

LVA Addendum

Derril Water Solar Farm

16/06/2021



Disclaimer

Neo Environmental Limited shall have no liability for any loss, damage, injury, claim, expense, cost or other consequence arising as a result of use or reliance upon any information contained in or omitted from this document.

Copyright © 2021

The material presented in this report is confidential. This report has been prepared for the exclusive use of Renewable Energy Systems (RES) Ltd. The report shall not be distributed or made available to any other company or person without the knowledge and written consent of Renewable Energy Systems (RES) Ltd or Neo Environmental Ltd.

Neo Environmental Ltd

Head Office - Glasgow:

Wright Business Centre,
1 Lonmay Road,
Glasgow
G33 4EL
T 0141 773 6262

E: info@neo-environmental.co.uk

Warrington Office:

Cinnamon House, Crab Lane, Warrington WA2 0XP T: 01925 661 716

E: info@neo-environmental.co.uk

Rugby Office:

Valiant Suites,
Lumonics House, Valley Drive,
Swift Valley, Rugby
Warwickshire CV21 1TQ
T: 01788 297012

E: info@neo-environmental.co.uk

Ireland Office:

Johnstown Business Centre, Johnstown House, Naas, Co. Kildare

T: 00 353 (0)45 844250 E: <u>info@neo-environmental.ie</u>

Northern Ireland Office:

83-85 Bridge Street
Ballymena,
Co. Antrim
BT43 5EN
T: 0282 565 04 13

E: info@neo-environmental.co.uk



Prepared For:

Renewable Energy Systems (RES) Ltd

Prepared By:

Naomh Turbett BSc MLA CMLI





	Name	Date
Edited By:	Naomh Turbett	16/06/2021
Checked By:	Nicole Beckett	16/06/2021
	Name	Signature
Approved By	Simon Newall	Part - Jean



CONTENTS

Contents	4
Introduction	5
Methodology	_
Wicthodology	=
Response to Comments	F



INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This landscape addendum is intended as a presentation of additional information associated with the original Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) produced in March 2021 as part of the planning application for a proposed solar farm and associated infrastructure (the "Proposed Development") on lands circa 1.2km south-west of the village of Pyworthy, Devon (the "Application Site") (Planning ref: 1/0249/2021/FULM).
- 1.2. A Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) considering the potential direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Development upon the landscape resources, views and visual amenity within the existing landscape and visual baseline across a 5km study area was provided in March 2021.
- 1.3. This additional information has been provided in response to the 'Review of Submitted LVIA, Landscape and Visual Issues' which was carried out by Peter Leaver BA (Hons) Dip LD CMLI, director of David Wilson Partnership on behalf of Torridge District Council in May 2021.
- 1.4. This addendum is supported by:
 - A revised Figure 1.1 Derril Water Solar Farm Landscape Character Areas / Types located in Appendix A
- 1.5. Other figures that are referred to from the submitted LVIA are:
 - Figure 1.3a Derril Water Solar Farm Viewpoint Locations with Zone of Theoretical Visibility.
 - Figures 1.6 a/b/c Viewpoint 3: Minor road south of New Park/Monks Farm
 - Figure 1.14: Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP)

METHODOLOGY

1.6. The methodology followed within this addendum accounting for potential landscape and visual effects is that which was used in the original LVA and is contained within **Appendix 1C** of the original report (**Technical Appendix 1 of Volume 1**).



RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

Review of Submitted LVIA, Landscape and Visual Issues, May 2021.

1.7. In terms of landscape baseline, Peter Leaver BA(Hons) Dip LD CMLI, concluded that:

"Baseline Studies: Landscape receptors that will receive direct and indirect effects are comprehensively considered in the baseline study. The Devon Character Assessment has not been referenced and a copy of the relevant section is included in an appendix to this report. A review of the Cornwall Renewable Energy Landscape Assessment is at consultation stage and was not included in the baseline information."

Further to this, Peter Leaver BA(Hons) Dip LD CMLI, stated that:

"Devon Character Area (DCA) Western Culm Plateau not considered.

Cornwall Renewable Energy Sensitivity Study (Reviewed 2020) not considered.

Some of the qualities and characteristics of the Western Culm Plateau DCA are susceptible to change as a result of development. Their assessment is an omission from the LVIA. I have carried out an outline assessment of impacts using the LVIA methodology. The Cornwall review of their 2007 renewable energy sensitivity study is available now in draft form and it's conclusions noted in my review of the effects on CA31."

- 1.8. The Devon Landscape Character Assessment identifies 68 Devon Character Areas, which share a unique and distinct identity recognisable at a <u>county scale</u>. At a <u>national scale</u> the study area is within the National Character Area (NCA) 149 The Culm¹. Within each Devon Character Area there comprises a number of different <u>Landscape Character Types</u> (LCT) which are identified in the Joint Landscape Character Assessment for North Devon & Torridge Districts, 2010². The three Torridge Landscape Character Types within the 5km study area for the Proposed Development Site are considered in the submitted LVA. These are 5A Inland Elevated Undulating Land, 1F Farmed Lowland Moorland and Culm Grassland and 3C Sparsely Settled Farmed Valley Floor. The Devon Character Areas within the 5km study area are Western Culm Plateau (DCA) and Upper Tamar Tributary Valleys (DCA).
- 1.9. Although the county scale landscape character was not assessed as part of the original LVA submitted in March 2021, at a more detailed scale, both the relevant National Character Areas and Landscape Character Types were assessed. The wider county scale DCA is assessed as part of this addendum. It is also worth noting that the *Cornwall Renewable Energy Sensitivity Study* which is currently in draft form was not assessed as part of the originally submitted LVA because it was not publicly available at the time of writing. This will eventually replace the

² LUC (2010) The Joint Landscape Character Assessment for North Devon and Torridge Districts (JLCA) and the Landscape Sensitivity



¹ Natural England (2014) National Character Area profiles

- current document; LUC (2011) An Assessment of the Landscape Sensitivity to Onshore Wind Energy and Field-Scale Photovoltaic Development in Torridge District which, following consultation with the Senior Planning Officer for Torridge District Council (Laura Davies), was one of the documents to be used as the basis for the landscape assessment within the LVA.
- 1.10. During fieldwork, the Application Site was found to be largely contained by its surrounding landform and vegetation. Therefore, a 2km radius was adopted for the consideration of potential landscape receptors and appraisal of landscape effects. The theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development (ZTV coverage) on Landscape Character Areas (LCAs), Landscape Character Types (LCTs) and Devon Character Areas (DCAs) within 2km of the Application Site is described in **Table 1** below and the ZTV coverage is shown **on Figure 1.3a**. This is used as a means of identifying which landscape character areas require appraisal.

Table 1: Landscape Baseline Character Assessment

LCA/LCT	Theoretical Visibility of Proposed Development		
Devon Council DCAs			
Western Culm Plateau	Host DCA, considered within the addendum.		
Review of the Cornish Renewable Energy Sensitivity Study Draft Report			
CA 31 Upper Tamar and Ottery Valleys	Within c. 1.2km south of the Application Site, the ZTV indicates theoretical visibility from elevated northern parts of this LCA, considered further with reference to the Cornish Sensitivity Study within the addendum.		

- 1.11. In terms of landscape effects: landscape sensitivity value, susceptibility, Peter Leaver BA(Hons) Dip LD CMLI, stated that:
 - "Clear reasoning for judgement of sensitivity of the site as medium. LCT5A assessment of sensitivity differs from 2011 Sensitivity Study (LVIA medium, 2011 Study Med High) for large array (10 15ha). It is unclear why there is a difference of assessment, considering the large size of the proposal and the potential cumulative effects. The Cornwall Renewable Energy Landscape Sensitivity Study Review DRAFT (2020) assesses CA21 (typo within review, should read CA 31) has having high sensitivity to solar PV development within the character area for a 15ha and larger array. No assessment made of DCA."
- 1.12. See the assessment of the DCA (beginning paragraph 1.15 below), Landscape Effects on Western Culm Plateau DCA.
- 1.13. In terms of landscape effects: magnitude of effect size/scale of effect, reversibility of effect, duration of effects, Peter Leaver BA(Hons) Dip LD CMLI, stated that:

"As noted above, no assessment made of DCA."



- "DWP have reviewed assessments using the methodology set out in the LVIA, results set out in table ... below" Refer to Table 2.
- 1.14. See the assessment of the DCA (beginning paragraph 1.15 below), Landscape Effects on Western Culm Plateau DCA.
- 1.15. It should be noted that the review by Peter Leaver from DWP, assessed the landscape effects of DCA High Culm Ridges in error (refer to **Table 2** below), as the DCA that requires assessment. As stated in the review from DWP and as highlighted in **Figure 1.1**, the DCA which requires assessment is Western Culm Plateau. This error was discussed and confirmed with Peter Leaver in June 2021.



Table 2: Excerpt from: Review of Submitted LVIA, Landscape and Visual Issues, May 2021.

Landscape Receptor	Sensitivity (Applicants LVIA Criteria)	Description of Change likely to occur	Magnitude of Change (Applicants Criteria)	Level of Effect (Applicants Criteria)	Cumulative Effects
DCA High Culm Ridges	Not assessed (LVIA) Medium - High (DWP – see notes)	The study area within DCA High Culm Ridges has a gently undulating landform and a mix of enclosed areas at the bottom of valleys and in woodlands contrasting with open areas with long views. There is a mix of larger, modern fields and smaller scale fields of mediaeval origin - The development is spread across fields identified as mediaeval enclosures based on strip fields (Fields 1,2, 11 – 15, 17-19, 21 – 24,) and less sensitive modern enclosure fields (as identified in the Devon Historic Landscape Characterisation). Landcover is a mix of pasture and arable, but with some areas of rough ground near the site. Evidence of human activity is present in this traditionally rural landscape, with some more modern influences in terms of energy infrastructure. The area is not covered by landscape designations, but has some scenic quality. The DCA within the study area is assessed as being of of medium value. The landscape is of medium susceptibility to change from the type of development proposed, but the importance of smaller fields in the landscape increases it's sensitivity to large scale developments, such as that proposed. An overall assessment of medium to high sensitivity is assessed. The effect of development would be a change to pattern of land use on the site and in the study area. Existing field boundaries would remain and in some cases be reinforced. The pattern of woodland in the local area would be reinforced.	Not assessed (LVIA) Y0 medium adverse Y5 medium/low adverse (DWP)	Not assessed (LVIA) Y0 moderate adverse Y5 moderate/minor adverse (DWP)	Not assessed (LVIA) Moderate adverse (DWP)





Development would appear in long views across the countryside towards Dartmoor. Industrial buildings would be evident that will not integrate with the current pattern of settlements and farmsteads locally.

The introduction of new, man made elements would detract from the feeling of tranquillity in the local area. Key elements, such as the pattern of land cover and farmstead/building distribution, the sense of relative tranquillity, long views would be noticeably changed. Other characteristics, such as field patterns and the balance of woodland in the landscape would be unaltered or improved. New planting and hedgerow/woodland management would help to integrate the development into the landscape and addresses the sensitivity of the landscape in relation to field size, but would not mitigate the effects entirely. Magnitude of change is assessed as medium adverse operational Y0, remaining at medium/low adverse from Y5 onwards as mitigating planting matured. Effects would be long term and would be felt over a relatively small area, most keenly within 1km of the edge of the development and less so at greater distances.

Overall effects at YO are assessed as moderate adverse

(the development would be out of place in the landscape), but the effect would be limited to a relatively small area. The effect would reduce to moderate/minor adverse from Y5 onwards, as mitigating planting helped to integrate development into the landscape.

Cumulative effects with other PV developments and power infrastructure in the local area.





Landscape Effects on Western Culm Plateau DCA

Location and baseline description:

- 1.16. The Proposed Development, in its entirety, is located within the southern extents of the Western Culm Plateau. As per the submitted LVA, a 2km radius has been adopted for the consideration of potential landscape receptors and appraisal of landscape effects due to the Application Site being largely contained by its surrounding landform and vegetation. Torridge LCT 1F and 3C were scoped out of the submitted LVA, so only the LCT 5A Inland Elevated Undulating Land within the DCA Western Culm Plateau is assessed. The Devon Character Assessment of Western Culm Plateau is in Appendix 1 below.
- 1.17. The fields will change in character from fields in agriculture only to fields with development and potential agricultural use (sheep grazing). The field pattern will remain and will be strengthened by proposed mitigation.

Sensitivity:

- 1.18. The characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine in a medium susceptibility to renewable energy development of this nature, given the largely contained nature of the Application Site and the presence of existing infrastructure within the study area including the existing pylon lines, Pyworthy substation, operational solar farms and single wind turbines. Landscape value is considered to be medium for much of the Western Culm Plateau within this study area with areas of higher value associated with rural quality and openness.
- 1.19. Taking into account the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **Medium**.

Appraisal of construction effects:

- 1.20. During the temporary construction phase there will be a notable increase of construction activity occurring across the extent of the Application Site. The works will have a <u>localised</u> temporary disturbance to a small portion of the rural landscape of Western Culm Plateau.
- 1.21. The Proposed Development will locally alter the character of Western Culm Plateau. The scale of change is considered to be medium up to around c. 1km representing a localised geographical extent.
- 1.22. The magnitude of landscape change is judged to be **Medium** locally, reducing to **Low** beyond a distance of around c. 1km. Taking account of the medium sensitivity of this landscape and construction phase of c. 6 months, there will be a **Temporary Moderate adverse** landscape effect locally and a **Temporary Minor adverse** effect within Western Culm Plateau as a whole.



Appraisal of operational effects:

- 1.23. Once operational, the Proposed Solar Farm and associated infrastructure elements will be located over c. 66.33 hectares of agricultural lands within the southern extent of the Western Culm Plateau. This will directly affect key characteristic fields and their farmed character.
- 1.24. However, the Proposed Development has been designed around the confines of the existing field boundaries, retaining as much of the existing site's elements, features and agricultural land use as possible, which already contribute to the rural character. The land around and beneath the solar arrays is anticipated to be lightly grazed, maintaining an agricultural use throughout the lifespan of the Proposed Development.
- 1.25. The mitigation measures and landscape management will help improve the condition of the existing hedgerows within the red line boundary over the lifespan of the Proposed Development (See Figure 1.14: Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) of the original LVA) The retention of the Application Site's field hedgerows and additional similar hedgerow and tree planting will help contain the various structures of the Proposed Development within the local area and limit their overall visibility within the immediate rural landscape. These measures fall in line with the guidelines for protection and management for the Western Culm Plateau.
- 1.26. Operational Solar Farms within this LCT include Crinacott Solar Farm, c. 0.3km southeast and Bradford Solar Park c. 1.2km southwest of the Proposed Development. Other existing electricity infrastructure features include pylon lines within and close to the eastern side of the Proposed Development (Fields 16, 20, 25 and 28), Pyworthy substation c. 0.75km to the east and a number of single operational wind turbines to the east, south and west..
- 1.27. Parts of the overall Proposed Development (foreshortened by landform and partly screened by vegetation) will be seen in very localised combined, successive and sequential views with parts of to the full extent of operational Crinacott Solar Farm. This includes localised areas within southern parts of the Western Culm Plateau where Crinacott Solar Farm is already visible including from short sections of the minor road (Viewpoint 3) and PRoW to the southeast (Viewpoint 8).
- 1.28. It is considered unlikely that the Proposed Development will be seen in combined, successive and sequential views from within Western Culm Plateau with operational Bradford Solar Park given the intervening distance and screening by intervening landform and vegetation (Viewpoint 10).
- 1.29. A small part of the overall Proposed Development will also be seen locally in limited combined views with Pyworthy substation (Viewpoint 4) and in localised views largely below other electricity infrastructure elements including pylon lines and single turbines which are evident against the skyline within this DCA. The introduction of the Proposed Development will locally extend the physical presence of solar farm and energy infrastructure development within south to south-eastern parts of the DCA. Visibility of the Proposed Development from localised south-eastern parts of the DCA within c. 0.5km to 1km will locally extend the current



- influence of Crinacott Farm. Beyond this distance intervisibility between the Proposed Development and other operational solar farms within Western Culm Plateau is considered unlikely.
- 1.30. The Proposed Development will mainly locally alter the internal character of the agricultural fields within the Application Site within the Western Culm Plateau. Field pattern and landform will remain largely unaltered. The size/scale of change is considered to be medium locally within c. 0.5 to 1km of the site, representing a localised geographical extent.
- 1.31. The retained and strengthened field systems, along with the continued light agricultural use of the lands are in line with the overall strategy and guidelines for the Western Culm Plateau in the Devon County Council's 2007 'Devon's Landscape Character Assessment' (DLCA).
- 1.32. Overall, the magnitude of landscape change for the Western Culm Plateau is judged to be Medium locally, extending to approximately 1km radius from the Proposed Development, reducing with distance and as mitigation planting matures. Taking account of the medium sensitivity of the landscape this will result in a Moderate adverse landscape effect experienced locally and a Minor adverse effect for the Western Culm Plateau as a whole. The degree of landscape effect will reduce locally to Moderate/Minor locally by c. Year 5 as the proposed mitigation planting matures helping to further contain and integrate the Proposed Solar Farm within the landscape of the Application Site.

Appraisal of decommissioning effects:

1.33. Activities across the Application Site during the decommissioning phase will be similar to those of the construction phase. The disturbed lands will be reinstated to a similar agricultural use. A similar magnitude of change and degree of landscape effect is anticipated for the decommissioning phase. This will result in a very localised **Temporary Moderate adverse** and a **Temporary Minor adverse** landscape effect on the Western Culm Plateau as a whole during decommissioning.

Post Decommissioning

1.34. Post decommissioning the mitigation planting which will have matured will be retained resulting in a localised **Minor beneficial** effect.

Potential for Future Cumulative Effects:

1.35. Given the medium magnitude of landscape change predicated across a localised area of LCT 5A, and the location of operational Crinacott Solar Farm, Bradford Solar Park, and other elements of existing energy infrastructure, the cumulative magnitude of change for this LCT will be medium and the cumulative landscape effect will be Moderate adverse.

Landscape Effects on CA 31 Upper Tamar and Ottery Valleys with consideration of the Cornish Renewable Energy Landscape Sensitivity Assessment



Location and baseline description:

1.36. The Proposed Development is located 1.2km north of CA 31 Upper Tamar and Ottery Valleys. The full description is within the submitted LVA.

Sensitivity:

- 1.37. According to the Cornish Sensitivity Assessment CA 31 Upper Tamar and Ottery Valleys would have a high sensitivity to new solar PV developments >15 to 30ha. This is the uppermost threshold for sensitivity assessment so it is assumed this value of sensitivity would remain for solar PV developments of the Proposed Development of 66.33 hectares.
- 1.38. The intervisibility with the CA 31 Upper Tamar and Ottery Valleys within the 2km study area and the proposed development is limited by intervening vegetation largely due to the vegetation immediately surrounding the proposed development.
- 1.39. Taking into account the judgements of susceptibility and value from the submitted LVA, the overall sensitivity is judged to remain as **High**.

Appraisal of construction effects:

- 1.40. The appraisal of effects will remain the same as that within the submitted LVA.
- 1.41. Overall, the magnitude of landscape change is judged to be Negligible reducing to None beyond a distance of around 2km. Taking account of the high sensitivity of the landscape, this will result in a very localised Minor adverse landscape effect and a No Change effect on CA 31 beyond c. 2km.

Appraisal of operational effects:

- 1.42. The appraisal of effects will remain the same as that within the submitted LVA.
- 1.43. Overall, the magnitude of landscape change for CA 31 is judged to be **Negligible** locally reducing to **None** beyond a distance of c. 2km. Taking account of the high sensitivity of the landscape this will result in a **Minor adverse** landscape effect experienced locally and a **No change** effect for CA 31 beyond c. 2km.

Appraisal of decommissioning effects:

- 1.44. The appraisal of effects will remain the same as that within the submitted LVA.
- 1.45. Activities across the Application Site will be similar to those of the Construction Phase. The disturbed lands will be reinstated to a similar state and use. The mitigation planting which will have matured will largely screen views of these activities from CA 31 this will result in a localised a **Temporary Minor adverse** to **No Change** beyond c. 2km.



Post decommissioning

1.46. Retained mitigation planting within neighbouring LCT 5A is unlikely to be experienced from much of CA 31 resulting in a **No Change** landscape effect.

Potential for Future Cumulative Effects:

- 1.47. The appraisal of effects will remain the same as that within the submitted LVA.
- 1.48. The cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be **Negligible** and will result in a localised **Minor Adverse** cumulative landscape effect for CA 31 and a **No Change** effect beyond a distance of around c. 2km.
- 1.49. In terms of landscape effects: Visual Effects: Sensitivity value of view, susceptibility, of receptor Peter Leaver BA(Hons) Dip LD CMLI, stated that:

"Assessment method under estimates the sensitivity of walkers using local minor roads. Our experience (reinforced by comments made o planning application) is that people walking on local minor roads have a focus on the landscape and views."

"DWP have undertaken assessments using the methodology set out in the LVIA, in some cases sensitivity rating increased from medium to medium/high. Results set out in table"

"Our experience is that people walking in the countryside use small lanes as part of their walk and that views of the countryside often are the focus of the walk. For that reason, we have assessed receptors on minor roads as having higher sensitivity to visual change than has been assessed in the LVIA. With this exception, there is close agreement on the overall visual effect on most of the viewpoints assessed. Table 3 (see Table 3 below) summarises the differences: in 5 cases, there is agreement and in 4 cases differences are within half a degree of difference — which can be ascribed to slight but acceptable differences in professional judgement.

In one case (Viewpoint 3) there is a larger difference in the assessment. The viewpoint is in the centre of the proposal site on a minor road that is used by local walkers. Even with mitigating planting in place, the proposal would cause a noticeable change to this view.

Moderate adverse effects will be from viewpoints looking down on the site (eg VP8,9) where the scale of development is apparent and the mitigating effects of planting are less effective.

Minor effects will be from closer quarters, where mitigating planting and the screening of existing woodland and hedgerow is most effective.

Adverse visual effects are unlikely at distances of over 1km from the site."



Table 3: Excerpt from: Review of Submitted LVIA, Landscape and Visual Issues, May 2021, Areas of Difference – Visual Effects.

Viewpoint	Visual Receptor/ Viewpoint	LVIA Assessment	DWP Assessment
1	Minor Road east of Barnes Farm	Y0 Minor adverse Y5 minor adverse /no change	Y0 Minor adverse Y5 minor adverse
3	Minor Road south of New Park / Monks Farm	Y0 Minor Adverse Y5 minor/no change	YO Moderate adverse Y5 Minor/moderate adverse
6	Western Edge of Hopworthy	Minor adverse/no change	Minor adverse
7	Junction between PROW and minor road south of the Old Rectory	Minor adverse/no change	Minor adverse
9	PROW near Pyworthy	Moderate/minor	Moderate adverse

- 1.50. In response to the value of sensitivity ascribed to walkers along routes, as per the Methodology (refer to Appendix 1C of the original LVA) walkers along nationally recognised trails where views of the landscape form an important part of their experience have a High sensitivity and walkers along local routes where views of the landscape are not the focus of the activity are assessed as having a Medium sensitivity. This would account for the difference between the visual assessments between the submitted LVA and the review from DWP. Professional subjectivity would also have a part to play in the discrepancy between assessments, as recognised in Peter Leavers review.
- 1.51. With regards to the visual assessment of Viewpoint 3, the location of the viewpoint is from a gated access which provides a limited opportunity of views southwards from the minor road, as demonstrated in Figures 1.6a/b/c of the submitted LVIA. It should also be noted that mature hedgerows line both sides of the minor road. The limited duration of the view of the Proposed Development gained by visual receptors along this route also influenced the assessed medium magnitude of effect in this case.
- 1.52. As per the submitted LVA, the magnitude of change and degree of visual effect is:

Operational Years 0 and Year 5 are illustrated by illustrated by Figures 1.6a and 1.6b of Appendix 1A.



Magnitude of Change: **Medium** (Construction); **Medium** (Operational); **Medium** (Decommissioning).

Degree of Visual Effect on transient receptors (minor road): **Temporary, Moderate adverse** (Construction); **Minor adverse** (Operational Year 0) reducing to **Minor/No change** (Operational Year 5) as the mitigation boundary planting matures; **Temporary Moderate/Minor adverse** (Decommissioning); **No Change to Minor beneficial** (Post Decommissioning).

1.53. In terms of landscape effects: Visual Effects: Photography and photomontage Peter Leaver BA(Hons) Dip LD CMLI, stated that:

"Plant growth in visualisation at Y5 may be slightly optimistic - assumed hedgerow growth in visualisations may not allow for pruning as specified in LEMP."

"With particular reference to Y5 visualisation on VP3: Hedgerow planted at 0.6m – 1m height. LEMP specifies heavy pruning at Y0 and annual trimming to promote bushy growth. At growth rate of 0.3 - 0.45m p.a., planting would not reach 2.8m height by Y5, as shown in some of the visualisations. However, by Y10, if not earlier, full hedge height would be as shown."

1.54. In response to VP3: the hedgerow is located downhill, c. 0.10km south (115m AOD) of the viewpoint location (122m AOD) with the solar arrays located 5m south of the proposed hedgerow at a lower elevation, c. 1m below. Taking account of the decrease in elevation from the viewpoint location to the solar arrays and distances between the elements stated above, means after 5years of growth the hedgerow will screen more of the Proposed Development than if the surrounding landscape were on a level site.

SUMMARY

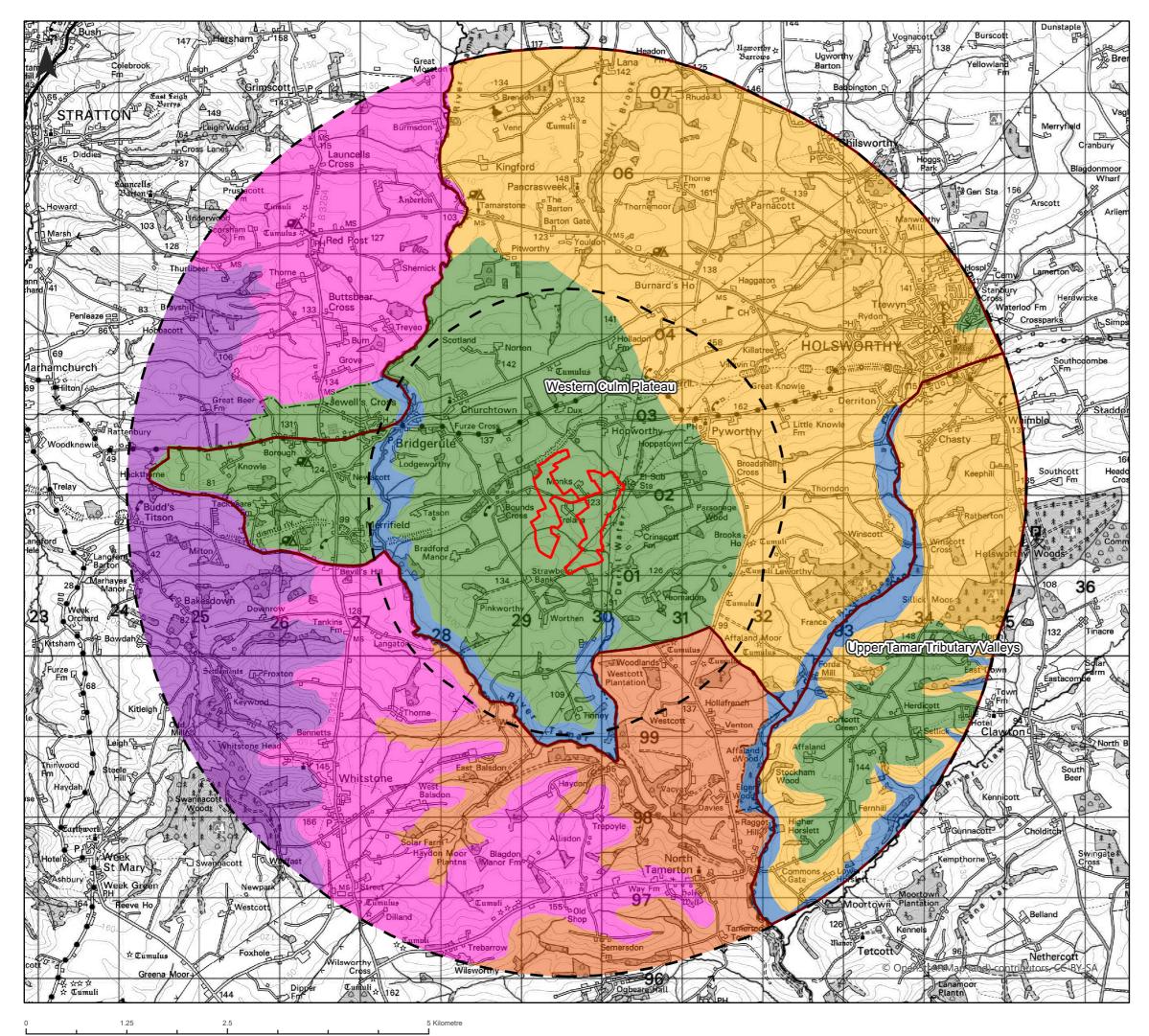
1.55. The DCA Western Culm Plateau was considered within the landscape baseline and the assessment of the landscape effects during operation will result Moderate adverse landscape effect experienced locally and a Minor adverse effect for the Western Culm Plateau as a whole. The degree of landscape effect will reduce locally to Moderate/Minor locally by c. Year 5 as the proposed mitigation planting matures helping to further contain and integrate the Proposed Solar Farm within the landscape of the Application Site. The degree of difference noted in the visual assessment of Viewpoint 3 in particular, was accounted more for fully. The magnitude of change varied by half a degree as well as the sensitivity assessment which equated to the overall effect from the submitted LVIA being YO Minor Adverse; Y5 Minor/No Change and the review by DWP being YO Moderate Adverse Y5 Minor/Moderate Adverse. The magnitude of change within the submitted LVIA was judged to be moderate owing to the short term duration of the view assessed along the route. The extent of the screening of the Proposed Development in Figure 6c was accounted for and is due to the landscape topography and the location of the proposed hedgerow mitigation and solar arrays combining to provide the screening shown within the visualisation.





Appendix A: Revised Figure





Derril Water Solar Farm Landscape Character Areas/ Types Figure 1.1

Development Boundary



2km, 5km Study Area

Cornwall Landscape Character Areas



CA31 - Upper Tamar & Ottery Valleys



CA 37 - Western Culm Plateau



CA38 - Bude Basin

Torridge Landscape Character Types



5A - Inland Elevated Undulating Land



1F - Farmed Lowland Moorland & Culm Grassland



3C - Sparsely Settled Farmed Valley Floors



Devon Character Areas

Note:

Landscape character data indicated from the Joint Local Landscape Character Assessment for North Devon & Torridge District Council November 2010 and the Cornwall Council Landscape Character Assessment for North Devon and Torridge Districts November 2010 & Devon County Council Landscape Character Assessment (DLCA), 2011. Neo Office Address:

Cinnamon House, Crab Lane, Warrington, WA2 0XP



Date: 25/01/2021 Drawn By: Jamie McGhee Scale (A3): 1:45,000 Drawing No: NEO00738/045I/A





GLASGOW - HEAD OFFICE

Wright Business Centre, 1 Lonmay Road, Glasgow G33 4EL T: 0141 773 6262 www.neo-environmental.co.uk

N. IRELAND OFFICE	IRELAND OFFICE	RUGBY OFFICE	WARRINGTON OFFICE
83-85 Bridge Street	Johnstown Business Centre	Valiant Office Suites	Cinnamon House, Cinnamon Park
Ballymena, Co. Antrim	Johnstown House, Naas	Lumonics House, Valley Drive,	Crab Lane, Fearnhead
Northern Ireland	Co. Kildare	Swift Valley, Rugby,	Warrington
BT43 5EN	T: 00 353 (0)45 844250	Warwickshire, CV21 1TQ	Cheshire
T: 0282 565 04 13	E: info@neo-environmental.ie	T: 01788 297012	T: 01925 661 716