

Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal

Battery Storage Project, Clay Lane Rochdale

July 2023

Turley

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Client

Shaw Energi Ltd

Our reference

SHAM3000

11 July 2022

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) has been prepared by a Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute from the Turley Landscape and VIA team for the land bounded by The Rake, Lower Jowkin Lane and Furbarn Road, Rochdale (the Site). This LVIA has been prepared on behalf of Shaw Energi and assesses the effect of the Proposed Development of a battery storage facility on the landscape and visual receptors of the Site and its surroundings. The description of development for planning purposes is:

“Construction, management and operation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with associated infrastructure (comprising an underground cable connection to a National Grid Substation, temporary construction access from The Rake, vehicular access for maintenance vehicles from Lower Jowkin Lane, security fencing, lighting and CCTV provision) and associated landscaping works.”

- 1.2 For the purpose of this report, the land falling within the red line boundary shown on **Figure 1.1** is referred to as the ‘Site’, and the application proposal is referred to as the ‘Proposed Development’.
- 1.3 The Site is located to the west of the Rochdale Borough, on the outskirts of Bamford. The Site encompasses a broadly triangular field parcel of land which slopes steeply from northern edge along Rake Lane down to the southern tip at Lower Jowkin Lane.
- 1.4 The redline boundary of the Site includes a section of Rake Lane at the north eastern tip of the Site and continues along Furbarn Road, this section of road is incorporated in the redline boundary for the purposes of creating an underground 33kV cable into Rochdale Substation located to the north east of the Site. Although included in the redline boundary this portion of the Site and Proposed Development, the instalment of an underground cable along the alignment of an existing tarmac road, is not considered or described in the LVIA. The effects of the connection would not alter the landscape or be visible. There would be some effects of the implementation of this work however these effects would be experienced during construction only and would be temporary.

Figure 1.1: Site Location



- 1.5 The LVIA should be read in conjunction with the drawing pack produced by Pye Design Architects and the Landscape Strategy prepared by Turley Design. Both of which support this application.
- 1.6 National and local planning policy provides further guidance with regard to the requirement for assessment of both landscape and visual impacts, in relation to new development and design. This underpins the purpose and structure of this report and is set out in **Section 2**.

Report Structure

- 1.7 The LVIA is divided into seven sections as follows:

- Section 1 (this section) gives an overview of the report.
- Section 2 sets out the planning policy context in relation to landscape and visual amenity.
- Section 3 provides the landscape context of the Site and surrounding area.
- Section 4 provides the visual context of the Site and identifies key views.
- Section 5 summarises details of the Proposed Development and the mitigation measures that have been designed in.
- Section 6 provides an assessment of the likely effects of the Proposed Development on the landscape character and visual amenity.
- Section 7 summarises the findings of the assessment.

Site Location and Description

- 1.8 The Site lies on the rural fringes of the settlement of Bamford on the edge of Rochdale. It is situated to the west of Bamford outside the settlement boundary, approx. 3.9km west of Rochdale town centre, and 2.9km north of Heywood.
- 1.9 The Site comprises an irregular-shaped field parcel of agricultural land, which slopes steeply down from the northern boundary to the south. Overhead powerlines traverse the eastern tip of the Site.
- 1.10 The Site is bound to the north by a clipped native hedgerow including some individual trees, beyond this hedgerow is the rural lane, Rake Lane. The western boundary of the Site is formed by a row of conifers, dividing the Site from an adjacent paddock. The southern and eastern site boundaries are formed by vegetation which comprises of a mixture of mature trees and self-seeded shrubs adjacent to Furbarn Road /Public Right of Way (PRoW) 37 and Lower Jowkin Lane/ Bridleway Hey Bp104. Gaps in the Site boundary have been infilled with a post and wire fence.
- 1.11 In the wider context the landscape comprises of agricultural fields, the Naden Brook corridor, and Ashworth Valley. Pylons are present in the landscape context and the area is traversed by a series of powerlines which connect into the Rochdale Substation located to the north of the Site.

Study Area

- 1.12 The principal Study Area includes both the Site and the surrounding context within a 500m radius and is illustrated on **Figure 1 at Appendix 2**. This is considered to be an appropriate area of study in terms of the enclosure of the Site and the scale of the Proposed Development. This is based on professional judgement and has been informed by the production of a computer-generated viewshed mapping exercise in Google Earth, which identifies where in the surrounding landscape the Proposed Development is likely to be visible. The viewshed mapping is provided on **Figure 2 at Appendix 2**.

Surveys

- 1.13 A preliminary desk study was undertaken to establish the physical components of the Site and its surroundings. Potential key visual receptors with views towards the Site from the surrounding area were also identified, along with a number of supporting representative views from a selection of these key visual receptors, that could be tested to better appreciate the likely visual effects of the Proposed Development within its landscape context. Ordnance Survey (OS) maps and aerial photography were utilised to identify these features.
- 1.14 A field study was undertaken by a chartered landscape architect from Turley Landscape and VIA in December 2022, during which conditions for visibility were good. The field study recorded the Site and surrounding context's landscape features and verified the key visual receptors identified in the desk study.

Methodology

- 1.15 The appraisal is carried out in accordance with the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition¹; An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment²; and the Landscape Character Assessment: Technical Information Note 08/2015³. The methodology is set out in full at **Appendix 1**.
- 1.16 In summary, the approach is to establish the baseline condition of the existing landscape character and visual receptors of the Site and its surroundings. The Proposed Development is then discussed and the potential degree of 'effect' it will have is predicted. Consideration is then given to the 'residual effect' of the Scheme Proposal once proposed landscape planting has matured.

¹ The Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (Third Edition 2013) *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Assessment*

² Christine Tudor, Natural England (2014) *An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment*

³ Landscape Institute (2016) *LI Technical Information Note 08/2015*

2. Planning Policy Context

- 2.1 The Site is not covered by any statutory or non-statutory landscape designations and does not fall within the viewing corridor of any protected views.
- 2.2 The full planning policy assessment is set out in Section 4 of the Planning Statement which accompanies the planning application. Reference is made below to the planning policy directly relevant to landscape and visual matters.

National Planning Policy Framework 2021

- 2.3 The National Planning Policy Framework comprises the Government's planning policies for achieving and delivering sustainable development. The relevant core planning principles include:

Section 12 Achieving well-designed places

- 2.4 This section outlines the Government's guidance regarding good design and the great importance of a high-quality built environment. Paragraph 126 states that *'good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities.'*

Section 15 Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

- 2.5 This section sets out the hierarchical approach to landscape protection. Paragraph 174 states that the planning system should *'contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment'* by a number of things including:

a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes...(in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);

b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside .

- 2.6 No specific guidance is provided on what constitutes a 'valued landscape'. However, paragraph 175 states that *'Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries'.*

Local Planning Policy

- 2.7 The Rochdale Local Plan comprises of:
- Core Strategy adopted October 2016
 - Rochdale Borough Unitary Development plan and Policies Adopted June 2006
 - Policy maps for Rochdale Borough Unitary Development plan and Policies Adopted June 2006

Core Strategy adopted October 2016

- 2.8 The Core Strategy sets out the Strategic Objectives (SO) for the borough along with Spatial Strategies to achieve these. Relevant to this application and the LVIA are:
- SO3 To improve design, image and quality of place; and Spatial Strategy Policy P2 - Protecting and enhancing character, landscape and heritage
 - SO4 To promote a greener environment; and Spatial Strategy Policy G6 – Enhancing Green Infrastructure

Rochdale Borough Unitary Development plan and Policies Adopted June 2006

- 2.9 Within the Rochdale Borough Unitary Development plan the following policies are relevant to the Site and the LVIA:

- NE/6 Landscape Protection and enhancement

Policy NE/6 states that:

Development will be permitted where it conserves the physical and cultural attributes of the landscape and contributes, as appropriate, to the regeneration, restoration, enhancement or maintenance of the landscape likely to be affected.

Proposals with potential landscape and visual implications will be assessed having regard to the extent to which they would:

a) Make a positive contribution to the visual amenity of the area (including views into and from the Site and surrounding area);

b) Remove incongruous landscape features;

c) Assist the conservation of:

i. Landscape elements that contribute to local distinctiveness;

ii. Historic elements which make a significant contribution (individually or cumulatively) to landscape character and quality (e.g., field, settlement or road patterns, existing buildings, sites and features of archaeological interest);

iii. Semi-natural vegetation which is characteristic to the landscape type;

iv. The visual condition of landscape elements; and

v. Tranquillity and the amenity and informal recreation value of the landscape.

Development which adversely affects the character or physical structure of the landscape or which would detract from the physical record of the historic and cultural evolution of an area will not be permitted.

The Site lies within an area described as Enclosed Farm, the characteristics of this area include:

- often exposed farmland on steep slopes adjacent to high moorland
- evidence of prehistoric human activity in the landscape
- varied field patterns (some relict), often bounded by dry stone walls and hedgerows, from medieval to later 19th century enclosure
- limited tree cover restricted to steep sided cloughs, shelter belts, scattered copses and more recent plantations in water catchments
- extensive network of paths and tracks
- general tranquil, often bleak and isolated character
- scattered farmhouses, hamlets and industrial buildings both active and relict, illustrating the traditional dual economy of the area
- land uses based on agriculture (mixed grazing), water supply and power transmission with evidence of former quarrying
- semi improved acid and neutral grasslands and wet, rushy pastures, some now reverting to moorland

Other policies

- 2.1 The Site lies within Green Belt, G4 - Protecting Green Belt land. Section 5 of the Planning Statement appraises the Proposed Development against Green Belt policy, as expressed within the NPPF and the adopted and emerging Development Plan.

3. Landscape Character Context

- 3.1 A baseline assessment of the local landscape around the Site was undertaken to understand the landscape character context of the Site and identify the key features which contribute to this. This included consideration of physical elements as well as the perceptual factors which contribute to the landscape.

National Character Assessment

- 3.2 At a national level the Site is situated to the north of National Character Area (NCA) 54 Manchester Pennine Fringe.
- 3.3 NCA 54 states that *'The Manchester Pennine Fringe occupies the transitional zone between the open moorlands of the Dark Peak and Southern Pennines, and the densely populated urban conurbation of Manchester'* and *'Much of the countryside is influenced by recreational use from adjacent urban areas and also by the diversification of farmland'*
- 3.4 The Site is typical of the character area description. The NCA profile provides a high-level overview of the key characteristics and provides the background which underpins more detailed county and district level landscape character assessments.

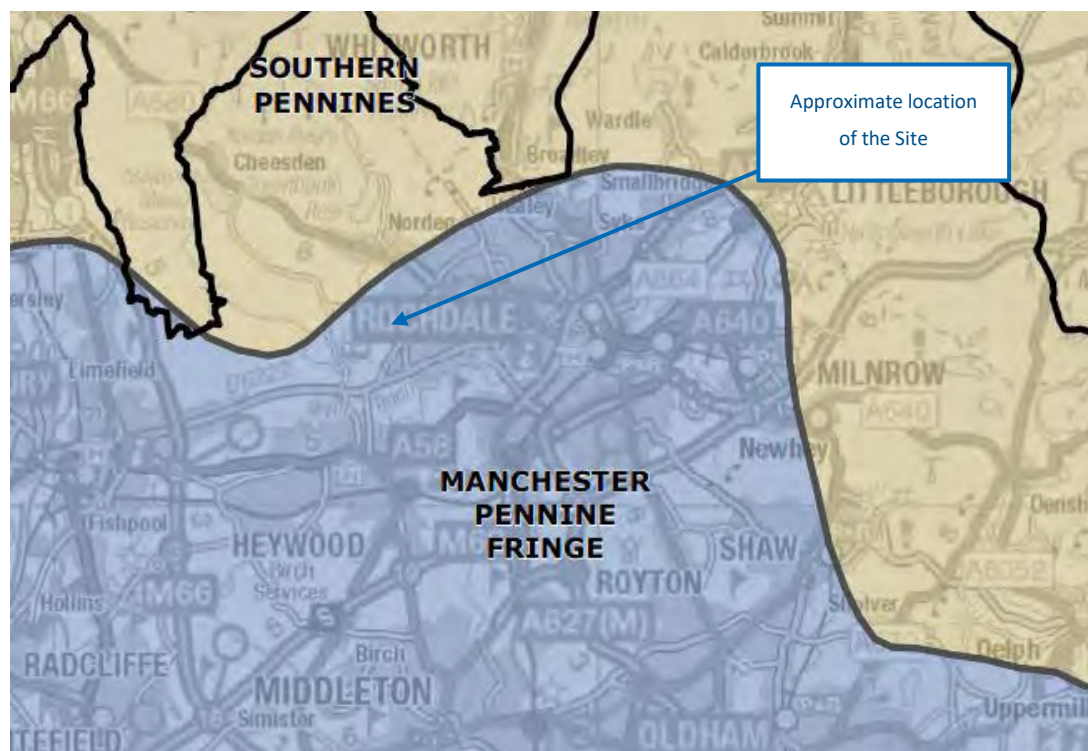


Figure 3.1: Extract of the of the National Character Areas within Greater Manchester taken from Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Study

- 3.5 Over 1km to the north west of the Site is NCA 36 Southern Pennines, the character assessment states that *"much of the National Character Area (NCA) is at high elevation*

there are long, extensive views in all directions, which create visual links with the conurbations around Manchester...". The Site is typical of this character area's setting and Proposed Development would be experienced in the context of the existing settlement edge of Rochdale.

Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment (August 2018)

- 3.6 The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (including Rochdale Borough) commissioned the Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment ('GMLCSA') to produce landscape evidence in support of the management and enhancement of Greater Manchester's natural assets, green infrastructure and the Green Belt. The assessment provides guidance on the suitability of sites or areas to accommodate development, particularly in edge-of-town or rural areas. 'Landscape Character Areas' (LCA) were delineated, which are different areas of land within Greater Manchester in which the landscape character and the constraints and suitability for development could be described. LCAs were then grouped into Landscape Character Types (LCT) on the basis of shared landscape, urban and geographical characteristics.
- 3.7 The Site is situated within Landscape Character Area (LCA) 24 "*Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringe and Foothills*" which wraps around the northern western edge of Rochdale.
- 3.8 This character area is divided into two-character types. The Site lies within Landscape Character Type (LCT) "*Pennine Foothills (west and South Pennine)*" which extend to the west of Rochdale and forms the southern half of LCA 24.

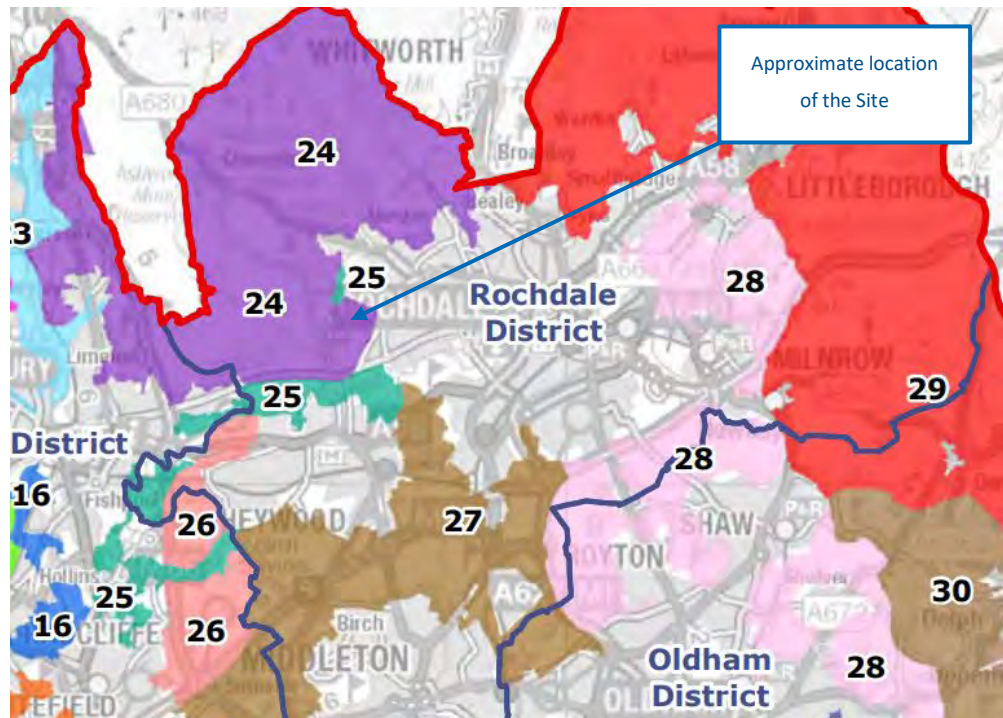


Figure 3.2: Extract of the of the Landscape Character Areas taken from Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Study (August 2018)

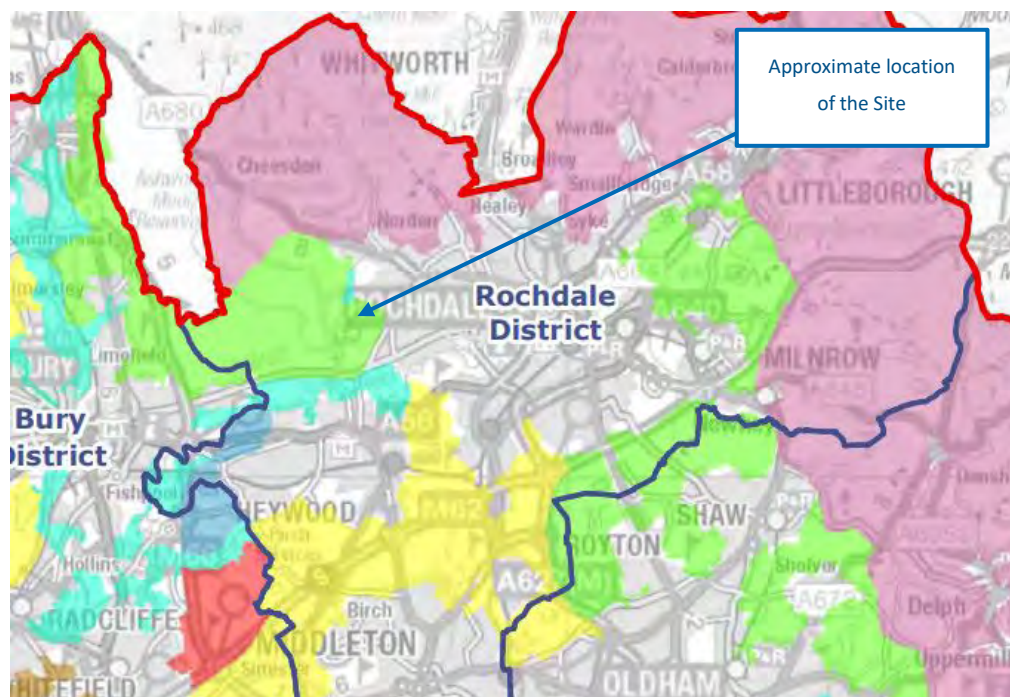


Figure 3.3: Extract of the of the Landscape Character Types taken from Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Study (August 2018)

3.9 The key characteristics of LCT Pennine Foothills (West/ south Pennines) that are pertinent to the Site and its setting include:

- *Transitional landscape sloping up from the northern fringes of Greater Manchester towards the uplands of the South and West Pennines.*
- *Land use is dominated by lush semi-improved grassland pastures enclosed by a mix of gritstone walls, hedgerow boundaries and post and rail fencing. Horse paddocks are often found adjacent to settlement.*
- *Varied small-medium scale enclosures, divided by a mixture of field boundaries including gritstone walls, hedgerows and post and rail fencing. Field are predominantly piecemeal post-medieval enclosures, with some modern agglomeration.*
- *Numerous semi-natural habitats scattered throughout the farmland including woodland, grassland, heathland and streams/brooks, some of which are locally designated as Sites of Biological Importance.*
- *Well wooded landscape with extensive tree and woodland cover with trees in stream valleys, along field boundaries and avenues of trees along roads. Tracts of dense broadleaved woodland also define cloughs, including large areas of ancient woodland.*
- *Settlement mainly comprises scattered traditional stone farmsteads and halls, with some small groups of dwellings including Victorian terraces. The largest settlement is Ainsworth, located between Bury and Bolton. The foothills provide an important separation function between distinct urban areas.*
- *Numerous footpaths and bridleways cross and provide access to the landscape from nearby urban areas and also link to the moorlands. These include the Rotary Way, Oldham Way and Rochdale Way.*
- *Road pattern mainly comprises minor winding lanes and tracks connecting farms. Occasionally, more major routes cross through the LCT, including the M62 and several A-roads.*
- *Variable visual character depending on topography and vegetation cover; there are long views across the urban conurbation to the West and South Pennine uplands beyond where vegetation allows. Areas within the Peak District National Park are visible from some vantage points. Other areas are visually enclosed due to valleys or vegetation which creates wooded skylines.*
- *Occasionally, masts and pylons/overhead lines intrude on the wooded skylines. Other intrusive modern influences include the M62 motorway and prominent views of urban development, including tower blocks breaking horizons.*
- *Windswept and exposed on higher ground as the landscape transitions to the upland fringe. This contrasts with the sheltered, enclosed feel of the valleys which have limited views in and out.*

3.10 The Intactness and condition of the character areas is described as:

“Despite the close proximity of urban development, this is a strongly rural and traditional working landscape characterised by pasture fields, reservoirs and wooded stream cloughs with a transitional, upland fringe feel. Trees are frequent and provide a naturalistic quality to the landscape and characterise skylines. Locally designated habitats actively managed for the benefit of wildlife are found throughout the foothills landscape. Some former industrial and agricultural buildings have been converted to new uses, often retaining traditional features.

The deterioration of stone walls is visible in many places, with supplementation by post and wire fencing frequently occurring. Adjacent to settlements, there are often urban fringe influences including areas of horsiculture with associated structures and pony tape and numerous golf courses. Within the wooded stream valleys, invasive species are present including large areas of rhododendron which outcompete native vegetation. Anti-social behaviour including fly tipping and litter has an adverse effect on the landscape in some localities. Pylon lines and masts form intrusive modern features on the skyline, while noise and movement introduced by transport infrastructure can detract from the rural qualities and sense of tranquillity in the landscape.”

3.11 In the GMLCSA, each LCT was assessed based on the sensitivity of the landscape to 2-3 storey residential housing developments, and commercial/industrial developments, each represented by a sensitivity score. Landscape sensitivity was defined in GMLCSA paragraph 3.11 as *“the relative extent to which the character and quality of an area (including its visual attributes) is likely to change”*, in the case of this assessment as a result of development. The LCT’s ‘physical character (including topography and scale)’; ‘natural character’; ‘form, density and setting of existing settlement/development’; ‘views and visual character including skylines; access and recreation’; and ‘perceptual and experiential qualities’ were assessed as criteria to determine its preceding character and quality on which to base the landscape sensitivity judgment. To account for variation in the landscape sensitivity between LCAs within an LCT, LCA-specific sensitivity scores were given where the landscape sensitivity of the LCA was different from the score given more generally to the LCT.

3.12 As provided in GMLCSA table 3.1, the sensitivity of landscapes to development were judged to be:

- ‘high sensitivity’ (‘the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are highly sensitive to change’);
- ‘moderate-high’ (‘the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are sensitive to change’);
- ‘moderate’: (some of the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are sensitive to change);
- ‘low-moderate’: (few of the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are sensitive to change’); or

- 'low': (the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are robust and are unlikely to be subject to change).
- 3.13 LCA24, within which the Site is located, was judged to have a 'Moderate' sensitivity to 2-3 storey residential housing developments. The GMLCSA provides an explanation for these judgments, an extract from this report is included in Appendix 3.
- 3.14 In comparison to a 2-3 storey residential development, the height and massing of the proposed battery storage facility and barn structures would be notably smaller. Thus, LCA24 is considered to have a less than moderate sensitivity to the type of development now proposed.
- 3.15 The character assessment also sets out a series of guidelines and opportunities to consider within this Landscape Character Type. The guidelines of relevance to the Site and its setting include:
- *Avoid areas of the landscape with distinct or complex landforms, including the locally prominent hills and intricate stream valleys, including Besom Hill, Tandle Hill, the ridgeline south of Bentgate, Strine Dale and Wood Brook.*
 - *Ensure that the sense of separation the landscape provides between distinct settlements is retained.*
 - *Retain the role of the landscape as an undeveloped backdrop to existing development.*
 - *Strengthen the stone wall and hedgerow network, using local gritstone for walls and locally prevalent and climate resilient species for hedges. Any new boundaries should reflect local characteristics, including the planting of a new generation of hedgerow trees.*
 - *Utilise areas of undulating landform and woodland cover to integrate new development into the landscape, avoiding sites designated for their nature conservation importance.*
 - *Protect areas of semi-natural habitat including woodland, grassland and heathland which are locally designated as Sites of Biological Importance. Seek to enhance these where possible and provide linkages to form robust habitat networks.*
 - *Protect areas of broadleaved woodland (particularly ancient woodland) which provide important seminatural habitat and create wooded skylines. Utilise the screening effects of existing woodland to integrate development into the landscape where possible.*
 - *Encourage the natural regeneration of woodland and wetland habitats within valleys (as well as new planting/habitat restoration) to improve their function in flood prevention and preventing diffuse pollution.*

- *Ensure that any development is in keeping with the form, density and vernacular of existing buildings. Avoid any large-scale development to retain the sparsely settled character of the landscape.*
- *Protect the setting of important heritage assets within the landscape, including Conservation Areas/Listed Buildings.*
- *Retain the important recreational function of the landscape. Seek to improve public rights to way to encourage sustainable travel. Join up and promote multi-use routes to major destinations within the landscape including Hollingworth Country Park and Tandle Hill Country Park.*
- *Retain the distinct visual character of the landscape, including views to monuments on skylines which form local landmarks (including Tandle Hill War Memorial and Peel Tower), church spires and chimneys.*
- *Ensure any new development does not adversely affect the special qualities of the Peak District National Park, including its beautiful views, sense of tranquillity and dark night skies, and the vital benefits that flow beyond its boundary.*
- *Reinforce the structure of the landscape, through strengthening the stone wall and hedgerow network, using local gritstone for walls and locally prevalent and climate resilient species for hedges. Any new boundaries should reflect local characteristics, including the planting of a new generation of hedgerow trees.*
- *Design-in the introduction of SuDS to any new development, addressing any changes in hydrology (and subsequent knock-on effects such as increased diffuse pollution from agricultural run-off).*

Landscape Character of Site

- 3.16 The Site lies outside of the defined urban area of Rochdale, in open countryside. Its character is subject to urbanising influences, including adjacent built form, and overhead powerlines and pylons.
- 3.17 The Site comprises a roughly triangular-shaped field parcel of agricultural land that slopes steeply down from the northern boundary to the southern tip. There is a small area of hardstanding (shale) to the south of the Site which is currently used to store hay bales. Hedgerows with trees border the majority of the Site boundaries, in some locations timber post and wire fencing have been used to close the gaps in the vegetation. Overhead powerlines traverse the western tip of the Site.
- 3.18 There are no public rights of way through the Site, although the south eastern boundary is bordered by Furbarn Road /PRoW 37, and the southern tip of the Site is bordered by Lower Jowkin Lane / Bridleway Hey Bp104. Rake Lane is a rural lane, that tracks along the northern boundary of the Site, there is no footpath along this road.
- 3.19 There are no water courses through the Site.

- 3.20 The western boundary of the Site is formed by a row of conifers, beyond this is a menage and cluster of buildings including a 3 storey farmhouse, and single storey stables. The adjacent fields to the north and south of the Site have been divided with timber post and rail fencing to create a series of paddocks. Horsiculture is a characteristic of the Site setting.
- 3.21 In the wider context the Site lies to the south and west of the residential areas of Rochdale. To the north the properties include a series of large, detached dwellings; a large hospital building “Scott House” that is currently not in use; and Rochdale Substation, a large National Grid substation. To the east of the Site is a series of regular shaped agricultural field parcels. Beyond these field parcels is the settlement of Bamford and associated playing fields.
- 3.22 The land to the east of the site, beyond Furbarn Road area is not currently allocated, however the land is earmarked under Policy JP Location 19, within the draft submission of the Joint Development Plan Document, August 2021, Places For Everyone, as a potential housing development site for the future.
- 3.23 To the west of the Site is Ashworth Valley which traverse the study area on a north south alignment. This valley follows the Naden Brook and is a well vegetated green corridor. The Rochdale Way, a long-distance walking route tracks through this valley at a lower level. This area is designated within the local plan as a Site of Ecological and Geological / Geomorphological Importance. Due to the topography of the land and dense vegetation, the Site cannot be perceived from this route.
- 3.24 Beyond the valley, further west, the land rises steeply towards Seddons Farm and the church of St James Church. A series of PRowS track across this hill offering views out across the open countryside towards the Site and Rochdale beyond. There are no listed buildings within close proximity to the Site, however the church of St James and the Egerton Arms (adjacent to the church) located on the hill to the north west of the Site, beyond the Ashworth Valley are Grade II listed buildings.
- 3.25 The study area is traversed by overhead powerlines linking several pylons, which are clearly visible from most locations within the study area.



Figure 3.4: View from the north eastern top of the Site looking west, site sloping north to south in the foreground, with conifers clearly visible on the western site boundary. Stable blocks and agricultural buildings are visible beyond the Site



Figure 3.5: View from the southern boundary of the Site, looking north east, pylons and adjacent built form visible in the mid distance.

Landscape Sensitivity

Landscape Character Area (LCA) 24 "Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringe and Foothills"

- 3.26 LCA 24 “*Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringe and Foothills*” is of **Medium - Low Value**, the character area is recognised for its strongly rural nature characterised by agricultural fields, reservoirs, and wooded stream cloughs although the character area lies within close proximity of urban development. The character area is experienced as urban fringe with evidence of horsiculture with associated structures, and golf courses. Trees and vegetation provide some landscape quality as well as locally designated wildlife corridors. Former industrial and agricultural buildings have been converted to new uses. Overhead powerlines and pylons are detracting features in the landscape. The character area is traversed by numerous public rights of way and the Rochdale Way (a long-distance walking route) which also provide the area with some recreational value.
- 3.27 LCA 1A has a **Medium Susceptibility to Change** due to the type of development proposed being an uncharacteristic feature of the landscape.
- 3.28 Overall, the landscape of LCA 24 “*Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringe and Foothills*” is considered to have a **Medium - Low Sensitivity**.

Landscape Character of the Site

- 3.29 The Site and its immediate setting are of **Medium - Low Value**. It is not designated or recognised for its landscape importance. However, the Site lies close to a series of public rights of way and bridleways, as well as The Rochdale Way which provide recreational value. The Site does not lie within close proximity to any Listed building, although “Scott House” a non designated heritage assets lies to the north east of the Site beyond the overhead powerlines. The Site and its setting are partly degraded in character with urbanising influences namely the overhead power lines and adjacent land uses including the Rochdale Power Station.
- 3.30 The Site and its immediate setting have a **Medium Susceptibility to change** due to the proposed type of development being an unfamiliar element in the landscape setting. The landscape within the Site and setting is influenced by the overhead powerlines and pylons and has some relationship with this type of development.
- 3.31 It is therefore considered that the landscape character of the Site has a **Medium – Low Sensitivity**.

Vegetation within the Site

- 3.32 The vegetation within the Site is limited to the boundary hedgerows which include the occasional mature trees. The vegetation within the Site has **Ordinary Value**.
- 3.33 The existing mature trees and vegetation along the Site boundaries would be retained as part of the proposed development. The vegetation within the Site has **Medium Susceptibility to change**.
- 3.34 It is therefore considered that the vegetation within the Site has a **Medium - Low Sensitivity**.

Table 3.1: Landscape Receptor Sensitivity

Landscape Character Area	Value	Susceptibility to change	Sensitivity
LCA 24 “Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringe and Foothills”	Medium - Low	Medium	Medium - Low
Landscape Character of Site	Medium - Low	Medium	Medium - Low
Vegetation within the Site	Low/ Ordinary	Medium	Medium - Low

4. Visual Context

- 4.1 The visibility of the Site has been established through both a desktop analysis of the surrounding area and by confirming on site the localised screening effect of the landform, vegetation and built form.
- 4.2 An approximate zone of visual influence (ZVI) of the Site was prepared using View Shed in Google Earth Pro. This identified the extent of area clearly visible from within the Site and from which development on the Site is likely to be noticeable based on a single point set 6m in height, the estimated maximum height of the Battery Storage Units when located within the Barn Structures in the Site. Within this there are also areas where there is no intervisibility with the Site due to the localised screening effect of vegetation. There may also be more distant areas beyond this with some intervisibility with the Site, however, visual changes arising from development on the Site in these areas would be very small scale and are not considered likely to result in changes to visual amenity; they have therefore not been considered further.

Existing extent of visibility

- 4.3 There are limited publicly accessible locations in which the Site can be seen; this is due to the relatively remote location of the Site, intervening vegetation and built form, and topography of the Site and its setting.
- 4.4 The clearest views into the Site are from the routes that border the northern and southern boundaries. There are some filtered views towards the Site from the surrounding public rights of way. Whilst these views are already influenced by urbanising and detracting features such as the pylons and built form, the views from this route are sensitive to development.
- 4.5 On the higher ground, to the north west of the Site (e.g., south of St James Church), there are some opportunities to look south east across the landscape towards the Site. These views also have some sensitivities as they are experienced by users of recreational routes through the open countryside. However, it should be noted that in these views the Site is not clearly discernible in this wider panoramic view across an undulating landscape, in which the Site slopes southward away from the view. The views from this location are also influenced by the overhead powerlines, pylons, the urban edge of Rochdale and clusters of farmsteads/ agricultural buildings that are scattered throughout the landscape.



Figure 4.1: View from the junction of Lower Jowkin Lane/ Bridleway Hey Bp104 and Furbarn Road/ PRoW 37 looking north across the Site

Visual Receptors

- 4.6 Visual receptors are people who may be affected by changes in views and visual amenity. They include people passing through an area (e.g. by foot, car, bicycle or public transport), people working in an area, and people visiting or engaged in recreational activities.
- 4.7 The key visual receptors which have been identified within the study area with potential to be affected by the Proposed Development are set out in **Table 4.1** below. A list of visual receptors and the viewpoint locations were presented to Rochdale Boroughs Council during a pre application meeting, subsequently no additional viewpoint locations were requested by the council.

Table 4.1: Key Visual Receptors

Visual Receptor	Commentary
1.1 Users of Prow 37/ Furbarn Road	Approximately half of the Public Right of Way is well enclosed by existing vegetation and the Site is screened from view. However, there are intermittent gaps in the vegetation which allow for clear views across the Site and into the adjacent fields (as shown in representative view 1.1). In some locations the Site is partially screened by existing vegetation, although during the winter months these views would be filtered. Where there are clear views into the Site, the views are not extraordinary and include urbanising features such as the overhead powerlines, pylons and existing adjacent built form (as demonstrated in representative view 1.2).

Visual Receptor	Commentary
2 Users of the Bridleway Hey Bp 104/ Lower Jowkin Lane	This bridleway is generally enclosed by vegetation. Opportunities to view the Site are limited to the northern portion of the route, at the junction with Furbarn Lane (as demonstrated in representative view 2.2). In most locations where there are clear views into the Site, the views are not extraordinary and include urbanising features such as the overhead powerlines, pylons and existing adjacent built form. (as demonstrated in representative view 2.1).
3 Users of PRoW 87	Due to the topography of the landscape and intervening vegetation there are limited locations in which the Site can be seen from this public right of way. However from the northern portion on the route, as it tracks across higher ground there are channelled views northwest towards the Site. In these views, the majority of the Site is screened by existing vegetation. However, where there are gaps in the vegetation along Furbarn Lane, there are views into the Site that rises up in the middle distance (as demonstrated in Representative View 3.1). Where there are views towards the Site, it should be noted that existing pylons and overhead powerlines are detracting and urbanising features in the foreground of the view.
4 Users of PRoW 38	This PRoW tracks through the field parcel to the north of the Site. Due to the topography of the land the Site falls away from the northern site boundary at Rake Lane and the Site itself cannot be seen. As demonstrate in representative view 4.1 the Site cannot be perceived in this oblique view from the route. The existing pylons and overhead powerline are present in the distances. The existing vegetation along Rake Lane provides further screening to the Site.
5 Users of PRoW 39a	The PRoW tracks along the edge of a field parcel to the north of the Site. From this elevated position there are views across the field parcel toward the vegetation that forms the field boundaries of the Site and the hedgerow that flanks either side of Rake Lane (as demonstrated in Representative View 5.1). The farmsteads and stables that lie to the west and south of the Site are also visible in the distance. Due to the topography of the land the Site falls way from this northern edge at Rake Lane and the Site itself cannot be seen.
6 Visitors to the Church of St James and users of PRoWs to the north west of the Site (PRoW89)	Visitors to the Church and the PRoWs to the north west of the Site will experience varying views across the landscape, due to the topography of the land and intervening built form and vegetation. On higher ground, though gaps in the vegetation, there are clear panoramic views south west towards Rochdale (as demonstrated in representative view 6.1). Due to the lie of the land the Site falling southwards away from this view, the Site itself cannot be seen. However the existing vegetation along the Site boundaries, particularly the row of conifers and hedgerow along Rake Lane are discernible in the landscape. The farmsteads and stables that lie to the west and south of the Site can also be seen. The views towards the Site are experienced in the context of existing pylons and overhead powerline, the residential development to the south and east of the Site, and Rochdale town in the distance.

Visual Receptor	Commentary
7 Users of Rake/ Furbarn Road	This route tracks along the northern boundary of the Site leading from School Road to the west up to Furbarn Road on the northern eastern tip of the Site. Generally, the vegetation along the northern site boundary screens oblique views into the Site (as demonstrated by representative view 7.2). At the junction of Furbarn Road and Rake, there are clear channelled views into the Site through a gap in the boundary vegetation (as demonstrated by representative view 7.1). Where there are views into and across the Site, it should be noted that these views are not extraordinary and are experienced in the context of the farmsteads and stables south of the Site which are also visible in the distance. These views are predominantly experienced by road users, due to the lack of footpath along this route.
8 Users of School Lane	This route tracks through the Ashworth Valley on an east to west alignment. Due to the topography of the land and intervening vegetation there are no clear views into the Site from this route. As the route emerges from the valley it joins Lower Jowkin Lane and Rake. Due to the intervening vegetation and the topography of the land it is not possible to see the Site from this route.

Representative Viewpoints

- 4.8 A total of eleven viewpoints have been identified to represent typical views from the key visual receptors and illustrate the views from within the local landscape. **Figure 3** at **Appendix 2** provides a plan of the representative viewpoint locations and **Figures 4 to 13** at **Appendix 2** provides full size images with the approximate Site extent marked on from each location.
- 4.9 Where possible CGI imagery of the Proposed Development has been included within **Figures 4 -13** to represent the potential visibility of the Site and to demonstrate how the landscape strategy would be perceived upon maturity. Further 3D imagery has been prepared and included within the DAS prepared by Pye Design Architects.
- 4.10 The details of each viewpoint are provided in **Table 4.2** below.

Table 4.2: Representative Viewpoints

Viewpoint	Receptors	Description
1.1 Users of Prow 37/ Furbarn Road	Recreational users of the Public Right of way	View from the PRow through gaps in the vegetation looking south west across the Site
1.2 Users of Prow 37/ Furbarn Road	Recreational users of the Public Right of way	View from the PRow through gaps in the vegetation looking north across the Site

2.1 Users of the Bridleway Hey Bp 104/ Lower Jowkin Lane	Recreational users of the Bridleway	View from the Bridleway through gaps in the vegetation looking north east across the Site
2.2 Users of the Bridleway Hey Bp 104/ Lower Jowkin Lane	Recreational users of the Bridleway	View from the Bridleway at the junction with ProW 37/ Furbarn Road through gaps in the vegetation looking north west across the Site
3.1 Users of PRoW 87	Recreational users of the Public Right of way	View from PRoW on higher ground looking north west towards the Site
4.1 Users of PRoW 38	Recreational users of the Public Right of way	View from PRoW on higher ground looking south east towards the Site
5.1 Users of PRoW 39a	Recreational users of the Public Right of way	View from PRoW on higher ground looking south towards the Site
6.1 Visitors to the Church of St James and users of PRoWs to the north west of the Site (PRoW89)	Recreational users of the Public Right of way	View from PRoW on higher ground looking south east towards the Site
7.1 Users of Rake/ Furbarn Road	Road users along Rake Lane and Furbarn Road	View from Rake Lane at the junction with Furbarn Road looking south west across the Site
7.2 Users of Rake/ Furbarn Road	Road users along Rake Lane and Furbarn Road	View from Rake Lane looking north east towards the Site
8.1 Users of School Lane	Road users along School Lane	View from School Lane at the junction with Rake Lane and Lower Jowkins Lane, travelling east bound, looking east towards the Site. Site not visible beyond the intervening vegetation and due to the topography of the land.

Visual Sensitivity

- 4.11 The Value of the visual receptor relates to whether the views are associated with designated landscapes, protected views or designated assets and the quality of the view in terms of visual amenity. The Susceptibility of the visual receptors to change considers the occupation or activity of people experiencing the view; and extent of attention or interest that may therefore be focused on the views; and visual amenity they experience. **Table 4.3** summaries the sensitivity of each visual receptor.

Table 4.3: Visual Receptor Sensitivity

Visual Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity	Commentary
1 Users of Prow 37/ Furbarn Road	Ordinary	High - Medium	Medium	Views are not related to any planning designation or recognised

				for its importance but contribute to the enjoyment of the footpath. The landscape setting is likely to be valued by those engaging in recreation, however pylons and overhead powerlines are an existing feature within views from this route.
2 Users of the Bridleway Hey Bp 104/ Lower Jowkin Lane	Ordinary	High - Medium	Medium	Views are not related to any planning designation or recognised for its importance but contribute to the enjoyment of the footpath. The landscape setting is likely to be valued by those engaging in recreation, however pylons and overhead powerlines are an existing feature within views from this route.
3 Users of PRoW 87	Ordinary	High - Medium	Medium	Views are not related to any planning designation or recognised for its importance but contribute to the enjoyment of the footpath. The landscape setting is likely to be valued by those engaging in recreation, however pylons and overhead powerlines are an existing feature within views from this route.
4 Users of PRoW 38	Ordinary	High - Medium	Medium	Views are not related to any planning designation or recognised for its importance but contribute to the enjoyment of the footpath. The landscape setting is likely to be valued by those engaging in recreation, however pylons and overhead powerlines are an existing feature within views from this route.
5 Users of PRoW 39a	Ordinary	High - Medium	Medium	Views are not related to any planning designation or recognised for its importance but contribute to the enjoyment of the footpath.

				The landscape setting is likely to be valued by those engaging in recreation, however pylons and overhead powerlines are an existing feature within views from this route.
6 Visitors to the Church of St James and users of PRowS to the north west of the Site (PRow89)	Medium	High - Medium	Medium	Views are not related to any planning designation or recognised for its importance. Some heritage and cultural associations. The landscape setting is likely to be valued by those engaging in recreation, however pylons and overhead powerlines are an existing feature within views from this route.
7 Users of Rake/Furbarn Road	Ordinary	Medium - Low	Medium - Low	Views are not related to any planning designation or recognised for its importance. Motorists primarily using routes for access rather than focusing on the views. Taking in to account their speed of travel, there would be fleeting views. Pedestrian routes are through open countryside but adjacent to highway providing convenient access rather than an attractive route. Pylons and overhead powerlines are an existing feature within views from this route.
8 Users of School Lane	Ordinary	Medium - Low	Medium - Low	Views are not related to any planning designation or recognised for its importance. Motorists primarily using routes for access rather than focusing on the views. Taking in to account their speed of travel, there would be fleeting views. Pedestrian routes are through open countryside but adjacent to highway providing convenient access rather than an attractive route.

5. Embedded Mitigation

- 5.1 The LVIA was commenced at an early stage in the design process and has informed the development of design proposals for the Site. Mitigation measures to minimise the potential landscape and visual effects of the development were therefore incorporated into the design as far as possible through an iterative design process. The primary measures are set out in full in the Design and Access Statement and Landscape Strategy and are summarised below.

Construction

- 5.2 Standard good practice construction practices would be adopted as part of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and would include measures to reduce adverse impacts on landscape and visual receptors. This would include:

- Protection of retained trees and other landscape features.
- Sensitive siting of construction compounds.
- Appropriate handling and storage of soils.
- Minimal lighting and appropriate security solutions.

Operation

- Existing trees, hedgerows and scrub along the field boundaries to be retained and protected.
- Retain existing hedgerows and reinstate field boundary hedgerows where there has been fragmentation to the perimeters of the Site.
- Individual and informal native tree planting to line the hedgerows to Lower Jowkin Lane, Furbarn Road and Rake Lane to enhance the rural lane characteristic and provide further screening.
- A native woodland block would be planted between the battery storage units and the overhead powerline easement to provide further visual screening and to help assimilate the proposals into the wider landscape.
- Retaining walls would be constructed using the Flex MSE Vegetated Wall System (or similar product) and planted with grasses, ferns and small shrubs, in order to establish green vertical faces where there would typically be hard engineered solutions.
- Battery storage and inverter units to be arranged in a linear formation to work with the topography of the Site, ensuring the height of the units does not sit above the northern hedgerow, and to retain visual permeability through the Site.

- A portion of the battery storage units would be housed within barn structures. These will be located at the lower parts of the Site to ensure they are not visually prominent in the wider landscape setting. These structures would comprise of timber elevations and metal sheet roofing to reflect the material of barn structures within the local area. In the short-range views from the east and south, the barn structures would terminate views with a feature that is common in this agricultural landscape. The barn structures would also screen any of the exposed battery storage and inverter units to the north (beyond the buildings).
- The battery storage units and associated infrastructure would be light grey and Sub Station would be green, the mesh security fencing would also be powder coated in green to help reduce visual prominence in the wider landscape.
- Access into the Site will be via the existing access gate. The access road will be constructed using rolled stone. Hardcore stone surfacing will be applied to all other areas.
- The proposed vegetation would comprise a mix of both evergreen and deciduous species to provide year-round visual interest and screening benefits.
- The landscape strategy would include a combination of native trees and shrubs species alongside grassland meadow mixes to increase biodiversity.

5.3 The key landscape areas are demonstrated on the Landscape Strategy (**Appendix 3**) and Illustrative Masterplan at **Figure 5.1**.

Figure 5.1 Illustrative Masterplan



6. Appraisal of Effects

Sources of Landscape and Visual Impacts

Construction

6.1 Sources of impact during construction include:

- Erection of security fencing and temporary lighting.
- Excavation and storage of topsoil.
- Presence of movement and HGVs, deliveries and transportation of materials, and other construction traffic and activity around the Site.
- Creation of a new temporary access road for construction vehicles (to be converted to landscape post construction)
- Construction of transformer, switch gear and battery units including concrete pad foundations and trenches for cable runs.
- Landscape and earthworks.
- Views of construction works and associated activities.

6.2 This phase of works would last for approximately 12 months.

Effects during the Construction Phase: Short Term

6.3 The key aspects of the construction phase which have potential to affect the previously identified landscape character areas and visual receptors have been identified as:

- Topsoil stripping and groundworks to agricultural field to enable construction.
- The temporary effect of the construction plant and traffic, which would include small site compounds, site hoardings, movement of construction vehicles across the Site and, protective fencing to the trees and other vegetation around the Site boundary.
- The progressive construction of the features present within the Scheme Proposal.

6.4 These effects would be experienced directly on the Site and within the character area 'LCA 24 "Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringe and Foothills", with the change of land use from agricultural land to that of a construction site. The main groups of visual receptors with potential to be affected by the construction works would be pedestrians using Public Right of Way; and pedestrians and motorists on the adjacent roads (Furbarn Road, Lower Jowkin Lane, and Rake). Users of School Lane are unlikely to perceive the construction activity.

- 6.5 Any effects arising during the construction phase are regarded as short term or temporary effects and have therefore not been separately described. However, in general terms, the construction effects of the Proposed Development would be no greater in magnitude than those described below for the completed development but would generally be considered to be Adverse effects. The additional noticeable difference would be the presence of construction plant and vehicles within the Site and the presence of construction vehicles using the local road network.

Operation

- 6.6 Sources of impact during operation include:

- Change of use from an open area of arable land to a battery energy storage facility; partially exposed and partially under cover within barn structures.
- New energy infrastructure between 3 - 5.2m in height, including Battery Storage units, Inverter units, and a Substation.
- A 2.5m high galvanised weldmesh gates to site entrance, and a perimeter fencing around the storage facility area.
- Vegetated retaining walls, galvanised metal grate decking, steps, and where required handrails within the storage area.
- Rolled stone access road and hardcore stone surfacing to all other surfaces.
- The implementation of a landscape strategy as described above.
- Views of new battery energy storage development and associated infrastructure.

- 6.7 The development would introduce new features within the landscape and would transform agricultural land into an operational battery energy storage facility. Further details of the Proposed Development can be found in the Planning, Design and Access Statement by Pye Design Architects.

- 6.8 The proposals would provide an opportunity to contribute to some of the identified landscape guidelines as set out in the character assessment for the landscape type LCT Pennine Foothills (west / South Pennines) in which LCA 24 “*Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringe and Foothills*” sits. The guidelines aim to protect the landscape characteristics of the area. The Proposals would strengthen the hedgerow network; utilise the undulating landform and woodland cover to integrate new development; and, ensure development is in keeping with the form, density and vernacular of existing buildings, where possible.

Effects during the Operation Phase: Long Term

- 6.9 The paragraphs **below** set out the appraisal of operational effects on each receptor. The appraisal has considered the likely landscape effects at year 1, prior to the establishment of the Landscape Strategy and also a winter year 15 scenario when new proposed vegetation has established.

Effects on Landscape Character of LCA 24 “Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringe and Foothills”

- 6.10 The Proposed Development would have direct effects on a small part of LCA24 “*Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringe and Foothills*”, as an area of agricultural land would change to a battery energy storage facility with barn structures. The Proposed Development would generally introduce a feature which is not typical of the character area and would be an unfamiliar feature in the landscape. However, the storage units would be installed within a landscape that already comprises high voltage pylon and overhead powerline. The Proposed Development would have an increased urbanising influence on the surroundings although this would generally be contained by the existing mature vegetation and would further reduce over time as the Landscape Strategy establishes. Due to the topography of the Site and its setting the proposals would not be a prominent feature in the landscape. In order to further aid the Proposed Development in integrating into the surrounding landscape, the design of the Site includes for the incorporation of some of the battery units into barn structures. This style of agricultural buildings is typical of the landscape character area and would appear appropriate to the local landscape context. These buildings would be set on the lower lying land of the Site; they would not be visually prominent and would further screen the proposed areas of battery units located behind in views from the south.
- 6.11 Given the scale of the Proposed Development, the location of the Site adjacent to existing energy infrastructure, and the limited intervisibility with the rest of the LCA, the construction and operation of the new development on the Site would result in a **Low magnitude of change** to the character of LCA 24 “*Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringe and Foothills*” at year 1, reducing to **Very Low** at Year 15 following the establishment of the Landscape Strategy. The effects would be **Adverse** in nature.

Effects on Landscape Character of the Site

- 6.12 The development would directly affect the character of the Site through the change in use from agricultural land to new battery storage units and energy infrastructure. Although the proposals would be laid out adjacent to field parcels that contain existing pylons, overall the Proposed Development would have an urbanising influence on the character and appearance of the Site.
- 6.13 As set out on the Layout Plan, the proposals would comprise a series of battery units with transformer and switch gear with associated access, and layout areas. It is proposed that some of the battery storage units will be housed in barn structures to help assimilate the proposals with the surroundings. Development would be set within security fencing and surrounded by new landscaping including native woodland blocks and hedgerows. The proposed vegetation and designed layout would help to integrate Proposed Development into the landscape. An area including tussocky grassland would also be provided which would create enhanced habitat.
- 6.14 The introduction of new energy infrastructure would result in a substantial change to the character and appearance of the Site, although it should be noted that 47% of the Site would remain undeveloped upon completion of the development. . In order to further aid the Proposed Development in integrating into the surrounding landscape,

the design of the Site includes for the incorporation of some on the battery into barn structures. This style of agricultural buildings is typical of the area and would appear appropriate to the character of the Site. These buildings, set on the lower-lying land of the Site, would not be visually prominent and would further screen the proposed areas of battery units in the northern part of the site in views from the south. The change would be long term and permanent. Overall, this is considered to result in a **High Magnitude of Change** on the landscape character of the Site at year one and would be an Adverse effect.

- 6.15 By year 15, the Proposed Development would further integrate with the landscape, reducing its influence on the character and appearance of the Site. The proposed battery storage area would continue to appear as an urbanising feature but the establishment of proposed planting and areas of biodiversity would have some beneficial effects on the character and appearance of the perimeter and the northern undeveloped parts of the Site. By year 15, following the establishment of planning, the magnitude of change would reduce to **Medium-High** and the type of effect would change to **Neutral**.

Effects on vegetation within the Site

- 6.16 Existing mature trees and hedgerows within the Site and along the Site boundaries would be retained and protected. At the construction phase it is proposed that an access points and temporary construction would be created from Rake Lane into the Site where there is an existing gap in the hedgerow. Upon completion the landscape along this access road will be reinstated and a new hedgerow will be implemented to infill the gap along Rake.
- 6.17 The proposed Landscape Strategy would include the implementation of 0.05ha of proposed native woodland, 0.1ha meadow grassland, and 130 lin m of native hedgerows.
- 6.18 Overall, this is considered to result in a **Low Magnitude of Change** on the vegetation within the Site.
- 6.19 The effects of the proposals on vegetation within the Site is considered to be **Adverse** at Year 1. The implementation and establishment of the Landscape Strategy would provide mitigation for the loss of vegetation as a result of the Proposed Development. The loss of the landscape features would still constitute adverse effects but by Year 15 the establishment of the Landscape Strategy would provide some **Beneficial** effects in terms of an increased green infrastructure and improved biodiversity. Overall, the Type of Effect at Year 15 would change to **Neutral**.

Table 6.1: Landscape Character Appraisal Summary at Year 1 and at Year 15

Landscape Character Area	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Type of Effect
Effects on Landscape Character of LCA 24 "Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringe and Foothills"	Medium - Low	Year 1: Low Year 15: Very Low	Adverse

Landscape Character Area	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Type of Effect
Landscape Character of the Site	Medium - Low	Year 1: High	Year 1: Adverse
		Year 15: Medium-High	Year 15: Neutral
Vegetation within the Site	Low/ Ordinary	Low	Year 1: Adverse Year 15: Neutral

Visual Effects

- 6.20 **Table 6.2** sets out the appraisal of operational effects on the previously identified visual receptors.
- 6.21 All operation effects are considered to be long term and permanent. The type of effect would be adverse unless stated otherwise, as the Proposed Development would introduce built form and infrastructure on a currently open area of agricultural land.

Table 6.2: Appraisal of visual effects at operation

Visual receptor	Commentary
1 Users of Prow 37/ Furbarn Road	This route abuts the eastern boundary of the Site, in the most part this boundary is formed by a post and wire fence and there are clear views into and across the Site. In limited locations existing vegetation along the eastern site boundary partially screens the Site, although during the winter months these views will become filtered. Where there are clear views into the Site, these views are not particularly scenic and would be experienced in the context of the existing pylons and the overhead powerlines in the surrounding landscape. The landscape strategy proposes vegetation along the full length of Site boundary and additional areas of planting to the eastern edge of the storage unit area. In addition to the planting the Proposed Development includes for the construction of two barn structures which would be used to house the storage units within close proximity to this route. The proposed boundary vegetation along with the barn structures would help to screen or filter views. There would be limited and glimpsed views of the storage units themselves. Where visible, they would appear as abnormal features in the landscape. To further mitigate for the adverse effects of this development and help to blend the development into the landscape planted retaining walls would be installed between the units to help break up the massing and disperse the proposals. Overall, the open views across the Site would be replaced and foreshortened. The view would change from that of an open field to that of barn structures set within a landscaped area including hedgerows and tree planting. Considering the character of this area, and the built form already present in the surrounding landscape, these features would not appear

	incongruent. There would be glimpsed locations of the proposed battery units, which would have an urbanising effect in the view. The resulting effects on users of this PRoW would be adverse. 15 years post completion when the proposed Landscape Strategy has matured, and the Proposed Development has embedded into the landscape the visual effects would be reduced. Magnitude of Change: Medium (reducing to Medium – Low at year 15 following the implementation and establishment of the Landscape Strategy) Type of Effect: Adverse Representative Viewpoint: 1.1 – 1.2
2 Users of the Bridleway Hey Bp 104/ Lower Jowkin Lane	This bridleway is generally enclosed by vegetation. Due to the alignment of the route and intervening vegetation there are limited opportunities to view the Site when travelling along this bridleway for the majority of the overall route. Views into the Site are limited to the northern portion of the route, at the junction with Furbarn Lane. Where there are clear views into the Site, these views are not particularly scenic and would be experienced in the context of the existing pylons in the surrounding landscape and the overhead powerlines that traverse the northern portion of the Site. The change in view as a result of the Proposed Development would be experienced by users for a short section of an overall route. For the short section from which the Proposed Development would be visible, there would be clear views of a new access point and maintenance track into the Site, and exposed battery storage units further north of the Site on the higher ground would be visible beyond this. The proposed barn structures, and areas of planting will offer some screening in these locations to help reduce visual effects. Planted retaining walls would be installed between the units to help break up the massing to further reduce the visual impacts of the development. Views from the remainder of the route would be unaffected by the proposals The resulting effects on users of this Bridleway would be adverse. 15 years post completion when the proposed Landscape Strategy has matured, and the Proposed Development has embedded into the landscape the effects would be reduced. Magnitude of Change: Medium – Low (reducing to Low at year 15 following the implementation and establishment of the Landscape Strategy) Type of Effect: Adverse Representative Viewpoint: 2.1 – 2.2
3 Users of PRoW 87	There are limited locations in which the Site can be seen from this public right of way. From the northern portion of the route, as it tracks across higher ground there are channelled views northwest towards the Site. Where there are views towards the Site, it should be noted that existing pylons and overhead powerlines are detracting features in the view.

	The change in view would be experienced for a short section of an overall journey and would be more prevalent when travelling northwest. In these views, the existing vegetation along the Site boundary and in the middle distance provides some screening. The orientation and location of proposed barn structures (in particular, Barn 01) would screen the majority of the battery storage units, and the proposed vegetation as set out in the landscape strategy would provide additional screening to help to further reduce visual effects. 15 years post completion when the proposed Landscape Strategy has matured, and the Proposed Development has embedded into the landscape the effects would be reduced. Magnitude of Change: Medium - Low (reducing to Low at year 15 following the implementation and establishment of the Landscape Strategy) Type of Effect: Adverse Representative Viewpoint: 3.1
4 Users of PRoW 38	The Site slopes away from northern edge at Rake Lane and the Site itself cannot be seen. The existing vegetation along Rake Lane provides screening. The Proposed Development including the barn structures have been designed to sit in the lower southern portions of the Site to help reduce visual effects. The barn structures and battery storage units would not be visible in views from this PRoW. The proposal would include the implementation of a security fencing around the perimeters of the storage units. The fence has been set back from the northern edge and will comprise of a green mesh fence to help this boundary treatment assimilate with the surrounding. During the winter months there would be some filtered views of this fence for users of the PRoW. The landscape strategy includes for additional trees to be planted along the northern boundary of the Site, once established these trees would further screen the development and the boundary fences. Magnitude of Change: Low – Negligible (reducing to Negligible at year 15 following the implementation and establishment of the Landscape Strategy) Type of Effect: Adverse Representative Viewpoint: 4.1
5 Users of PRoW 39a	Due to the topography of the land the Site falls away from northern edge at Rake Lane and the Site itself cannot be seen. The existing vegetation along Rake Lane provides screening. The Proposed Development including the barn structures have been designed to sit in the lower southern portions of the Site to help reduce visual effects. It is unlikely that the development would be visible for the majority of this route. However in limited locations the roof tops of the barn structures, the top of storage units located in the northern portion of the Site, and sections of the security fencing may be visible in views from this

	PRoW. It should be noted that the stables and barns to the south west of the Site and beyond; and the high voltage power lines would also be visible in the wider context. The proposed landscape strategy would include areas of tree planting and vegetation on the northern Site boundary and eastern edge of the barns and storage area; this vegetation would screen/ soften the appearance of the development. During the winter months this screening would become less effective, and views would become filtered. Magnitude of Change: Low - Negligible (reducing to Negligible at year 15 following the implementation and establishment of the Landscape Strategy) Type of Effect: Adverse
6 Visitors to the Church of St James and users of PRoWs to the north west of the Site (PRoW89)	In the most part the Site is not discernible from the Church of St James and PRoWs that track through higher ground to the north west of the Site. In some locations from this elevated land there are clear panoramic views south west towards Rochdale. In these views the Site itself can not be seen, however the existing vegetation along the Site boundaries, particularly the row of conifers and hedgerow along Rake Lane are discernible in the landscape The views towards the Site are experienced in the context of existing pylons and overhead powerline, the residential development to the south and east of the Site, and Rochdale town in the distance. The Site falling southwards, away from this view, but it is likely that the rooftops of the proposed barn structures and the top of the Battery Storage units would be visible in these views, albeit as a small portion of the overall panoramic view across the landscape. Views across this landscape already consists of electricity pylons, power lines, farmsteads and stables that lie to the west and south of the Site, so the Proposed Development (the barn structures) would be somewhat characteristic of this setting. The proposed landscape strategy would include areas of tree planting and vegetation on the northern Site boundary this vegetation would further screen the proposals and help the development to assimilate into the setting. 15 years post completion when the proposed Landscape Strategy has matured, and the Proposed Development has embedded into the landscape the effects would be reduced. Magnitude of Change: Low - Negligible (reducing to Negligible at year 15 following the implementation and establishment of the Landscape Strategy) Type of Effect: Neutral Representative Viewpoint: 6.1
7 Users of Rake Lane / Furbarn Road	From the western section of the route the Proposed Development would not be discernible. Due to the topography of the land and the roadside

	vegetation, along with the additional planting proposed on the northern edge the Proposed Development would not be perceived. However, to the east of Rake Lane, travelling west bound, at the junction with Furbarn Road, there are channelled views directly into the Site. The proposed barn structure (Barn 01) would screen the majority of the exposed battery storage units. Although the units on the higher ground to the north of the Site would be visible. The landscape strategy includes a dense area of planting on the eastern edge of the battery storage units and the Barn 01. This vegetation would screen the proposals of users of this road; during the winter months these views would become filtered. 15 years post completion when the proposed Landscape Strategy has matured, and the Proposed Development has embedded into the landscape the effects would be reduced. Magnitude of Change: Medium – Low (reducing to Low at year 15 following the implementation and establishment of the Landscape Strategy) Type of Effect: Adverse Representative Viewpoint: 7.1 – 7.2
8 Users of School Lane	Due to the lie of the land, the existing roadside hedgerows along Rake Lane and conifer trees on the western boundary, the Proposed Development would not be visible from School Lane. Magnitude of Change: Negligible Type of Effect: - Representative Viewpoint: 8.1

7. Summary and Conclusions

- 7.1 The LVIA has been founded on a thorough study of the Site and study area, and its landscape and visual context; through understanding and appreciating these features and resources, a robust impact appraisal of the Proposed Development on the Site has been undertaken. The appraisal included:
- A review of relevant policy and guidance;
 - Identification of the baseline quality and characteristics of the landscape character and identification of key visual receptors and representative viewpoints informed by a site visit and desktop appraisal; and
 - Appraisal of the impact of the Proposed Development on landscape character and visual receptors.
- 7.2 The Site lies on the rural fringes of the settlement of Bamford on the edge of Rochdale. Pylons are present in the landscape context and the area is traversed by a series of powerlines which connect into the Rochdale Substation located to the north of the Site.
- 7.3 The Site comprises of a steeply sloping field parcel of agricultural land bound by a mixture of hedgerows and trees. Overhead powerlines traverse the eastern tip of the Site.
- 7.4 The Site is situated within Landscape Character Area (LCA) 24 “Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringe and Foothills” which wraps around the northern western edge of Rochdale. It should be noted that the Site does not lie on the higher landform and is not visually prominent nor does it demonstrate the distinctive hills or prominent ridgelines which are characteristic of the wider LCA.
- 7.5 LCA24 was judged to have a ‘Moderate’ sensitivity to 2-3 storey residential housing developments. In comparison to a 2-3 storey residential development, the height and massing of the proposed battery storage facility and barn structures would be notably smaller. Thus, LCA24 is considered to have a less than moderate sensitivity to the type of development now proposed.
- 7.6 A series of viewshed maps were produced in Google Earth to understand initially where in the surrounding landscape the Proposed Development was likely to be visible. This was used to identify key visual receptors and key views with potential to be affected by the Proposed Development and to inform the selection of representative views. Following a site visit the key visual receptors were identified as the PRoWs, bridleways and roads within close proximity to the Site; and the elevated PRoWs in the distance to the north west.
- 7.7 A series of representative viewpoints were identified to reflect these receptors and an assessment made of the character and quality of the existing views and visual amenity experienced by these receptors.

- 7.8 The Proposed Development would include: a battery energy storage facility (partially exposed and partially under cover within barn structures), inverter units, and a substation, surrounded by a 2.5m high galvanised weldmesh fence and a gated site entrance, with a rolled stone access road and hardcore stone surfacing.
- 7.9 The proposed landscape strategy would include retention of all existing trees, hedgerows; reinstating field boundary hedgerows; planting of native trees, shrubs, and grassland meadow; and the construction of vegetated retaining walls.
- 7.10 The appraisal of effects noted that the Proposed Development would introduce new battery storage units and energy infrastructure within a rural area on the edge of Bamford. The Proposed Development would result in the loss of existing agricultural land and a localised increase in urbanising influences within an area which currently comprises small pastoral fields with scattered built form (mainly agricultural buildings), pylons and overhead powerlines. The Landscape Strategy and appropriately designed layout would reduce the effects and integrate the Proposed Development into the landscape setting.
- 7.11 The identified effects on the landscape receptors are summarised in **Table 7.1**.

Table 7.1: Landscape Character Appraisal Summary at Year 1 and Year 15

Landscape Character Area	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Type of Effect	Significance of Effect
Effects on Landscape Character of LCA 24 "Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringe and Foothills"	Medium - Low	Year 1: Low Year 15: Very Low	Adverse	Year 1: Minor Adverse Year 15: Minor Adverse Not significant
Landscape Character of the Site	Medium - Low	Year 1: High Year 15: Medium-High	Year 1: Adverse Year 15: Neutral	Year 1: Moderate Adverse Year 15: Moderate Neutral Not significant
Vegetation within the Site	Ordinary	Low	Year 1: Adverse Year 15: Neutral	Year 1: Minor Adverse Year 15: Minor Neutral Not significant

- 7.12 The appraisal of visual effects identified that the proposals would not be visually prominent due to the screening effect of existing and proposed vegetation and surrounding landform and buildings. There would be changes to some views from localised sections of some of the surrounding lanes and public rights of way.

- 7.13 The new energy infrastructure would be up to 5.2m tall and would increase the amount of new built form visible and replace views across an area of open agricultural land. This would change the character and appearance of some views although these are already influenced by the presence of existing high voltage pylons and powerlines.
- 7.14 The Proposed Development includes barn structures and new tree planting which would provide screening and mitigate potential visual effects. As the vegetation establishes and matures, views of built form would become more filtered and visually integrate with the existing landscape.
- 7.15 The identified effects on the Visual Receptors are summarised in **Table 7.2** below.

Table 7.2: Visual Receptors Appraisal Summary at Year 1 and at Year 15

Visual Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Type of Effect	Significance of Effect
1 Users of Prow 37/ Furbarn Road	Medium	Year 1: Medium Year 15: Low	Adverse	Year 1: Moderate Adverse Year 15: reducing to Moderate - Minor Adverse Not significant
2 Users of the Bridleway Hey Bp 104/ Lower Jowkin Lane	Medium	Year 1: Medium – Low Year 15: Low	Adverse	Year 1: Moderate – Minor Adverse Year 15: reducing to Minor Adverse Not significant
3 Users of PRoW 87	Medium	Year 1: Medium - Low Year 15: Low	Adverse	Year 1: Moderate – Minor Adverse Year 15: reducing to Minor Adverse Not significant
4 Users of PRoW 38	Medium	Year 1: Low – Negligible Year 15: Negligible	Adverse	Year 1: Minor Adverse Year 15: reducing to Negligible Not significant
5 Users of PRoW 39a	Medium	Year 1: Low – Negligible Year 15: Negligible	Adverse	Year 1: Minor Adverse Year 15: reducing to Negligible Not significant
6 Visitors to the Church of St James and users of PRoWs to the north west of the Site (PRoW89)	Medium	Year 1: Low – Negligible Year15: Negligible	Adverse	Year 1: Minor Adverse Year 15: reducing to Negligible Not significant
7 Users of Rake/ Furbarn	Medium -	Year 1: Medium –	Adverse	Year 1: Moderate – Minor

Visual Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Type of Effect	Significance of Effect
Road	Low	Low Year 15: Low		Adverse Year 15: reducing to Minor Adverse Not significant
8 Users of School Lane	Medium - Low	Year 1: Negligible Year 15: Negligible	Adverse	Negligible Not significant

Appendix 1: Landscape and Visual Impact Methodology

The methodology for landscape and visual assessment is based on current best practice as set out in:

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd edition, 2013 (Landscape Institute and Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment) (GLVIA3);
- Landscape Character Assessment, 2017 (Landscape Institute Technical Information Note 05/2017);
- Visual representation of development proposals (Landscape Institute Technical Information Note 02/2017); and,
- Photography and photomontage in landscape and visual impact assessment (Landscape Institute Technical Information Note 01/2011)

The Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA) states that this type of appraisal provides a tool for identifying and assessing the *“the effects of change resulting from development on both the landscape as an environmental resource in its own right and on people’s views and visual amenity”* (Para. 1.1). It goes on to emphasise that the appraisal has two interlinked elements of: landscape, as a resource; and visual amenity, including views. The effects of both must be addressed in the assessment.

Landscape Baseline Appraisal

The baseline landscape appraisal included a mixture of desk study and field work to identify and record the key landscape features and character of the landscape within the study area. A preliminary desk study of Ordnance Survey (OS) maps and aerial photography was undertaken to establish the physical components of the Site and its surroundings. A review of the landscape character context of the Site was undertaken which referenced the current published landscape character studies relating to the study area at national, regional and local level. This was followed by fieldwork to assess the key characteristics of the local landscape character and identify local landscape character areas within the study area. The key landscape receptors (landscape character areas, landscape features or landscape characteristics) with potential to be affected by the Proposed Development were then identified and a judgement was made on the Value of each of these. This judgement is made based on the approach set out in GLVIA3 and as described below.

The Value of each of the identified landscape receptor was assessed with reference to the following criteria and the definitions of level of value set out in **Table 1.1**:

- Any designations or policies (both national and local) which may be present; and,
- The presence or absence of other attributes which contribute to landscape value such as landscape condition, scenic quality, rarity, representativeness, conservation interests, recreation value, perceptual aspects or associations e.g. with writers, artists or historic events

Table 1.1 Value of Landscape Receptors

Value	Typical Level of Designation/ Rarity	Typical Examples
Very High	International, National	World Heritage Application Sites, and/or key features of World Heritage Application Sites. No potential for substitution.
High	National, Regional	National Parks or AONBs and/or key features of these, Scheduled Monuments, some Conservation Areas, and landscape areas with typically a significant number of Grade I/II* listed buildings, and/or Registered Historic Park and Gardens. No or limited potential for substitution.
Medium	Regional, Local	Landscape areas designated at local level e.g. Special Landscape Areas and other undesignated areas or features of notable scenic quality or recreational value with value perhaps expressed through non-official publications or demonstrable use. Limited potential for substitution.
Low/Ordinary	Local	Landscape features or character areas which are not related to designated, or non-designated heritage assets, or a planning designation; and/or mentioned in guidebooks or on tourist maps; and/or referenced in art and literature; and/or is of little scenic or landscape importance. Considerable potential for substitution.
Very Low	Local	Landscape features or local character areas in poor condition or quality and/or identified for recovery.

Visual Baseline Appraisal

The baseline visual appraisal established the area in which the Application Site, and emerging scheme proposals, may be visible; the different groups of people who may experience the views of the development (defined as visual receptors); and, the nature of these views. These factors interrelate, but for the purpose of the assessment are dealt with in that order.

The visibility of the Application Site was assessed by a walkover survey which established the area within the study area from which the Application Site is currently visible. The key visual receptors within this area were then identified (i.e. groups of people within this area who experience (or may experience) views of the Application Site).

In most assessments, unless specifically requested by the LPA, visual receptors are restricted to groups of people in publically accessible places. Normally, views from private residential properties are not included as changes to private views are not a planning consideration⁴ unless the development is likely to be so overbearing or dominating that they could result in unacceptable living conditions. Where this is possible, a separate residential visual amenity

⁴ Aldred's Case in 1610 established in English law that views from private property cannot be protected.

assessment is undertaken. In this case it was established that assessment of impacts on views from private residential properties was not required.

Following identification of the key visual receptors, representative viewpoints were identified to reflect typical views from the key visual receptors. A description and evaluation of the identified views was then undertaken which took into account the following:

- type and relative numbers of people, and their occupation or activity
- location, nature and characteristics
- nature, composition and characteristics of the views (including directions)
- elements which may interrupt, filter or otherwise influence the views
- seasonal changes in the view

Assessment of Landscape Effects

Landscape effects include:

- Changes to, and/or complete or partial loss of features, elements, characteristics or perceptual aspects that contribute to the character and distinctiveness of the Landscape/local Landscape area; and/or,
- Introduction of new elements or features that influence the character and distinctiveness of the Landscape/local Landscape area;

The assessment of landscape effects considered the sensitivity of the landscape receptor and the magnitude of the predicted effect.

The sensitivity of landscape receptors relates to the value attached to that receptor (which was established as part of the baseline assessment) and the susceptibility of the receptor to the type of change or development proposed. GLVIA3 defines landscape susceptibility 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 feature, or a particular aesthetic and perceptual aspect) to accommodate the Proposed Development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies”* (Para. 5.40).

Judgements on the susceptibility to change of each of the identified landscape receptors were made based on the scale set out in **Table 1.2**.

Table 1.2 Susceptibility to change of landscape receptors

Susceptibility to change	Description
High	Landscape receptor ⁵ would be unlikely to accommodate the type of development proposed without undue negative consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies. Landscape receptor has little or no relationship to the type of development proposed and/or would be difficult to replace or substitute if lost e.g. ancient woodland, veteran trees and historic parkland. Landscape receptor is highly sensitive and would be fundamentally altered by the type of development proposed.
Medium	Landscape receptor would be compromised by the type of development proposed and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies would be compromised. Landscape receptor has some relationship to the type of development proposed and/or could be partially replaced or substituted if lost. Landscape receptor is moderately sensitive and characteristics of the receptor would be altered by the type of development proposed. The general features or character of the receptor would remain but would be weakened by the type of development proposed.
Low	Landscape receptor would be likely to accommodate the type of development proposed without undue negative consequences for the maintenance of the baseline landscape character and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies. Landscape receptor has a close relationship to the type of development proposed and could be easily replaced or substituted if lost. Landscape receptor is of low sensitivity and characteristics of the receptor would not be significantly altered by the type of development proposed. The general landscape character is resilient to change.

A judgement on the overall sensitivity of each landscape receptor (ranging from Very High to Very Low) was made based on the combined evaluation of susceptibility and value attached to the receptor together with informed professional judgement and guidance provided in GLVIA3.

The magnitude of landscape effect considered the size or scale of the effect, the geographical extent of the effect and the duration and reversibility of the effect.

Judgements on the magnitude of Landscape effect were broadly based on the descriptions of magnitude set out in **Table 1.3** below.

⁵ Includes landscape character areas, landscape elements or features and particular aesthetic or perceptual aspects of the landscape.

Table 1.3 Magnitude of Landscape Effects

Magnitude of Effect	Definition
High	Permanent loss of all or most of the key characteristics of a landscape receptor and/or addition of major new elements which would be dominant features with little or no relationship to the landscape receptor. Changes would substantially alter the character of a large area.
Medium	Permanent partial loss or change to some of the key characteristics of a landscape receptor and/or addition of new elements which would be prominent features. Changes would result in a large change to the character of a small area or a noticeable change to a larger area.
Low	Permanent limited/localised loss or change to common characteristics of a landscape receptor and/or addition of new elements which would be noticeable features but largely in keeping with the existing character. Changes would result in a small change to the character of a large area or a noticeable change to a small area. Also includes temporary and/or reversible changes of larger scale or extent.
Very Low	Small scale changes to common characteristics of a landscape receptor and/or small scale additions of new elements which are in keeping with the existing character. Changes would not noticeably alter the character of the area. Also includes temporary and/or reversible changes of small or medium scale and extent.
Negligible / None	No, or barely discernible, change to landscape receptor

Consideration was also given to the Type of Effect in terms of whether it is Adverse, Beneficial or Neutral. Often, effects will include a combination of both beneficial and adverse effects. However, a judgement is made on the nature of the overall effect which is based on the following terms:

- Adverse: overall harm to Landscape character/feature
- Beneficial: overall improvement to Landscape character/feature
- Neutral: a combination of both adverse and beneficial effects with no overall harm or improvement to Landscape character/feature

Assessment of Visual Effects

Visual effects include:

- Changes to, and/or complete or partial loss of features, elements, characteristics or perceptual aspects that contribute to the character and distinctiveness of the view; and/or,
- Introduction of new elements or features that influence the character and distinctiveness of the view;

The assessment of visual effects considered the sensitivity of the visual receptor and the magnitude of the predicted effect.

The sensitivity of the visual receptor comprised a judgement on the value attached to the views and an assessment of the susceptibility of each receptor to the type of change proposed.

A judgement on the value attached to the views was made with reference to the following criteria and the definitions of value set out in Table 1.4.

- Planning designations e.g. Designated Views or Protected Vistas identified in local or regional planning policy'
- Other designations relating to landscape features or heritage assets e.g. key views identified in conservation area appraisals or recorded in citations for listed buildings or registered parks and gardens; and,
- Indicators of the value attached to views by visitors e.g. views identified in guidebooks or on tourist maps, official viewpoints (often with sign boards and interpretive material) or views referenced in literature or art

Table 1.4: Value attached to views

Value	Typical level of designation / Rarity	Typical Examples
Very High	International, National	Views associated with Application Sites of international importance e.g. World Heritage Application Sites
High	National, Regional,	Designated views of national or regional importance e.g. views of noted importance to Application Sites of national importance e.g. Scheduled Monuments, AONBs, Grade I/Grade II* listed buildings, and/or Registered Historic Park and Gardens
Medium	Regional, Local	Views identified or protected at local level e.g. identified in local planning policy or guidance and views associated with heritage or landscape features of regional or local importance e.g. some Conservation Areas and Grade II/II* listed buildings. May also include views which are undesignated but value perhaps expressed through non-official publications or its contribution to enjoyment of a designated or non-designated heritage asset.
Low/Ordinary	Local	The view from the identified visual receptor is not related to designated, or non-designated, heritage assets, or a planning designation; and/or mentioned in guidebooks or on tourist maps; and/or referenced in art and literature; but contributes positively to the visual amenity experienced by the receptor.
Very Low	Local	The view from the identified visual receptor does not make a positive contribution to local visual amenity.

The assessment of susceptibility of visual receptors was based on the approach set out in para 6.32 of GLVIA3 which notes that:

- ‘the susceptibility of different visual receptors to changes in views and visual amenity is mainly a function of:
- The occupation or activity of people experiencing the view at particular locations: and,
- The extent to which their attention or interest may therefore be focussed on the views and the visual amenity they experience at particular locations’.

Judgements on the susceptibility of a visual receptor to change are broadly based on the descriptions of susceptibility set out in **Table 1.5** below.

Table 1.5 Susceptibility to change of visual receptors

Susceptibility	Description
High	Receptors for whom the view and visual amenity is of high importance to the experience or activity including: people engaged in outdoor recreation whose attention or interest is likely to be focused on the landscape and on particular views e.g. waymarked walks through the landscape; and visitors to heritage assets or other attractions where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience.
Medium	Receptors for whom the view and visual amenity is of moderate importance to the experience or activity including: Travellers on most road or rail routes
Low	Receptors for whom the view and visual amenity is of low importance to the experience or activity including: people engaged in outdoor sport or recreation which does not involve or depend upon appreciation of views of the landscape; and, people at their place of work whose attention may be focussed on their work, not on their surroundings, and where the setting is not important to the quality of working life.

A judgement on the overall sensitivity of each visual receptor (ranging from Very High to Very Low) was made based on the combined evaluation of susceptibility and value attached to the receptor together with informed professional judgement and guidance provided in GLVIA3.

The magnitude of visual effect considered the size or scale of the effect, the geographical extent of the effect, and the duration and reversibility of the effect.

Judgements on the magnitude of visual effect were broadly based on the descriptions of magnitude set out in **Table 1.6** below.

Table 1.6 Magnitude of Visual Effects

Magnitude of Effect	Definition
High	Permanent loss of all or most of the key characteristics of a view and/or addition of major new elements which would be dominant features. Changes would substantially alter the character of the view.
Medium	Permanent partial loss or change to some of the key characteristics of the view and/or addition of new elements which would be prominent features. Changes would result in a large change to the character of a small part of the view or a noticeable change to a larger part of the view.
Low	Permanent limited/localised loss or change to a view and/or addition of new elements which would be noticeable features but largely in keeping with the existing character of the view. Changes would result in a small change to the character of a large part of the view or a noticeable change to a small part of the view. Also includes temporary and/or reversible changes of larger scale or extent within the view.
Very Low	Small scale changes to common characteristics and/or small scale additions of new elements to the view. Changes would not noticeably alter the character of the view. Also includes temporary and/or reversible changes of small or medium scale and extent.
Negligible / None	No, or barely discernible, change to the view.

Consideration is also given to the Type of Effect in terms of whether it is Adverse, Beneficial or Neutral. Often, effects will include a combination of both beneficial and adverse effects. However, a judgement is made on the nature of the overall effect which is based on the following terms:

- **Adverse:** overall harm to the character/quality of the view and loss of visual amenity
- **Beneficial:** overall improvement to the character/quality of the view and improvement of visual amenity
- **Neutral:** no overall harm or improvement to the view or visual amenity (likely to be the result of a combination of both adverse and beneficial effects or very small changes)

Methodology for assessment of level of significance

The level of effect attributed to each effect has been assessed based on professional judgement and considers both the magnitude of change due to the Proposed Scheme and the sensitivity of the affected receptor. The table below has been a tool which has assisted with this process.

Magnitude of Change		Sensitivity			
		High	Medium	Low	Very Low
	High	Major	Moderate to Major	Moderate	Minor
	Medium	Moderate to Major	Moderate	Minor	Minor to Negligible
	Low	Moderate	Minor	Minor to Negligible	Negligible
	Very Low	Minor	Minor to Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
	Negligible/None	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

The following terms have been used to define the significance of the effects identified effect.

Major effect: where the Proposed Scheme is likely to cause a considerable change from the baseline conditions and the receptor has limited adaptability, tolerance or recoverability or is of the highest sensitivity. This effect is considered to be 'Significant';

Moderate effect: where the Proposed Scheme is likely to cause either a considerable change from the baseline conditions at a receptor which has a degree of adaptability, tolerance or recoverability or a less than considerable change at a receptor that has limited adaptability, tolerance or recoverability. This effect may be considered to be 'Significant' but will be subject to professional judgement;

Minor effect: where the Proposed Scheme is likely to cause a small, but noticeable change from the baseline conditions on a receptor which has limited adaptability, tolerance or recoverability or is of the highest sensitivity; or where the Proposed Scheme is likely to cause a considerable change from the baseline conditions at a receptor which can adapt, is tolerant of the change or/and can recover from the change. This effect is considered less likely to be 'Significant' but will be subject to professional judgement; and

Negligible effect: where the Proposed Scheme is unlikely to cause a noticeable change at a receptor, despite its level of sensitivity or there is a considerable change at a receptor which is not considered sensitive to a change. This effect is 'Insignificant'.

Appendix 2: Supporting Figures and Photographs

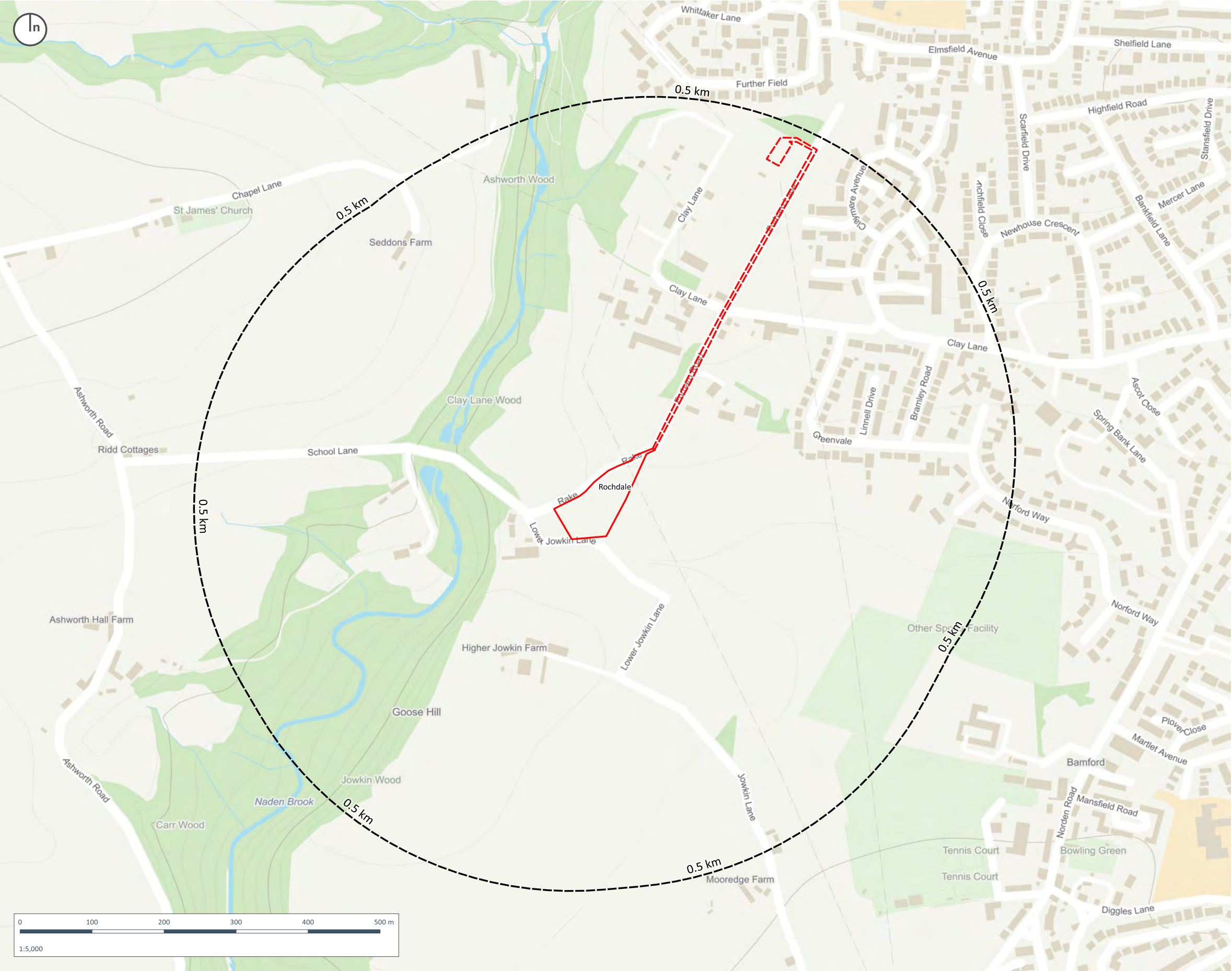
Clay Lane / Furbarn Road, Rochdale

LVIA FIGURES

July 2023



Turley



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-  Site boundary
-  Site boundary (are scoped out of assessment)

CLIENT: _____
Shaw Energi

PROJECT: _____
Clay Lane / Furbarn Road, Rochdale

DRAWING: _____
Site Location

PROJECT NUMBER: _____
SHAM3000

DRAWING NUMBER: _____
01

CHECKED BY: _____
CW

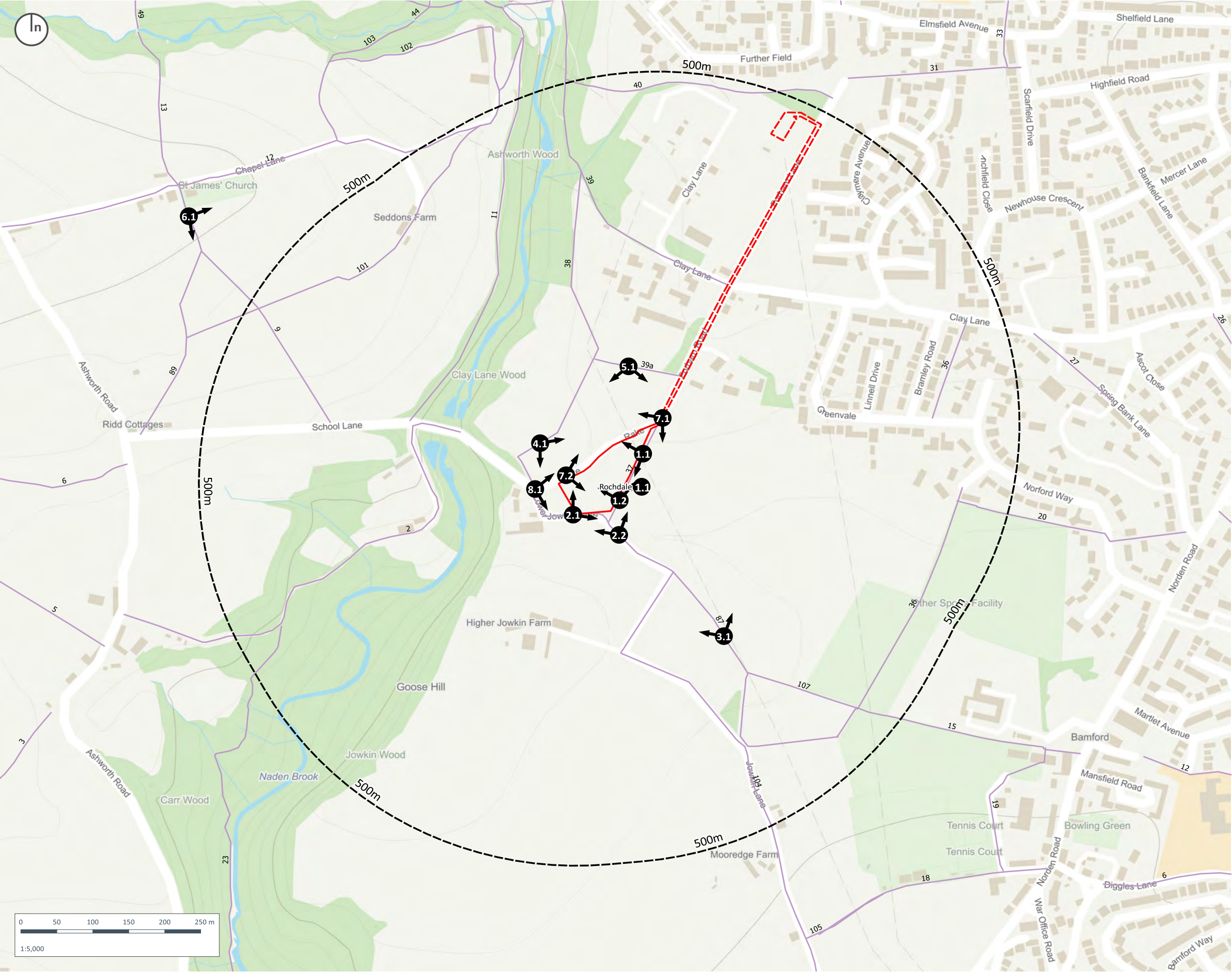
REVISION: _____
1.0

STATUS: _____
Draft

DATE: _____
December 2022

SCALE: _____
1:5,000 @ A3

Turley



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- Site boundary
- Site Boundary (area scoped out of assessment)
- Public rights of way
- Study Area
- Views

Ref	Name
1.1	Pedestrian users of PRoW 37
1.2	Pedestrian users of PRoW 37
2.1	Pedestrian and road users on Lower Jowkin Lane
2.2	Pedestrian and road users of Lower Jowkin Lane
3.1	Pedestrian users of PRoW 87
4.1	Pedestrian users of PRoW 38
5.1	Pedestrian users of PRoW 39a
6.1	Pedestrian users of St James' Church and PRoW 89
7.1	Pedestrian and road users of Furbarn Road
7.2	Pedestrian and road users of Rake
8.1	Pedestrian and road users of School Lane, Rake and Lower Jowkin Lane

CLIENT:
Shaw Energi

PROJECT:
Clay Lane / Furbarn Road, Rochdale

DRAWING:
Representative Viewpoint Location

PROJECT NUMBER:
SHAM3000

DRAWING NUMBER: 02

CHECKED BY: CW

REVISION: 1.0

STATUS: Draft

DATE: December 2022

SCALE: 1:5,000 @ A3



A viewshed map was prepared using Google Earth Pro software assuming a single 6 metre high point from two locations across the Application Site, as described in the respective caption.

The viewshed analysis takes into account built form and vegetation in and around Fengate, and results are shown up to 500m radius from the Application Site.

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CLIENT:
Shaw Energi

PROJECT:
Clay Lane / Furbarn Road, Rochdale

DRAWING:
View shed

PROJECT NUMBER:
SHAM3000

DRAWING NUMBER: 03	CHECKED BY: CW
REVISION: 00	STATUS: Final
DATE: December 2022	SCALE: NTS

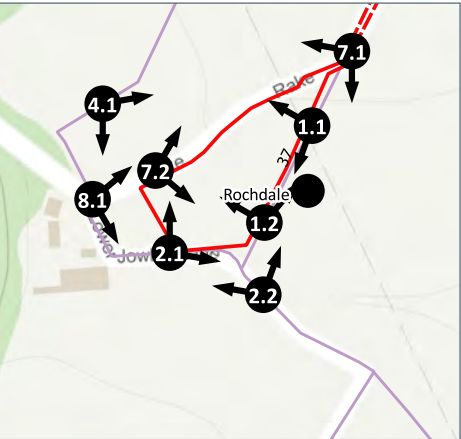


REPRESENTATIVE VIEWPOINT 1.1 Pedestrian users of the public right of way 37



REPRESENTATIVE VIEWPOINT 1.1 Users of the public right of way 37/ Furbarn Road

VIEWPOINT LOCATION



VIEWPOINT INFORMATION

VISUALISATION TYPE: Annotated viewpoint photograph (Type 1)
PROJECTION: Planar (or cylindrical)
ENLARGEMENT FACTOR: 100% @ A3
DATE/TIME OF CAPTURED PHOTOGRAPHY: 04/12/2022 14:29
CAMERA MAKE & MODEL: NIKON D3000 DSLR
CAMERA LENS: NIKON standard - Cropped frame + 33.33mm lens
HORIZONTAL FIELD OF VIEW: 39.6°
DIRECTION OF VIEW: South west



CGI IMAGERY (PREPARED BY PYE DESIGN)

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CLIENT:
Shaw Energi

PROJECT:
Clay Lane / Furbarn Road, Rochdale

DRAWING:
Representative Viewpoint Photography

PROJECT NUMBER:
SHAM3000

DRAWING NUMBER:
04

CHECKED BY:
CW

REVISION:
00

STATUS:
Final

DATE:
December 2022

SCALE:
NTS



REPRESENTATIVE VIEWPOINT 1.2 Pedestrian users of the public right of way 37

Hedgerow associated with Rake Lane

The Site

Electricity pylon located to the north of the Site

PRoW 37



REPRESENTATIVE VIEWPOINT 1.2 Users of the public right of way 37/ Furbarn Road

VIEWPOINT LOCATION



VIEWPOINT INFORMATION

VISUALISATION TYPE: Annotated viewpoint photograph (Type 1)
PROJECTION: Planar (or cylindrical)
ENLARGEMENT FACTOR: 100% @ A3
DATE/TIME OF CAPTURED PHOTOGRAPHY: 04/12/2022 14:28
CAMERA MAKE & MODEL: NIKON D3000 DSLR
CAMERA LENS: NIKON standard - Cropped frame + 33.33mm lens
HORIZONTAL FIELD OF VIEW: 39.6°
DIRECTION OF VIEW: North



CGI IMAGERY (PREPARED BY PYE ARCHITECTS)

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CLIENT:
Shaw Energi

PROJECT:
Clay Lane / Furbarn Road, Rochdale

DRAWING:
Representative Viewpoint Photography

PROJECT NUMBER:
SHAM3000

DRAWING NUMBER:
05

CHECKED BY:
CW

REVISION:
00

STATUS:
Final

DATE:
December 2022

SCALE:
NTS



REPRESENTATIVE VIEWPOINT 2.1 Pedestrian and road users on Lower Jowkin Lane



REPRESENTATIVE VIEWPOINT 2.1 Users on Bridleway Hey Bp104 Lower Jowkin Lane

VIEWPOINT LOCATION



VIEWPOINT INFORMATION

VISUALISATION TYPE: Annotated viewpoint photograph (Type 1)
PROJECTION: Planar (or cylindrical)
ENLARGEMENT FACTOR: 100% @ A3
DATE/TIME OF CAPTURED PHOTOGRAPHY: 04/12/2022 14:16
CAMERA MAKE & MODEL: NIKON D3000 DSLR
CAMERA LENS: NIKON standard - Cropped frame + 33.33mm lens
HORIZONTAL FIELD OF VIEW: 39.6°
DIRECTION OF VIEW: North east



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Shaw Energi

PROJECT:
Clay Lane / Furbarn Road, Rochdale

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Representative Viewpoint Photography

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REPRESENTATIVE VIEWPOINT 2.2 Pedestrian and road users on Lower Jowkin Lane