, and potential loss of one tree east of Lower Lees, and a small number of trees to accommodate the river crossing. No losses as a result of the access areas are anticipated. No changes to landform are required. There will be short-term disturbance to the rural scene, although this is a working agricultural landscape. Overall the magnitude of change will be medium-low and effects are minor adverse (not significant).

**Operation - Year 1 Winter:** The influence of the proposed development may be felt across neighbouring fields due to the lack of screening from mature trees, but other steel pylon and wood pole OHLs are visible from the LCA. Wood poles are an accepted element in and around this LCA and are of a similar scale to the proposed development. Anticipated landscape losses (to hedgerows and trees at and near the River Perry crossing) resulting from the construction phase are minimal and will improve over time with natural regeneration and potential mitigation. Effects are minor adverse (not significant).

**Operation - Year 1 Summer:** As Winter, though the proposed development will be less visible due to the screening effect of deciduous trees and hedgerows in leaf. Effects are minor adverse (not significant).

**Cumulative:** There are no other proposed developments which would give rise to any cumulative effects when seen alongside the proposed development, therefore no cumulative effects.

SUMMARY OF EFFECTS





# LCA 6 ESTATE FARMLANDS (SEMI-INDUSTRIAL): LOWER HORDLEY AND BAGLEY - SHEET A

## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER BASELINE DESCRIPTION

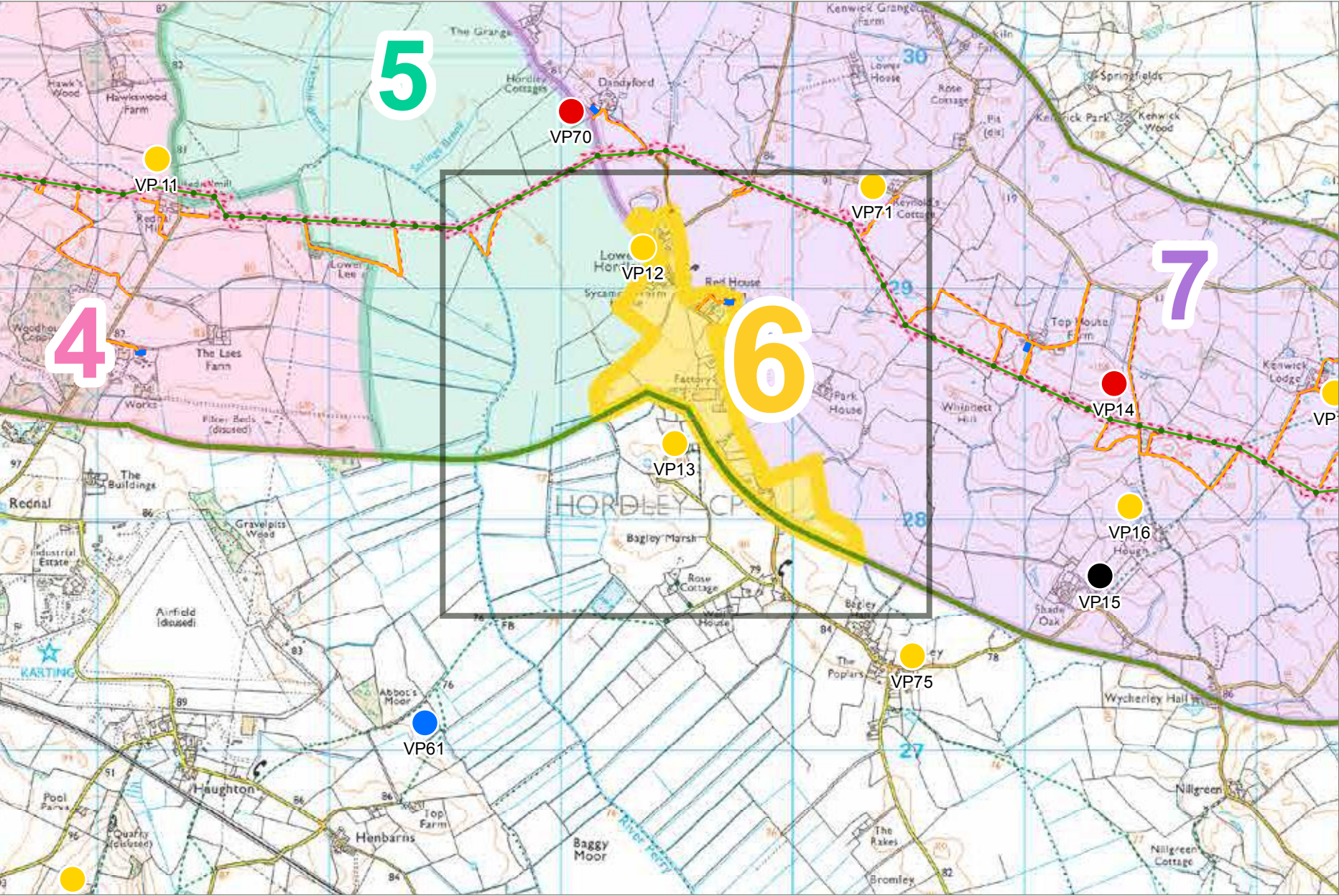
**KEY CHARACTERISTICS TAKEN FROM THE SHROPSHIRE LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES:** Mixed farming landuse; Clustered settlement pattern; Medium to large scale landscapes with framed views.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Shropshire Landscape Typologies report notes that 'Estate farmlands are gently rolling lowland and valley floor landscapes that occur across large areas of Shropshire... and these landscapes include some the best agricultural land in the county, which have traditionally been associated with mixed farming... The settlement pattern is predominantly one of villages and hamlets and large estate farmsteads... the 18th and 19th century saw significant rationalisation of pre-existing field patterns and the formal enclosure of the remaining areas of unenclosed rough grazing lands. This period also saw the construction of new estate farmsteads in the open countryside, as well as labourers cottages and schools within some of the villages.'

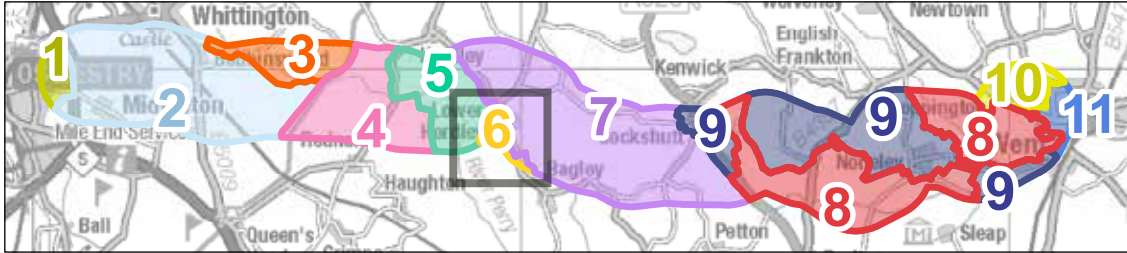
**ADDITIONAL KEY CHARACTERISTICS NOTED IN THIS LOCALITY:** Pocket of industry adjacent to rural settlement and farming activities, concentrated along the road that services Lower Hordley and Bagley.

**DESCRIPTION:** This particular small and low-lying LCA is notable by the slightly discordant combination of settlement, industry and farming activities concentrated along the road that links Lower Hordley to Bagley. The road follows the route of a former canal (closed in 1917) but there is little remaining evidence of its presence. A cluster of red brick farms and cottages form the traditional centre of the hamlet at Lower Hordley, with small clusters of twentieth century housing to the north. There are no listed buildings. A modern industrial scale abattoir facility lies to the south of the hamlet with associated traffic movements reducing the sense of tranquility in this rural settlement. Small scale, low-lying arable fields are bound with hedgerows, occasional trees and drainage ditches on the edge of the LCA, and blocks of mature trees are present in the centre of the hamlet adding to a sense of some enclosure. One public right of way crosses the south of the LCA along a well treed path south of the abattoir, with little visible connection to the wider landscape. Individual wind turbines are visible to the north, south and east of Lower Hordley, near Dandyford Farm, Bagley Marsh, Shade Oak, Kenwick Lodge and Top House Farm. Telegraph poles, low voltage overhead lines and a 400kV pylon overhead line are present in the landscape around Lower Hordley. Views typically include neighbouring fields, small clusters of housing, the Village Hall, the rural lane and associated traffic, hedgerows, small blocks of mature trees, and nearby farms. More distant views include hills and low ridges, areas of woodland such as that associated with the Woodhouse Estate and the 400kV overhead line that runs north-east of Rednal Airfield.

FIGURE 1: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA IN CONTEXT



LOCATION MAP



**FIGURE 2:** View along the rural road through Lower Hordley and the abattoir facility.

**KEY VALUE CHARACTERISTIC:** LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND QUALITY  
PERCEPTUAL ASPECTS AND TRANQUILITY

Reduced tranquility due to road movements and modern infrastructure.



**FIGURE 3:** Hordley and Bagley Village Hall looking north towards Dandyford.

**KEY VALUE CHARACTERISTIC:** PERCEPTUAL ASPECTS AND TRANQUILITY  
SCENIC QUALITY

Existing infrastructure (to right of view) and modern buildings (village hall).



# LCA 6 ESTATE FARMLANDS (SEMI-INDUSTRIAL): LOWER HORDLEY AND BAGLEY - SHEET B

FIGURE 4: TYPICAL VIEW OF LCA TYPE - IMAGE TAKEN FROM THE SOUTH-WEST OF LOWER HORDLEY, LOOKING TOWARDS THE ABP ABATTOIR AND BAGLEY MARSH (VP12)



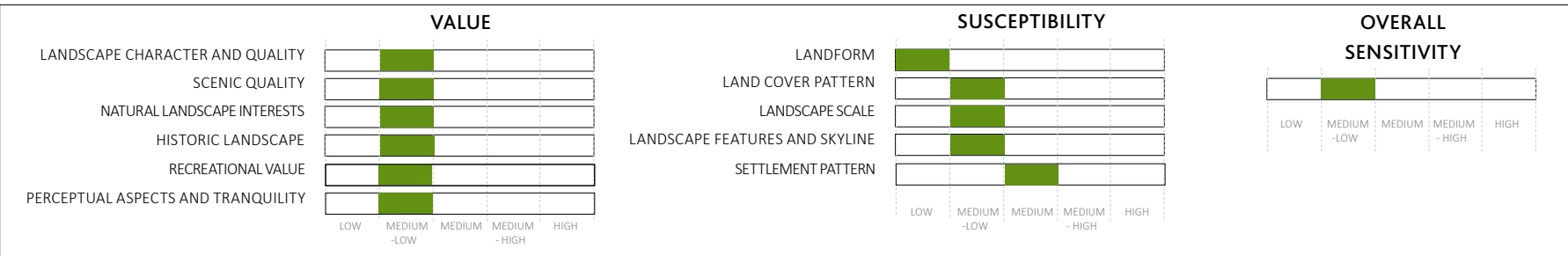
## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

**Description of overall landscape value:** Historic settlement and field patterns remain in proximity to Sycamore and Red House farms, with modern housing and industrial development to the north and south. A short section of one PRoW crosses the south of the LCA but has little visual connection with the LCA. Farms are well maintained, as is the large abattoir facility. Screening to field boundaries reduces the presence of this large but low-lying facility in the wider rural landscape. Its presence is felt along the rural road, with regular HGV traffic movements, metal fencing and buildings, and clearly defined access areas to the road edge. Building styles vary, with traditional buildings to the centre of the hamlet and more incongruous modern buildings to the north. There are no listed buildings. Rural roads intersect this LCA on its northern edge, and form a boundary along its eastern edge. Low voltage wood OHLs and telegraph poles are visible. Scenic value is reduced by the presence of mixed development and views across neighbouring rural landscapes are in places screened by intervening trees and high hedges. The abattoir, associated traffic movements (including HGVs), electricity and communications infrastructure, have contributed to the erosion of the traditional rural character, and reduced the sense of tranquillity. This is a settled rural scene influenced by modern infrastructure, the abattoir and its associated traffic movements, and overall landscape value is judged to be medium-low.

**Description of overall landscape susceptibility:** The generally level, small scale rural area of fields and mixed development is bound with hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Few changes to landform or loss of features would be required to accommodate the change relating to the proposed development. The most prominent landscape features are trees, with wood pole lines, mixed settlement and an industrial scale abattoir area also present. The proposed development is of a similar scale to existing wood poles and mature trees, though the scattered settlement pattern makes it more difficult to accommodate the proposed development, and there is potential for the poles to be visible on the skyline. Overall, the susceptibility of the landscape is medium-low.

**Description of overall landscape sensitivity:** The rural landscape is well-maintained and has a sense of enclosure due to the small scale pattern, level topography and screening from hedgerows with trees, but the mixed development reduces the scenic and recreational value. Other than mature trees and areas of relic historic field pattern, landscape features are not particularly susceptible to changes resulting from the proposed development. There is potential for poles to be visible in the skyline, but the presence of wood lines, mixed settlement and industrial abattoir reduces the susceptibility to change. Given the overall value of this LCA (medium-low) and susceptibility (medium-low) the overall sensitivity is judged to be medium-low.

## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT



## MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE AND LEVEL OF EFFECTS

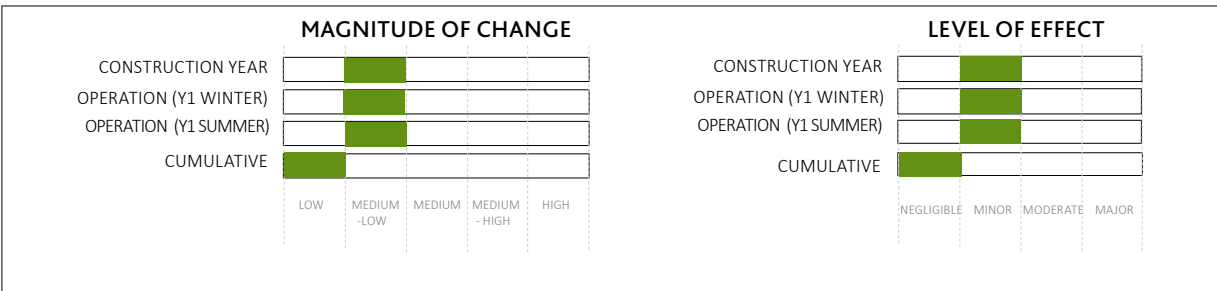
**Construction:** Construction activity will largely occur outside this LCA, and include work at pole positions and stringing locations. An access tracks and lay down area is located at Red House Farm. No direct landscape losses are anticipated within this LCA; no woodland losses, and no loss of short sections of hedgerow. No permanent loss of trees as a result of the access and lay-down areas are anticipated. No changes to landform are required. There will be short-term disturbance to the rural scene. Overall the magnitude of change will be medium-low and effects are minor adverse (not significant).

**Operation - Year 1 Winter:** The proposed development is in keeping with the scale of landscape features in this LCA, which features existing wood poles and pockets of farming, industry and settlement. The influence of the proposed development on the character of the area will be indirect due to its positioning in a neighbouring LCA some 260m from the closest point on the northern edge of the LCA 6. Whilst the proposed development will be visible over a wide field of view (approximately 2km in total) as it routes to the west, north and east of Lower Hordley, the distance from the LCA and the presence of existing wood poles reduces the magnitude of change. There are no anticipated direct landscape losses. Effects are minor adverse (not significant).

**Operation - Year 1 Summer:** As Winter, though the proposed development will be less visible due to screening from deciduous trees and hedgerows in leaf. Effects are minor (not significant).

**Cumulative:** There are no other proposed developments which would give rise to any cumulative effects when seen alongside the proposed development, therefore no cumulative effects.

## SUMMARY OF EFFECTS





# LCA 7 ESTATE FARMLANDS: STANWARDINE AND KENWICK ELEVATED RIDGE - SHEET A

## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER BASELINE DESCRIPTION

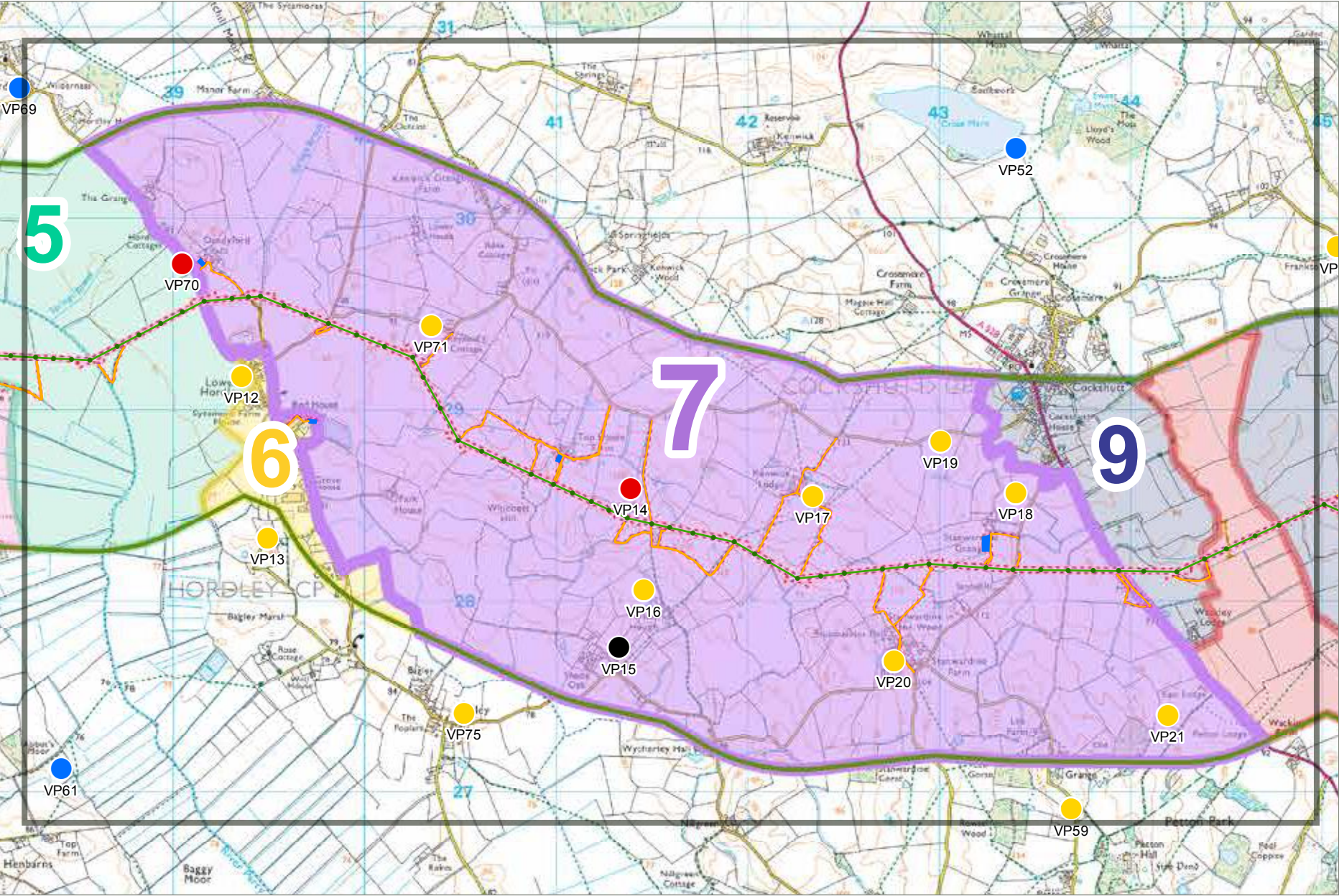
**KEY CHARACTERISTICS TAKEN FROM THE SHROPSHIRE LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES:** Mixed farming landuse; Clustered settlement pattern; Large country houses with parklands; Planned woodland character; Medium to large scale landscapes with framed views.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Shropshire Landscape Typologies report notes that the 'Estate farmlands are gently rolling lowland... landscapes that occur across large areas of Shropshire... some of the best agricultural land in the county... an ordered pattern of fields and woods... the prevailing pattern of medium to large sub-regular fields... They tend to create framed views... Parklands, with their veteran and specimen trees, are a particular feature of the type. The settlement pattern is predominantly one of villages and hamlets and large estate farmsteads... The gradual informal enclosure of the open fields was under way by the late medieval period and largely completed by the 17th century... some deer parks were created in the medieval period... the 18th and 19th century saw significant rationalisation of pre-existing field patterns...'

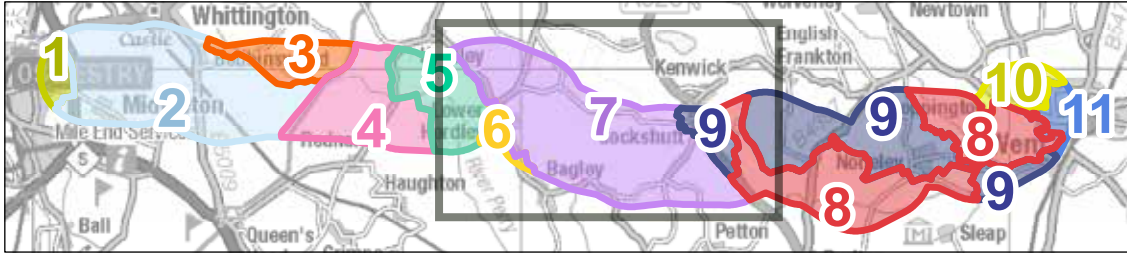
**ADDITIONAL KEY CHARACTERISTICS NOTED IN THIS LOCALITY:** Undulating, well-maintained historic agricultural landscape rising some 50m to an elevated ridge with scattered farmsteads, small pockets of woodland, expansive views and listed farmhouses.

**DESCRIPTION:** In this particular LCA the medium-scale lowland agricultural landscapes near Lower Hordley and Bagley in the west, rise some 50m to the low ridge that runs from Stanwardine in the south-east of the LCA, through to Kenwick Park in the north. This is a well-maintained and undulating agricultural landscape, with small-medium scale irregular fields set aside to both arable and pasture. The fields near Lower Hordley in the west tend to be larger in scale with fewer trees. Elsewhere, strong field boundaries are marked by mature hedgerows and trees, with individual mature field trees (including oaks) and ponds featuring strongly in this LCA. Much of the 19th century field patterns remain, particularly in the centre of the LCA close to Kenwick Lodge, Ferney Hough and Top House Farm. The 16th century park associated with the Grade II\* listed building at Stanwardine Hall is now set aside to pasture, though there are small pockets of woodland and well treed field boundaries in the vicinity. The brick and sandstone former manor house is now a farmhouse, and remains relatively intact, along with its associated buildings and its medieval moat, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Nearby is the Grade II listed 17th century Shade Oak Farmhouse, which form part of a stud farm. Red brick farmsteads and a small number of cottages are scattered across this LCA. The largest hamlet is the small cluster of red brick buildings at Stanwardine in the Wood. The area is serviced by rural roads that run east west across the edge of the ridge past Kenwick Lodge, and along the lowland area through Bagley and Hordley, and by private farm tracks. The lanes generally following the lower valley edge near Wycherley Hall and Lower Hordley, and the upper edge of the ridge past Kenwick Lodge and Top House Farm and down towards Tetchill Moor in the east. The eastern part of the LCA, north and west of Stanwardine, is serviced by a network of PRoWs, however the area to the west has no PRoWs. Individual wind turbines are visible to the north, south and west of the LCA, including at Dandyford, Bagley Marsh, Shade Oak, Kenwick Lodge and Top House Farm, in addition to telegraph poles and low voltage overhead lines. Views are generally expansive, with long views to the Welsh mountains in the west and the Shropshire Hills in the south. Some views are framed by the small pockets of woodland or by well-treed hedgerows, and the gentle undulations (particularly to the centre of the LCA) can foreshorten views and add a sense of enclosure.

FIGURE 1: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA IN CONTEXT



LOCATION MAP



**FIGURE 2:** View over larger medium scale arable fields northeast of Lower Hordley, looking south across LCA 7 towards Lower Hordley

**KEY VALUE CHARACTERISTIC:** LANDSCAPE CHARACTER  
SCENIC QUALITY

An open agricultural landscape with long views over medium scale fields.



**FIGURE 3:** View of Grade II\* listed 17th century Stanwardine Hall, a former manor house and currently a farmhouse. View is looking north-west across LCA 7

**KEY VALUE CHARACTERISTIC:** HISTORIC LANDSCAPE



LCA 7 ESTATE FARMLANDS: STANWARDINE AND KENWICK ELEVATED RIDGE - SHEET B

FIGURE 4: TYPICAL VIEW OF LCA TYPE - IMAGE TAKEN FROM PROW NEAR KENWICK OAK AND FERNEY HOUGH (VP14)



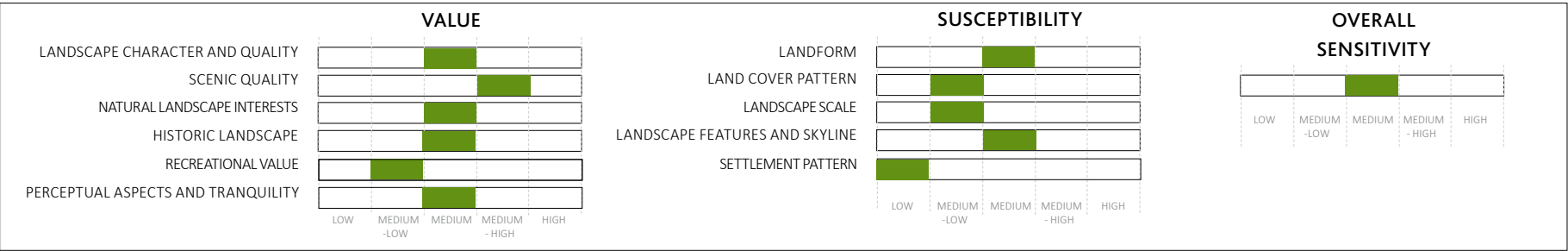
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

**Description of overall landscape value:** Parts of this LCA retain the 19th century field pattern (particularly to the centre of the LCA near Kenwick Lodge and Shade Oak Stud Farm) with land set aside for pasture and arable. To the west, the traditional field pattern has been eroded in places through 20th century field amalgamation. PRowS cross fields and follow field boundaries in the eastern half of the LCA, though access to some PRow is restricted by hedge growth and lack of boundary crossings. Farms are well-maintained and the agricultural land is well-tended. The majority of buildings are traditionally styled red brick two-story dwellings. There are two listed buildings, including the Grade II\* Stanwardine Hall, and its Scheduled Ancient Monument, which is of national value. Rural lanes service this LCA. Visibility varies according to elevation and screening on field boundaries, with expansive and scenic views from the larger scale elevated fields near Kenwick Oak and Lodge. Individual wind turbines and wood poles are visible and occasionally sky-lined in this LCA. This is a well-tended rural landscape, with good numbers of mature trees (including oaks), ponds and small woodland blocks, with historic and scenic interest. The LCA is influenced by modern infrastructure including wind turbines, wood pole overhead lines and agricultural sheds slightly reducing the sense of remoteness and tranquility. The overall landscape value is judged to be medium.

**Description of overall landscape susceptibility:** This sparsely settled LCA has the capacity to accommodate a new overhead line without changes to landcover pattern and settlement pattern, and is similar in scale to the most prominent landscape features (mature trees and woodland blocks) and to existing wood poles lines. Individual turbines and agricultural sheds are also present. The proposed development could sky-line in some closer views, and be backclothed in others, subject to viewing position and landscape features, and there is potential for loss of trees and sections of woodland. Overall, the susceptibility of the landscape is medium-low.

**Description of overall landscape sensitivity:** Whilst this landscape is judged to have medium value, the proposed development is similar in scale and format to existing wood pole overhead lines that are an accepted element of this landscape. Sky-lining is possible, but landscape features, rising landform and undulating fields provide some screening. The presence of wood lines, individual turbines and modern farm buildings further reduces the sensitivity of the landscape to change. Given the overall value of this LCA (medium) and susceptibility (medium-low) the overall sensitivity is judged to be medium.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT



MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE AND LEVEL OF EFFECTS

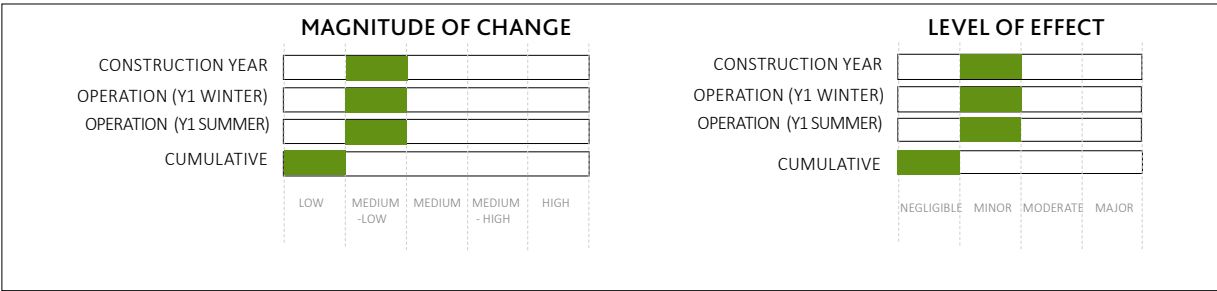
**Construction:** Construction activity will include work at pole positions, stringing locations, access tracks and lay down areas at Dandyford, Top House Farm, Kenwick Lodge, Stanwardine Hall and Stanwardine Grange. A small number of landscape losses are anticipated; potential temporary loss of short sections of hedgerow, a small number of mature trees and pond-side vegetation near Reynold's Cottage, Top House Farm and Kenwick Lodge. No permanent losses as a result of the access areas are anticipated. No changes to landform are required. There will be short-term disturbance to the rural scene, though this is a working agricultural landscape. Overall, magnitude of change across this LCA will be medium-low, effects are minor (not significant).

**Operation - Year 1 Winter:** The proposed development is in keeping with the scale of this well treed landscape, which features wood poles, individual wind turbines and agricultural sheds. The influence of the OHL, and tree losses resulting from it, will generally be localised, or screened or backclothed by vegetation. Viewing position could lead to poles being sky-lined in closer views to the south and west, and on the ridge at Stanwardine Grange. A greater number of poles could be visible in larger fields to the west. Losses to trees will be permanent but are isolated and unlikely to be felt across the wider LCA. Natural regeneration should assist in softening the appearance of any gaps over time. Overall, magnitude of change is judged to be medium-low and effects are minor adverse (not significant).

**Operation - Year 1 Summer:** As Winter, though the proposed development will be less visible due to the screening effect of deciduous trees and hedgerows in leaf. Effects are minor adverse (not significant).

**Cumulative:** There are no other proposed developments which would give rise to any cumulative effects when seen alongside the proposed development, therefore no cumulative effects.

SUMMARY OF EFFECTS





# LCA 8 LOWLAND MOORS: WACKLEY BROOK AND RIVER RODEN - SHEET A

## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER BASELINE DESCRIPTION

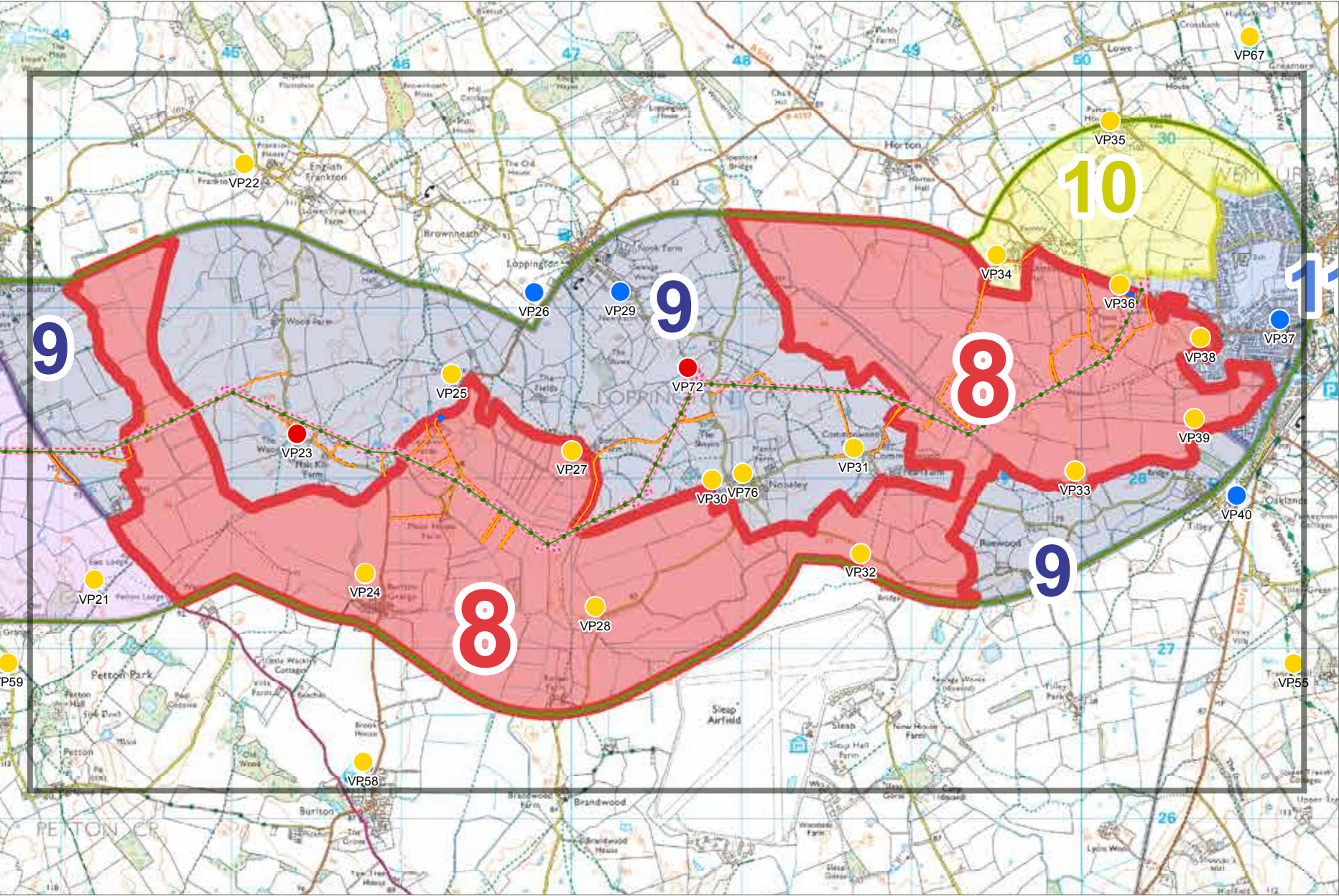
**KEY CHARACTERISTICS TAKEN FROM THE SHROPSHIRE LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES:** Flat, low-lying topography; Peaty soils; Wet ditches and drains; Open, unsettled landscape

**DESCRIPTION:** The Shropshire Landscape Typologies report notes that the 'Lowland Moors occur throughout northern and north-eastern Shropshire... They are flat, low-lying, wetland landscapes, which occupy shallow hollows in the glacial drifts deposits. Tree cover consists of scattered willows along the drains and other water channels, which also represent one of the defining characteristic of this landscape type... The historical wetness of the soils means that these landscapes remain largely devoid of settlements, whilst the few roads within them were created as part of the drainage schemes. Together with the medium-large scale and open views, this lends these landscapes a secluded quality... Improvement was undertaken by the larger landowners from 16th century onwards, culminating in the large, capital intensive drainage schemes of the late 18th and 19th centuries... Ongoing drainage works in the later 20th century has permitted intensive arable cultivation in some locations.'

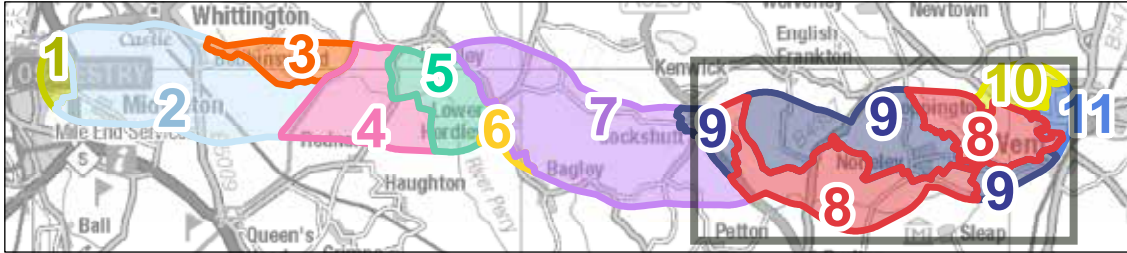
**ADDITIONAL KEY CHARACTERISTICS NOTED IN THIS LOCALITY:** Absence of settlement with scattered farmsteads; small through to large scale field patterns; few landscape features

**DESCRIPTION:** This particular LCA is a well-managed predominantly medium scale agricultural landscape (resulting from twentieth century field amalgamation) which covers two interconnected pockets within the study area, one near Sleep and Wackley, and one near the River Roden. The LCA is in good condition, and is marked by its low elevation, regular field patterns, meandering brooks (Wackley and Sleep), drainage ditches, the man-made linear course of the River Roden, and is susceptible to flooding. Generally, there are few trees on hedgerow boundaries which lends an open quality to this landscape, but the watercourses are tree-lined and small scattered pockets of woodland occur to the east of Burlton Grange. The Moorfields LWS features a distinct pattern of small-scale rectilinear fields bound with mature hedgerows, which are more historic in character than other existing field boundaries in this LCA. Larger scale fields occur at Burlton Grange, north of Sleep Airfield and near the River Roden. Small-scale and more historic fields occur in immediate proximity to the farmhouses in this LCA and the local wildlife site at Moorfields. This LCA is sparsely populated with scattered farmsteads and a sense of remoteness. The A528 forms the western boundary of this LCA, and links this landscape to Cockshutt in the north, and Harmer Hill in the south. The B5063 forms the eastern boundary of the LCA 8 just west of Wem. A network of wood pole OHLs crosses the LCA, and rural lanes connecting the LCA to the neighbouring hamlets and villages of Noneley, Loppington, Commonwood, Ruewood and Burlton. There are three Grade II listed buildings/structures at Burlton Grange. A small network of public footpaths services the area. Sleep Airfield lies to the south of the LCA, and is screened to an extent by intervening trees on Sleep Brook. Airfield operations and helicopter training flights, reduce the sense of tranquillity and remoteness to the north of Sleep Brook.

FIGURE 1: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA IN CONTEXT



LOCATION MAP



**FIGURE 2:** View over medium scale arable field west of Burlton in the direction of Sleep Airfield and Moorfields LWS.

**KEY VALUE CHARACTERISTIC:**  
**LANDSCAPE CHARACTER**  
**NATURAL LANDSCAPE**  
**INTERESTS**

An open agricultural landscape with long views over medium scale fields, and few landscape features.



**FIGURE 3:** View towards the River Roden and surrounding agricultural landscape, taken from The Ditches Hall and looking south over the low-lying landscape and existing Low voltage OHLs.

**KEY VALUE CHARACTERISTIC:**  
**TRANQUILITY**  
**SCENIC QUALITY**

Sparsely populated landscape with long views to distant uplands.



# LCA 8 LOWLAND MOORS: WACKLEY BROOK AND RIVER RODEN - SHEET B

FIGURE 4: TYPICAL VIEW OF LCA TYPE - IMAGE TAKEN FROM PROW IN ARABLE FIELDS NORTH OF SLEAP AIRFIELD, WITH NONELEY HALL VISIBLE TO THE RIGHT OF VIEW (VP32)



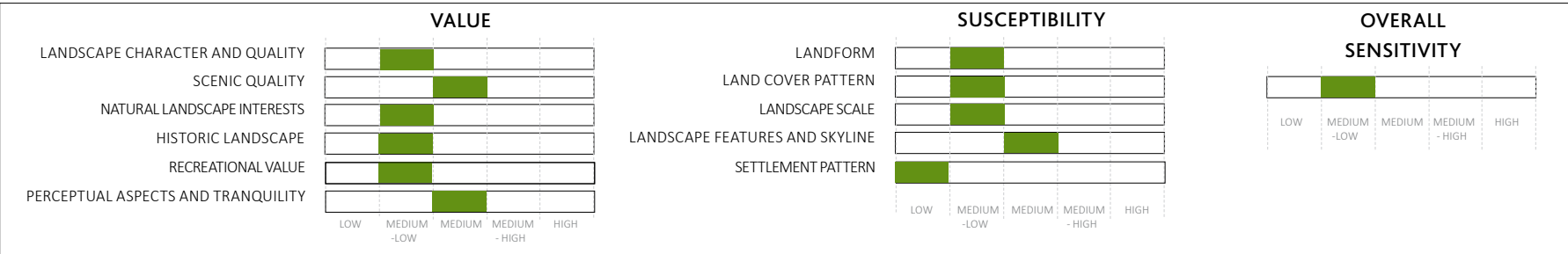
## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

**Description of overall landscape value:** Much of the 19th century field patterns recorded by the OS have been lost to twentieth century field amalgamation and the introduction of more intensive agricultural practices, though small pockets remain in proximity to farmhouses and at Moorfields LWS. Small blocks of woodland are evident, mature trees line the watercourses and some drainage ditches, and high hedges line the roads. The River Roden follows the course of an artificial channel to the west of Commonwood. A small network of ProWs service the area, though access is restricted in places. Farms are generally well-maintained. Traditional red brick farm houses and associated buildings predominate with some modern agricultural sheds. Three of the buildings and structures at Burlton Grange are Grade II listed. The A528 and B5063 are visible on the edges of the LCA and their influence reduces the sense of remoteness on the edges, as does the influence of airfield activities and manoeuvres on the area north of Sleaf. Visibility is variable, with long views to distant uplands experienced from some locations, and fore-shortened views across one or two field boundaries where hedgerows are high and the ground level. Low voltage overhead lines (including two wood pole 33kV OHLs) are visible within the LCA, with the exception of the landscape to the north of Sleaf Airfield. Whilst long stretches of the development may be seen in views, the scenic quality, and the perception of remoteness and tranquility have already been impacted. This is a sparsely settled agricultural scene, with pockets of tranquility and a sense of openness, and with long-reaching views to distant uplands. The LCA is influenced by modern infrastructure and airfield activities and manoeuvres, and the overall landscape value is judged to be medium-low.

**Description of overall landscape susceptibility:** The level, open and medium scale agricultural landscape bound with hedgerows and hedgerow trees has the potential to accommodate the proposed development, without changes to landform or settlement pattern, and with few losses of trees and woodland. Wood pole lines and agricultural sheds are present, and of a similar scale to the proposed development. Poles are susceptible to being visible in the skyline in this level open landscape. Overall, the susceptibility of the landscape is medium-low.

**Description of overall landscape sensitivity:** The landscape has changed due to the influence of modern farming practices, the larger roads, modern agricultural buildings and the airfield. In spite of this, the sparse settlement pattern contributes to a sense of remoteness which has been retained away from these features, with some scenic quality due to the openness of this rural landscape. There is potential for localised sky-lining in closer views, but the open nature of this landscape means that landscape features are unlikely to be lost. Given the overall value of this LCA (medium-low) and susceptibility (medium-low) the overall sensitivity is judged to be medium-low.

## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT



## MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE AND LEVEL OF EFFECTS

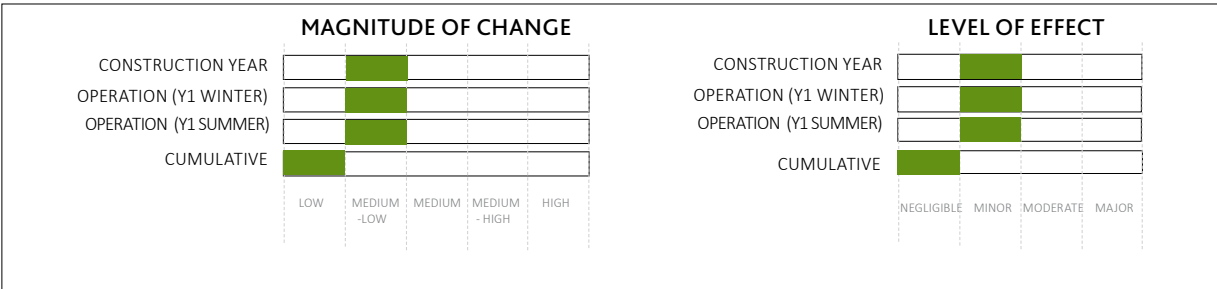
**Construction:** Construction activity includes work at pole positions, stringing locations and access tracks near Cockshutt, Moorfields LWS, the River Roden crossing and the B5063. There is a lay down area next to the B5063 Ellesmere Road. The existing 33kV OHL south of Pools Farm is to be undergrounded and a trench will be required through fields. Whilst there may be short-term disruption, only small sections of hedgerow tree losses are anticipated. Minimal landscape losses are anticipated; no woodland loss, potential temporary loss of short sections of hedgerow and a small number of trees subject to lopping or, if safety clearances require, felling. No permanent losses to trees and hedgerows as a result of the access areas are anticipated. No changes to landform are required. There will be short-term disturbance to the rural scene, although this is a working landscape with farming activities. Overall, magnitude of change will be medium-low and effects are minor adverse (not significant).

**Operation - Year 1 Winter:** The proposed development is in keeping with the scale of the landscape features which include hedges with occasional linear strips of trees and woodland. A greater numbers of poles will be visible in the larger scale fields near the River Roden, with potential for localised sky-lining when viewed in close proximity to the line. However existing wood poles, airfield manoeuvres and farming activities are accepted elements in this LCA, and thus the proposed wood poles are not an entirely discordant feature of the LCA. No changes to landform or settlement pattern are required. The influence of the proposed development on the character of the area will be localised due to the layering effect of existing screening on field boundaries, and landscape losses resulting from the construction phase are minimal and will improve over time. Effects are minor adverse (not significant).

**Operation - Year 1 Summer:** As Winter, though the OHL will be less visible due to the screening effect of deciduous trees and hedgerows in leaf. Effects are minor adverse (not significant).

**Cumulative:** There are no other proposed developments which would give rise to any cumulative effects when seen alongside the proposed development, therefore no cumulative effects.

## SUMMARY OF EFFECTS





# LCA 9 PRINCIPAL SETTLED FARMLANDS: COCKSHUTT TO RUEWOOD - SHEET A

## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER BASELINE DESCRIPTION

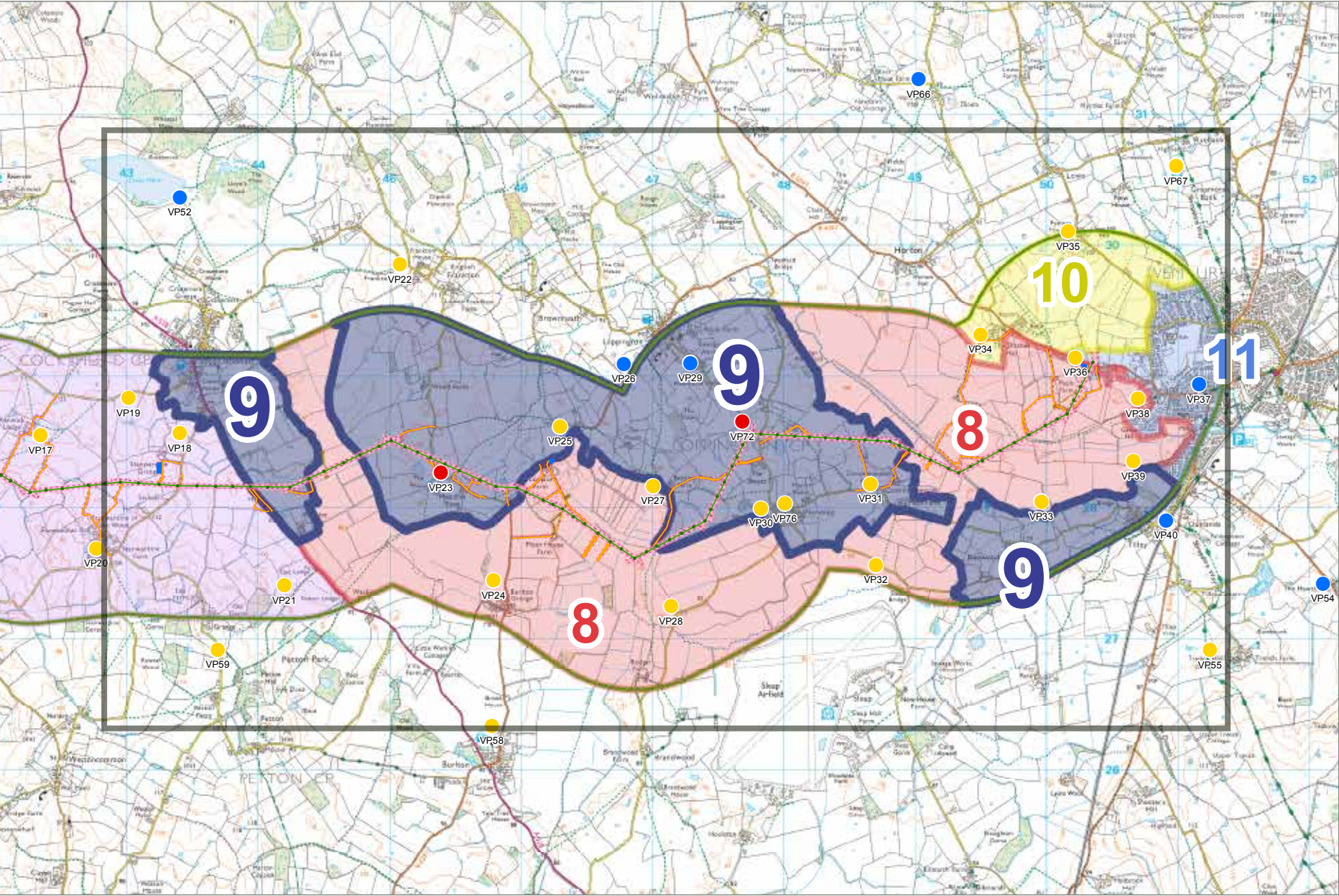
**KEY CHARACTERISTICS TAKEN FROM THE SHROPSHIRE LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES:** Mixed farming land use; Varied pattern of sub-regular, hedged fields.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Shropshire Landscape Typologies report notes that the 'Principal Settled Farmlands are prevalent throughout northern Shropshire, mainly in association with... sandstones... These are settled lowland landscapes of small villages and hamlets, scattered farms... that are predominantly utilised for mixed farming... this landscape type lacks significant woodlands, although small pieces of ancient woodland and plantation occur in some areas... tree cover comprises scattered hedgerow and field trees... are also defined by a clustered settlement pattern of hamlets and smaller villages and a medium to high density dispersal of farmsteads and wayside cottages. Together with the relatively small, sub-regular fields, these elements combine to create medium scale landscapes with predominantly filtered views. The Principal Settled Farmlands also have a varied history of development. During the Middle Ages many of the villages and hamlets were surrounded by open fields, the enclosure of which occurred on an informal basis during the later medieval and early modern period. Beyond these areas the field patterns often become more irregular and appear to have been enclosed directly from woodland or rough pasture.'

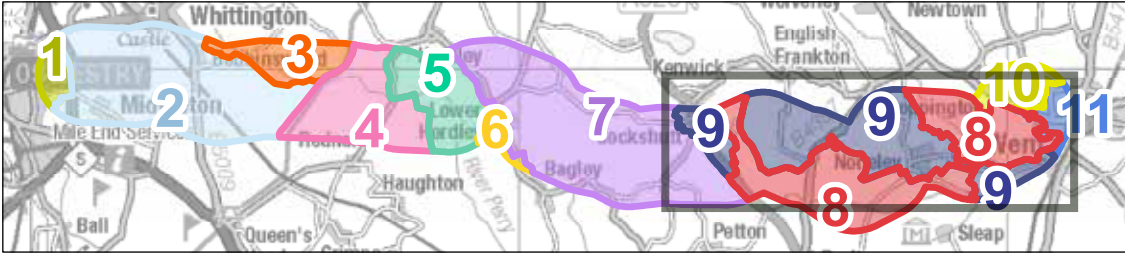
**ADDITIONAL KEY CHARACTERISTICS NOTED IN THIS LOCALITY:** Lightly undulating settled rural landscape with scattered hamlets, and small villages occupying slightly elevated land; clusters of listed buildings; small-medium scale field pattern with hedgerows, good numbers of hedgerow trees, ponds and small woodland blocks.

**DESCRIPTION:** This LCA is slightly elevated, lightly undulating, settled farmland, in good condition and featuring a small-medium scale irregular field pattern. Mature trees feature on hedgerow boundaries and in fields, in small woodland blocks and around field ponds. Field size tends to decrease in closer proximity to settlement, with the largest fields present in the west and east. Hamlets include Noneley and Commonwood in the east, Ruewood and Tilley in the south-east. The edge of the LCA clips the village of Loppington in the north, and Cockshutt on the A528 in the north-west of the LCA. Cockshutt appears as a satellite area, a continuation of this LCA, which lies north of the more open, regular and less vegetated Lowland Moors. Other scattered properties and farmsteads lie adjacent to the network of rural lanes and the B4397 that services the area. Listed buildings are present across the LCA, with clusters at Ruewood, Noneley, Tilley, Woodgate, Loppington and Cockshutt, and one at Malt Kiln Farm, and including Grade II\* Tilley Hall on the very edge of the LCA. Loppington contains a conservation area, numerous listed buildings, including the Grade I listed St Michael parish church, and a community hall. Settlement is mixed and includes pockets of historic red brick and black/white farms and cottages, and both 20th and 21st century development on the edge of Loppington and Cockshutt. Low voltage OHLs are present in this LCA. PRoWs cross the LCA connecting the hamlets and villages. Views vary according to the scale of fields and the visual containment provided by the layering effect of trees and field boundaries. Small-scale well-treed fields add a sense of tranquillity and seclusion, and larger fields a sense of openness.

FIGURE 1: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA IN CONTEXT



LOCATION MAP



**FIGURE 2:** View over medium scale pasture north of The Shayes, with Loppington parish church visible on the skyline just to the right of the existing 33kV wood pole line.

**KEY VALUE CHARACTERISTIC:**  
**NATURAL LANDSCAPE INTERESTS**

Individual field trees, ponds and the layering effects of trees on field boundaries.



**FIGURE 3:** View looking north-north-west towards the hamlet at Noneley.

**KEY VALUE CHARACTERISTIC:**  
**HISTORIC LANDSCAPE**

Listed farms and farm buildings are present in this LCA, including Grafton Farm (right of view) and Noneley Hall Farm (left of view).



LCA 9 PRINCIPAL SETTLED FARMLANDS: COCKSHUTT TO RUEWOOD - SHEET B

FIGURE 4: TYPICAL VIEW OF LCA TYPE - IMAGE TAKEN FROM PUBLIC FOOTPATH NORTH OF THE SHAYES (VP72)



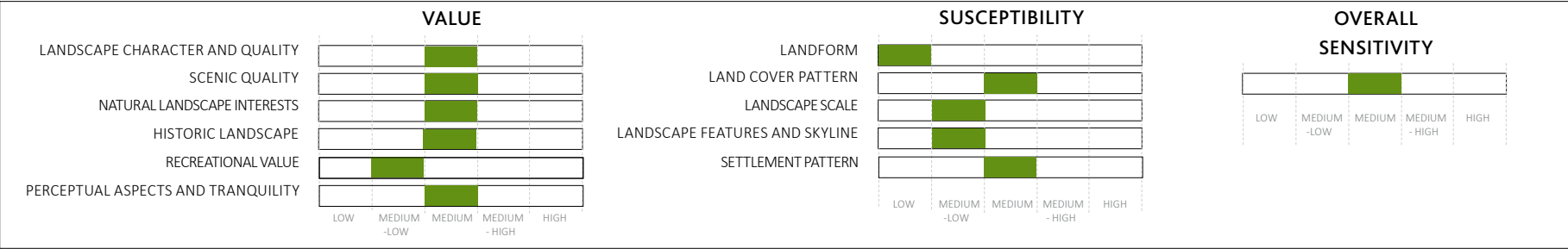
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

**Description of overall landscape value:** Historic features, such as field patterns, listed buildings and a conservation area, along with mature trees and pockets of rural tranquillity, add to the value of this settled rural LCA. Some of the fields close to the hamlets and villages still display small scale remnant enclosure pattern, though the traditional field pattern has been eroded through 20th century field amalgamation in the far east and west. Scattered farmsteads are generally well-maintained, fields and hedgerows are tended/maintained. Modern and historic buildings are present, with a large concentration of listed buildings in the centre of Loppington (a conservation area) and others at Noneley, Ruewood, Tilley, Woodgate, Malt Kiln Farm and Cockshutt. Some farm buildings have been converted into residential dwellings. Parish churches and primary schools are present in Loppington and Cockshutt. The area is serviced by a small network of rural lanes, roads and public footpaths, and there is a visible network of existing overhead lines on wood poles. Visual containment is provided by tree cover, particularly the 'layering effect' provided by trees on field boundaries and the level topography. Longer views are generally experienced towards the edge of the LCA where fields are more open. The overall landscape value is judged to be medium.

**Description of overall landscape susceptibility:** The generally level, small-medium scale settled rural landscape has the potential to accommodate the proposed development without harming its key characteristics. The most prominent landscape features are mature trees located in fields, hedgerows and next to ponds. These are susceptible to potential removal to accommodate an overhead line as it crosses the LCA. Existing wood pole lines, settlement and some commercial activity (in Cockshutt and Loppington) are already present. The proposed development is of a similar scale to existing wood poles and mature trees, and would not appear incongruous. Settlement is scattered throughout the LCA and careful routeing is required. Overall, the susceptibility of the landscape to the proposed development is medium.

**Description of overall landscape sensitivity:** This is a settled rural LCA with historic buildings and field patterns evident. The landscape generally has a sense of enclosure due to the small-medium scale, level topography and screening from hedgerows with trees. Infrastructure, such as roads and wood lines, areas of settlement and small pockets of commercial activity reduces the sensitivity of the landscape to change arising from the proposed development. Given the overall value (medium) and susceptibility (medium) the overall sensitivity of the LCA to the proposed development is judged to be medium.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT



MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE AND LEVEL OF EFFECTS

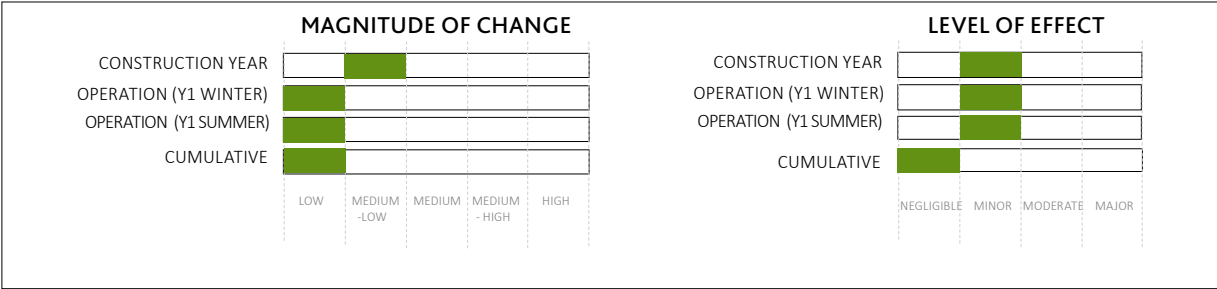
**Construction:** Construction activity will include work at pole positions, stringing locations, access tracks and lay down areas just beyond the LCA at Coppice Farm. Some very localised tree works or removal is anticipated adjacent to three ponds near The Wood, hedgerows and pond trees near Malt Kiln Farm, mature hedgerow trees near the PRow north of The Shayes, a small block of trees adjacent to the reservoir north of The Shayes, trees east of the River Roden, and loss of short sections of hedgerow. No permanent losses of trees or hedgerow as a result of the access areas are anticipated. No changes to landform are required. There will be short-term disturbance to the rural scene, although this is a working landscape with pockets of commercial and farming activities. The magnitude of change will be medium-low, since the losses of landscape features are localised and will not be felt within the wider LCA. Effects are minor adverse (not significant).

**Operation - Year 1 Winter:** The proposed development is in keeping with the scale of this well treed landscape, which features existing wood poles and pockets of farming, commercial activity and settlement. The influence of the proposed development on the character of the area will be localised due to existing screening on field boundaries, and anticipated landscape losses resulting from the construction phase will not be felt across the wider LCA and will improve over time. Effects are minor adverse (not significant).

**Operation - Year 1 Summer:** As Winter, though the proposed development will be less visible due to screening from trees and hedgerows in leaf. Effects are minor adverse (not significant).

**Cumulative:** There are no other proposed developments which would give rise to any cumulative effects when seen alongside the proposed development, therefore no cumulative effects.

SUMMARY OF EFFECTS





# LCA 10 SETTLED PASTORAL FARMLANDS: WEM FRINGE - SHEET A

## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER BASELINE DESCRIPTION

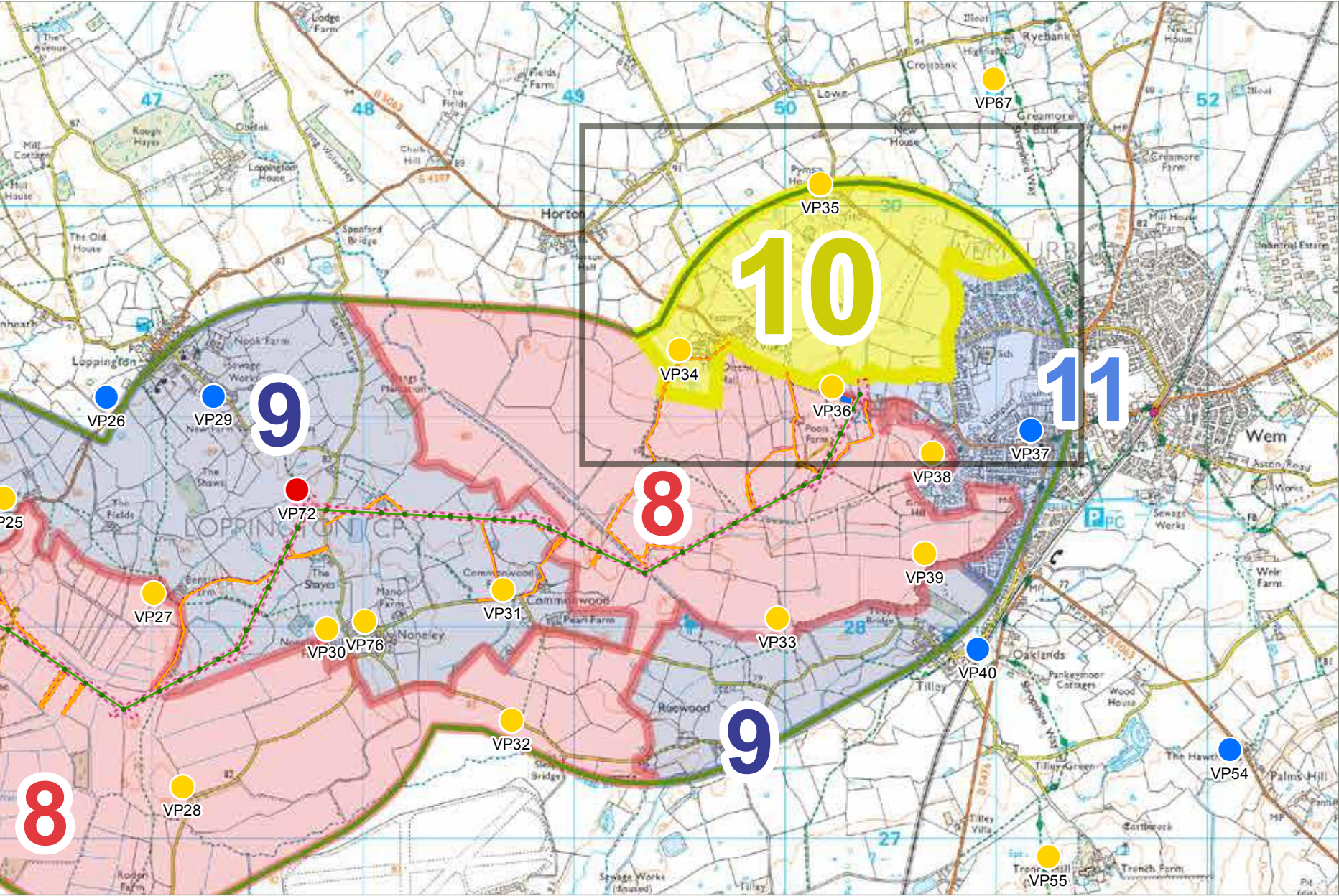
**KEY CHARACTERISTICS TAKEN FROM THE SHROPSHIRE LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES:** Heavy poorly drained soils; Pastoral land use; Scattered hedgerow trees; Irregular field pattern; Small to medium scale landscapes

**DESCRIPTION:** The Shropshire Landscape Typologies report notes that the Settled Pastoral Farmlands are '... are lowland agricultural landscapes. Heavy, often poorly drained soils... traditionally associated with livestock farming... the historic pattern of small to medium, sub-regular, hedged fields has been retained in most places... tree cover is largely provided by scattered hedgerow oaks and Ash trees... a small to medium scale landscape with predominantly filtered views. A medium to high density dispersal of farmsteads and wayside cottages, linked by a sinuous network of lanes, represents the prevailing settlement pattern... the historic field patterns remain largely unchanged.'

**ADDITIONAL CHARACTERISTICS NOTED IN THIS LOCALITY:** Rising pastoral landscape bordering the northwestern edge of Wem settlement, with very small pockets of clustered settlement comprising private houses, farmsteads and listed buildings, which occupy higher ground; mostly regular and small-medium scale field pattern bound by fences (including wrought iron fencing) and hedgerows, with occasional hedgerow trees, field trees, ponds and small groupings of trees; long views over Wem and towards more elevated local areas such as Clive, Newton on the Hill, Petton and Stanwardine.

**DESCRIPTION:** This LCA occupies rising land to the northwest of Wem. This settled farmland, in good condition and featuring a small-medium scale mostly regular field pattern, is typically bound by wooden fences, post and wire fences, hedgerow, or remnant metal railing fencing (typical of that used on the boundaries of estate parklands and farmlands) and walled garden areas (near Pym's House) that contributes to the sense of a well-ordered landscape. There is a parkland feel to this area, with ornamental trees present in proximity to elevated larger properties. These properties, including Lowe Hill Villa, Pym's House, Belle Vue (the lodge is Grade II listed) and The Ditches Hall (Grade II\* listed) experience long views over the surrounding landscape. Scattered mature trees are present on hedgerow boundaries and in fields, in small copses and around field ponds. The LCA is serviced by one road and a small network of rural lanes that link Wem to Horton and Lowe, including the B5063 Ellesmere Road. Settlement mostly includes historic red brick buildings and a black/white building (Ditches Hall), and Lowe Hill Villa, a visible and distinctive historic rendered property on higher ground that overlooks Wem. There are two farms, a hall, and other domestic houses and cottages, and small pockets of commercial farming activity. Low voltage OHLs are present in this LCA, including 2 No. 33kV wood pole OHLs and a network of 11kV OHLs. 2 No. PRoWs are present in the west of the LCA providing local connections to Horton and Wem. Views are generally long (due to the elevated nature of the landscape) and focussed to the south, east and west, in the direction of Wem and more elevated local areas such as Clive, Newton on the Hill, Petton and Stanwardine. The edge of the LCA borders the small market town of Wem and there is a strong visual connection with the residential edge of settlement. Any visual containment is generally provided by trees within garden boundaries. This is a settled rural and elevated landscape, with private pockets of tranquillity away from public roads and lanes, with ornamental trees present and a historic feel, with a sense of openness and long views over the surrounding landscape.

FIGURE 1: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA IN CONTEXT



LOCATION MAP

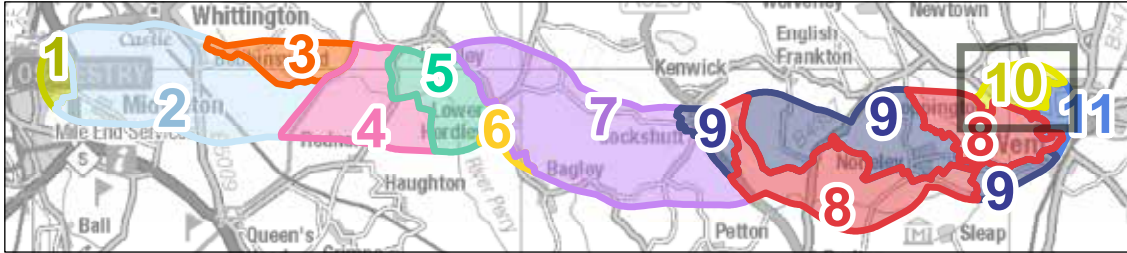


FIGURE 2: View east over The Ditches Hall and ornamental trees.

### KEY VALUE CHARACTERISTIC: HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

Listed buildings are present in this LCA, including Grade II\* The Ditches Hall, with its black and white facade. Such dwellings can date from the 16th century and feature as part of the vernacular in Shropshire.



FIGURE 3: View looking north over farmland towards Lowe Hill Villa.

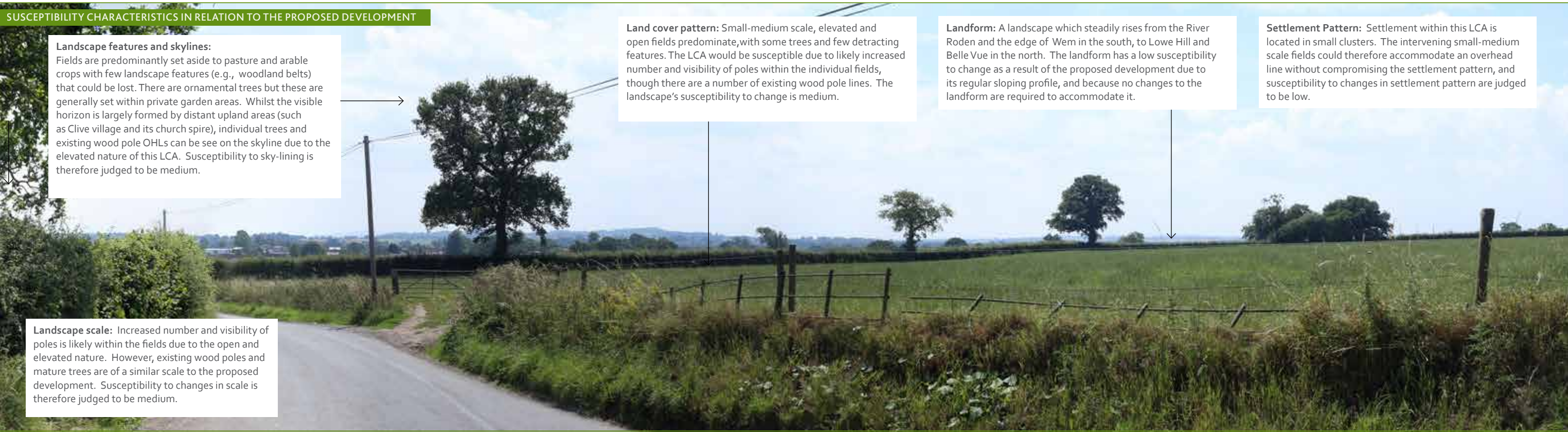
### KEY VALUE CHARACTERISTIC: HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND SCENIC QUALITY

Lowe Hill Villa forms a distinct and elevated landmark above Wem and experiences long views over neighbouring farmland towards Wem and more distant upland areas to the south, east and west.



LCA 10 SETTLED PASTORAL FARMLANDS: WEM FRINGE - SHEET B

FIGURE 4: TYPICAL VIEW OF LCA TYPE - IMAGE TAKEN FROM THE RURAL LANE SOUTH OF LOWE HILL VILLA (VP35)



LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

**Description of overall landscape value:** Historic features, including listed buildings and small clusters of well-maintained and attractive traditional buildings, along with long views over the neighbouring landscapes, add value to this LCA. Whilst generally in good condition and well tended, hedgerows are gappy in places, and fences are in varying condition, and there are relatively small numbers of hedgerow trees with a small number of copses and ponds in this LCA. Ornamental trees feature in some of the larger private gardens. Farms are well maintained. There are 2 listed buildings, including the Grade II\* Ditches Hall, a black and white building typical of those found in Shropshire. PRoWs provide local connections, across fields and along field boundaries. The B5063 reduces the tranquillity of the LCA along its southwestern edge, as does the influence of the edge of Wem settlement along the southeastern edge of the LCA, and proximity to Wem substation and existing wood pole OHLs. Visibility generally extends across two or more field boundaries due to the rising and elevated topography, with long views experienced from much of the LCA. This is a settled rural scene in keeping with the local vernacular, influenced by existing electricity infrastructure, farming operations and transport routes, and the overall landscape value is judged to be medium-low.

**Description of overall landscape susceptibility:** The rising, small-medium scale agricultural landscape, located on the edge of settlement, bound with fences, hedgerows and scattered hedgerow trees, and featuring existing wood pole OHLs, has the potential to accommodate some of the changes related to the introduction of a wood pole overhead line. However, the skyline and landcover and landscape scale of this rising and elevated landscape are susceptible to change, since a wood pole OHL would be clearly visible on the skyline and within fields, and would interrupt some of the longer views experienced from this LCA. Overall, the susceptibility of the landscape is medium-low.

**Description of overall landscape sensitivity:** This is a settled rural LCA with historic features, including listed buildings. The influence of the edge of settlement, existing wood pole lines, farming activities and the B5063 reduces the sensitivity of the landscape to change arising from the proposed development. The landscape has a sense of openness due to the rising and elevated topography and small numbers of intervening hedgerow trees. Long views are experienced from much of the LCA. Given the overall value (medium-low) and susceptibility (medium-low) the overall sensitivity of the LCA to the proposed development is judged to be medium-low.

MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE AND LEVEL OF EFFECTS

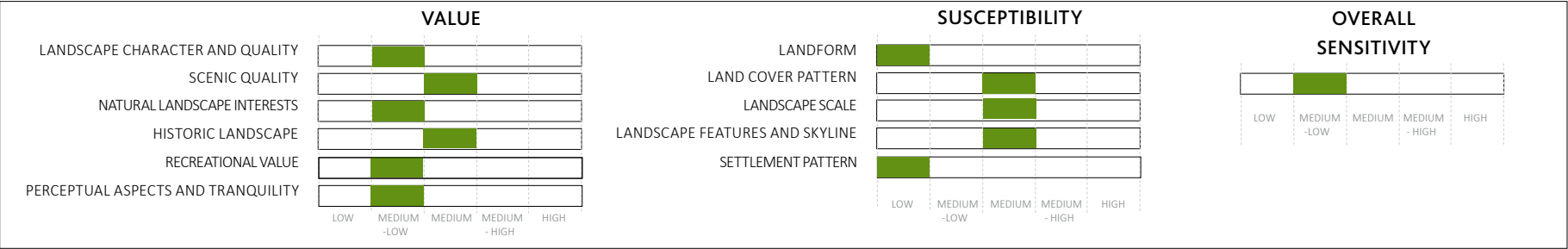
**Construction:** Although this LCA is within the study area, the alignment of the proposed overhead wood pole line does not pass directly through the LCA, and at its closest point, the proposed development would be visible from the south of the LCA as it enters the substation at Wem. The northern half of the Ditches Hall Lane lies within the LCA and this lane will be utilised as an access track during the construction phase. There will be short-term disturbance to the rural scene along the lane, although this is a working landscape with pockets of farming activities. The magnitude of change will be low, since there are no anticipated losses to trees or woodland, and any disturbance from construction will not be felt within the wider LCA. Effects are minor adverse (not significant).

**Operation - Year 1 Winter:** The proposed development does not pass through this LCA, and at its closest point lies over 150m to the south of the LCA near Wem substation. The proposed development is of a similar scale and appearance to existing wood pole infrastructure entering Wem substation and the magnitude of any change will be low. Effects are minor adverse (not significant).

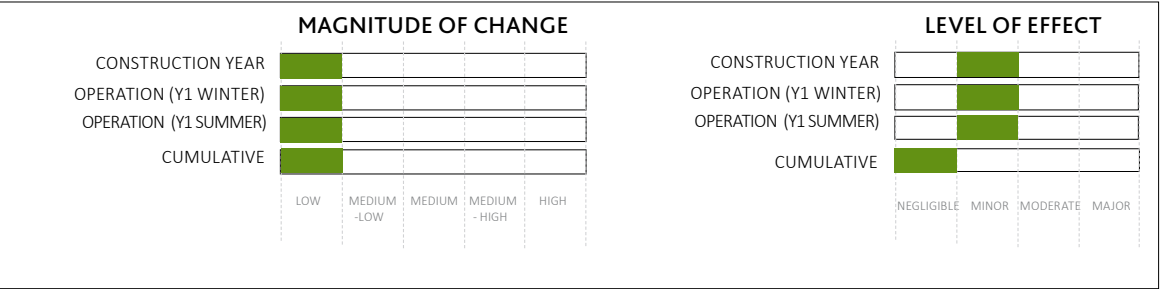
**Operation - Year 1 Summer:** As Winter, though the proposed development will be less visible due to screening from trees and hedgerows in leaf. Effects are minor adverse (not significant).

**Cumulative:** There are no other proposed developments which would give rise to any cumulative effects when seen alongside the proposed development, therefore no cumulative effects.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT



SUMMARY OF EFFECTS





# LCA 11 URBAN: WEM - SHEET A

## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER BASELINE DESCRIPTION

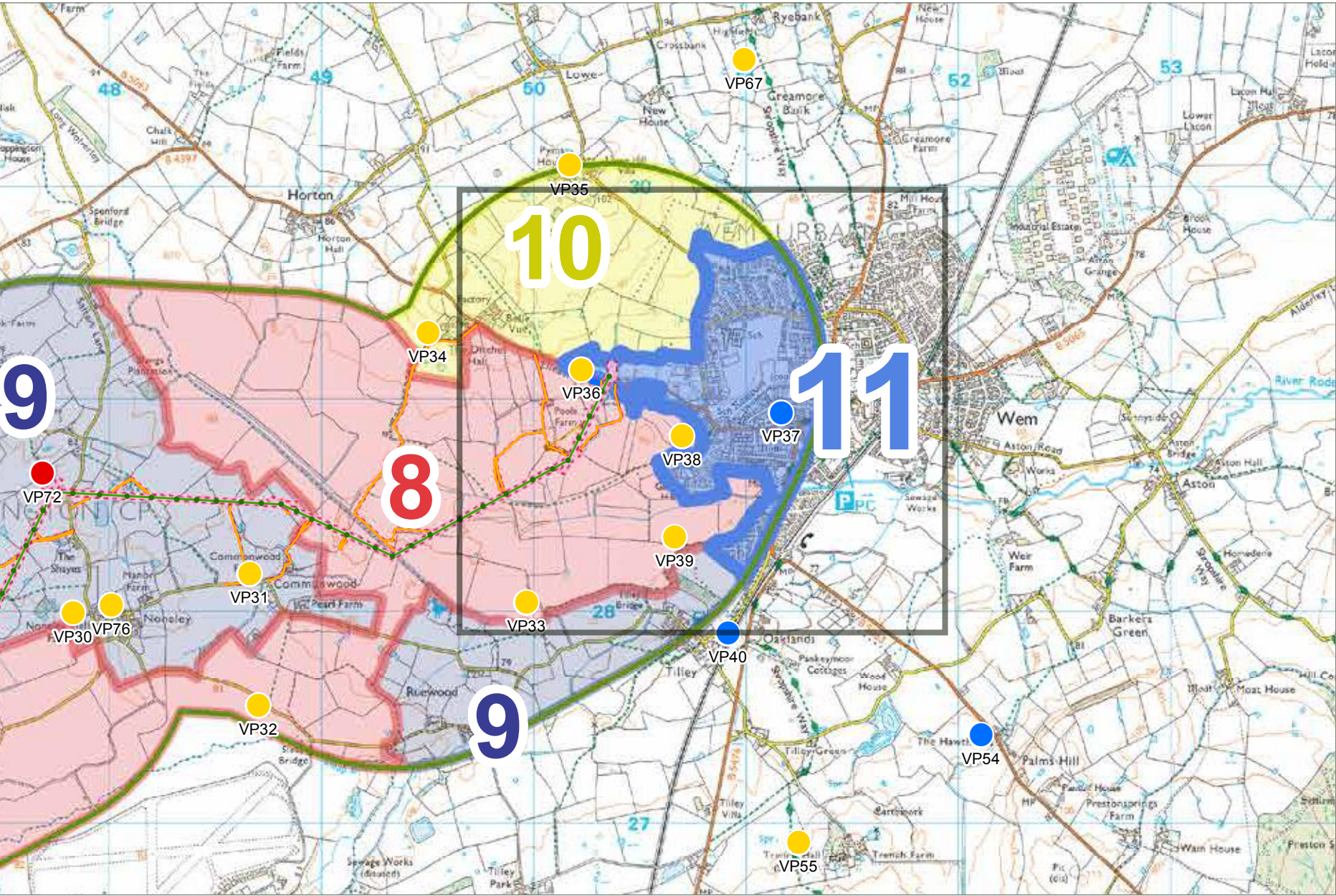
**KEY CHARACTERISTICS TAKEN FROM THE SHROPSHIRE LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES:** An area identified as 'Urban.'

**CHARACTERISTICS NOTED IN THIS LOCALITY:** Small market town located on level ground, with a mixture of both historic buildings (predominantly in the centre of the town) and modern residential development (at the edges of the town); development is largely small in scale and comprises housing, retail facilities, schools, a church, and a small number of commercial industrial premises and farms; landscape features include street trees, private gardens, recreational grounds, trees and gardens associated with public buildings such as the St Peter and St Paul Parish Church, and riverside vegetation along the banks of the River Roden; the town is serviced by the B5063 Ellesmere Road, the B5476 and the B5065, with a network of small lanes and roads connecting to nearby villages, and cul-de-sac based suburban road layouts serving modern residential estates; views are generally contained by development, with more open views at the very edge of settlement.

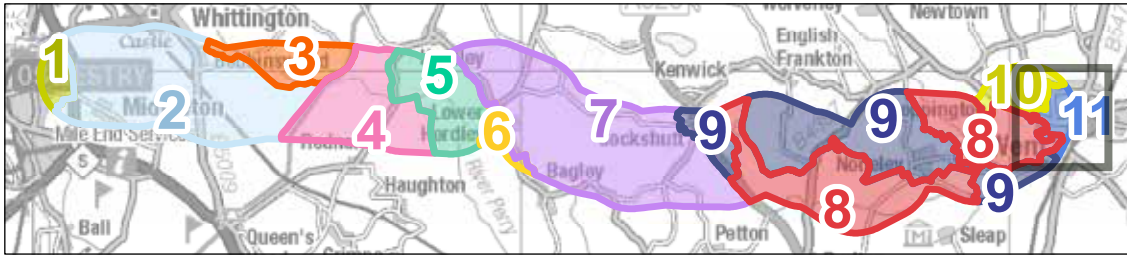
**DESCRIPTION:** This urban LCA occupies level land in the small historic market town of Wem, well-known as the home of the modern cultivated sweet pea, and located in the north of Shropshire. The town is generally in good condition and features mostly small scale development comprising of housing, retail facilities, schools, churches, and a small number of commercial industrial premises and farms. A high concentration of historic and listed buildings are found in the centre of the town, within Wem Conservation Area, including the Grade II\* Church of St. Peter and St. Paul on High Street and a castle mound (Wem Castle: a motte and Scheduled Ancient Monument) within the church grounds. Historic buildings reflect the local vernacular, featuring red brick buildings and a small number of black and white façades. They are generally small in scale, often two or three storeys in height, and densely positioned directly onto the footpaths adjacent to the narrow and sometimes winding streets. Other listed buildings are scattered outside of the historic centre, such as The Rectory, which lies close to the edge of settlement. More recent developments (twentieth and twenty first century) are located at the periphery of the settlement, and generally feature single or two-story dwellings set within gardens on planned estates. Landscape features include street trees, private gardens, recreational grounds, trees and gardens associated with public buildings such as the St Peter and St Paul Parish Church. Riverside vegetation is present along the banks of the River Roden, which provides a public pocket of tranquillity south of the town centre. The town is serviced by the B5063, B5476 and B5065, with a network of small roads connecting nearby villages, a cul-de-sac based suburban road layouts serving modern residential estates towards the edge of the settlement, and the Shropshire Way regional trail passing north-south through the town. Electrical infrastructure is present, including an existing substation on the B5063 and a visible network of wood pole OHLs, particularly in fields along the edge of settlement. Views are generally contained by adjacent buildings and trees, sometimes extending along more open streets to rooves and trees on the skyline, but rarely extend beyond the town. Open views are experienced at the edge of settlement, occasionally extending to nearby elevated areas such as Lowe Hill, Clive, Newton on the Hill and beyond to more distant uplands. This is a settled market town, small in scale, with an historic centre and private pockets of tranquillity away from public roads and lanes. There is a strong sense of containment to the centre of the town, and openness at the edge of settlement.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Shropshire Landscape Typologies report identifies this area as 'Urban.' No other detail is provided.

FIGURE 1: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA IN CONTEXT



LOCATION MAP



**FIGURE 2:** View east along Wem High Street and the Conservation Area.

**KEY VALUE CHARACTERISTIC:** HISTORIC LANDSCAPE SCENIC QUALITY

A concentration of listed two and three storey buildings fronted directly onto the winding High Street, adding to the scenic character of the town, but with views contained by adjacent buildings and trees.



**FIGURE 3:** View looking west towards the edge of settlement on the B5063 near Wem substation.

**KEY VALUE CHARACTERISTIC:** TRANQUILITY SCENIC QUALITY

The B5063 reduces the tranquility within this LCA, and scenic quality on the edge of settlement is compromised by existing wood pole OHLs and the Wem substation.



LCA 11 URBAN: WEM - SHEET B

FIGURE 4: TYPICAL VIEW OF LCA TYPE - IMAGE TAKEN FROM HIGH STREET IN WEM, ON THE CORNER OF THE B5063 AND B5476, OPPOSITE THE ST PETER AND ST PAUL CHURCH (VP37)



LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

**Description of overall landscape value:** Historic features, including listed buildings, a SAM and a designated conservation area, add to the historic and scenic value of the centre of this LCA. Whilst generally in good condition, some buildings are in varying condition. Street trees, garden and riverside vegetation are generally well tended, and ornamental trees feature in some of the larger private gardens. PRoWs provide local connections, through the town, and the Shropshire Way regional trail passes between the north and south of Wem. The B5063 reduces the tranquillity of the LCA, as does the influence of the substation and existing wood pole OHLs on the western edge of Wem settlement. This is a settled urban scene in keeping with the local vernacular, influenced by existing electricity infrastructure, farming operations and transport routes, and the overall landscape value is judged to be medium.

**Description of overall landscape susceptibility:** The level, small scale and densely settled historic centre of the LCA would struggle to accommodate the proposed development. However, the more open edge of the LCA is less susceptible to change from the introduction of a wood pole OHL, since OHLs are an existing and accepted feature on the edge of Wem, along with the Wem substation, the B5063 and small pockets of commercial and farming activity. The proposed development is of a similar scale and height to existing features at the edge of the LCA, with skylines that already include wood pole OHLs and a substation on the edge of the LCA. The level landform that would require no changes, however, the land cover pattern and the settlement pattern are relatively dense, and it would be difficult to accommodate the proposed development within much of the LCA. Overall, the susceptibility is medium.

**Description of overall landscape sensitivity:** Whilst the centre of the LCA has scenic and historic value, it would be difficult to accommodate an OHL within the dense settlement and landcover pattern. The edge of settlement is less densely developed, and its character is influenced by the presence of existing wood pole OHLs, the B5063, small pockets of commercial and farming activity, and the Wem substation. This reduces the overall sensitivity of the LCA to change arising from the proposed development, and sensitivity is judged to be medium.

MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE AND LEVEL OF EFFECTS

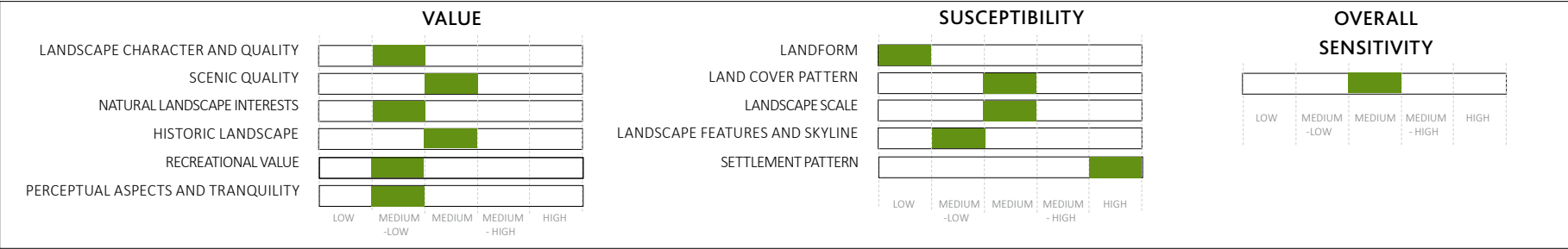
**Construction:** The alignment of the proposed overhead wood pole line passes over only a very short section of the LCA, as it crosses over the B5063 on the western edge of the LCA, before entering Wem substation. The proposed development would be visible from the western edge of the LCA as it enters the substation at Wem. There will be short-term disturbance to the edge of settlement along the B5063, although this is a transport route, with an existing substation and nearby farming activities. The magnitude of change will be low, since there are no anticipated losses to trees or woodland, and any disturbance from construction will not be felt within the wider LCA. Effects are minor adverse (not significant).

**Operation - Year 1 Winter:** The alignment of the proposed overhead wood pole line passes over only a very short section of the LCA, as it crosses over the B5063 on the western edge of the LCA, before entering Wem substation. The proposed development is of a similar scale and appearance to existing wood pole infrastructure entering Wem substation and the magnitude of any change will be low. Effects are minor adverse (not significant).

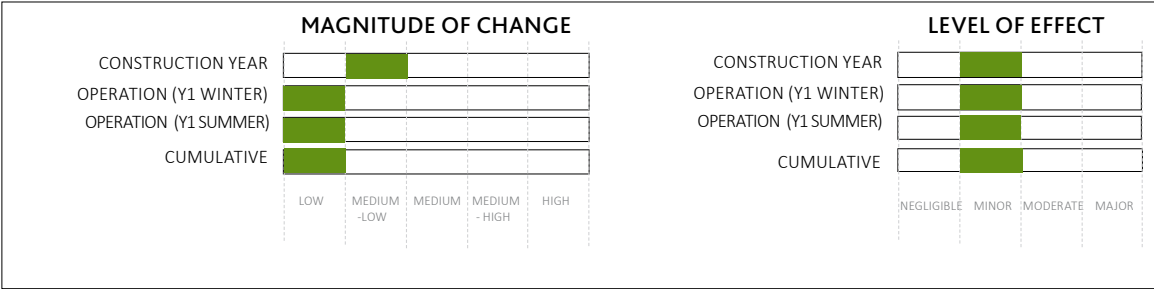
**Operation - Year 1 Summer:** As Winter, though the proposed development will be less visible due to screening from trees and hedgerows in leaf. Effects are minor adverse (not significant).

**Cumulative:** There are no other proposed developments which would give rise to any cumulative effects when seen alongside the proposed development, therefore no cumulative effects.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT



SUMMARY OF EFFECTS







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# APPENDIX 7.4

## VISUAL BASELINE AND ASSESSMENT

## APPENDIX 7.4:

### VISUAL BASELINE AND ASSESSMENT

#### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This section describes the visual baseline and assesses the effects on visual receptors and identified viewpoints, with reference to the Proposed Development.

#### 1.2 BASELINE ENVIRONMENT

##### The Approach

- 1.2.1 The visual baseline (existing views and visual amenity) forms the basis for the identification and description of the visual changes that may result from the Proposed Development. It establishes the areas from where the development may be visible, the different groups of people who may experience views of the different elements of the Proposed Development, the locations or viewpoints where they will be affected and the nature of the views at those locations. It also establishes the relative number of receptors within each group of people who are likely to be affected by changes in their views or visual amenity.
- 1.2.2 Potential visual receptors are identified through a review of the baseline studies (particularly topography and vegetation cover), by responses from consultees and through site survey to verify the extent of potential visibility, identify features which may screen views and to identify potential visual receptors.
- 1.2.3 The visual baseline is informed by the landscape baseline presented in Chapter 7 'Landscape and Visual' and Appendix 7.2 'Landscape Baseline and Assessment' of this PEIR.

##### Visual Baseline

- 1.2.4 Most of the study area comprises low lying pastoral and arable farmland, with fields bounded by hedgerows with mature hedgerow trees. It is a rural landscape with a mixture of villages, hamlets and scattered individual properties, connected by a network of roads and lanes. The local landform lies between 90 and 110m AOD. There are small areas of higher ground but generally the landscape is relatively flat as indicated in Figure 7.5 'Topography', particularly around the Rivers Roden and Perry.
- 1.2.5 Roadside hedgerows and occasional small woodlands serve to limit views and, in places it is only possible to appreciate the wider view through roadside field gates. Elsewhere, and beyond and above the confines of hedges, visual containment is provided primarily through tree cover, particularly through the 'layering effect' of field boundary trees.
- 1.2.6 In addition to the roads and lanes, the landscape is crossed by a network of footpaths. Whilst the numbers of people using this lane and footpath network may be relatively few, their attention is likely to be focused on appreciation of the landscape and views.
- 1.2.7 Whilst establishing the visual baseline the locations listed in Table 7.4.1 were identified as locations to potentially assess the effects on visual receptors. This table does not include individual properties within 200m of the Preferred Line Route which are detailed in Table 7.4.4 below. The receptors identified in Table 7.4.1 helped inform the selection of the 76 viewpoints detailed in Table 7.4.3.



**Table 7.4.1 – Potential receptors within 5km of the Preferred Line Route**

Type of Receptor	Receptor Name
<b>A Road</b>	A483 Lower Sweeney (near Lynclys) to Oswestry A483 Lower Sweeney (near Lynclys) to Oswestry A495 Oswestry to Ellesmere A483 Lower Sweeney (near Lynclys) to Oswestry A49 between Preston Brockhurst and Lee Brockhurst
<b>Promoted Circular Walk</b>	Offa's Dyke Circular Old Oswestry Racecourse Walk (west of Oswestry) Shropshire Way CW7 - Llanforda Circular Walk (near Oswestry) Oswalds Trail (near Oswestry) High Fawr (near Oswestry) Near the Waterworks (near Oswestry) Gatacre Avenue Walk (near Oswestry) WFL Oswestry (near Oswestry) Oswestry Hill Fort (near Oswestry) Lorne Street Walk (near Oswestry) Nearly to Morda (near Oswestry) Watts Dyke - Queens Head Circular (to the south east of Oswestry, near Queen's Head) Meres Meander (Ellesmere) Welshampton Walks (around Ellesmere) SW: CW10 - Northwood Circular Walk (Northwood) Loppington Walks 1-4 (Loppington) Gough Walks 1-6 (around Myddle and Newton on the Hill) Baschurch Walk (Baschurch)
<b>Promoted Walk</b>	Family Friendly Ellesmere Extravaganza (Ellesmere) Family Friendly Colemere Collywobbles (Colemere) Family Friendly Grinshill & Corbett Wood (near Clive)
<b>Long Distance Walk</b>	Offas Dyke (Just outside the 5km study area, west of Oswestry) Watts Dyke (north-south through Oswestry) Shropshire Way - SW Route 18: Isombridge to Wem (southeast of Wem) Shropshire Way - SW Route 21: Haughmond Abbey to Wem (north and south of Wem) Shropshire Way - SW Route 22: Wem to Whitchurch & Grindley Brook (north of Wem) Shropshire Way - SW Route 23: Ellesmere to Welsh End & Hollinwood (at Ellesmere) Shropshire Way - SW Route 24: Llanymynech to Oswestry Racecourse (to the southwest of Oswestry) Shropshire Way - SW Route 25: Oswestry Racecourse to Chirk Bank (to the west of Oswestry) Shropshire Way - SW Route 26: Chirk Bank to Ellesmere (to the east and northeast of Oswestry) Shropshire Way - SW Route 27: Lower Frankton to Llanymynech (to the east and southeast of Oswestry)
<b>Promoted Circular Bridleway</b>	Humphrey Kynaston Way - Baschurch Circular
<b>National Cycle Route</b>	NCR 455 Oswestry to Ellesmere and Waterloo

Table 7.4.1 – Potential receptors within 5km of the Preferred Line Route	
<b>Promoted Cycle Route</b>	Montgomery Canal and Lower Frankton Ellesmere Cycle Rides (Routes 1, 4 and 5) Oswestry Cycle Rides Wem Cycle Rides Whitchurch Cycle Rides
<b>Promoted Rail Journeys</b>	Cambrian Heritage Railway
<b>Parks: Countryside and Heritage Sites</b>	Colemere Countryside Heritage Site / Country Park Shelf Bank, Oswestry (Local Nature Reserve) Corbet Wood Countryside Heritage Site (just outside the 5km study area at Grinshill) Oswestry Old Racehorse Common (just outside the 5km study area) Park Hall, the Countryside Experience Farm Park
<b>Open Access Land</b>	Racecourse Wood and Common Old Oswestry Hillfort Grimpo Bagley Marsh (grass verge) Cockshutt (grass verge) Brownheath Moss (near English Frankton) Colemere Corbett Wood - Grinshill Hill (just outside the 5km study area)
<b>Shropshire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves and Local Nature Reserves</b>	Wood Lane Reserve Colemere Local Nature Reserve
<b>Places/Areas of Interest:</b>	Meres and Mosses (north of Cockshutt and Loppington) White Mere
<b>Settlements</b>	Oswestry Morda Maesbury Marsh Hengoed Gobowen Whittington Hindford Babbinswood New Marton Welsh Frankton Perthy Middleton Queen's Head Rednal Haughton Grimpo Sutton West Felton Eardiston Wykey



Table 7.4.1 – Potential receptors within 5km of the Preferred Line Route

	Stanwardine in the Fields Weston Lullingfields Petton Burlton Marton Myddle Alderton Clive Sleap Lee Brockhurst Aston Soulton Bridge Edstaston Quina Brook Abbeygreen Paddolgreen Horton Lowe Newtown Wolverley Northwood Loppington Noneley Commonwood Wem Tilley Cockshutt Kenwick English Frankton Brownheath Colemere Ellesmere Tetchill Lee Lower Frankton Bagley Lower Hordley Hordley
<b>Promoted Viewpoints</b>	Oswestry Old Racecourse Preston Brockhurst
<b>Golf Courses</b>	Oswestry Golf Club Mile End Golf Club The Brow Golf Club
<b>Airfields</b>	Rednal Sleap

Table 7.4.1 – Potential receptors within 5km of the Preferred Line Route	
<b>Hotels</b>	All hotels within Oswestry All hotels within Wem Sweeney Hall Hotel Hordley Hall Bed and Breakfast Yew Tree Bed and Breakfast Poplars Farm Bed and Breakfast
<b>Registered Parks and Gardens</b>	Pradoe Brogyntyn
<b>Caravan Parks and Camping Sites</b>	Bridleway Caravan Park Pentreclawdd Farm Caravan Park Lower Lacon Caravan Park Newnes Caravan Park
<b>Sporting Facilities</b>	Park Hall Soccer Club Wem Cricket Club
<b>Activity Centres</b>	PGL Boreatton Park Shropshire Sailing Club Rednal Karting, Paintball and Laser Meres Visitor Centre

1.2.8 The routing process has sought to locate wood pole supports close to field boundaries where the existing hedgerows, often with associated trees, help to provide screening and/or a backdrop for the overhead line which reduces its visibility in the landscape. Based on the visibility work undertaken, including discussions with stakeholders, the following locations are where visual receptors were initially deemed as being most likely to be affected by the proposed development:

- The eastern edge of Oswestry including the A5;
- Scattered settlement in proximity to Middleton including Top House Farm and Bryn-y-plentyn;
- Scattered settlement in proximity to Babbinswood and the B5009 including properties such as Brookfields Farm, Henlarth, The Oaks, Babbinswood Farm and Perry Farm;
- The Montgomery Canal, the Regional Trail and the local cycle route;
- The north and east of Woodhouse Estate near Rednal Mill, The Lees Farm and Lower Lee;
- Users of/ visitors to the River Perry;
- Lower Hordley near Red House Farm, Sycamore Farm House, Park House and Reynold's Cottage;
- Bagley Marsh;
- Top House and Kenwick Oak;
- Kenwick Lodge, Shade Oak and Ferney Hough;
- The southern edge of settlement at Cockshutt including Stonehill, Highfields, Stanwardine Grange and Stanwardine;



- Properties along the A528, including Wackley Lodge and East Lodge;
- Scattered settlement near the B4397, including Wood Farm, Runner's Rest, The Wood, Malt Kiln Farm, Coppice Farm, Moor House Farm, Burlton Grange and Woodgate;
- Settlement to the north of the hamlet of Noneley including the Shayes and the Hollies
- Settlement to the south of the hamlet at Noneley including Noneley Hall, Forrester's Farm, and Grafton Farm;
- Settlement to the south of the hamlet at Commonwood including Willow Tree Cottage and Pearl Farm;
- The north-western edge of scattered settlement at Ruewood;
- Users of/ visitors to the River Roden;
- Pools Farm to the west of Wem;
- Settlement on the western edge of Wem, in particular along the B5063 Ellesmere Road at Avondale, Oakdene, Harley House and Sherfield; and
- PRoW and minor roads/rural lanes that are crossed by or are in close proximity to the Preferred Line Route, and those located in more elevated areas of the landscape close to Stanwardine and Kenwick Lodge.

1.2.9 These locations were also considered when the final 76 viewpoints, which were deemed representative of the wider study area and potential visual receptors, were selected.

### 1.3 ISSUES IDENTIFIED

#### Construction

1.3.1 The most immediate visual effects arising from construction of the proposed overhead line would be those associated with access and clearance of the line corridor. The removal of tree cover may open up new views. Wayleave corridors are required when a line passes through a wooded area and the straight and linear nature of these can be visually intrusive. The removal of hedgerows may be required to provide access for construction and or maintenance. Creation of new access tracks, temporary site compounds, storage areas, and hardstandings may affect views, although in most instances such effects would be temporary as tracks and compounds would be reinstated upon completion of the works.

#### Operation

1.3.2 The main effects of the proposed overhead line during operation would be the presence of additional wood pole structures within the countryside. Once constructed, however, there would be no moving parts or lighting and the line would only require very occasional visits by SP Manweb for maintenance and repair.

1.3.3 The main features of the overhead line which would give rise to visual effects would be the wood poles, their appearance, height and spacing. As with any external material, wood poles are susceptible to weathering and consequent colour variations. The colour of the poles at the time of construction would be dark brown but this would fade over time to a noticeably lighter silver-grey. The rate of colour change would depend on the prevailing weather conditions and to some degree on the type of timber and timber treatment that were used. Over time these changes would tend to reduce the perceptibility of elements viewed above the skyline, but may increase the visibility of structures when viewed against a dark background such as coniferous plantation. The metal bracing and the conductors would be constructed from aluminium, which is initially shiny but tends to dull over time to dark matt silver.

1.3.4 Where the Preferred Line Route crosses the following PRoWs, receptors (users of the PRoWs) could experience views of the Preferred Line Route in close proximity, and may see poles

stacked in views. Users of the all the PRowS are assessed to have a medium sensitivity to changes in views as a result of the Proposed Development, with the exception of users of The Shropshire Way/Montgomery Canal Trail whose sensitivity is considered to be high. However, views experienced from the PRowS are generally transient and of short-term duration. The visual effects on the individual PRow, when the full length of the PRow are taken into account, are not considered to be significant.

Table 7.4.2 – Public Rights of Way	
PRow	Location of PRow
<b>PRow 0313/41/1 East of Oswestry</b>	The PRow runs north to south between pole nos. 6 and 7.
<b>PRow 0313/44/2 Berghill Lane</b>	The PRow runs north to south between pole nos. 26 and 27.
<b>The Montgomery Canal / Shropshire Way Trail</b>	Between poles 37 and 38. Pole 38 is located close to the eastern bank of the Trail, but is heavily screened by vegetation.
<b>PRow 00207/1413 Near Kenwick Oak</b>	The PRow runs north to south directly past pole no. 90. See viewpoint 14.
<b>PRow 0207/15/1 South of Kenwick Lodge</b>	The PRow runs north-east to south-west directly past pole no. 94, which is an angle pole.
<b>PRow0217/4/2 near Malt Kiln Farm</b>	The PRow runs north-east to south-west directly past pole no. 122. See viewpoint 23.
<b>PRow 0217/5/1 East of Malt Kiln Farm</b>	Pole 125 is located directly adjacent to the northern end of this PRow.
<b>PRow 0217/10/1 South of Bentley Farm</b>	The PRow runs north to south directly past pole no. 137.
<b>PRow 0217/11/1 East of Bentley Farm</b>	The PRow runs east to west directly past pole no. 143.
<b>PRow 0217/12/1 North of the Shays</b>	The southern end of this PRow finishes between pole nos. 148 and 149. Pole 148 is an angle pole. See viewpoint 72.
<b>PRow 0217/13/1 North of Noneley</b>	The PRow runs north-west to south-east between pole nos. 151 and 152.
<b>PRow 0230/47/1 West of Oswestry</b>	The PRow runs east to west between pole nos. 168 and 169.

- 1.3.5 With respect to likely visual effects the routeing process has sought to avoid likely significant effects on visual receptors as outlined in Chapter 2 ‘Alternatives and Design Evolution’ of the PEIR.

## 1.4 VIEWPOINT SHEETS

- 1.4.1 During consultation with Shropshire Council agreement was reached on the proposed viewpoints to be assessed as part of the EIA Process. The agreed viewpoints were further refined during the site survey work to ensure the best locations for each viewpoint were chosen. The 76 viewpoints are detailed in Table 7.4.3 along with a brief description of the receptor type, sensitivity and whether or not potential visual effects are deemed to be significant or not significant. All this information is preliminary with the aim of identifying potential significant effects for



the purpose of the PEIR, full and final assessments of sensitivity and visual effects will be provided within the final ES.

Table 7.4.3 – Viewpoints						
Viewpoint Ref	Viewpoint Location	Receptor type	Sensitivity	Potential Visual Effects		
				Construction	Winter Year 1	Summer Year 1
VP1	A5 and PRoW 0306/12/7 on the eastern edge of Oswestry	Road Network	Low	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP2	PRoW 0307/65/1 At Middleton East Of Oswestry	Residential / PRoW	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP3	PRoW 0313/41/1, East of Oswestry	PRoW	Medium	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP4	A495/Whittington Road, Near Drenwydd Farm	Residential / Road Network	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP5	PRoW 0313/47/1 East of Middleton, Bryn-Y-Pentyn	PRoW	Medium	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP6	Junction of B5009 and Berghill Lane, Babbinswood	Residential / Road Network	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP7	Berghill Lane, PRoW 0313/44/2	PRoW / Road Network	Medium	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP8	Montgomery Canal / Shropshire Way Trail (View North)	PRoW / Regional Trail	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP9	Montgomery Canal / Shropshire Way Trail (View South)	PRoW / Road Network / Regional Trail	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP10	Montgomery Canal, The Shropshire Way (Near Confluence with River Perry)	PRoW / Regional Cycle Route and Trail	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP11	Rednal Mill and the River Perry, Misty Meadows	Residential / Road Network	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP12	Lower Hordley - near Smithy Cottage	Residential / Road Network	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP13	PRoW 0207/2R/1 at Hordley	Residential / PRoW	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP14	Prow 0207/14/13 Near Kenwick Oak	PRoW	Medium	Not Significant	Significant	Significant
VP15	Shade Oak Stud, PRoW 0207/15Y/1	Residential / PRoW / Road Network	High	No Access	No Access	No Access
VP16	PRoW 0207/14/1, at Ferney Hough	Residential / PRoW	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP17	Jct of PRoWs 0207/16 and 0207/15 nr Kenwick Lodge	PRoW / Road Network	Medium	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP18	Permissive Access Route And Local Road South Of Cockshutt	PRoW / Road Network	Medium	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP19	Permissive Access Route West Of Cockshutt	PRoW	Medium	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP20	Stanwardine in the Wood	Residential / Heritage Association	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP21	PRoW 0223/6/1 at The A528 Between Cockshutt And Burlton	Residential / PRoW	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP22	PRoW 0207/1/1 at English Frankton	Residential / PRoW / Road Network	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP23	PRoW 0217/4/2 near Malt Kiln Farm	Residential / PRoW / Road Network	High	Not Significant	Significant	Significant

Table 7.4.3 – Viewpoints						
Viewpoint Ref	Viewpoint Location	Receptor type	Sensitivity	Potential Visual Effects		
				Construction	Winter Year 1	Summer Year 1
VP24	Burlton Grange on the B4397	Residential / PRoW / Road Network	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP25	PRoW 0217/6/1 and B4397 At Woodgate	Residential / PRoW / Road Network	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP26	Loppington, PRoW 0217/9/2, B4397	Residential / PRoW / Road Network	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP27	Prow 0217/9/1 Near Bentley Farm and Moorfields Local Wildlife Sites	PRoW / Road Network	Medium	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP28	PRoW 2017/10/1 West Of Sleaf Airfield	PRoW	Medium	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP29	Noneley Road Exiting Loppington	Residential / PRoW / Road Network	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP30	Noneley Village - view west	Residential / Road Network	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP31	Commonwood	PRoW / Road Network	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP32	PRoW 0217/14/1 near Sleaf Airfield	PRoW / Road Network	Medium	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP33	River Roden at PRoW 0230/45/1	PRoW	Medium	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP34	The Ditches, B5063, PRoW 0230/47/1	Residential / PRoW	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP35	Lowe Hill Road, High Ground Northwest of Wem	Residential / Road Network	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP36	Ellesmere Road, B5063 Wem, near Sub Station	Residential / PRoW	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP37	Wem (centre), Shropshire Way	Residential / PRoW / Road Network / Regional Trail	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP38	Bankhouse Lane / Prow 0231/9/1 at Wem Periphery	Residential / PRoW / Road Network	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP39	Mill Street / River Roden / PRoW 0231/7/1 at Wem Periphery	Residential / PRoW / Road Network	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP40	Shropshire Way, B5476 East of Tilley	Residential / PRoW / Road Network / Regional Trail	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP41	Brogyntyn Registered Park & Garden, Res. Byway 0310/27A/4	Heritage Asset / PRoW	High	No Access	No Access	No Access
VP42	Old Oswestry Racecourse Walk (Highpoint nr Offa's Dyke), PRoW 03074/111/4	Promoted viewpoint / Heritage Asset / PRoW / Road Network / Regional Trail	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP43	Gronwen, The Shropshire Way	PRoW / Regional Trail	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant



**Table 7.4.3 – Viewpoints**

Viewpoint Ref	Viewpoint Location	Receptor type	Sensitivity	Potential Visual Effects		
				Construction	Winter Year 1	Summer Year 1
VP44	Oswestry Castle View	Heritage Asset	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP45	Oswestry Iron Age Fort (Wat's Dyke way)	Heritage Asset / Regional Trail	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP46	Park Hall Countryside Experience	PRoW / Recreational	Medium	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP47	Golbowen, PRoW 0310/27/1, NCR 455	NCR / PRoW	Medium	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP48	Whittington Castle	Heritage Asset	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP49	Welsh Frankton, A495, PRoW 0208/55/1	Residential / PRoW / Road Network	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP50	Lee Old Hall, PRoW 0208/59Y/1	Heritage asset / PRoW / Road Network	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP51	Wood Lane Nature Reserve, Colemere Country Park (Shropshire way)	PRoW / Regional Trail / Recreational	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP52	Crosemere Local Wildlife Site, PRoW 0207/2/3	PRoW	Medium	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP53	Lee Brockhurst, The Shropshire Way, PRoW 0219/68/1	PRoW / Regional Trail	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP54	Palms Hill, B5063, PRoW 0230/31/1	PRoW / Road Network	Medium	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP55	Trench Hall, The Shropshire Way, PRoW 0230/37/1	PRoW / Regional Trail	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP56	Clive, PRoW 0203/1/2	Residential / PRoW	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP57	Newton on the Hill, A528, PRoW 0221/68/1	PRoW / Road Network	Medium	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP58	Burlton, Edge of settlement	Residential / Road Network	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP59	Petton, PRoW 0223/4/4	PRoW	Medium	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP60	Stanwardine Park, PRoW 0202/10/1	PRoW	Medium	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP61	Baggy Moor PRoW 0311/15/1	PRoW	Medium	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP62	Quarry Wood (high ground), PRoW 0311/22/1	PRoW	Medium	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP63	Pradoe Registered Park & Garden, PRoW 0308/2/1	Heritage Asset / PRoW	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP64	Maesbury Marsh, The Shropshire Way	PRoW / Regional Trail	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP65	Oswestry Golf Club, PRoW 0307/53/1	PRoW / Road Network / Recreational	Medium	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP66	North Wood Hall, PRoW 0230/50/1	PRoW	Medium	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP67	Ryebank, The Shropshire Way, PRoW 0230/3/1	PRoW / Regional Trail	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP68	Myddle Hill, PRoW 0221/93/1	Residential / PRoW / Road Network	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP69	Church Farm Cottages, Hordley	Residential / Road Network	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant

Table 7.4.3 – Viewpoints						
Viewpoint Ref	Viewpoint Location	Receptor type	Sensitivity	Potential Visual Effects		
				Construction	Winter Year 1	Summer Year 1
VP70	Dandyford Farm	Residential / Road Network	High	Not Significant	Significant	Significant
VP71	Reynolds Cottage On Local Road Between Lower Hordley And Cockshutt	Residential / Road Network	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP72	PRoW 0217/12/1 Near The Shays	PRoW / Road Network	Medium	Not Significant	Significant	Significant
VP73	Oswald Trail on Shelf Bank (high ground) in the east of Oswestry	PRoW	Medium	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP74	PROW 0308/1r/1 north of Pradoc	PRoW	Medium	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP75	Bagley	Residential / Road Network	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
VP76	Noneley Village (looking north)	Residential / Road Network	High	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant

- 1.4.2 Fuller information, including verifiable photography and preliminary assessment information, for those viewpoints showing a significant effect are included as Appendix 7.5 within this PEIR. A summary of this information is provided below in Section 1.6 of this appendix.

## 1.5 SETTLEMENTS AND RESIDENTIAL AMENITY

- 1.5.1 The visual impact of the Proposed Development has been considered on all main settlements within 5km of the Preferred Line Route and all individual properties within 200m of the Preferred Line Route. The following properties were identified as part of the assessment for the residential visual amenity survey:

Table 7.4.4 – Residential properties included within the residential amenity assessment			
Property Name	Location	Distance to OHL(m) from curtilage of property	Effects significant / not significant
Misty Meadows	Woodhouse Drive approximately half way between Hordley and Rednal	15	Significant
Mill Barn	Woodhouse Drive approximately half way between Hordley and Rednal	80	Not significant
Rednal Mill	Woodhouse Drive approximately half way between Hordley and Rednal	50	Not significant
Rednal Mill Cottage	Woodhouse Drive approximately half way between Hordley and Rednal	55	Not significant
Lower Lees	Approximately 1.5km to the west of Lower Hordley	80	Not significant
Dandyford Farm	Approximately 0.6km north of Lower Hordley	160	Not significant
Top House Farm	Approximately 1.6km east-south-east of Lower Hordley	160	Not significant
Kenwick Oak	Approximately 1.6km east-south-east of Lower Hordley	150	Not significant
Highfields	Approximately 0.3km north-east of Stanwardine in the Wood	160	Not significant



Stonehill	Approximately 0.5km north-east of Stanwardine in the Wood	75	Not significant
Nursery House	Approximately 0.4km south-east of Cockshutt	80	Not significant
Runners Rest	Approximately 1km south of English Frankton	155	Not significant
The Wood	Approximately 1.5km south of English Frankton	110	Not significant
Malt Kiln Farm	Approximately 1.5km south of English Frankton	115	Not significant
Coppice Farm	Approximately 1km south-west of Loppington	200	Not significant
Moor House Farm	Approximately 1.5km south-west of Loppington	190	Not significant
Shayes Farm	Approximately 0.3km north-north-west of Noneley	95	Not significant
Chapel House	Approximately 0.5km south-east of Loppington	155	Not significant
Pools Farm	On the B5063 on the western outskirts of Wem	170	Not significant
Avondale	On the B5063 on the western outskirts of Wem	45	Significant
Overfields	On the B5063 on the western outskirts of Wem	85	Not significant
Oak Dene	On the B5063 on the western outskirts of Wem	35	Not significant
Sherfield	On the B5063 on the western outskirts of Wem	120	Not significant
Harley House	On the B5063 on the western outskirts of Wem	70	Significant

- 1.5.2 No settlements were assessed as experiencing significant visual effects, of the 24 individual properties identified within 200m of the Preferred Line Route, three were assessed as potentially experiencing significant visual effects. The three properties are Misty Meadows, Avondale and Harley House, as detailed in Table 7.4.5.

## 1.6 POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

- 1.6.1 No potentially significant visual effects were identified during the construction process for the development, primarily due to the short term nature of the construction at each individual pole. However, some potentially significant visual effects were identified during the operational stage, as outlined in the table below:

Table 7.4.5 – Operational phase likely significant visual effects	
VIEWPOINTS	
76 viewpoints were identified within the 5km study area, these viewpoints are considered representative of the range of likely effects, viewing experiences and viewers. From the 76 viewpoints four were assessed as experiencing significant visual effects.	
<b>Viewpoint 14: PRow 0207/14/13 near Kenwick Oak</b>	<b>Medium sensitivity (PRow)</b>
View south from slightly elevated location on a PRow across an attractive arable landscape, with long/expansive views across neighbouring landscapes and beyond, to distant upland	

areas in south Shropshire and on to the Welsh border. Up to eight new poles and the overhead line will be visible from the viewpoint, the majority of which would be backclothed by landform and vegetation. However, poles 89 to 93 will potentially be visible on the skyline, and overall the new structure will be visible across the existing view in the near to middle distance. Although a single turbine is present within the landscape the introduction of this new overhead line and Trident wood poles, would bring a new element to the landscape and view, which contrasts from the existing baseline view.

It is anticipated that the **magnitude of change in the view would be medium and the level of effect moderate adverse.**

#### Viewpoint 23: PRow 0217/4/2 near Malt Kiln Farm (listed building)

**High sensitivity (residential and PRow)**

View north from PRow near residential properties. It is anticipated that poles 120, 121 and 122 will be visible in relatively close proximity to the receptor, with 121 receiving no screening and being prominent within the landscape and the skyline, situated on the rising ground to the west of the viewpoint. Poles 119, 123 and 124 will be heavily screened by intervening vegetation, but potentially visible during the winter months. The proposed line will be seen within the context of the existing line when looking westwards, but would bring a new element to the landscape when looking eastwards. The new poles will be noticeable but, except for pole no. 121, they would not be prominent within the landscape.

Therefore it is anticipated that during the winter months only the **magnitude of change in the view would be medium and he level of effect moderate adverse.**

#### Viewpoint 70: Dandyford Farm, Lower Hordley

**High sensitivity (residential)**

Across a level and relatively open agricultural landscape, with long views to neighbouring landscapes including the slightly elevated Woodhouse Estate, and the elevated wooded hill at Tedsmore, and beyond to more distant uplands. Up to nine new poles and the overhead line will be visible from the viewpoint, the majority of which will be visible on the skyline. Although the views are generally unobstructed all the poles will benefit, to a varying degree, from at least some level of screening and/or be backclothed by landform and vegetation. The new development would be visible within the context of the existing baseline which includes a telegraph pole line, wind turbines and in the distance a 400kV pylon line. Views from within Dandyford Farm would benefit from greater screening than the actual viewpoint.

It is anticipated that the **magnitude of change in the view would be medium and the level of effect moderate adverse.**

#### Viewpoint 72: PRow 0217/12/1 near The Shayes (listed building)

**Medium sensitivity (PRow)**

Views south and east from this PRow will include the overhead line across the view and visible in the skyline, particularly between poles 148 and 149. Looking east wood poles 149 - 151 will be visible, though partially screened by the intervening vegetation. Looking south-west the angle pole no. 148 will be prominent within the view and approximately 50% taller than the existing overhead low voltage wood poles currently visible. Wood poles 147-145 will also be visible heading away from the viewpoint, one behind the other. Loss of mature hedgerow tree on the roadside is likely in order to accommodate the overhead line, and the proposed development will be seen in combination with an existing 33kV OHL and an 11kV OHL.

It is anticipated that the **magnitude of change in the view would be medium and the level of effect moderate adverse.**

### SETTLEMENTS AND RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

The visual impact of the Proposed Development has been considered on all main settlements within 5km of the Preferred Line Route and all individual properties within 200m of the Preferred Line Route. No settlements were assessed as experiencing significant visual effects, of the 24 individual properties identified within 200m of the Preferred Line Route, three were assessed as potentially experiencing significant visual effects.

#### Residential Amenity: Misty Meadows

**Approximately 80m from the north of line to the edge of the house, and 15m from the nearest edge of the garden**

**High sensitivity (residential)**

Misty Meadows would have views of the Preferred Line Route to the south and west, particularly from the garden of the property and upper floors of the house. Although the views will be screened by intervening vegetation, the proposed development will add to the already existing views of a 400kV line and other lower voltage lines. Tops of poles may be visible, particularly in winter months. There will also be loss of planting at the River Perry crossing which will add to the magnitude of change experienced by this receptor.

This combined with the close proximity of the Preferred Line Route means the **magnitude of change in the view would be medium and the level of effect moderate adverse.**



<b>Residential Amenity: Avondale</b> <b>Approximately 60m from the north of line to the edge of the house, and 45m from the nearest edge of the garden</b>	<b>High sensitivity (residential)</b>
<p>Avondale has relatively open views towards the Preferred Line Route where it would be visible heading into Wem Substation. There are five existing wood pole lines already in the view and the addition of a further line may intensify this, although it is noted that a lower voltage line will also be removed.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the <b>magnitude of change in the view would be medium and the level of effect moderate adverse.</b></p>	
<b>Residential Amenity: Harley House</b> <b>Approximately 85m from the north of line to the edge of the house, and 70m from the nearest edge of the garden</b>	<b>High sensitivity (residential)</b>
<p>Harley House is in close proximity and has open views towards Wem Substation, where the Preferred Line Route would be visible heading into it. There are five existing wood pole lines already in the view and the addition of a further line may intensify this, although it is noted that a lower voltage line will also be removed.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the <b>magnitude of change in the view would be medium and the level of effect moderate adverse.</b></p>	





**GILLESPIES**

APPENDIX 7.5 PEIR VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT SHEETS  
SP MANWEB - 132KV ELECTRICAL CIRCUIT FROM OSWESTRY TO WEM



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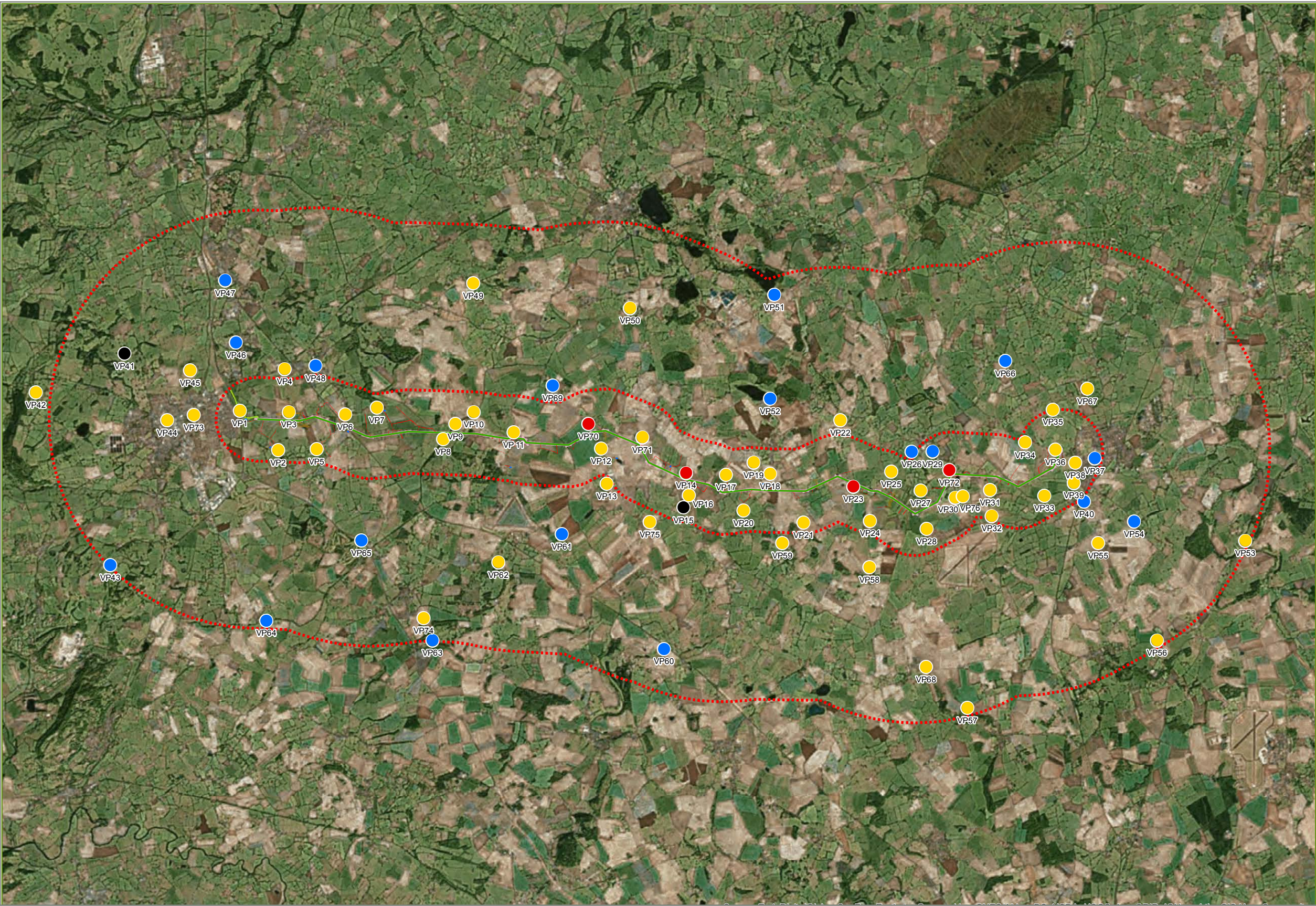
GILLESPIES		PROJECT TITLE	DOCUMENT TITLE		CLIENT
		PROPOSED NEW 132 KV OVERHEAD WOOD POLE LINE FROM OSWESTRY TO WEM	PEIR VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT		SP ENERGY NETWORKS
REV.	DATE	DETAIL	MADE BY	CHECKED BY	APPROVED BY
00	NOVEMBER 2017	PEIR - WORK IN PROGRESS	ZF	KL	SG

VIEW EAST FROM PROW AT WEST FELTON (VP74)





# VIEWPOINT LOCATION OVERVIEW MAP



## LEGEND

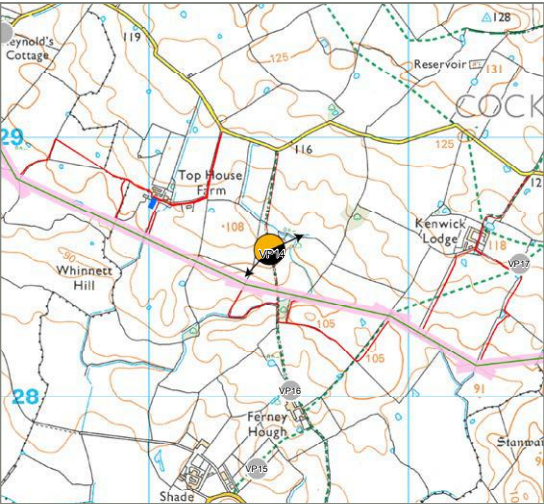
- Significant
- Non-Significant
- No View
- No Access
- 1km and 5km Study Areas

The selected set of photographic viewpoints are considered representative of the range of likely effects, viewing experiences and viewers.



# VIEWPOINT 14: PROW 0207/14/13 NEAR KENWICK OAK (VIEW SOUTH-EAST)

VIEWPOINT LOCATION MAP



AERIAL PHOTO



DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING VISUAL BASELINE

View south from slightly elevated location on a PRow across an attractive arable landscape, with long/expansive views across neighbouring landscapes and beyond, to distant upland areas in south Shropshire and on the Welsh border.

A slightly undulating high quality arable landscape, with hedgerow boundaries, scattered trees and small woodland belts. The raised landform in the middle distance, with a woodland belt along the ridge screens longer distance views.

The irregular shaped, large scale arable fields are a good example of the local landscape.

Far left of view, on the high ground, is Kenwick Lodge and between the mature trees centre of view the roof and chimney of Stanwardine Hall are visible.

DESCRIPTION OF EFFECTS - 14A AND 14B CONSIDERED TOGETHER

**CONSTRUCTION:** It is anticipated that short term construction activities associated with use of the temporary access track and erection of up to 8 wood poles, in particular nos. 89 to 93 would be visible. Movement associated with construction activities and vehicles may draw the eye. In particular the farm track in view will be used as an access track for 7 wood poles. However, despite the proximity of the access track the magnitude of change, due to the short term nature of the construction, would be **low to medium**.

**OPERATION - WINTER (YEAR 1):** Up to 8 new poles and the overhead line will be visible from the viewpoint, the majority of which would be backclothed by landform and vegetation. However, poles 89, 92 and 93 will potentially be visible on the skyline. Although a single turbine is present within the landscape the introduction of this new overhead line and trident wood poles, would bring a new element to the landscape and view which contrasts from the existing baseline view. It is anticipated that the magnitude of change in the view would be **medium**.

**OPERATION - SUMMER (YEAR 1):** Summer views would be similar to winter views, although wood poles 89 and 94 will be partially screened by vegetation; and pole 90 would benefit from a denser vegetation backdrop. As such the magnitude of change in the view would be **medium**.

**OPERATION (YEAR 15):** The impacts at Year 15 will be broadly similar to those at Year 1.

SENSITIVITY OF RECEPTOR - MEDIUM

- ☐ Residential
- ☐ National Cycle Route
- ☒ Public Right of Way / Bridleway
- ☐ Heritage Asset
- ☐ Regional Trail
- ☐ Road Network
- ☐ Regional Cycle Route
- ☐ Landscape Designation
- ☐ Promoted Viewpoint
- ☐ Cumulative

VIEWPOINT DESCRIPTION

View south-east from PRow on ridge of higher ground. Although too far from residential receptors to be included within the sensitivity assessment this view is similar to the views experienced from Top House (360m west of viewpoint) and Kenwick Lodge (800m east of viewpoint).

This view of large scale rolling arable fields with hedgerow boundaries and trees is typical of the Estate Farmlands Shropshire Landscape Typology which defines this locality.

A standard PRow is normally considered to be a medium sensitivity receptor, however the existing view is considered to be of a medium-high quality and sensitivity.

SUMMARY OF EFFECTS

MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE						LEVEL OF EFFECT			
CONSTRUCTION YEAR									
OPERATION (WINTER)									
OPERATION (SUMMER)									
CUMULATIVE									
NEGLECTIBLE LOW LOW - MEDIUM MEDIUM - HIGH HIGH						NEGLECTIBLE MINOR MODERATE MAJOR			

PHOTOGRAPH OF EXISTING LANDSCAPE FROM VIEWPOINT (90° FIELD OF VIEW)

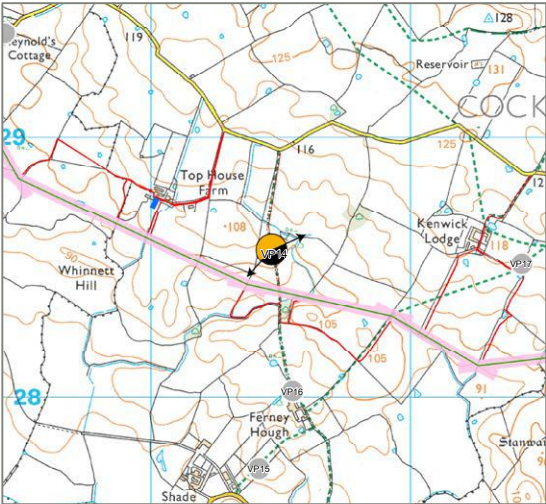


Grid Ref: 52.851289, -2.870504; AOD: 106m; General Direction of View: Southeast 135°; Approx Distance to Nearest Pole: 150m; Date & Time of Photograph - 05/07/17 @ 12:15; Weather/Visibility - Clear/Very Good; Camera - Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 fixed focal lens



# VIEWPOINT 14: PROW 0207/14/13 NEAR KENWICK OAK (VIEW SOUTH-WEST)

VIEWPOINT LOCATION MAP



AERIAL PHOTO



DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING VISUAL BASELINE

A slightly undulating high quality arable landscape, with hedgerow boundaries, scattered trees and small woodland belts, dominates the foreground and middle distance views. On the left of view, heading away from the viewer, is PROW 0207/14/13, which is also in regular use as a farm track. The irregular shaped, large scale arable fields are a good example of the local landscape.

On the lower ground, in the middle distance, the rolling agricultural landscape, hedgerows and woodland belts continue and are often interspersed with scattered farm buildings and small settlements, the most prominent of which is Bagley. A single wind turbine, located to the northwest of Shade Oak, is noticeable within the landscape.

The middle distance landscape merges into the distant high ground and wooded ridge-lines, illustrated in the image below by Stiperstones in South Shropshire, some 30km from the viewpoint, and Breidden Hill in Powys, approximately 18km from the viewpoint.

A standard PROW is normally considered to be a medium sensitivity receptor, however the existing view is considered to be of a medium-high quality and sensitivity.

DESCRIPTION OF EFFECTS

See 14A.

SENSITIVITY OF RECEPTOR - MEDIUM

- ☐ Residential
- ☐ National Cycle Route
- ☒ Public Right of Way / Bridleway
- ☐ Heritage Asset
- ☐ Regional Trail
- ☐ Road Network
- ☐ Regional Cycle Route
- ☐ Landscape Designation
- ☐ Promoted Viewpoint
- ☐ Cumulative

VIEWPOINT DESCRIPTION

View south-west from PROW on ridge of higher ground. Although too far from residential receptors to be included within the sensitivity assessment this view is similar to the views experienced from Top House (360m west of viewpoint) and Kenwick Lodge (800m east of viewpoint). This view of large scale rolling arable fields with hedgerow boundaries and trees is typical of the Estate Farmlands Shropshire Landscape Typology which defines this locality.

SUMMARY OF EFFECTS

See 14A.

PHOTOGRAPH OF EXISTING LANDSCAPE FROM VIEWPOINT (90° FIELD OF VIEW)

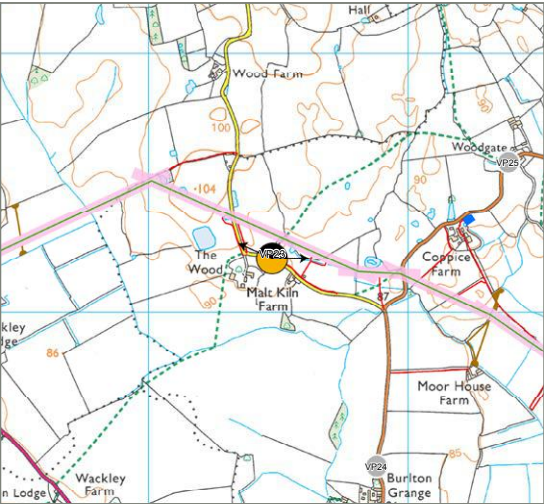


Grid Ref: 52.851289, -2.870504; AOD: 106m; General Direction of View: Southwest 220°; Approx Distance to Nearest Pole: 150m; Date & Time of Photograph - 05/07/17 @ 12:15; Weather/Visibility - Clear/Very Good; Camera - Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 fixed focal lens

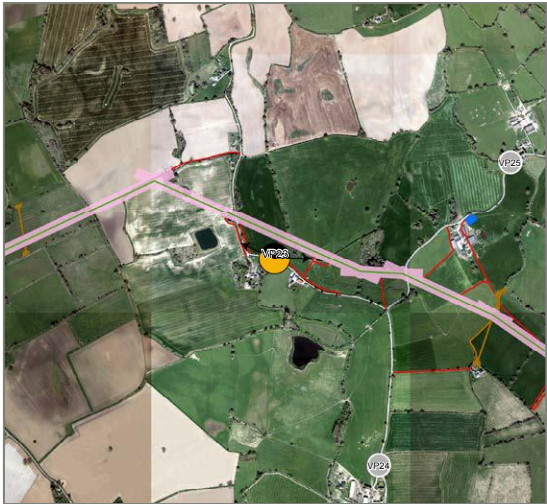


# VIEWPOINT 23: PROW 0217/4/2 NEAR MALT KILN FARM (VIEW NORTH-WEST)

VIEWPOINT LOCATION MAP



AERIAL PHOTO



DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING VISUAL BASELINE

In the foreground are two pastoral fields separated by two low post and wire fences, topped with barbed wire. The fences indicate the path of a local drainage ditch. The field on the far side of the fence is covered in longer grass and scrub vegetation, with brambles and Himalayan Balsam adjacent to the fence. On the near side of the fence the grass cover is shorter, as a result of sheep grazing, with patches of marsh grass/sedge.

A low voltage wood pole overhead line crosses the field occupying the majority of the view, with four poles, all visible in the skyline, located in the field. A low maintained hedgerow, with hedgerow trees, indicates the western boundary of the field and the path of the local road which heads to English Frankton. At the centre of the view beyond the field is a single residential property, Runners Ridge. To the right of view a tree line indicates the eastern boundary of the field.

The landform rises away from the viewpoint which screens longer distance views.

DESCRIPTION OF EFFECTS - 23A AND 23B CONSIDERED TOGETHER

**CONSTRUCTION:** It is anticipated that short term construction activities associated with the temporary access track and erection of up to six wood poles, in particular nos. 121, 122 and 123 (from Malt Kiln Farm) would be visible. Movement associated with construction activities and vehicles may draw the eye. The magnitude of change, due to the short term nature of the construction, would be **low**.

**OPERATION - WINTER (YEAR 1):** It is anticipated that poles 121, 122 and 124 will be visible, with 121 receiving no screening and breaking the skyline on the rising ground. Poles 119, 120 and 123 will be heavily screened by intervening vegetation, but potentially visible during the winter months. The proposed line will be seen within the context of the existing line when looking westwards, but would bring a new element to the landscape when looking eastwards. The new poles will be noticeable but, except for pole no. 121, they would not be prominent within the landscape. Therefore it is anticipated that the magnitude of change in the view would be **medium**.

**OPERATION - SUMMER (YEAR 1):** Summer views would be similar to winter views, although wood poles 120 and 123 would be completely screened; and 122 and 124 would benefit from greater screening and a denser vegetation backdrop. As such the magnitude of change in the view would be **low to medium**.

**OPERATION (YEAR 15):** The impacts at Year 15 will be broadly similar to those at Year 1.

SENSITIVITY OF RECEPTOR - HIGH

- ☒ Residential
- ☒ Road Network
- ☐ National Cycle Route
- ☐ Regional Cycle Route
- ☒ Public Right of Way / Bridleway
- ☐ Landscape Designation
- ☒ Heritage Asset
- ☐ Promoted Viewpoint
- ☐ Regional Trail
- ☐ Cumulative

VIEWPOINT DESCRIPTION

View from PRow 0217/4/2 and adjacent to a local road connecting English Frankton and Burlton. Malt Kiln Farm is located 130m south-east of the viewpoint and will have similar views. The Wood is 120m south-west of the viewpoint, although views from this residence will be heavily screened by intervening vegetation.

SUMMARY OF EFFECTS

MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE						LEVEL OF EFFECT			
CONSTRUCTION YEAR									
OPERATION (WINTER)									
OPERATION (SUMMER)									
CUMULATIVE									
	NEGLECTIBLE	LOW	LOW - MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM - HIGH	HIGH	NEGLECTIBLE	MINOR	MODERATE

CONSTRUCTION YEAR									
OPERATION (WINTER)									
OPERATION (SUMMER)									
CUMULATIVE									
	NEGLECTIBLE	MINOR	MODERATE	MAJOR					

PHOTOGRAPH OF EXISTING LANDSCAPE FROM VIEWPOINT (90° FIELD OF VIEW)

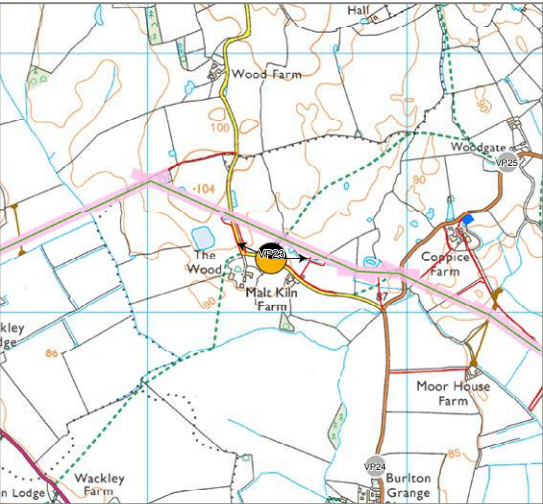


Grid Ref: 52.848796, -2.810993; AOD: 94m; General Direction of View: Northwest 330°; Approx Distance to Nearest Pole: 73m; Date & Time of Photograph - 05/07/17 1@ 15:15; Weather/Visibility - Overcast/Very Good; Camera - Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 fixed focal

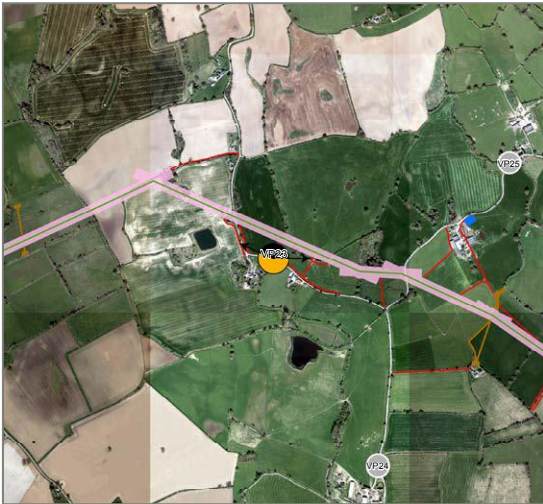


# VIEWPOINT 23: PROW 0217/4/2 NEAR MALT KILN FARM (VIEW NORTH-EAST)

VIEWPOINT LOCATION MAP



AERIAL PHOTO



DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING VISUAL BASELINE

In the foreground is an undulating pastoral field with sheep grazing and patches of marsh grass/sedge towards the field edges. To the far left is a post and wire fence, topped with barbed wire, indicating the western field boundary and local drainage ditch.

Across the view in the middle distance a tree line marks the northern boundary of the field and marks the path of a local drainage ditch. Proposed poles 122 and 123 will be located within this tree line. Through gaps in the vegetation the views continue of a pastoral landscape, with hedgerow boundaries and isolated trees and woodland belts.

Due to the local landform and tree cover, longer distance views are not possible except for the very far right of view where the pastoral landscape appears to continue on a slightly higher area of ground.

DESCRIPTION OF EFFECTS

See 23A.

SENSITIVITY OF RECEPTOR - HIGH

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Road Network |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Cycle Route                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Cycle Route    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Right of Way / Bridleway | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Designation   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heritage Asset                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Promoted Viewpoint      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Trail                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Cumulative              |

VIEWPOINT DESCRIPTION

View from PRoW 0217/4/2 and adjacent to a local road connecting English Frankton and Burlton. Malt Kiln Farm is located 130m south-east of the viewpoint and will have similar viewpoints. The Wood is 120m south-west of the viewpoint, although views from this residence will be heavily screened by intervening vegetation.

SUMMARY OF EFFECTS

See 23A.

PHOTOGRAPH OF EXISTING LANDSCAPE FROM VIEWPOINT (90° FIELD OF VIEW)

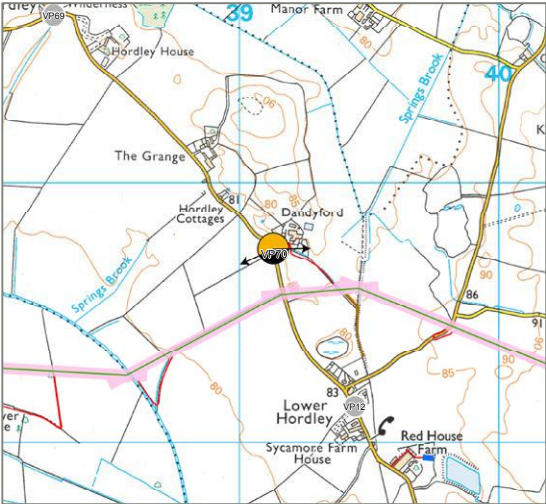


Grid Ref: 52.848796, -2.810993; AOD: 94m; General Direction of View: Northeast 55°; Approx Distance to Nearest Pole: 73m; Date & Time of Photograph - 05/07/17 1@ 15:15; Weather/Visibility - Overcast/Very Good; Camera - Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 fixed focal



# VIEWPOINT 70: DANDYFORD FARM, LOWER HORDLEY (VIEW SOUTH-EAST)

VIEWPOINT LOCATION MAP



AERIAL PHOTO



DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING VISUAL BASELINE

To the right of view a local road, slightly wider than many within this area, heads southwards. The road is bordered by a grass verge and a low well maintained roadside hedgerow, which allows wide open views of the relatively flat landscape. A single mature tree is adajcent to the hedegrow as is a wooden telegraph pole line.

In the middle distance the road continues southwards and the landform very gently rises towards the small collection of houses at Lower Hordley. Longer distance views in this direction are then screened.

To the immediate left of view is a row of tall deciduous trees which indicates the boundary of the foreground field and the curtilage of Dandyford Farm. These trees screen further views in this direction.

In the centre of view the relatively level agricultural landscape, with hedgerow boundaries, scattered trees and small woodland belts continues and merges into the distance, where the landform slightly raises screening further views. Two individual turbines are visible breaking the skyline above this higher ridge of land.

DESCRIPTION OF EFFECTS

**CONSTRUCTION:** It is anticipated that short term construction activities associated with the temporary access track and erection of up to nine proposed wood poles, with nos. 69 and 70 being the closest, would be visible. Movement associated with construction activities and vehicles may draw the eye. The magnitude of change, due to the short term nature of the construction, would be **low**.

**OPERATION - WINTER (YEAR 1):** Up to nine new poles and the overhead line will be visible from this viewpoint, the majority of which would be visible within the skyline, although some will be partially screened and backclothed by landform and vegetation. The majority of visible poles will be at such a distance as to make their individual impact on the view limited, however poles 69, 71 and 72 are all angle poles and will therefore be slightly more prominent within the landscape than the standard Trident pole. The new line, which goes across the view, will be a noticeable new element within the landscape, however this would be in the context of the existing baseline which includes a telegraph pole line, wind turbines and in the distance a 400kV pylon line. Views from within Dandyford Farm would benefit from greater screening than this view. It is anticipated that the magnitude of change in the view would be **medium**.

**OPERATION - SUMMER (YEAR 1):** Summer views would be similar to winter views and as such the magnitude of change in the view would be **medium**.

**OPERATION (YEAR 15):** The impacts at Year 15 will be broadly similar to those at Year 1.

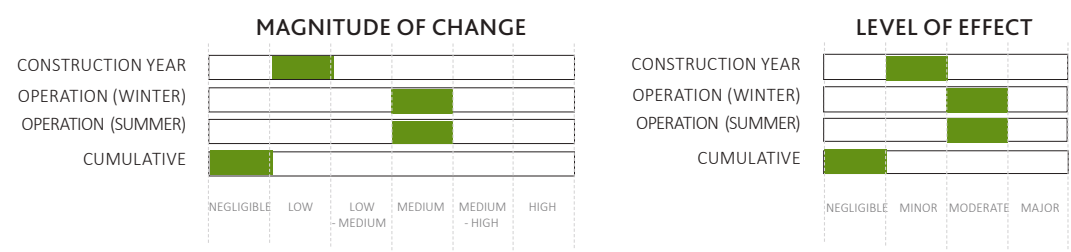
SENSITIVITY OF RECEPTOR - HIGH

- ☒ Residential
- ☐ National Cycle Route
- ☐ Public Right of Way / Bridleway
- ☐ Heritage Asset
- ☐ Regional Trail
- ☒ Road Network
- ☐ Regional Cycle Route
- ☐ Landscape Designation
- ☐ Promoted Viewpoint
- ☐ Cumulative

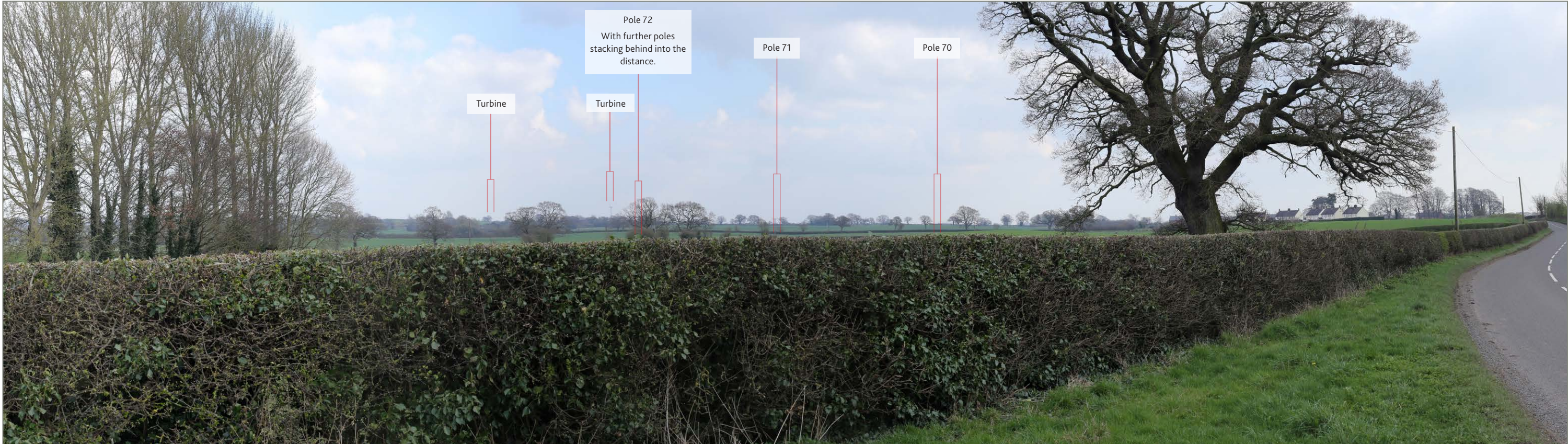
VIEWPOINT DESCRIPTION

View south from driveway entrance to Dandyford Farm on the local road connecting Hordley and Lower Hordley. Representative of views southwards from this road and residential properties along the road. The road cuts through irregular shaped medium and large scale arable fields typical of this locality and the Estate Farmlands Shropshire Landscape Typology.

SUMMARY OF EFFECTS



PHOTOGRAPH OF EXISTING LANDSCAPE FROM VIEWPOINT (90° FIELD OF VIEW)

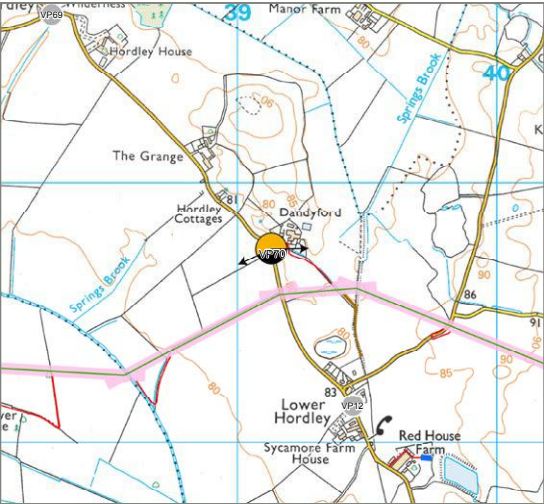


Grid Ref: 52.861592, -2.905478; AOD: 86m; General Direction of View: South-east 135°; Approx Distance to Nearest Pole: 225m; Date & Time of Photograph - 23/03/17 @ 14:40; Weather/Visibility - Overcast/Moderate; Camera - Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 fixed focal



# VIEWPOINT 70: DANDYFORD FARM, LOWER HORDLEY (VIEW SOUTH-WEST)

VIEWPOINT LOCATION MAP



AERIAL PHOTO



DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING VISUAL BASELINE

Centre of the foreground is occupied by a local road, slightly wider than many within this area, heading southwards. The road is bordered on both sides by a grass verge and a low well maintained roadside hedgerow, which allows wide open views of the relatively flat landscape. Left of view is a single mature tree within the field. Right of view, the low hedgerow, allows views of the large, recently ploughed, arable field. A wooden telegraph pole line runs adjacent to the southbound carriageway.

In the middle distance the road continues southwards, the roadside hedgerow gets larger in size and a section along the northbound carriageway includes numerous hedgerow trees. The large arable field to the right of view is bordered on all sides by a low well maintained hedgerow, the proposed route will follow the visible hedgerow along the southern boundary of the field. To the left of view the landform very gently rises and the rolling agricultural landscape continues, on the very slightly higher ground left of view the small collection of houses at Lower Hordley are visible.

In the distance, centre of view, are a single wind turbine and a 400kV pylon line are visible within the skyline.

In the far distance there are some areas of slightly raised landform.

DESCRIPTION OF EFFECTS

See 70A.

SENSITIVITY OF RECEPTOR - HIGH

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Road Network |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Cycle Route            | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Cycle Route    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Right of Way / Bridleway | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Designation   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Asset                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Promoted Viewpoint      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Trail                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Cumulative              |

VIEWPOINT DESCRIPTION

View south from driveway entrance to Dandyford Farm on the local road connecting Hordley and Lower Hordley. Representative of views southwards from this road and residential properties along the road. The road cuts through irregular shaped medium and large scale arable fields typical of this locality and the Estate Farmlands Shropshire Landscape Typology.

SUMMARY OF EFFECTS

See 70A.

PHOTOGRAPH OF EXISTING LANDSCAPE FROM VIEWPOINT (90° FIELD OF VIEW)

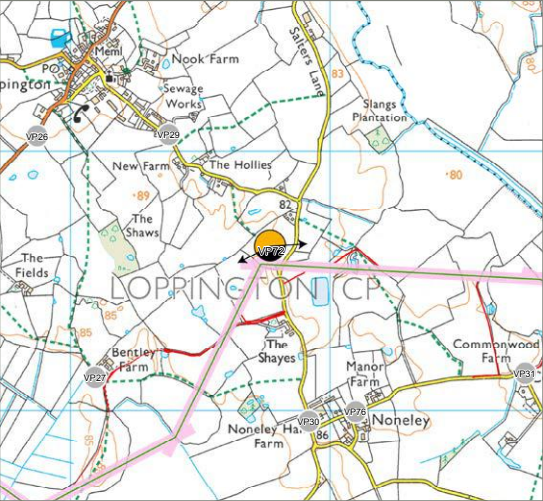


Grid Ref: 52.861592, -2.905478; AOD: 86m; General Direction of View: South-west 200°; Approx Distance to Nearest Pole: 162m; Date & Time of Photograph - 23/03/17 @ 14:40; Weather/Visibility - Overcast/Moderate; Camera - Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 fixed focal



# VIEWPOINT 72: PROW 0217/12/1 NEAR THE SHAYES (VIEW SOUTH-EAST)

VIEWPOINT LOCATION MAP



AERIAL PHOTO



DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING VISUAL BASELINE

The foreground is occupied by a pastoral field over a relatively flat landform, with low well maintained hedgerow boundaries with occasional mature hedgerow trees. The hedgerow left and centre of view indicates the field boundary with Salters Lane, within the hedgerow is a metal field entrance gate leading onto a local road and a traditional wooden stile where PRoW 0217/12/1 enters the field.

The foreground merges into the middle distance where the agricultural landscape with hedgerows, individual trees and woodland belts continues. An existing overhead wood pole line is visible in the middle distance, running across the view with the wood poles visible on the skyline. To the right of view the upper floor of the main residence at The Shayes is located behind a tall evergreen hedgerow and thick block of mature vegetation. Centre of view the chimneys and roof of a property within Noneley are visible just above the intervening vegetation.

The level local landscape and intervening vegetation result in the screening of any potential long distance views.

DESCRIPTION OF EFFECTS

**CONSTRUCTION:** Short term construction activities associated with the temporary access track and erection of up to six proposed wood poles would be visible above and through the intervening vegetation. In particular the erection of wood pole no. 148, which is an angle pole, will be in close proximity and clearly visible. Movement associated with construction activities and vehicles may draw the eye. The construction work will be of a very short term nature, therefore the magnitude of change would be **low to medium**.

**OPERATION - WINTER (YEAR 1):** The overhead line will be visible across the view and will be visible in the skyline, particularly between poles 148 and 149. The tree to the left of The Shayes in the view will be removed to make way for the overhead line. Looking east wood poles 149 - 151 will be visible, though partially screened by the intervening vegetation. Looking south-west the angle pole no. 148 will be prominent within the view and approximately 50% taller than the existing overhead low voltage wood poles currently visible. Wood poles 147-145 will also be visible heading away from the viewpoint, one behind the other. The new wood poles would be viewed in the context of the existing overhead line, which to the right of the view will be parallel to the proposed line. It is anticipated that the magnitude of change in the view would be **medium**.

**OPERATION - SUMMER (YEAR 1):** Summer views would be similar to winter views, although the extra vegetation will provide some extra screening when looking south-east towards poles 149 and 150. However, the magnitude of change in the view would remain as **medium**.

**OPERATION (YEAR 15):** The impacts at Year 15 will be broadly similar to those at Year 1.

SENSITIVITY OF RECEPTOR - MEDIUM

- ☐ Residential
- ☐ National Cycle Route
- ☒ Public Right of Way / Bridleway
- ☒ Heritage Asset
- ☐ Regional Trail
- ☒ Road Network
- ☐ Regional Cycle Route
- ☐ Landscape Designation
- ☐ Promoted Viewpoint
- ☐ Cumulative

VIEWPOINT DESCRIPTION

View from PRoW where the line cuts between Loppington and Noneley. Chapel House is approximately 150m north of the viewpoint (behind the viewer) and The Shayes approximately 280m south of the viewpoint. Chapel House is heavily screened by vegetation within close proximity to the house and therefore this view can not be deemed representative of any residential properties.

The viewpoint is located on the edge of the proposed construction zone for wood pole no. 148 which will require an angle winch.

SUMMARY OF EFFECTS

MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE						LEVEL OF EFFECT			
CONSTRUCTION YEAR						CONSTRUCTION YEAR			
OPERATION (WINTER)						OPERATION (WINTER)			
OPERATION (SUMMER)						OPERATION (SUMMER)			
CUMULATIVE						CUMULATIVE			
NEGLIGIBLE LOW LOW-MEDIUM MEDIUM MEDIUM-HIGH HIGH						NEGLIGIBLE MINOR MODERATE MAJOR			

PHOTOGRAPH OF EXISTING LANDSCAPE FROM VIEWPOINT (90° FIELD OF VIEW)

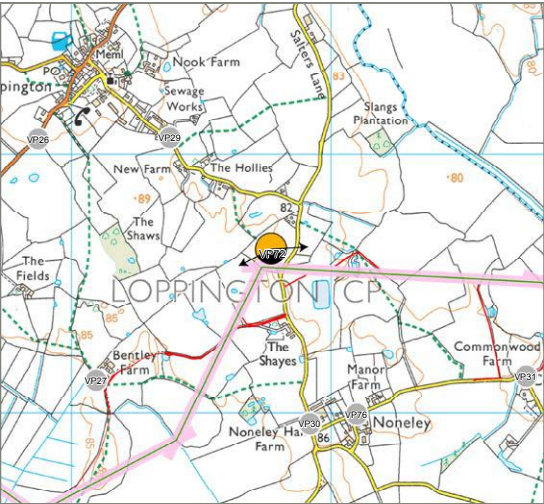


Grid Ref: 52.852520, -2.776985; AOD: 85m; General Direction of View: South-east 135°; Approx Distance to Nearest Pole: 75m; Date & Time of Photograph - 27/09/17 @ 14:15; Weather/Visibility - Overcast/Moderate; Camera - Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 fixed focal lens

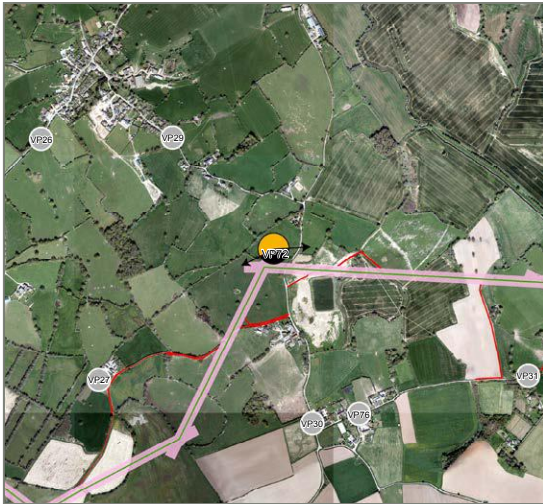


# VIEWPOINT 72: PROW 0217/12/1 NEAR THE SHAYES (VIEW SOUTH-WEST)

VIEWPOINT LOCATION MAP



AERIAL PHOTO



DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING VISUAL BASELINE

The foreground is occupied by a pastoral field over a relatively flat landform, with low well maintained hedgerow boundaries with occasional mature hedgerow trees. An existing low voltage overhead wood pole line begins at the right of view heading toward the centre of view and away into the distance. The wood poles are visible on the skyline.

The foreground merges into the middle distance where the agricultural landscape with hedgerows, individual trees and woodland belts continues. To the left of view the redbrick garden boundary at The Shays is visible above the intervening hedgerow.

The level local landscape and intervening vegetation result in the screening of any potential long distance views.

DESCRIPTION OF EFFECTS

See 72A.

SENSITIVITY OF RECEPTOR - MEDIUM

- ☐ Residential
- ☒ Road Network
- ☐ National Cycle Route
- ☐ Regional Cycle Route
- ☒ Public Right of Way / Bridleway
- ☐ Landscape Designation
- ☒ Heritage Asset
- ☐ Promoted Viewpoint
- ☐ Regional Trail
- ☐ Cumulative

VIEWPOINT DESCRIPTION

View from PROW where the line cuts between Loppington and Noneley. Chapel House is approximately 150m north of the viewpoint (behind the viewer) and The Shays approximately 280m south of the viewpoint. Chapel House is heavily screened by vegetation within close proximity to the house and therefore this view can not be deemed representative of any residential properties.

The viewpoint is located on the edge of the proposed construction zone for wood pole no. 148 which will require an angle winch.

SUMMARY OF EFFECTS

See 72A.

PHOTOGRAPH OF EXISTING LANDSCAPE FROM VIEWPOINT (90° FIELD OF VIEW)



Grid Ref: 52.852520, -2.776985; AOD: 85m; General Direction of View: South-west 195°; Approx Distance to Nearest Pole: 65m; Date & Time of Photograph - 27/09/17 @ 14:15; Weather/Visibility - Overcast/Moderate; Camera - Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 fixed focal





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