

APPENDIX 4: VIEWPOINT ANALYSIS

Introduction

A viewpoint assessment has been carried out from a selection of key representative viewpoint locations to inform the assessment of the likely magnitude and level of landscape and visual effects arising as a result of the Proposed Development.

Following desk-top analysis and site survey work, a total of 9 viewpoint locations were selected to represent the main landscape and visual receptors found in the Study Area, that were considered to have potential views of the Proposed Development.

The locations of the selected viewpoints are shown on Figure 4. Details for each viewpoint are provided below. Panoramic photographs are provided to illustrate the existing view at each viewpoint location and the likely extent of the Proposed Development within the view. A summary of the viewpoint analysis is provided in Table 6.1 in the main LVA (see Section 6).

VP	Location	Key features of existing view	Predicted Visual Change	Predicted Change to Landscape Character
1	National Cycle Network Route 72	<p>This view is taken along NCN Route 72, to the immediate east of the Site. The view is representative of users of the cycleway and footway which is elevated above the Site at the top of a localised bund.</p> <p>The view comprises the alignment of the footway / cycleway and the bridge crossing, looking down into the internal agricultural grassland within the Site. Dalzell Street is visible to the west, with views beyond contained by existing vegetation. The high voltage pylons and overhead lines to the west are visible above the vegetation.</p> <p>To the east of the route, the view comprises the rolling agricultural fields, punctuated by agricultural buildings, residential properties and telegraph poles, set down within a well wooded landscape. The wooded slopes of Dent Fell are visible in the distance as is the landscape within the Lake District National Park.</p>	<p>During the construction stage and given the proximity of the route to the Site as well as its elevated nature, views towards the construction activities would be evident. Gaps within the existing vegetation along the Site's eastern boundary would afford views through to the construction activities which would include plant and vehicle movement, deliveries, lighting and construction of the BESS equipment.</p> <p>On completion, despite the proposed mitigation planting, views towards the BESS compound would remain evident, albeit for a small part of the route. However, as the proposed mitigation planting matures, this would help to soften the views of the Proposed Development in the longer term. The elevated nature of the route means that views towards the proposals would remain in the longer term. However, it is noted that the route and viewpoint is already influenced by built form and power infrastructure in the surrounding landscape.</p>	<p>The landscape character of the Site comprises agricultural enclosures. It is acknowledged that the introduction of the Proposed Development would change the character of the Site itself, however the surrounding landscape, including the alignment of NCN 72, would remain unchanged.</p> <p>The activity and movement associated with the construction phase will affect the perceptual aspects such as tranquillity. However, this location is already influenced by residential and agricultural built form, telegraph poles and high voltage pylons which are visible in the wider view.</p> <p>During the operational stages, it is considered that there would be a limited effect on the tranquillity of the landscape, with activity on Site limited to occasional maintenance visits.</p> <p>The Proposed Development would see an increase in built form and energy infrastructure visible from the route, however this is already an existing characteristic of the route.</p>

VP	Location	Key features of existing view	Predicted Visual Change	Predicted Change to Landscape Character
2	Dalzell Street	<p>This view is taken along Dalzell Street, immediately adjacent to the Site. The view is representative of motorists using Dalzell Street between Egremont and Moor Row.</p> <p>The view comprises the post and wire fence that demarcates the Site's western boundary, with the internal agricultural grassland located beyond. Existing vegetated embankments to the north and east of the Site are visible, which enclose the Site from the wider landscape and limit views beyond.</p> <p>The route of NCN 72 lies at the top of the eastern embankment and is visible through gaps in the existing vegetation. Existing telegraph poles and cables lie adjacent to the Site in the middle ground view. There are visible references to built form to the north east and east, seen through gaps in the vegetation.</p> <p>In the distance to the east, the undulating landform of the Lake District National Park forms a prominent backdrop to the view. The wooded slopes of Dent Fell are also visible.</p> <p>High voltage pylons and overhead lines are present to the west in the wider view.</p>	<p>The main visual change would be the replacement of internal arable grassland with a new BESS compound and associated features.</p> <p>From this location, the Proposed Development would be evident from Dalzell Street during the construction and operational stages, seen in fleeting views from the road. In the absence of established boundary vegetation, views towards the construction activities would comprise plant and vehicle movement, cranes, deliveries, construction lighting and installation of the BESS equipment. Once installed and operational, there would be clear views towards the new BESS compound.</p> <p>In the longer term, once the proposed boundary vegetation has established and matured, this would help to soften views towards the BESS development, however it would remain visible in fleeting views through the vegetation, particularly during the winter months.</p> <p>It is unlikely that views towards the elevated backdrop of the Lake District National Park would be affected.</p>	<p>The landscape character of the Site comprises agricultural enclosures. It is acknowledged that the introduction of the Proposed Development would change the character of the Site itself, however the surrounding landscape would remain largely unchanged.</p> <p>The activity and movement associated with the construction phase will affect the perceptual aspects such as tranquillity. However, this location is already influenced by residential and agricultural built form along Dalzell Street, telegraph poles and high voltage pylons which are visible in the wider view.</p> <p>During the operational stages, it is considered that there would be a limited effect on the tranquillity of the landscape, with activity on Site limited to occasional maintenance visits.</p> <p>The Proposed Development would see an increase in built form and energy infrastructure along Dalzell Street, however this is already an existing characteristic of the route.</p>

VP	Location	Key features of existing view	Predicted Visual Change	Predicted Change to Landscape Character
3	PRoW 403 005	<p>This view is taken along PRoW 403 005 to the north of the Site and is representative of users of the localised PRoW network.</p> <p>The view comprises the agricultural grassland and route of the PRoW in the foreground, enclosed by the field boundary hedgerow to the north of the Site. Beyond this, the landform drops down towards the Site, which is largely screened in the view.</p> <p>In the middle distance, the existing vegetation structure of the Site and its setting is clearly evident, with the landform to the south of the Site rising back up and becoming visible. Beyond the Site, the landform becomes gently undulating with references to intrusive features in the view, including pylons and overhead lines. Built form along Dalzell Street is visible to the south, while properties in Cleator are visible to the east.</p> <p>Longer distance views to the east are characterised by the rising landform towards the wooded slopes of Dent Fell and the Lake District National Park.</p>	<p>During the construction stage, lower elements of the construction works are likely to be afforded a degree of screening by the intervening vegetation and landform, however the taller elements would be evident above the intervening hedgerow.</p> <p>At the early operational stage, views towards the majority of the Proposed Development are likely to be contained by the intervening vegetation and landform. The tops of the proposed buildings may be visible through wintering vegetation, but these would occupy only a small part of the view.</p> <p>In the longer term once the proposed mitigation planting has established and matured, this would provide further softening and screening to the Proposed Development and would increase the amount of visible vegetation around the Site.</p>	<p>The landscape character of this part of the Study Area comprises agricultural fields, subdivided by established and intact hedgerows. This would remain largely unchanged as a result of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Any physical changes in the landscape character arising from the Proposed Development would be contained within the Site itself and would not affect the surrounding landscape. Any changes from this location would be perceptual, however it is considered that the intervening vegetation and landform, as well as the visible built form and pylons, would result in a limited change to the baseline landscape character.</p>

VP	Location	Key features of existing view	Predicted Visual Change	Predicted Change to Landscape Character
4	PRoW 406 015	<p>This view is taken from PRoW 406 015 to the south west of the Site and is representative of users of the localised PRoW network.</p> <p>The view comprises the alignment of the PRoW set within a broadly agricultural setting, with Dalzell Street located immediately east beyond the field gate and hedgerow.</p> <p>The internal grassland of the Site is afforded a degree of screening by the intervening hedgerow and trees in the near to middle distance, while the wider vegetation structure around the Site is visible beyond.</p> <p>In longer distance views, residential built form within Cleator Moor and Cleator are visible through and above the vegetation, while the elevated landscape within the Lake District National Park forms a prominent backdrop to views. The wooded slopes of Dean Fell are also visible to the east.</p>	<p>During the construction stage, lower elements of the construction works are likely to be afforded a degree of screening by the intervening vegetation, however the taller elements would be evident above the intervening hedgerow.</p> <p>At the early operational stage, the Proposed Development would be partially screened by the intervening vegetation. The tops of the proposals may be visible, but these would occupy only a small part of the view. The proposed mitigation planting would not yet have matured to provide any additional softening or screening.</p> <p>In the longer term once the proposed mitigation planting has established and matured, this would provide further softening and screening to the Proposed Development and would increase the amount of visible vegetation around the Site.</p>	<p>The landscape character of this part of the Study Area comprises agricultural fields, subdivided by established and intact hedgerows. This would remain largely unchanged as a result of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Any physical changes in the landscape character arising from the Proposed Development would be contained within the Site itself and would not affect the surrounding landscape. Any changes from this location would be perceptual, however it is considered that the intervening vegetation would result in a limited change to the baseline landscape character.</p>

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5	Cleator Gate	<p>This view is taken from Cleator Gate, immediately north of Cleator along a roadside footway, approximately 500m east.</p> <p>The view is representative of pedestrians using the footway, motorists along Cleator Gate and residential properties in Cleator. The view comprises the managed roadside hedgerow with the rolling agricultural landscape beyond. The landform in the middle ground drops down into a localised valley associated with the River Keekle, along which lies a strong network of trees.</p> <p>Scattered rural properties are visible on the valley slopes before the landform rises to the west and extends towards the Site. Views towards the Site are heavily filtered by intervening vegetation and landform.</p> <p>In the distance, a number of detracting features are visible including wind turbines, high voltage pylons, overhead lines and telecoms towers which create prominent urbanising features on the skyline. Residential and commercial built form in Bigrigg is also evident.</p>	<p>From this location, the degree of perceptible visual change would be limited and heavily filtered by the intervening vegetation and landform.</p> <p>During construction, views towards the taller construction elements would be possible above the intervening vegetation and landform, however it is considered that the majority of the construction activities would be set down in the Site and largely contained. Where taller elements are glimpsed, these would sit in the context of the numerous urbanising features in the view.</p> <p>On completion, the Proposed Development would, for the most part, be heavily filtered or screened by intervening vegetation and landform. Once the proposed landscaping has matured, this would further contain views of the completed development.</p>	<p>The landscape character in this part of the Study Area comprises settlement edge landscapes with agricultural fields.</p> <p>It is considered that any physical changes in landscape character arising from the Proposed Development would be largely visually contained. Where any glimpses may occur, these will be seen as a minor addition to the landscape alongside residential properties and scattered farmsteads within this predominantly agricultural landscape.</p> <p>The limited extent of intervisibility between the receptor and Proposed Development is not expected to affect the physical or perceptual characteristics of the local landscape character.</p>

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6	Holden Place, Cleator Moor	<p>This view is taken from the southern edge of Holden Place within Cleator Moor, approximately 1.2km north east of the Site.</p> <p>The view is representative of residents within Cleator Moor and comprises settlement edge views out across the predominantly agricultural landscape to the south of the settlement.</p> <p>The foreground view shows an area of residential amenity space adjacent to the settlement, bordered by a fenced area of sheds, beyond which the agricultural fields extend down into a localised valley.</p> <p>The middle-distance view shows the vegetation cover of the intervening landscape which creates a good degree of containment within the local landscape. In the distance, the landform rises southwards, defined by field boundary vegetation.</p> <p>Residential built form is visible to the south west at Moor Row, while the hill tops to the south are characterised by high voltage pylons, overhead lines and telecoms towers.</p>	<p>From this distance, the degree of perceptible visual change would be limited and heavily filtered by the intervening vegetation.</p> <p>During construction, views towards the taller construction elements would be possible above the intervening vegetation, however it is considered that the majority of the construction activities would be contained and would be barely perceptible in the view. Where glimpsed, these would sit alongside the residential properties in the view, as well as in the context of the settlement edge features in Cleator Moor and the prominent pylons and overhead lines.</p> <p>On completion, the Proposed Development would, for the most part, be heavily filtered by intervening vegetation. Once the proposed landscaping has matured, this would further soften and screen views of the completed development.</p>	<p>The landscape character in this part of the Study Area comprises settlement edge landscapes with agricultural fields.</p> <p>It is considered that any physical changes in landscape character arising from the Proposed Development would be largely visually contained. Where any glimpses may occur, these will be seen as a minor addition to the landscape alongside residential properties and scattered farmsteads within this predominantly agricultural landscape.</p> <p>The limited extent of intervisibility between the receptor and Proposed Development is not expected to affect the physical or perceptual characteristics of the local landscape character.</p>

VP	Location	Key features of existing view	Predicted Visual Change	Predicted Change to Landscape Character
7	Unnamed Lane, west of Blackhow Wood	<p>This view is taken from an unnamed rural lane to the west of Blackhow Wood. The view is representative of motorists and recreational receptors along the rural lane and a small number of residential properties.</p> <p>The view comprises the unnamed lane overlooking a series of pastoral enclosures defined by timber post and rail fencing and field gates in the foreground, set down within a localised valley.</p> <p>In the middle distance, residential properties within Cleator are visible, set down in the view and partially filtered by the well treed valley floor.</p> <p>In longer distance views, the landform rises gradually westwards towards the Site and surrounding settlements, ensuring that built form is a key component in views from this location. The combination of settlements, rural properties and more prominent features such as pylons means that this is a well settled landscape with a distinctly urban fringe character.</p>	<p>Given the intervening distance and strongly settled character of the view, construction activities would be barely perceptible, even where visible above the intervening vegetation and landform. The activities would form a very small proportion of the wider view and would appear as part of the scattered settlement pattern and visually prominent features.</p> <p>On completion, the Proposed Development would be largely screened from view by the intervening vegetation and landform. Once the proposed landscaping has matured, this would provide an additional layer of screening which would further contain views of the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>The landscape character in this part of the Study Area comprises settlement edge landscapes with agricultural fields.</p> <p>It is considered that any physical changes in landscape character arising from the Proposed Development would be largely visually contained. Where any glimpses may occur, these will be seen as a minor addition to the landscape alongside residential properties and scattered farmsteads within this predominantly agricultural landscape.</p> <p>The limited extent of intervisibility between the receptor and Proposed Development is not expected to affect the physical or perceptual characteristics of the local landscape character.</p>

VP	Location	Key features of existing view	Predicted Visual Change	Predicted Change to Landscape Character
8	Dent Fell	<p>This view is from the summit of Dent Fell, a prominent viewpoint approximately 3.1km east of the Site.</p> <p>The view is representative of walkers and visitors to Dent Fell and users of the Wainwrights Coast to Coast Path. The view comprises the open and exposed summit of the Fell overlooking the lower lying, predominantly agricultural landscape beyond.</p> <p>The well settled landscape is evident from this location, with settlements clearly punctuating the agricultural fields, with occasional rural properties set away from the main settlements.</p> <p>In the far distance, the extent of settlement reduces towards the coast and agricultural fields dominate the landscape. The horizon is formed by the Irish Sea.</p> <p>Within the wider view, there are numerous references to built form, again set down in the views, including the power plant in Sellafield to the south west which forms a notable and prominent feature.</p> <p>The dramatic landscape of the Lake District National Park lies immediately east of the viewpoint.</p>	<p>From this location, views towards construction activities and the completed development would be barely perceptible due to the intervening distance. The well settled landscape in the view provides numerous references to built form, ensuring that where glimpsed views may exist, they would appear as a addition to the view and would be compatible with the existing characteristics of the view.</p>	<p>It is considered that any physical changes in landscape character arising from the Proposed Development would be largely contained. Where any glimpses may occur, these will be seen as a minor and compatible addition to the landscape alongside the settlements and scattered rural properties.</p> <p>The limited extent of intervisibility between the receptor and Proposed Development is not expected to affect the physical or perceptual characteristics of the local landscape character.</p>

VP	Location	Key features of existing view	Predicted Visual Change	Predicted Change to Landscape Character
9	Unnamed Lane, south of Kinniside Cop (Lake District National Park)	<p>This view is taken along an unnamed lane to the south of Kinniside Cop within the Lake District National Park. This view lies just outside of the Study Area but has been included as representative of views from within the National Park.</p> <p>The view comprises the alignment of the unnamed lane, set within a well vegetated and rising landscape within the designated landscape.</p> <p>Middle-distance views comprise the agricultural landscape which is typical of the area, while longer distance views show the undulating landform. Built form is visible within the nearby settlement at Cleator Moor.</p> <p>The Site is well contained within the view by intervening roadside vegetation, landform and distance.</p>	<p>From this location, views towards construction activities and the completed development would be barely perceptible due to the intervening distance, vegetation and landform.</p> <p>Any glimpses towards the Proposed Development would be seen in the context of the settlement which lies closer to the viewers location.</p>	<p>It is considered that any physical changes in landscape character arising from the Proposed Development would be largely contained. Where any glimpses may occur, these will be seen as a minor and compatible addition to the landscape alongside the settlements and scattered rural properties.</p> <p>The limited extent of intervisibility between the receptor and Proposed Development is not expected to affect the physical or perceptual characteristics of the Lake District National Park given the degree of physical and visual separation between the two and the existing settled character of the adjacent landscapes.</p>