



LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL APPRAISAL

Proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facility (Radcliffe BESS), on Land to the east of Shore Top Farm, Kearsley Road, Radcliffe, Manchester, (M26 1FA)

On behalf of Taiyo Power & Storage Ltd.

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Where field investigations have been carried out, these have been restricted to a level of detail required to achieve the stated objectives of the work.

This work has been undertaken in accordance with the quality management system of RSK ADAS Ltd.

Version history

Version	Date	Amendments
02	03/04/2025	Draft for comments

Contents

1.	Introduction.....	1
1.2.	Scope of this report.....	1
1.3.	Objectives of the report.....	2
1.4.	Author of the report	2
2.	Methodology.....	3
2.1.	Assessment of landscape and visual effects.....	3
2.2.	Limitations and assumptions	5
2.3.	Site survey.....	6
2.4.	Spatial scope	6
2.5.	Mapping visibility	6
2.1.	Photography and visualisations	7
3.	Proposed development	8
3.1.	Description of the scheme	8
4.	Planning policy context	9
4.1.	National planning policy and guidance.....	9
4.2.	Local planning policy	13
5.	Existing environment	18
5.2.	Landscape character	20
5.1.	Character of the site	25
5.2.	Visual character	26
6.	Design rational.....	35
6.1.	Landscape strategy	35
7.	Appraisal of effects	37
7.1.	Landscape appraisal.....	37
7.2.	Visual appraisal	40
8.	Openness	48
9.	Summary.....	50
10.	References	53

Appendix 1: Illustrative Materials.....	54
Figure 1: Landscape Character Areas Plan	54
Figure 2: Policies and Designations Plan	54
Figure 3: Topography Plan.....	54
Figure 4: Site Appraisal Plan.....	54
Figure 5: Visual Appraisal Plan	54
Figure 6: Landscape Masterplan	54
Viewpoint Photographs	54
Appendix 2: Glossary	
Appendix 3: Appraisal guidance and methodology	
Appendix 4: Photograph and photomontage methodology	

1. Introduction

- 1.1.1. Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) is a tool used to identify and assess the effects of change resulting from development on both the landscape as an environmental resource and on people's views and visual amenity.
- 1.1.2. An LVA has been undertaken by ADAS for the proposed Radcliffe BESS described as 'the proposed development' on land to the east of Shore Top Farm, Kearsley Road, Radcliffe, Manchester, (M26 1FA), described as 'the site'.
- 1.1.3. The location the site is shown in on the figures within in **Appendix 1: Illustrative Materials** along with the viewpoint photographs.
- 1.1.4. This report has been prepared on behalf of Taiyo Power & Storage Ltd. and forms part of a suite of documents accompanying the planning application for the proposed development.

1.2. Scope of this report

- 1.2.1. This LVA considers the effects on landscape elements, character, and visual amenity, upon the site and the surrounding area. It was undertaken with regard to best practice guidance within the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition (GLVIA3) that states in Paragraph 1.1 that ***"Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) is a tool used to identify and assess the significance of and 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 amenity"***.
- 1.2.2. GLVIA3 also states in Paragraph 1.17 that when identifying landscape and visual effects there is a "need for an approach that is in proportion to the scale of the project that is being assessed and the nature of the likely effects. Judgement needs to be exercised at all stages in terms of the scale of investigation that is appropriate and proportional".
- 1.2.3. The LVA of the proposed development has been undertaken to establish the landscape and visual sensitivity of the site and to identify likely landscape and visual effects that may arise as a result of the proposed development.
- 1.2.4. This report is presented as a Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA), rather than a full Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), as the scale and nature of the proposed development, along with the characteristics of the receiving environment, do not warrant a more detailed EIA-level assessment. This is in accordance with guidance in GLVIA3 (para 1.17), which advocates a proportionate approach.

1.3. Objectives of the report

1.3.1. The objectives of this LVA report are to:

- Appraise the landscape character and quality of the site and its context and the function of the site within the wider landscape, particularly in relation to existing landscape designations and policies;
- Appraise the visibility of the site and the nature and quality of existing views towards the site;
- Appraise the likely effects upon landscape character and visual amenity that will arise as a result of the proposed development on the site; and
- Identify landscape and visual opportunities and constraints to the type of development proposed within the site and appropriate landscape enhancements to facilitate delivery of development on the site.

1.4. Author of the report

1.4.1. This report was prepared by a Member of the Landscape Institute (MLI), who is trained and experienced in undertaking landscape and visual appraisals. ADAS is a Landscape Institute registered practice, and all work is prepared and reviewed internally by senior highly experienced landscape planners.

2. Methodology

2.1. Assessment of landscape and visual effects

Appraisal of landscape and visual characteristics

- 2.1.1. For the purposes of this report, the methodology used takes account of, and is based upon, recommendations given in 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment' (GLVIA3) (Third Edition 2013) (**Ref.1**), produced jointly by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment. Terminology used within this report can be found in **Appendix 2: Glossary** and is primarily based upon that found in GLVIA3 but also references other documents.
- 2.1.2. A proportional approach has been taken to the LVA as directed by GLVIA3 (**Ref.1**):
- "...need for an approach that is in proportion to the scale of the project that is being assessed and the nature of the likely effects. Judgement needs to be exercised at all stages in terms of the scale of investigation that is appropriate and proportional". (Ref.1, page 9, para.1.17.***
- 2.1.3. The purpose of LVAs is to identify the potential for, and assess the likely effects of, change resulting from development. Landscape and visual assessments are a separate, although linked, processes. A distinction is made between:
- Landscape - landscape character and the elements and features that contribute to it (landscape receptors); and
 - Visual - people who experience views within the landscape (visual receptors).
- 2.1.4. Landscape encompasses the whole of the external environment, whether within towns, villages or countryside. It is not only the perception of a combination of landform, vegetation cover and buildings, but also embodies the history, land use, human culture, wildlife and seasonal changes of an area. The landscape can be considered as a resource in its own right (providing food, cultural heritage, clean air etc.). A visual appraisal considers visual receptors, that is people who experience views within the landscape, and often include locations such as residential or business properties, Public Rights of Way (PRoW), public open space, and transport corridors. As a result, landscape and visual effects are considered separately.
- 2.1.5. A baseline study is undertaken to record the existing landscape features, characteristics, the way the landscape is experienced and existing views experienced by visual receptors likely to be affected by the Proposed Development. This is done through the examination of Ordnance Survey Maps, aerial photography and various scales of landscape character assessment. The desk and field surveys (undertaken from within the Site and publicly

accessible locations) enable a study area to be derived in order to focus the assessment on likely significant effects. The study area is determined through consideration of landform, vegetation and likely extent of visibility, beyond which the proposed development would be unlikely to give rise to any significant effects.

- 2.1.6. The full Landscape and Visual Appraisal Methodology is set out in **Appendix 3: Appraisal guidance and methodology**.
- 2.1.7. The capacity (or susceptibility) of a landscape relates to the ability to accept change of the type and scale proposed and will be influenced by the likely ability of the landscape to accommodate the introduction of new features while retaining the essential characteristics that define it.
- 2.1.8. Landscape susceptibility is categorised as Very High, High, Medium, Low or Very Low (full definitions are set out in **Appendix 3: Appraisal guidance and methodology**). The following criteria are taken into consideration in the assessment of landscape susceptibility: landform, pattern/complexity, composition, land-cover and relationship to existing settlements or developments. However, not all criteria are equally applicable or important within a given landscape / type of development proposed.
- 2.1.9. The assessment of value is based on a combination of the importance of landscape-related planning designations and, as appropriate, such attributes as scenic quality, perceptual aspects, rarity, representativeness, recreation and association. The overall value for each landscape receptor is categorised as Very High, High, Medium, Low or Very Low (full definitions are set out in **Appendix 3: Appraisal guidance and methodology**).
- 2.1.10. Based on the combination of value and susceptibility, an assessment of landscape sensitivity with regards to accommodating the type of development proposed is reached, and categorised as Very High, High, Medium, Low or Very Low (full definitions are set out in **Appendix 3: Appraisal guidance and methodology**).
- 2.1.11. The magnitude of effect (change) affecting landscape receptors depends upon the nature, scale, geographical extent, the duration and the reversibility of the particular change within the landscape and any loss of, or change to, important features or characteristics. The magnitude of effect for each landscape receptor is categorised as Large, Medium, Small, Very Small or None (full definitions are set out in **Appendix 3: Appraisal guidance and methodology**).

Visual Assessment

- 2.1.12. Visual susceptibility to the type of change proposed is based upon the activity or expectation of the viewer. It is categorised as Very High, High, Medium, Low or Very Low (full definitions are set out in **Appendix 3: Appraisal guidance and methodology**). Where

people are in their homes or engaged in outdoor recreation focussed on the landscape visual receptors may have a high susceptibility, whilst it may be low for those engaged in work or travelling on major roads.

- 2.1.13. The assessment of value is based upon the importance of the location of the view, its designations, cultural associations and the amount to which the view forms part of the experience in the location. The overall value for each visual receptor is categorised as Very High, High, Medium, Low or Very Low (full definitions are set out in **Appendix 3: Appraisal guidance and methodology**).
- 2.1.14. Based on the combination of value and susceptibility, an assessment of visual sensitivity with regards to accommodating the type of development proposed is reached, and categorised as Very High, High, Medium, Low or Very Low (full definitions are set out in **Appendix 3: Appraisal guidance and methodology**).
- 2.1.15. The magnitude of effect (change) affecting visual receptors depends on the location of the viewer and the overall change to the composition of the view experienced. The scale of change, angle of the view, duration of view, distance from the type of development proposed and the character of the existing view, as well as the duration and reversibility all influence the magnitude of effect. The magnitude of effect for visual receptors is categorised as Large, Medium, Small, Very Small or None (full definitions are set out in **Appendix 3: Appraisal guidance and methodology**).

Significance of Effect

- 2.1.16. In order to arrive at a measure of the significance of the overall effect, which can be beneficial or adverse, the sensitivity is combined with the magnitude of effect for each landscape or visual receptor and is rated on a scale of Nil to Major, with effects of Moderate or Major significance deemed 'significant' (full definitions are set out in **Appendix 3: Appraisal guidance and methodology**).

2.2. Limitations and assumptions

- 2.2.1. The approach to the assessment of effects takes two stages:
- At 'completion' of the proposed development comparing the existing site and proposed development at year 0 in the winter when any proposed landscape mitigation has little effect; and
 - At the 'residual' stage comparing the existing site and proposed development at year 15 in the summer when any proposed landscape mitigation has a full effect.
- 2.2.2. The LVA assess views gained by visual receptors at residential properties although access to private properties has not been possible. In such cases, a reasonable worst-case

assumption has been made in dealing with views from private properties, using judgement based upon site visit assessment at the nearest publicly accessible point.

- 2.2.3. As this report is not a full Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) construction phase effects are not considered in large amounts of detail as the construction will be completed in a relatively short time span, expected to be approximately 6-9 months.

2.3. Site survey

- 2.3.1. The assessment contained in this report is based on field observations undertaken on 15th February 2023 whilst deciduous trees were not in leaf, providing for a worst-case scenario in terms of visual assessment. Use has also been made of O.S. Explorer Maps (1:25,000 scale), aerial images, and information obtained from character assessments at national, county and local level (where available).

2.4. Spatial scope

- 2.4.1. The spatial scope for all the baseline studies including topography, landscape designations is defined on **Figure 2: Policy and Designations Plan**. Professional judgement has been exercised alongside interrogation of the landform, landscape features, quality and condition of the landscape and visual resource and type of development proposed, in order to define the Study Area, beyond which significant effects are considered unlikely to occur.

2.5. Mapping visibility

- 2.5.1. To establish the potential extent of visibility of the proposed development a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) model was produced, based on the height of the equipment within the proposed extent of 3km, as illustrated in **Figure 5: Visual Appraisal Plan**
- 2.5.2. This ZTV was produced based on 2m DSM Lidar data creating a Digital Surface Model which includes large blocks of vegetation and gives a representation of where the proposed development may be visible from, representing a worst case scenario. The areas of woodland as shown in the National Forest Inventory have also been added to the ZTV model to give an understanding of how the woodland influences potential visibility but smaller blocks of vegetation and hedgerows have not been included.
- 2.5.3. The map indicates theoretical visibility only - that is, the areas within which there may be a line of sight. However, the proposal may exhibit lower visibility due to localised screening which is not represented by the Digital Surface Model. As such a ZTV is a guide only and has been supported by field survey.

- 2.5.4. This ZTV conveys how much of the proposed development may be visible from the areas shown. Areas in red will see a greater proportion of the proposed development such as the whole site, whilst areas in yellow might see a small part.
- 2.5.5. The following maximum height of the proposed development has been used in the creation of the ZTV model:
- DNO Substation – 3m
- 2.5.6. Utilisation of ZTV mapping allows the scope of the assessment to be reduced to areas where potential effects are likely to arise through consideration of receptors that are coincident with the ZTV. As such, this LVA considers landscape receptors and visual receptors that are coincident with areas shown as having potential for visibility of the proposed development on **Figure 5: Visual Appraisal Plan**.

2.1. Photography and visualisations

- 2.1.1. The production of annotated viewpoint photographs used as part of the report is proportionate to the level of appraisal and has been guided by Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 06/19 'Visual Representation of Development Proposals' (2019) (**Ref.2**), produced by the Landscape Institute. The methodology used to produce the viewpoint photographs can be found in **Appendix 4. Photograph and photomontage methodology**.

3. Proposed development

3.1. Description of the scheme

- 3.1.1. The proposed development is for the installation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility, comprising battery containers, boundary fencing, an access track and other associated infrastructure.
- 3.1.2. The site is located north of the A667 and south of Radcliffe, Greater Manchester and is within the administrative area of Bury Council.
- 3.1.3. The proposed layout and accesses to the development are shown on the drawings accompanying the planning application. The heights of the proposed infrastructure included within the BESS facility are as follows (in metres):
- DNO Substation – 3m
 - Palisade Fencing – 2.4m
 - CCTV – 3m
 - BESS Battery container – 2.6m
 - Customer Substation – 2.6m
 - Storage container – 2.6m
 - Transformer Station – 2.3m
- 3.1.4. For the purposes of this report, drawings 121-10002 - Proposed Site layout Compound Area Rev - 014 and 121-10003 – Proposed Site Layout – Rev 014 have been used as the basis for the LVA in the report. Reference has also been made of a number of the proposed elevation drawings that accompany the application.
- 121-10010– Rev 002 - Proposed Elevations and Floor Plan - BESS Battery Container
 - 121-10009 – Rev 002 - Proposed Elevations and Floor Plan - Customer Substation
 - 121-100014 – Rev 002 - Proposed Elevations and Floor Plan - DNO Substation
 - 121-10009 – Rev 002 - Proposed Elevations and Floor Plan – Storage Container
 - 121-10011 – Rev 002 - Proposed Elevations and Floor Plan – Transformer Station
 - 121-10005 - Rev 001 - Palisade Fence and CCTV
- 3.1.5. The BESS facility will be operational for a temporary period of 40 years. Upon decommissioning of the facility, the site will be returned to its former use.

4. Planning policy context

4.1. National planning policy and guidance

The National Planning Policy Framework (2024)

4.1.1. The 'National Planning Policy Framework' (NPPF) (February 2025) (**Ref.3**) sets out the Government's planning policies for England by replacing previous Planning Policy Guidance (PPGs) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs). It aims to provide a planning framework within which the local community and local planning authorities can produce distinctive local plans which respond to local needs and priorities.

4.1.2. The NPPF promotes a presumption in favour of sustainable development, providing it is in accordance with the relevant up-to-date Local Plan, and policies set out in the NPPF:

"...meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." (Ref. 3. Page 5, para. 7).

4.1.3. The NPPF also clarifies that planning law requires that applications for planning permission be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The NPPF is a material consideration in planning decisions. The NPPF states that the planning system has three overarching objectives: economic, social and environmental. The environmental objective is described as follows: ***"to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy."*** (Ref. 3. Page 5, para. 8).

4.1.4. Paragraph 9 of the NPPF also notes that the objectives should be delivered through the planning process but recognises that planning policies and decisions should: ***"take local circumstances into account, to reflect the character, needs and opportunities of each area"*** (Ref. 3. Page 5, para. 9).

4.1.5. Section 11 is concerned with making effective use of land, stating:

"Planning policies and decisions should promote an effective use of land in meeting the need for homes and other uses, while safeguarding and improving the environment and ensuring safe and healthy living conditions" (Ref. 3. Page 36, para.124).

4.1.6. Paragraph 125 states that planning policies and decisions should:

"Encourage multiple benefits from both urban and rural land, including through mixed use schemes and taking opportunities to achieve net environmental gains –"

such as developments that would enable new habitat creation or improve public access to the countryside;"

4.1.7. and

"recognise that some undeveloped land can perform many functions, such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, cooling/shading, carbon storage or food production..."

4.1.8. The NPPF then identifies a number of aspects which should be considered in developing local plans and reviewing planning applications. Those of relevance to the landscape and visual considerations of the site and proposed development are listed below:

4.1.9. Section 12: Achieving well-designed and beautiful places, states at paragraph 135:

"Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments:

- a) Will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development;***
- b) Are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping;***
- c) Are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change (such as increased densities);***
- d) Establish or maintain a strong sense of place, using the arrangement of streets, spaces, building types and materials to create attractive, welcoming and distinctive places to live, work and visit;***
- e) Optimise the potential of the site to accommodate and sustain an appropriate amount and mix of development (including green and other public space) and support local facilities and transport networks; and***
- f) Create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience." (Ref. 3. Page 39, para. 135).***

4.1.10. Section 13 of the NPPF (2025) relates to Green Belt. Paragraph 142 states:

"The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open... the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence."

4.1.11. Paragraph 143 sets out the following five purposes of Green Belt:

- ***“To check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;***
- ***To prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;***
- ***To assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;***
- ***To preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and***
- ***To assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.”***

4.1.12. Paragraph 151 encourages the enhancement of Green Belt through beneficial use, stating that:

“Local planning authorities should plan positively to enhance the beneficial use of the Green Belt, such as looking for opportunities to provide access; to provide opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation; to retain and enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity; or to improve damaged and derelict land.”

4.1.13. Section 15. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment states at paragraph 187:

“Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (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, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;***
- c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;” (Ref. 3. Page 54, para. 187).***

4.1.14. Section 15 also notes at paragraph 188:

“Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites.” (Ref. 3. Page 54, para. 188).

4.1.15. And at paragraph 189:

“Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and National Landscapes, which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues.”

...

“The scale and extent of development within all these designated areas should be limited, while development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas.” (Ref. 3. Page 55, para. 189).

4.1.16. Section 15 also states at paragraph 198:

“Planning policies and decisions should also ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area to impacts that could arise from the development. In doing so they should:

- b) identify and protect tranquil areas which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason; and***
- c) limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation.”*** (Ref. 3. Page 57, para. 198)

Planning Practice Guidance, 2025

4.1.17. Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) supports the NPPF. Under the Natural Environment PPG (February 2025), the sub-section ‘Landscape’ in Paragraph 037 supports, where appropriate, the use of landscape character assessment as a tool for understanding the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and identifying the features that give it a sense of place, as a means to informing, planning and managing change. Reference is made to Natural England guidance on landscape character assessment.

4.1.18. Under the sub-section ‘Green Infrastructure’, the Natural Environment PPG’s Paragraph 006 recognises that well-designed green infrastructure can help to create a sense of place and contribute to place-making, and that green infrastructure can help create safe and accessible environments.

4.1.19. Within the Design: process and tools PPG (October 2019), in the sub-section ‘Planning for well-designed places’, Paragraph 001 notes that well-designed places can be achieved through active input at all stages of the planning process. The Design PPG goes on to note

that permission ought to be refused for poorly designed development failing to utilise opportunities to improve the character, quality and function of a place.

National Design Guide

4.1.20. The National Design Guide (2021) (**Ref.4**) identifies the key influencing factors for good design and aims to influence the production of local plans, guidance and the determination of planning application through the consideration of ten characteristics:

- Context,
- Identify,
- Built Form,
- Movement,
- Nature,
- Public Space,
- Uses,
- Homes and Buildings
- Resources, and
- Lifespan.

4.2. Local planning policy

Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document for Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan 2022 to 2039 (Adopted 21 March 2024) (**Ref.5**)

4.2.1. The Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document 2022–2039 forms the strategic planning framework for nine Greater Manchester authorities, including Bury. It provides a coordinated approach to delivering housing, employment land, infrastructure and environmental protection across the sub-region. The document is a key material consideration and sits alongside Bury's Local Plan.

4.2.2. Policies relating to landscape, visual and design matters are detailed below.

4.2.3. Policy JP-G1: Landscape Character, sets out:

“Development within a Landscape Character Type... should reflect and respond to the special qualities and sensitivities of the key landscape characteristics of its location, including having regard to:

- ***Topography, geology and drainage;***
- ***Land use and field patterns;***
- ***Semi-natural habitats and woodland cover;***
- ***Archaeology and cultural heritage;***

- **Settlement, road pattern and rights of way; and**
- **Views and perceptual qualities”**

4.2.4. Policy JP-G2: Green Infrastructure Network, sets out:

“Development within and around the Green Infrastructure Network should be consistent with delivering major green infrastructure improvements within them and should contribute to improvements.

Development which involves the removal of land from the Green Belt (including allocations proposed in this plan) will be required to offset the impact of removing land from the Green Belt through identifying and delivering compensatory improvements to the environmental quality and accessibility of remaining Green Belt in the vicinity of the site. Details of specific sites and projects will be established in discussion with the relevant Local Authority.

Wherever practicable, opportunities to integrate new and existing green infrastructure into new development will be taken to protect, enhance and expand the green infrastructure network. Where new or improved green infrastructure is delivered as part of a development, the developer should make appropriate provision for its long-term management and maintenance.”

4.2.5. Policy JP-G7: Trees and woodland states:

“We will work to deliver the aims and objectives of the Greater Manchester Tree and Woodland Strategy, aiming to significantly increase tree cover, protect and enhance woodland, and connect people to the trees and woodland around them. This will be done through local planning and associated activities such as:

1. Protecting and expanding the mosaic of woodland habitats, linking fragmented areas of woodland, in particular wooded cloughs and pockets of ancient and riverside (riparian) woodland;

2. Encouraging habitat diversity through conserving and managing existing woodland and trees that are of heritage, cultural and/or aesthetic value, including ancient woodland and veteran trees;

....

....

....

9. Securing a diversification of broadleaved species, in order to increase biodiversity and disease resilience;

10. Improving public access to woodland and trees particularly by sustainable travel models to capture the health and wellbeing benefits whilst managing the associated pressures;

4.2.6. Policy JP-G9: The Green Belt states:

“The beneficial use of the Green Belt will be enhanced where this can be achieved without harm to its openness, permanence or ability to serve its five purposes. In particular, the enhancement of its green infrastructure functions will be encouraged, such as improved public access and habitat restoration, helping to deliver environmental and social benefits for our residents and providing the high quality green spaces that will support economic growth.”

Bury Unitary Development Plan 1997 (Ref.6)

4.2.7. The Bury Unitary Development Plan (UDP) was adopted on 29 August 1997 and currently serves as part of the local planning policy framework for the Borough of Bury. While it continues to guide planning decisions, many of its policies have now been wholly or partially replaced by the adopted Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan (2024). The UDP will remain in use where relevant policies have not been superseded, until it is fully replaced by the emerging Bury Local Plan, which is currently in preparation. Policies relevant to landscape, visual and design matters are outlined below.

4.2.8. Policy EN9 – Landscape, states:

“The Council will seek to protect, conserve and improve the landscape quality of the Borough, and will encourage the enhancement of landscapes, where appropriate.”

4.2.9. Policy EN6/4 Wildlife Links and Corridors:

“The Council will seek to consolidate and, where appropriate, strengthen wildlife links and corridors, and will not permit development which would adversely affect identified areas. In particular, the Council will seek to ensure that new development within or adjacent to identified links or corridors contributes to their effectiveness through the design, landscaping and siting of development proposals and mitigation works, where appropriate.

...

Existing wildlife corridors include:

- **the Irwell Valley**
- **...”**

4.2.10. Policy RT3/2 - Additional Provision for Recreation in the Countryside, states:

“RT3/2/9 - Outwood Area (83.85 ha.). This area includes the existing King George V Playing Fields, and a vast amount of the surrounding land, much of which is derelict. The area is presently being considered as a whole with a view to working up a detailed scheme for informal recreation to include footpaths/tracks, tree planting and wildlife habitats and, although part of it has been reclaimed, additional reclamation work is required before its recreational potential can be maximised.”

4.2.11. Policy RT3/4 - Recreational Routes, states:

“In promoting access to the countryside, the Council will seek to establish a network of designated recreational routes to provide access, where appropriate, for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. These routes will be safeguarded and any development which would prejudice their establishment or use will not be permitted.

The following routes are presently identified as having potential for recreational use:

...

RT3/4/4 - The Irwell Valley South of Bury Town Centre. This route follows the canal towpath and a former railway line linking Prestwich Forest Park with Radcliffe and Bury Town Centres.”

4.2.12. Policy HT6/3/4 Cyle Routes, states:

“The Council will give consideration to the establishment of designated cycle routes. The following areas are presently identified as having potential for defined cycle routes:

...

HT6/3/4 - The Irwell Valley south of Bury Town Centre. This route follows the canal tow path and a former railway line linking Prestwich Forest Park with Radcliffe and Bury Town Centres.”

4.2.13. Policy OL5/2 Development in River Valleys:

“Within the River Valleys, new buildings or the change of use of existing buildings or the change of use of land will not be permitted. The only exceptions considered acceptable will be those where the development would not lead to the division of the open parts of the valleys into sections and it falls within the terms below:

- *where the area is designated as Green Belt the established Green Belt policies will apply; or*
- ..."

5. Existing environment

Designations and policies

- 5.1.1. The presence of designations contributes to the understanding of landscape value as part of the appraisal in this report. Some designated habitats are also relevant to landscape matters as part of the proposed development. Other designations are destinations where people use the landscape and may be classed as visual receptors. This section of the report discusses these designations. As shown on **Figure 2. Policies and Designations Plan** there are a number of cultural heritage, public access and natural environment designations relevant to landscape and visual matters that are set out below:

Landscape designations

- 5.1.2. There are no national or local landscape designations coincident with the site or the study area.

Cultural heritage designations

Listed Buildings

- 5.1.3. As illustrated in **Figure 2: Policy and Designations Plan**, several Listed Buildings are present within the study area. The closest of these is Grade II listed Water Powered Beam Pump, located approximately 840m north-west of the site. The relationship between the site and heritage assets will be considered in relation to their setting and any potential changes to views or landscape character.

Conservation Areas

- 5.1.4. The Ringley Fold Conservation Area is situated approximately 600m south-west of the site. While not in direct proximity, the potential for indirect effects on views or setting has been considered as part of the appraisal.

Public Access Designations

- 5.1.5. A number of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) pass through or immediately adjacent to the site, contributing to the accessibility and recreational value of the surrounding landscape. The wider study area is characterised by an extensive and connected network of PRoWs, many of which offer opportunities for visual interaction with the site and its setting. Key routes include:
- PRoW 7SS: This route runs along the northern and eastern boundaries of the site, with a small section crossing the northern tip and the proposed temporary access track within the southern portion. It is a locally significant footpath and provides close-range views into the site.

- PRoW 9SS: Passes directly through the southern area of the site, providing a high degree of visual exposure and interaction with the site itself.
- The Irwell Sculpture Trail: This nationally recognised long-distance route passes through the northern extent of the site and follows its eastern boundary. It is a well-used recreational path and an important visual receptor. Users of this route experience filtered and open views across the surrounding valley landscape and the application site.
- Outwood Trail: Located to the east of the site, this forms part of the Irwell Valley Way and National Cycle Route 6. It follows the line of a disused railway and provides a green corridor linking the wider landscape. Views of the site are largely filtered by woodland but may be available in some sections.
- Local Footpaths: A number of additional local paths are present throughout the study area, particularly across the valley floor and adjacent farmland. These contribute to recreational enjoyment of the area and may provide varying degrees of visibility of the site depending on landform and vegetation.

5.1.6. The potential for visual effects on users of these routes has been assessed, particularly in relation to the extent of visibility, screening by vegetation, and the changing nature of views within the landscape.

Topography

5.1.7. The topography of the study area, illustrated in **Figure 3: Topography Plan**, is defined by a varied landform, with elevations ranging from approximately 20m to 140m AOD. The site is situated along a ridgeline formed between two valley bottoms shaped by the River Irwell, which converge to the west of the site. Land falls away in this direction towards the river valleys, resulting in a reduced sense of visual containment. The wider landscape is gently undulating, with the River Irwell having incised much of the surrounding landform. To the east, the land rises sharply to around 130m AOD, contributing to a strong sense of enclosure. Similarly, land to the north rises to form a broad ridge of comparable height, reinforcing a sense of topographic containment. In contrast, land to the west and southwest undulates more gently, allowing for more expansive, open views from the site in those directions.

5.1.8. The site itself lies at approximately 80m AOD, occupying mid-slope ground between the enclosing ridgelines and the adjacent valley floors. Its position, combined with the elevated land to the north and east, contributes to a sense of containment while still allowing filtered outward views, particularly to the south and west. The topography reflects a transitional landscape between the River Irwell valley lowlands and the surrounding higher ground.

Vegetation and land use

- 5.1.9. As shown on **Figure 4: Site Appraisal Plan**, the site and its surroundings are characterised by a well-wooded landscape. Outwood Country Park lies immediately to the east and contains dense woodland and recreational paths, contributing significantly to the area's strong sense of enclosure and natural setting. Linear tree belts following the course of the River Irwell enhance this woodland character, reinforcing the perception of a green corridor running through the landscape. To the south, further blocks of woodland, including Ringle Wood, Giants Seat Wood, and Nuttall Wood, strengthen the area's woodland framework and help integrate the site within a broader wooded landscape.
- 5.1.10. The site is located within a prominent green wedge bound by the River Irwell to the west and the surrounding settlements of Radcliffe to the north, Kearsley to the south, and Outwood to the east. Land use in the surrounding area is largely rural and semi-rural in nature. To the west and south of the site, agricultural fields dominate, interspersed with occasional farmsteads, electricity pylons, and associated infrastructure. A network of minor roads and access tracks crosses the area, linking farm properties and reinforcing the rural land-use character. This varied land use and vegetation pattern contributes to the landscape's patchwork quality, with the site acting as a transitional space between more developed settlement edges and the open countryside beyond.

5.2. Landscape character

- 5.2.1. The landscape character assessment approach is a descriptive approach that seeks to identify and define the distinct character of landscapes that make up the country. This approach recognises the intrinsic value of all landscapes, not just 'special' landscapes, as contributing factors in people's quality of life, in accordance with the European Landscape Convention. It also ensures that account is taken of the different roles and character of different areas, in accordance with the NPPF Core Principles. The description of each landscape is used as a basis for evaluation in order to make judgements to guide, for example, development or landscape management. The various levels of Landscape Character Assessment used as part of the LVA are described below and are shown on **Figure 1: Landscape Character Plan**.

National landscape character

- 5.2.2. At the national level, the site and study area is located within the '54 Manchester Pennine Fringe' (NCA) (2013) (**Ref.7**). The NCA profile for this area describes its characteristics as follows:
- 5.2.3. The report identifies key distinctive features of the NCA 54 as:
- ***"Landform is a transition from upland to lowland, with smooth shoulders of land divided by steep-sided valleys with fast-flowing rivers."***

- *Elevated vantage points provide extensive views across the adjacent Manchester Conurbation NCA.*
- *Several rivers flow through the area from the Pennine uplands, linking with adjacent lowland areas.*
- *Woodland cover is characterised by a range of woodland types concentrated along river valleys, as well as some newer community woodlands in the urban areas.*
- *Field boundaries include dry 'gritstone' walls at higher elevations and hedgerows at lower elevations.*
- *Limited semi-natural habitats include broadleaved mixed and yew woodland, lowland dry acid grassland, lowland meadows, lowland heathland, and purple moor-grass and rush pasture, which are often fragmented.*
- *Extensive evidence of 18th- and 19th-century stone and brick-built industrial buildings, including mill lodges and reservoirs originating from the woollen and cotton industries...*
- *Much of the countryside is influenced by recreational use from adjacent urban areas and the diversification of farmland, giving the area a distinct urban fringe character.*
- *High population densities across a belt of industrial towns, with busy transport networks and motorways. Almost half of this NCA is classed as urban."*

5.2.4. NCA 54 identifies four Statements of Environmental Opportunity (SEO) in order to guide sustainable growth, three of which are relevant to the site and proposed development:

5.2.5. SEO 2, states:

"Sustainably manage and enhance the distinctive features of the Pennine fringe landscape, including the predominantly pastoral agricultural land use, the mosaic of farmland and upland fringe habitats, the clough woodland, the drystone walling and the gritstone buildings, to strengthen the landscape character, and improve habitat condition and connectivity, bringing benefits for water quality and reduced soil erosion. "

5.2.6. SEO 4 states:

"Manage existing woodlands and community forests, and extend broadleaved woodland cover in appropriate locations, to help mitigate the effects of climate change, improve biodiversity, reduce the impact of new development, and provide access to nature and green infrastructure links into urban areas."

5.2.7. The broad NCA 54 Manchester Pennine Fringe National Character Area is considered to have a **Medium** value, as although it incorporates part of Peak District National Park, the

NCA is largely urban and heavily influenced by human activity which detract from the rural parts. The large-scale landscape is considered to have a **Low** susceptibility to the type of change proposed due to the scale and location of the site that will occupy an inconsequential component in the wider landscape where anthropogenic influences are already present. and the proposed development would not cause any significant changes to the composition of landscape features/elements that are distinctive within the NCA. As a result, the NCA is considered to have a **Low** sensitivity to development of a battery storage on land outside designated parts of the NCA.

County landscape character

Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment (2018)

- 5.2.8. The Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment (2018) (**Ref.8**) defines the Landscape Character Types (LCT) and Landscape Character Areas (LCA) within Greater Manchester. As shown on **Figure 1: Landscape Character Plan** the site sits within LCT Incised Urban Fringe Valley and LCA 16: River Irwell and River Croal. The LCA provides a greater level of study.

- 5.2.9. Features of this LCT: Incised Urban Fringe Valley relevant to the site include:

" The narrow incised valleys are typically wooded and have a natural character, with areas having a strong sense of seclusion and relative tranquillity, contrasting with surrounding densely populated urban areas. Their character is influenced by a complex mix of land uses and variations in topography. Traditional farming practices with enclosed pastures and areas of rough grazing land are intermingled with pony paddocks, recreation grounds, golf courses, industrial sites and large scale utility infrastructure forming a juxtaposition of scale and form. Some areas are strongly influenced by the visual presence of the adjoining urban edge and by numerous tall pylon lines and major road and rail routes which cross and run along the valleys.

...

A decline in landscape management detracts from this in parts, with issues including the neglect of hedgerows and their replacement with post and wire fencing, derelict sections of dry stone walls gapped up or completely replaced by fencing and the presence of over-grazed and subdivided horse paddocks.

..."

5.2.10. Overall, the assessment of landscape sensitivity for LCT Incised Urban Fringe Valley states that the Sensitivity of the LCT is High to commercial/Industrial developments. The reports notes:

“The lower-lying and flatter areas of the river valleys that cut through dense urban areas typically contain development such as large utility and electricity infrastructure, water treatment works, industrial sites and some are crossed by major road and rail routes. These areas generally have a lower sensitivity to both scenarios due to the strong influence development already has on the rural qualities of the landscape.”

5.2.11. LCT: Incised Urban Fringe Valley is considered to have a **Medium** value, as it not subject to any landscape designations, has limited scenic quality and although contains some long distance recreational routes, there are existing energy and industrial facilities which detract from the landscape. LCT: Incised Urban Fringe Valley is considered to have a **Medium** susceptibility to the type of changed proposed due to the existing energy, commercial and transport infrastructure, particularly in the vicinity of the site. As a result, LCT: Incised Urban Fringe Valley is considered to have a **Medium** sensitivity to proposed development on the site.

5.2.12. The Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment goes into more detail and identifies LCA 16: River Irwell and River Croal with a sensitivity score of Medium-High sensitivity to commercial/industrial development. The assessments explains in relation to a lower sensitivity score for this LCA:

“...They contain existing large development, such as electricity substations, water treatment works and industrial complexes, as well as being crossed by motorways, such as the M60, M66 and M67. The surrounding urban areas also have a strong influence, detracting from the rural qualities and naturalistic character of the valleys. This results in lower sensitivity judgements than the LCT as a whole.”

5.2.13. Key features of this LCA relevant to the site and setting include:

- ***“Areas of complex varying topography with steep valley sides, flatter valley floors and undulating land overlain by a pattern of small scale farming practices, rough wet pasture, woodland and water bodies.***
- ...
- ***Opportunities to access and enjoy the green corridors formed by the valleys via the strong public rights of way network, linking with adjacent urban areas and the elevated foothills beyond.***
- ...

- *Numerous long distance footpaths and cycle routes running through the valleys and along canals, including ... and Irwell Sculpture Trail.*
- *Wooded skylines defining the enclosed valley landscapes.*
- *..."*

5.2.14. Guidance and opportunities within this LCA include:

- *"...*
- *Utilise the screening effects of the tight valley topography and existing tree/woodland cover to integrate limited new development into the landscape.*
- *Protect and where possible enhance semi-natural habitats and networks including riparian, broadleaved and ancient woodland, wet grasslands, meadows and regenerating habitats on former industrial land.*
- *...*
- *Hedgerows should be preserved and enhanced where applicable the fill in gaps. New hedgerow planting should be encouraged where it has been removed and replaced by post and wire fencing.*
- *...*
- *Encourage woodland creation schemes on areas of low grade agricultural land*
- *Recreational opportunities should be maintained and enhanced in order to preserve the high recreational value of the valleys as green fingers through densely populated areas."*

5.2.15. LCA 16: River Irwell and River Croal is considered to have a **Medium** value, as it not subject to any landscape designations, has limited scenic quality and although contains some long distance recreational routes, there are existing energy and industrial facilities which detract from the landscape. LCA 16: River Irwell and River Croal is considered to have a **Low** susceptibility to the type of changed proposed due to the existing energy, commercial and transport infrastructure, particularly in the vicinity of the site. As a result, LCA 16: River Irwell and River Croal is considered to have a **Low** sensitivity to proposed development on the site.

Bury Landscape Character Assessment 2009 (**Ref.9**)

5.2.16. The site lies within 54/6 Encapsulated Flood Plains and identifies key features of the site and setting. The assessment notes the character area is recognised as forming part of

"...the strategic heart to the wildlife corridor within the borough",

5.2.17. It furthers identifies that woodland cover is strong and varied:

"Large areas of plantation woodland in Radcliffe area along river... small pockets of broad-leaved woodland throughout"

5.2.18. It describes the topography as:

"flat flood plain at around 80m above sea level"

5.2.19. The Bury Landscape Character Assessment (2009) provides a useful baseline understanding of the local landscape character, including topography, vegetation patterns, and visual context. However, given its age, the assessment is now over 15 years old and may not reflect more recent changes in land use, development pressures, or updated policy frameworks. As such, while the 2009 study offers relevant context, it is supplemented within this appraisal by more up-to-date sources, including the Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment (2018), which builds on earlier work and better aligns with current strategic planning considerations.

5.2.20. 54/6 Encapsulated Flood Plains is considered to have a **Medium** value, as it not subject to any landscape designations, has limited scenic quality and although contains some long distance recreational routes, there are existing energy and industrial facilities which detract from the landscape. 54/6 Encapsulated Flood Plains is considered to have a **Low** susceptibility to the type of changed proposed due to the existing energy, commercial and transport infrastructure, particularly in the vicinity of the site. As a result, 54/6 Encapsulated Flood Plains is considered to have a **Low** sensitivity to proposed development on the site.

5.2.21. The proposed development will not cause any direct effects upon these LCAs and LCTs, and the field study found that there was limited intervisibility between these LCAs and LCTs and the site and as such any effects upon them will be indirect landscape effects and any effects upon their character will be limited, so they will not be considered any further in this report.

5.1. Character of the site

5.1.1. The site is approximately 1.25ha in size and is formed by an irregular-shaped parcel of land situated within a green wedge between Radcliffe, Kearsley, and Outwood. As shown in **Figure 4: Site Appraisal Plan**, the site occupies a gently sloping area of land elevated at around 80m AOD. It is positioned on land that falls westward towards the River Irwell valley floor, with higher land to the east and north providing a degree of containment. The site itself occupies a mid-slope position between two shallow valleys, with landform rising to over 130m AOD to the east. The area in which the site lies is currently rural in character, consisting of pasture fields interspersed with mature hedgerows and woodland blocks.

5.1.2. The surrounding context includes agricultural land, woodland blocks such as Ringle Wood and Giants Seat Wood, and recreational landscapes associated with Outwood Country Park to the immediate east. Energy infrastructure and minor rural roads characterise land to the south and west. The River Irwell meanders along the western edge of the wider green

wedge, lined with mature vegetation that contributes to the wooded landscape character and sense of visual enclosure from wider urban influences.

- 5.1.3. Vehicular access to the site, as well as an emergency access point, is located off the A667, which connects to the wider road network serving Radcliffe and Kearsley.
- 5.1.4. The site is not subject to any natural heritage designations and does not contain any designated heritage assets or known cultural associations. The condition of the landscape within the site is moderate and appears to be managed primarily as pasture or rough grassland. While the site does form part of the wider green wedge and contributes to the general openness of the landscape, it makes only a limited contribution to strategic green infrastructure functions such as connectivity or recreation. The site is not subject to any statutory landscape designations, and while it lies within an area of open countryside, it does not contain irreplaceable landscape features and is only modestly integrated into the wider connected green infrastructure network.
- 5.1.5. As such, the site is not considered to be a valued landscape in terms of Box 5.1 of GLVIA3 (**Ref. 1**) and is therefore considered to have a medium to low landscape value.
- 5.1.6. The site is considered to have a medium susceptibility to the type of development proposed, namely BESS. Although there will be a clearly perceived change to the land use on the site, the proposed development would have limited direct effects on valued landscape features. Furthermore, mitigation and proposed green infrastructure would support visual integration, and the surrounding landform and vegetation limit the visual extent of the site from key viewpoints.
- 5.1.7. The site itself is therefore considered to have a **Medium** overall sensitivity to the type of change proposed.

5.2. Visual character

- 5.2.1. This section provides an understanding of the nature and extent of existing views towards the site and the surrounding area. Establishing a visual baseline involves identifying key visual receptors (people) within the study area and assessing how landform, vegetation, and built elements influence visibility.
- 5.2.2. The site is situated within a flat valley landscape, with gently rising land to the north and south. Visibility is largely restricted by mature hedgerows, riparian vegetation, and tree belts, which enclose agricultural field parcels and limit direct views. While foreground vegetation provides significant screening at close range, visibility at greater distances is influenced by topography and built elements, such as roads and settlement edges. The interaction between landform and vegetation creates a variable visual experience, where

the site is either fully screened, partially glimpsed, or visible through a filtered landscape composition.

- 5.2.3. A visual appraisal was undertaken to determine the extent of visibility, the relationship between the site and its surroundings, and key opportunities and constraints in relation to landscape character. The assessment considers how landform, vegetation cover, and built form collectively shape the extent and nature of views.
- 5.2.4. The baseline assessment is supported by **Appendix 1. Viewpoint Photographs**, which provide representative views towards the site from receptor locations identified in **Figure 5: Visual Appraisal Plan**. These viewpoints illustrate the extent of screening, the influence of intervening landform and vegetation, and how the site is perceived at varying distances.
- 5.2.5. **Viewpoint Photograph 1 & 2** (Public Rights of Way to the northwest) show that the site is only partially visible through breaks in vegetation, with intervening riparian woodland and field boundaries providing notable filtering. The site is largely screened by mature trees and hedgerows, though minor glimpses may occur where vegetation is less dense.
- 5.2.6. **Viewpoint Photograph 3, 4, & 5** represent close-range views from the Irwell Sculpture Trail and surrounding PRowS. These confirm that the site is perceptible but typically set against a backdrop of wooded slopes and industrial infrastructure. In **Viewpoint Photograph 3 & 4**, the proposed site lies behind or within existing tree belts, with limited openness due to surrounding woodland and the semi-rural context.
- 5.2.7. **Viewpoint Photographs 6 to 8**, particularly from the Ringley Road/A667 corridor, demonstrate how local topography and existing hedgerow vegetation restrict visibility. The development may be glimpsed through filtered views, especially in winter months, but would not form a dominant feature within the wider landscape context.
- 5.2.8. Long-distance views such as **Viewpoint Photograph 14 & 15** illustrate how the site occupies a recessive position in the landscape. In **Viewpoint Photograph 9** (Rotary Way Walking Route) and **Viewpoint Photograph 10** (Ringley Road), the development site is heavily filtered or obscured entirely. Woodland, hedgerows, and elevation changes effectively screen views. In **Viewpoint Photograph 13 to 15**, where the site is nearly 1km or more from the viewpoint, any potential visibility is limited to the upper portions of infrastructure, seen in the context of the wider wooded valley landscape and existing settlement edge.
- 5.2.9. In conclusion, visibility is highest in close-range locations to the west and southwest of the site, particularly along footpaths and the Irwell corridor. However, mature vegetation and undulating landform mean that views are often filtered or heavily screened. Visibility diminishes significantly with distance, with mid- and long-range views largely obscured. As

a result, the proposed development would not be widely visible, and where visible, it would be seen in the context of existing infrastructure, built form, or mature woodland.

Visual receptors at residential properties

Properties on Yew Tree (approximately 200m south-west of the site) identified as number 1 on Figure 4.

- 5.2.10. Views gained by visual receptors on Yew Tree are filtered by intervening vegetation and topography but may include oblique and partial views towards the site from upper storeys and garden areas.
- 5.2.11. Views gained by visual receptors at properties on Yew Tree are considered to have a **Medium** value due to the semi-rural location and partial visual connection to surrounding landscape. Visual receptors at these residential properties are considered to have a **High** susceptibility to the type of change proposed as views are from private dwellings and may be affected by perceived changes in rural character. As such, visual receptors at these residential properties are considered to have a **Medium-High** sensitivity to the type of change proposed.

Properties on Wood Street (approximately 300m south of the site) identified as number 2. on Figure 4.

- 5.2.12. Views gained by visual receptors on Wood Street are screened in part by boundary vegetation and landform, but limited filtered views may be possible towards the site, particularly during winter months.
- 5.2.13. Views gained by visual receptors at properties on Wood Street are considered to have a **Medium** value due to limited but possible views towards open landscape. Visual receptors at these residential properties are considered to have a **Medium** susceptibility to the type of change proposed, given intervening screening and existing infrastructure nearby. As such, visual receptors at these residential properties are considered to have a **Medium** sensitivity to the type of change proposed.

Properties on Greenside Farm, Milestone House and Higher Heaps Farm (approximately 450-700m south of the site) identified as number 3. on Figure 4.

- 5.2.14. These properties are situated along A667 Ringley Road West within a more open rural setting. Views towards the site are generally long-range and are likely to be filtered by hedgerows, local topography, and mature vegetation.
- 5.2.15. Views gained by visual receptors at these properties are considered to have a **Medium** value due to the open rural landscape character and limited intervisibility with the site. As places of residence, visual receptors are considered to have a **High** susceptibility to change.

As such, the visual receptors at these properties are considered to have a **Medium** sensitivity to the type of change proposed.

Properties south of Shore Top Farm (approximately 537m south-west of the site) identified as number 4. on Figure 4.

5.2.16. Views from properties south of Shore Top Farm are likely to be partially screened by existing farm buildings and vegetation, although upper floors may experience partial views across the valley landscape.

5.2.17. Views gained by visual receptors at these properties are considered to have a **Medium** value due to their open, edge-of-settlement context. Visual receptors are considered to have a **Medium-High** susceptibility to the type of change proposed, owing to their proximity and orientation. As such, visual receptors at these residential properties are considered to have a **Medium** sensitivity.

Properties on Shore Top Farm (approximately 500m west of the site) identified as number 5. on Figure 4.

5.2.18. Shore Top Farm lies in proximity to agricultural and built infrastructure. They are situated on slightly higher ground, and views towards the site are likely to be partially open, particularly from upper floors, with some tree cover reducing visibility at ground level.

5.2.19. Visual receptors at Shore Top Farm are considered to have a **Medium** value, reflecting the rural edge setting without formal designations. Given the close proximity and potential for partial visibility, receptors are considered to have a **High** susceptibility. As such, visual receptors at these properties are considered to have a **Medium-High** sensitivity to the type of change proposed.

Visual receptors on Public Rights of Way (PRoW)

5.2.20. There are a number of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and long-distance trails within the study area, providing varying degrees of visibility towards the site. The extent of views is influenced by topography, vegetation, and built form, resulting in a range of visual experiences from different receptor locations. The following assessment considers the sensitivity of visual receptors along key routes, as illustrated in Figures 4 and 5.

PRoW 4SS, approximately 390m to the north-west of the site.

5.2.21. This section of PRoW 4SS crosses agricultural fields and is bordered by hedgerows and intermittent trees. As shown in **Viewpoint Photograph 1**, the vegetation structure allows some filtered views towards the site, with the site forming a minor component of the view.

5.2.22. Views gained by the visual receptors using this stretch of the PRoW route are considered to have a Low value as it is not located within any landscape designations, but the area does have some cultural and historic associations. The susceptibility of visual receptors to change is considered to be **High** as the enjoyment of the landscape is likely to be a key focus of their enjoyment. As such, the overall sensitivity is **Medium**.

PRoW 5SS, approximately 240m north-west of the site.

5.2.23. This section of PRoW 5SS runs through gently undulating agricultural land with intermittent hedgerows and low vegetation. As shown in **Viewpoint Photograph 2**, there are partial views towards the site, primarily filtered through vegetation. The site appears in the context of farmland and existing infrastructure, such as farm buildings.

5.2.24. Views gained by the visual receptors using this stretch of the PRoW route are considered to have a **Low** value as it is not located within any landscape designations, but the area does have some cultural and historic associations. The susceptibility of visual receptors to change is considered to be **High** as the enjoyment of the landscape is likely to be a key focus of their enjoyment. As such, the overall sensitivity is **Medium**.

PRoW 7SS – Part of the Irwell Sculptural Trail, approximately 2m to the north and east of the site and passess through the site in areas.

5.2.25. This section of PRoW 7SS, which forms part of the Irwell Sculpture Trail, lies approximately 2m to the north and east of the site and passes through it in several areas. As illustrated in **Viewpoint Photographs 3 and 5**, the route is well-used and passes through a varied landscape of woodland, riparian vegetation, and open areas adjacent to the site. In several locations, the site is directly visible, particularly where vegetation is sparse or gaps exist in boundary planting.

5.2.26. Views gained by the visual receptors using this stretch of the PRoW route are considered to have a **Low** value as it is not located within any landscape designations, but the area does have some cultural and historic associations. The susceptibility of visual receptors to change is considered to be **High** as the enjoyment of the landscape is likely to be a key focus of their enjoyment. As such, the overall sensitivity is **Medium**.

PRoW 8SS, approximately 10m to the north-east of the site.

5.2.27. This section of PRoW 8SS lies approximately 10m to the north-east of the site and forms part of the broader network that links to PRoW 7SS and the Irwell Sculpture Trail. As illustrated in **Viewpoint Photograph 4**, the route passes the existing substation and continues through Outwood Country Park, following a corridor of woodland. The dense tree cover provides a high degree of visual screening, significantly limiting views towards the site and contributing to a sense of enclosure along this stretch of the route.

5.2.28. Views gained by the visual receptors using this stretch of the PRoW route are considered to have a **Low** value as it is not located within any landscape designations, but the area does have some cultural and historic associations. The susceptibility of visual receptors to change is considered to be **High** as the enjoyment of the landscape is likely to be a key focus of their enjoyment. As such, the overall sensitivity is **Medium**.

PRoW 9SS, passes through the site in the southern area.

5.2.29. This section of PRoW 9SS passes directly through the southern part of the site, crossing an open field margin adjacent to the River Irwell. As shown in **Viewpoint Photographs 6, 7, and 8**, the footpath runs along the edge of the riparian corridor, with views towards the core of the site partially filtered by low vegetation and intermittent trees. The openness of the southern field allows for clearer views into the site, particularly where boundary vegetation is sparse. The surrounding landscape is characterised by a semi-rural setting, with overhead power lines and nearby farm infrastructure forming part of the visual context.

5.2.30. Views gained by the visual receptors using this stretch of the PRoW route are considered to have a **Low** value as it is not located within any landscape designations, but the area does have some cultural and historic associations. The susceptibility of visual receptors to change is considered to be **High** as the enjoyment of the landscape is likely to be a key focus of their enjoyment. As such, the overall sensitivity is **Medium**.

PRoW KER027, approximately 181m to the south-west of the site.

5.2.31. This section of PRoW KER027 is located approximately 181m to the south-west of the site and crosses open agricultural land with a generally flat to gently undulating landform. As shown in **Viewpoint Photograph 9**, the route provides intermittent views towards the site across the intervening fields. While some screening is provided by hedgerows and scattered trees along field boundaries, there are sections where the site is visible, particularly where gaps in vegetation occur. The route is typical of a rural edge setting, with distant views occasionally influenced by pylons and other infrastructure elements within the wider landscape.

5.2.32. Views gained by the visual receptors using this stretch of the PRoW route are considered to have a **Low** value as it is not located within any landscape designations, but the area does have some cultural and historic associations. The susceptibility of visual receptors to change is considered to be **High** as the enjoyment of the landscape is likely to be a key focus of their enjoyment. As such, the overall sensitivity is **Medium**.

PRoW 4SS, approximately 500m to the west of the site.

- 5.2.33. This section of PRoW 4SS is located approximately 500m to the west of the site and runs along a hedged field boundary with views across open farmland. As shown in **Viewpoint Photograph 11**, the view towards the site is partially filtered by intervening vegetation, including field boundary hedgerows and scattered trees. However, there are open stretches along the route where the elevated position offers glimpses of the site within a wider rural context, particularly in relation to nearby infrastructure such as power lines. The setting retains a predominantly agricultural character with limited urban intrusion.
- 5.2.34. Views gained by the visual receptors using this stretch of the PRoW route are considered to have a **Low** value as it is not located within any landscape designations, but the area does have some cultural and historic associations. The susceptibility of visual receptors to change is considered to be **High** as the enjoyment of the landscape is likely to be a key focus of their enjoyment. As such, the overall sensitivity is **Medium**.

PRoW 3SS, approximately 470m to the north-west of the site.

- 5.2.35. This section of PRoW 3SS is located approximately 470m to the north-west of the site. It runs along a rural footpath enclosed by hedgerows and field margins, passing through gently undulating farmland. As illustrated in **Viewpoint Photograph 12**, views towards the site are heavily filtered by intervening vegetation, including dense hedgerows and mature trees. The site does not form a prominent element in the view, and visibility is further diminished by landform and the layering effect of surrounding vegetation. The landscape here retains a quiet, rural character with a high degree of enclosure.
- 5.2.36. Views gained by the visual receptors using this stretch of the PRoW route are considered to have a **Low** value as it is not located within any landscape designations, but the area does have some cultural and historic associations. The susceptibility of visual receptors to change is considered to be **High** as the enjoyment of the landscape is likely to be a key focus of their enjoyment. As such, the overall sensitivity is **Medium**.

PRoW 2SS, approximately 970m to the west of the site.

- 5.2.37. This section of PRoW 2SS is located approximately 970m to the west of the site. It follows a hedged rural track across open agricultural land. As shown in **Viewpoint Photograph 13**, views are expansive in this area, although the site itself is largely obscured by intervening woodland and landform. The character of the route is rural and tranquil, offering open views of farmland and distant tree-lined ridgelines, with limited visual connection to the site due to screening vegetation in the intervening landscape.
- 5.2.38. Views gained by the visual receptors using this stretch of the PRoW route are considered to have a **Low** value as it is not located within any landscape designations, but the area

does have some cultural and historic associations. The susceptibility of visual receptors to change is considered to be **High** as the enjoyment of the landscape is likely to be a key focus of their enjoyment. As such, the overall sensitivity is **Medium**.

PRoW 5ST, approximately 1.2km to the north-west of the site.

5.2.39. This section of PRoW 5ST is located approximately 1.2km to the north-west of the site. As shown in **Viewpoint Photograph 14**, it passes through open countryside interspersed with farmsteads and areas of woodland. The site is not prominently visible from this location due to the combination of distance, intervening topography, and mature vegetation. Views are generally rural in character, with a strong sense of openness and tranquillity.

5.2.40. Views gained by the visual receptors using this stretch of the PRoW route are considered to have a **Low** value as it is not located within any landscape designations, but the area does have some cultural and historic associations. The susceptibility of visual receptors to change is considered to be **High** as the enjoyment of the landscape is likely to be a key focus of their enjoyment. As such, the overall sensitivity is **Medium**.

PRoW 7ST, approximately 830m to the north-west of the site.

5.2.41. This section of PRoW 7ST is located approximately 830m to the north-west of the site and passes through gently undulating farmland interspersed with hedgerows and mature trees. As illustrated in **Viewpoint Photograph 15**, the elevated landform in this area allows for long-distance views across the valley. The site may form a small, indistinct component of the view, partially filtered by intervening vegetation and landform.

5.2.42. Views gained by the visual receptors using this stretch of the PRoW route are considered to have a **Low** value as it is not located within any landscape designations, but the area does have some cultural and historic associations. The susceptibility of visual receptors to change is considered to be **High** as the enjoyment of the landscape is likely to be a key focus of their enjoyment. As such, the overall sensitivity is **Medium**.

Visual receptors on public highways

From the A667 Ringley Road West, adjoining the sites southern boundary.

5.2.43. Views gained by users of the public highway from the A667 (Ringley Road West), which adjoins the southern boundary of the site, are intermittent due to roadside vegetation, including hedgerows and mature trees. As shown in **Viewpoint Photograph 10**, views are fleeting, filtered, and largely experienced in motion. Where visibility opens up, users may gain glimpsed views across the valley, with parts of the site discernible behind intervening vegetation. However, built and infrastructural elements nearby already influence the character of these views.

5.2.44. Views gained by users of this public highway are considered to have a **Low** value, as the primary purpose of the route is transport rather than landscape appreciation. The susceptibility to change is **Low**, as motorists may be less sensitive to alterations in the landscape, although some users such as cyclists or pedestrians may be more aware of visual change. Therefore, the overall sensitivity is considered to be **Low**.

Local Roads to the west of the site (within 300m)

5.2.45. Views from local roads are expected to be limited, as the site is not directly adjacent to the carriageway and is visually separated by a network of mature vegetation. This intervening vegetation, along with variations in landform and built form, provides natural screening, restricting the extent to which the proposed development would be perceived by road users

5.2.46. Views gained by the visual receptors using this stretch of the road are considered to have a **Low** value as it is located within an undesignated area with limited cultural associations. The susceptibility of visual receptors to change is considered to be **Low** as the enjoyment of the landscape is likely to be a secondary focus of their enjoyment. As such, the overall sensitivity is **Low**.

6. Design rational

6.1. Landscape strategy

6.1.1. The proposed Radcliffe Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) has been designed to integrate sensitively with its local landscape context. As illustrated in **Figure 6: Landscape Masterplan**, the landscape approach seeks to mitigate visual effects, enhance the ecological value of the site, and ensure the development responds positively to the LCT: Incised Urban Fringe Valley character.

6.1.2. The key objectives of the landscape strategy are:

- **Retention and enhancement of existing vegetation:** The mature trees and vegetation within and around the site are to be retained where possible and supplemented with new planting to strengthen the site's green framework.
- **Visual screening:** Proposed hedgerow with trees will be planted around the perimeter, designed to grow to a minimum height of 3 metres to provide long-term visual screening, particularly from nearby receptors and public rights of way.
- **Ecological enhancement:** Integration of wildflower-rich grassland mix, supporting biodiversity and complementing the site's existing habitat network.
- **Integration with local landscape:** The development respects existing topography and aligns with the rural edge character by using naturalistic planting and avoiding unnecessary hard landscaping beyond the required access and infrastructure areas.
- **Minimal disruption to access:** Existing footpaths and public rights of way are unaffected by the proposed layout, ensuring continuity in public access and landscape permeability.

6.1.3. The landscape design directly responds to findings of the Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) and aligns with the recommendations of the Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment (2018) for the Incised Urban Fringe Valley LCT. Key components include:

- **Peripheral hedgerow planting with trees,** forming a robust boundary that helps screen and soften the development in medium- and long-range views.
- **Retention of internal trees and vegetation,** reinforcing landscape structure and promoting ecological continuity.
- **Low-profile built elements,** with the proposed infrastructure remaining subservient to the surrounding landscape pattern and screened from key visual receptors.
- **Use of grassland species suited to the local setting,** enhancing ecological functionality while reflecting rural character.

- 6.1.4. The landscape proposals reflect best practice guidance and the principles of sustainable landscape design, creating a scheme that is respectful of landscape character, visually contained, and ecologically positive. Over time, the proposed planting will strengthen the rural character of the site and help integrate the development within its Incised Urban Fringe Valley setting.
- 6.1.5. In response to local planning policy, including Policy EN6/4 (Wildlife Links and Corridors) and Policy OL5/2 (Development in River Valleys), the landscape design has also been developed to support the ecological functionality of the adjacent wildlife corridor and river valley. The red line boundary overlaps with these designations, and the majority of the site lies immediately adjacent to them. The proposed landscape strategy enhances the structural connectivity of habitats by incorporating native hedgerows, trees and species-rich grassland, which contribute to movement corridors for wildlife, and furthers the aspirations of the policy by supporting additional habitat connectivity. The siting of infrastructure avoids unnecessary intrusion into ecologically sensitive areas, and planting is positioned to buffer the corridor and promote habitat continuity. The scheme therefore contributes to the effectiveness of the wildlife corridor through considered design, sensitive siting and ecological enhancement measures.

7. Appraisal of effects

7.1. Landscape appraisal

Construction and decommissioning phase landscape effects

- 7.1.1. Construction and decommissioning activities are anticipated to occur over a relatively short period (approximately 6 to 9 months) and are therefore not considered likely to result in significant long-term landscape effects. Activities will be limited in height and extent and will take place within the existing landscape pattern. However, it is acknowledged that the introduction of a temporary access from Wood Street, including the crossing of grassed fields and a Public Right of Way, may result in localised and perceptible changes to the landscape during the construction period. These effects are expected to be temporary and reversible. Upon completion of the works, affected grassed areas will be reinstated and re-seeded to restore the existing landscape condition and minimise residual effects.

Operational phase landscape effects

Effects on National landscape character

- 7.1.2. **Year 1** – The proposed development will occupy a very small part of the large scale NCA 54 Manchester Pennine Fringe. The landscape scale of effect is considered to be **Limited** as although the physical components of the site will be altered, the proposed development will be contained to a very small area of the NCA. The landscape duration and reversibility of the proposed development is considered to be **Long**. As such the magnitude of effect is considered to be **Very Small**.
- 7.1.3. The proposed development will not alter any of the characteristic elements of the NCA [54 Manchester Pennine Fringe, due to its limited scale of influence but it will provide limited enhancement to a very small part of the NCA through the proposed landscape strategy identified on **Figure 6. Landscape Masterplan**. The proposed development will not result in any fundamental changes to the key characteristics of the NCA on balance is considered to be **Neutral**. As such, the significance of effect is considered to be **Negligible Neutral** for the **Medium** sensitivity of the NCA.
- 7.1.4. **Residual effects** -The proposed development will occupy a very small part of the large scale NCA 54 Manchester Pennine Fringe. The landscape scale of effect is considered to be **Limited**, as such although the physical components of the site will be altered, the proposed development will be contained to a very small area of the NCA. The landscape duration and reversibility of the proposed development is considered to be **Long**. As such, the magnitude of effect is considered to be **Very Small**.

- 7.1.5. The proposed development will not alter any of the characteristic elements of the NCA 54 Manchester Pennine Fringe, due to its limited scale of influence but will provide limited enhancements to a very small part of the NCA as the proposed landscape strategy matures. The proposed development will not result in any fundamental changes to the key characteristics of the NCA and on balance is considered to be **Neutral**. As such the significance of effect is considered to be **Negligible Neutral** for the **Medium** sensitivity of the NCA.

Effects on County landscape character

- 7.1.6. **Year 1** – The proposed development will occupy a very small area of land, currently comprising agricultural pasture and open storage, within the LCT: Incised Urban Fringe Valley and LCA 16: River Irwell and River Croal. The site will accommodate battery energy storage infrastructure, with existing hedgerows and tree cover retained where possible. New woodland planting and hedgerows with occasional trees, to be maintained at a minimum height of 3 metres, will be introduced along the northern and eastern boundaries to enhance enclosure and screen views. The scale of landscape change is considered to be **Limited** and localised, as the development will affect only a minor portion of the LCA. The landscape strategy aligns with the recommendations for enhancement in the Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment (2018), particularly in relation to strengthening woodland connectivity, supporting green infrastructure, and integrating development within existing vegetation patterns. The proposed development will sit within a context of existing utility infrastructure and urban fringe uses. The perceptible change to the LCA will be **Medium**, but reversible and confined to a very small area.
- 7.1.7. The magnitude of effect for the proposed development is considered to be **Very Small**, as it will not result in any major changes to the structure or fabric of the LCT or LCA. Landscape enhancements delivered as part of the strategy – including new hedgerows, and tree planting – will reduce the visibility and influence of the proposed development over time. On balance, the development will represent an **Adverse** alteration to the **Medium-High** sensitivity of LCA 16: River Irwell and River Croal. As such, the proposed development will have a **Minor Adverse** effect upon the LCA.
- 7.1.8. **Residual effects** – The proposed development will replace land that has been partially used for informal outdoor storage with a battery energy storage system that will be enclosed and integrated into the existing character of the Incised Urban Fringe Valley LCT and LCA 16: River Irwell and River Croal. It will not fundamentally alter the key characteristics of the LCA, which already includes existing energy infrastructure, tree belts, and recreational corridors. The scale of change will remain **Limited** and localised, with new hedgerow with trees planting on the western and southern boundaries designed to reflect the typical vegetation structure of the LCA.

- 7.1.9. The maturing landscape enhancements will enable the proposed development to assimilate into the surrounding landscape character, which already includes a diverse mix of infrastructure, agricultural land, and recreational access. The use of 3m-high hedgerows with trees will support long-term visual screening and habitat connectivity. The site will result in a barely perceptible change to the wider valley landscape, in keeping with the varied and transitional qualities found in this part of LCA 16. The duration of effects will be long, but reversible following decommissioning.
- 7.1.10. The magnitude of effect is considered to remain **Very Small**, as the defining characteristics, structure and fabric of the wider LCA will not be significantly altered. The presence of new hedgerow and woodland planting will reduce visibility and support the landscape's ecological and visual functions. On balance, the proposed development will result in a **Minor Adverse** effect on the **Medium–High** sensitivity LCA 16: River Irwell and River Croal. The effect will be long-term but reversible following decommissioning.

Effects on landscape character of the site

- 7.1.11. **Year 1** – The proposed development will alter the area from previously open pastoral fields of moderate condition and unmanaged grassland into an area of battery energy storage infrastructure, where new built elements will be set within the context of existing hedgerow field boundaries and rural infrastructure. The delivery of the landscape strategy — including the retention and strengthening of hedgerows and the introduction of new hedgerows with hedgerow trees — will facilitate the assimilation of the proposed development into the existing landscape framework.
- 7.1.12. The scale of landscape change is considered to be **Modest**, as the development will occupy a large proportion of the site but will not fundamentally alter the key characteristics of the site or surrounding landscape. The duration of the development is considered to be **Medium**, reflecting its extended temporary nature (up to 40 years), and the development is considered to be reversible through decommissioning and reinstatement of the land.
- 7.1.13. The magnitude of effect is therefore considered to be **Small**, as the proposed development will result in a perceptible but localised change to the existing landscape structure and character. On balance, the proposed development will result in an **Adverse** alteration to a site of **Medium** sensitivity. As such, the development will result in a **Minor Adverse** effect on the character of the site.
- 7.1.14. **Residual effects** – As the landscape strategy matures, the level of enclosure afforded by the new hedgerows and hedgerow trees will increase, helping to filter and screen views of the development and enhance integration with the wider landscape character. Over time, the proposed development will sit within a reinforced green framework that aligns with local landscape patterns and enhances boundary structure. The duration of the effect is

considered to remain **Medium**, and the development will remain reversible following decommissioning.

- 7.1.15. The magnitude of effect for the proposed development is therefore considered to be **Small**. On balance, the proposed development will result in an **Adverse** alteration to the site, which is considered to have a **Medium** sensitivity. As such, the proposed development will remain a **Minor Adverse** significance of effect on the character of the site itself.

7.2. Visual appraisal

Construction and decommissioning phase visual effects

- 7.2.1. Visual effects during the construction and decommissioning phases are anticipated to be limited in extent and duration, with activity largely contained within the site and occurring at a low level. However, the introduction of a temporary access from Wood Street, including the crossing of open grassed fields and a Public Right of Way, may result in localised visual disruption for nearby receptors, particularly users of the PROW network who may experience increased visibility of movement, equipment and materials during these phases. These effects are expected to be temporary and reversible. Following completion of the works, the affected grassed areas will be reinstated and re-seeded, helping to restore the existing visual character and reduce any residual effects.

Operational phase visual effects

Visual receptors at residential properties

Properties on Yew Tree (approximately 200m south-west of the site) identified as number 1 on Figure 4.

- 7.2.2. **Year 1** – The proposed development is anticipated to be partially visible in glimpsed or oblique views from upper floors and garden areas of some properties, filtered by existing vegetation and the gently undulating landform. The proposed infrastructure, including battery units and fencing, may be discernible above existing boundary vegetation in winter months or where there are gaps in tree cover, resulting in a **Modest** scale of effect with a **Medium** duration. This will give rise to a **Small** magnitude of effect. As such, the proposed development will cause a **Minor-Moderate Adverse** effect upon the **Medium-High** sensitivity receptors.
- 7.2.3. **Residual effects** – As the landscape scheme for the proposed development matures, particularly the hedgerows and hedgerow trees planted along the eastern boundary, it will provide enhanced screening for the visible components of the proposed development. The effects upon the **Medium-High** sensitivity visual receptors will remain **Minor-Moderate Adverse**.

Properties on Wood Street (approximately 300m south of the site) identified as number 2. on Figure 4.

- 7.2.4. **Year 1** – The proposed development is anticipated to be largely screened by intervening vegetation and local topography, with limited potential for filtered views during winter months from upper storeys. The presence of existing boundary planting and the character of the surrounding landscape will help to reduce the visibility of the proposed infrastructure. This will cause a **Modest** scale of effect with a **Medium** duration. This will give rise to a **Small** magnitude of effect. As such, the proposed development will cause a **Minor Adverse** visual effect upon the **Medium** sensitivity receptors.
- 7.2.5. **Residual effects** - As the landscape scheme for the proposed development matures, the screening effect of hedgerow planting and hedgerow trees will increase. The effects upon the **Medium** sensitivity visual receptors will remain **Minor Adverse**.

Properties on Greenside Farm, Milestone House and Higher Heaps Farm (approximately 450-700m south of the site) identified as number 3. on Figure 4.

- 7.2.6. **Year 1** – The proposed development is anticipated to be largely filtered by intervening topography, hedgerows, and mature vegetation. From these locations, the site forms a minor and distant component of the overall view, particularly at Greenside Farm and Milestone House. The visibility is likely to be further reduced by tree cover along the valley slopes. This will cause a **Compact** scale of effect with a **Medium** duration. This will give rise to a **Very Small** magnitude of effect. As such, the proposed development will cause a **Negligible Adverse** effect upon the **Medium** sensitivity receptors..
- 7.2.7. **Residual effects** - As the landscape scheme for the proposed development matures, hedgerow and tree planting will enhance visual containment and integration with the surrounding rural context. The effects upon the **Medium** sensitivity visual receptors will reduce but are expected to remain **Negligible Adverse** over the operational period.

Properties south of Shore Top Farm (approximately 537m south-west of the site) identified as number 4. on Figure 4.

- 7.2.8. **Year 1** – The proposed development is anticipated to be partially visible from upper storeys of nearby properties, with some screening provided by existing buildings, vegetation, and local topography. The filtered views will be intermittent, and the site will form only a modest component in the wider landscape setting. This will cause a **Compact** scale of effect with a **Medium** duration. This will give rise to a **Very Small** magnitude of effect. As such, the proposed development will cause a **Negligible Adverse** effect upon the **Medium** sensitivity receptors.

- 7.2.9. **Residual effects** - As the landscape scheme for the proposed development matures, additional hedgerow and tree planting will enhance visual screening and assist in assimilating the development into the surrounding landscape. The effects upon the **Medium** sensitivity visual receptors will remain **Negligible Adverse**.

Properties on Shore Top Farm (approximately 500m west of the site) identified as number 5. on Figure 4.

- 7.2.10. **Year 1** – The proposed development is anticipated to be partially visible from upper floors of properties at Shore Top Farm due to the site's slightly lower elevation and proximity. Intervening tree cover and vegetation will limit visibility at ground level. The filtered nature of these views, combined with the presence of existing energy infrastructure nearby, will reduce the development's prominence. This will cause a **Compact** scale of effect with a **Medium** duration. This will give rise to a **Very Small** magnitude of effect. As such, the proposed development will cause a **Minor-Negligible Adverse** effect upon the **Medium-High** sensitivity receptors.
- 7.2.11. **Residual effects** - As the landscape scheme for the proposed development matures, additional hedgerow and hedgerow tree planting will strengthen screening, particularly from mid-distance views. The effects upon the **Medium-High** sensitivity visual receptors will **Minor-Negligible Adverse**.

Visual receptors on Public Rights of Way

PRoW 4SS, approximately 390m to the north-west of the site.

- 7.2.12. **Year 1** - The proposed development will be partially visible from this section of the PRoW, as shown in Site Context Photograph 1. Views are filtered by hedgerows and intervening trees, with the site forming a minor component in the wider landscape view. The presence of existing vegetation and distance reduces the prominence of the proposed development. The proposed development will result in a **Compact** scale of effect with a **Medium** duration. This will give rise to a **Very Small** magnitude of effect. As such, the proposed development will cause a **Minor Adverse** effect upon the **High sensitivity** receptors.
- 7.2.13. **Residual effects** – As the landscape scheme for the proposed development matures, the screening effect of hedgerow planting and hedgerow trees will increase, further reducing visibility. The effects upon the **High sensitivity** visual receptors will remain **Minor Adverse**.

PRoW 5SS, approximately 240m north-west of the site.

- 7.2.1. **Year 1** - The proposed development will be partially visible from this section of PRoW 5SS, particularly from more open areas where vegetation is intermittent. As shown in Site Context Photograph 2, visibility is influenced by intervening hedgerows and local landform,

with some filtered and glimpsed views likely, especially in winter months. The development will be experienced in the context of existing energy infrastructure, diminishing contrast. The proposed development will cause a **Modest** scale of effect with a **Medium** duration. This will give rise to a **Small** magnitude of effect. As such, the proposed development will cause a **Moderate Adverse** effect upon the **High** sensitivity receptors.

- 7.2.2. **Residual effects** - As the landscape scheme for the proposed development matures, the hedgerow planting and hedgerow trees will provide additional screening and help visually integrate the development. The effects upon the **High** sensitivity visual receptors will reduce to **Minor-Negligible Adverse**.

PRoW 7SS – Part of the Irwell Sculpture Trail, to the north and east of the site and passes through the site in areas.

- 7.2.3. **Year 1**- The proposed development will be visible from sections of this PRoW as it passes immediately adjacent to, and through, parts of the site. As shown in Site Context Photographs 3 and 5, views are often direct and close-range, with limited intervening screening in some areas. The presence of existing infrastructure provides some visual context, though the new development will introduce a noticeable change in land use. The proposed development will cause an **Ample** scale of effect with a **Medium** duration. This will give rise to a **Medium** magnitude of effect. As such, the proposed development will cause a **Moderate Adverse** effect upon the **High** sensitivity receptors.
- 7.2.4. **Residual effects** - As the landscape scheme for the proposed development matures, particularly hedgerow and hedgerow tree planting on the site's boundaries, visual integration will improve. However, due to the proximity of the PRoW to the development, the effects upon the **High** sensitivity visual receptors will remain **Moderate Adverse**.

PRoW 8SS, approximately 10m to the north-east of the site.

- 7.2.5. **Year 1**- The proposed development will be partially visible from this section of PRoW 8SS where the route passes close to the site boundary and the existing substation. As shown in Site Context Photograph 4, the route runs through Outwood Country Park and is generally well screened by mature woodland and tree cover, although there may be occasional glimpsed views where vegetation is less dense. The proposed development will be experienced alongside existing energy infrastructure, which reduces its contrast within the wider view. The proposed development will cause a **Modest** scale of effect with a **Medium** duration. This will give rise to a **Small** magnitude of effect. As such, the proposed development will cause a **Moderate Adverse** effect upon the **High** sensitivity receptors.

- 7.2.6. **Residual effects** - As the hedgerow and hedgerow tree planting associated with the proposed development matures, it will further reduce visibility from this route. The effects upon the **High** sensitivity visual receptors will remain **Moderate Adverse**.

PRoW 9SS, passes through the southern area of the site.

- 7.2.7. **Year 1**- The proposed development will be clearly visible from this PRoW as it passes directly through the southern part of the site. As shown in Site Context Photographs 6, 7 and 8, users will experience close-range, direct views of the development. The limited screening and proximity to site infrastructure will result in a noticeable change in the immediate visual environment. The proposed development will cause a **Ample** scale of effect with a **Medium** duration. This will give rise to a **Medium** magnitude of effect. As such, the proposed development will cause a **Moderate Adverse** effect upon the **High** sensitivity receptors.

- 7.2.8. **Residual effects** - As the landscape scheme matures, new hedgerow and tree planting along the site boundaries and access route will provide improved containment of views. However, due to the proximity and direct alignment of the PRoW through the site, the effects upon the **High** sensitivity visual receptors will remain **Moderate Adverse**.

PRoW KER027, approximately 181m to the south-west of the site.

- 7.2.9. **Year 1**- The proposed development will be partially visible from this section of PRoW KER027 due to the proximity and localised gaps in vegetation. As shown in Site Context Photograph 9, intervening hedgerows and trees provide some screening, though glimpsed and filtered views of the development may still occur, particularly during winter months. The proposed development will be viewed in the context of existing farm buildings and rural infrastructure, which reduces contrast. The proposed development will cause a **Modest** scale of effect with a **Medium** duration. This will give rise to a **Small** magnitude of effect. As such, the proposed development will cause a **Moderate Adverse** effect upon the **High** sensitivity receptors.

- 7.2.10. **Residual effects** - As the landscape scheme for the proposed development matures, hedgerow planting and hedgerow trees will provide additional screening, further softening the visual presence of the development. The effects upon the **High** sensitivity visual receptors will remain **Moderate Adverse**.

PRoW 4SS, approximately 500m to the west of the site.

- 7.2.11. **Year 1**- The proposed development will be partially visible from this section of PRoW 4SS due to a relatively open field structure and limited screening vegetation along certain stretches. As shown in Site Context Photograph 11, the development may be perceived at a distance within the valley setting, though visibility is filtered by existing hedgerows and

field boundary vegetation. The proposed development will cause a **Modest** scale of effect with a **Medium** duration. This will give rise to a **Small** magnitude of effect. As such, the proposed development will cause a **Moderate Adverse** effect upon the **High** sensitivity receptors.

- 7.2.12. **Residual effects** - As the landscape scheme for the proposed development matures, additional hedgerow planting will improve screening and integration of the development into the surrounding landscape. The effects upon the **High** sensitivity visual receptors will reduce to **Minor Adverse**.

PRoW 3SS, approximately 470m to the north-west of the site.

- 7.2.13. **Year 1** - The proposed development will be intermittently visible from this section of PRoW 3SS, primarily where vegetation is less dense and views open across the gently undulating landform. As illustrated in Site Context Photograph 12, views are generally filtered by intervening hedgerows, but glimpsed elements of the development may be perceived, particularly from elevated points. The proposed development will cause a **Modest** scale of effect with a **Medium** duration. This will give rise to a **Small** magnitude of effect. As such, the proposed development will cause a **Moderate Adverse** effect upon the **High** sensitivity receptors.

- 7.2.14. **Residual effects** - As the landscape scheme for the proposed development matures, increased hedgerow structure and hedgerow tree growth will reinforce visual screening and reduce perceptibility of the development. The effects upon the **High** sensitivity visual receptors will remain **Moderate Adverse**.

PRoW 2SS, approximately 970m to the west of the site.

- 7.2.15. **Year 1** - The proposed development will be visible only as a distant component in views from this section of PRoW 2SS. At this distance, the site forms a small and indistinct element in the wider rural valley landscape. As shown in Site Context Photograph 13, intervening vegetation and landform, as well as existing infrastructure, further reduce the clarity and prominence of the proposed development. The proposed development will cause a **Compact** scale of effect with a **Medium** duration. This will give rise to a **Very Small** magnitude of effect. As such, the proposed development will cause a **Minor Neutral** effect upon the **High** sensitivity receptors.

- 7.2.16. **Residual effects** - As the landscape scheme for the proposed development matures, the additional hedgerow planting will provide further integration into the landscape, though at this distance, effects are already minimal. The effects upon the **High** sensitivity visual receptors will remain **Minor Neutral**.

PRoW 5ST, approximately 1.2km to the north-west of the site.

- 7.2.17. **Year 1** - At this distance, views towards the proposed development from PRoW 5ST are very limited. As shown in Site Context Photograph 14, the combination of intervening vegetation, varied topography, and the presence of existing infrastructure reduces visibility. Where visible, the development is likely to appear as a minor and distant component in the broader valley landscape. The proposed development will cause a **Limited** scale of effect with a **Medium** duration. This will give rise to a **Very Small** magnitude of effect. As such, the proposed development will cause a **Minor Neutral** effect upon the **High** sensitivity receptors.
- 7.2.18. **Residual effects** - As the proposed hedgerow planting matures, it will further soften the appearance of the development in long-range views. The effects upon the **High** sensitivity visual receptors will remain **Minor Neutral**.

PRoW 7ST, approximately 830m to the north-west of the site.

- 7.2.19. **Year 1** - The proposed development may be partially visible from elevated sections of PRoW 7ST, although views will be filtered by woodland blocks, mature vegetation, and undulating topography, as illustrated in Site Context Photograph 15. At this distance, any visibility will be minor in scale and experienced in the context of surrounding infrastructure and agricultural land. The proposed development will cause a **Compact** scale of effect with a **Medium** duration. This will give rise to a **Very Small** magnitude of effect. As such, the proposed development will cause a **Minor Adverse** effect upon the **High** sensitivity receptors.
- 7.2.20. **Residual effects** - As the landscape planting matures, it will enhance screening and further reduce the prominence of the proposed development in views from this location. The effects upon the **High** sensitivity visual receptors will remain **Minor Adverse**.

Visual receptors on public highways

From the A667 Ringley Road West, adjoining the sites southern boundary.

- 7.2.21. **Year 1** – The development will be partially visible from sections of the A667 where roadside vegetation is less dense. However, intervening hedgerows, existing topography, and peripheral vegetation will limit open views, with visibility mostly confined to fleeting glimpses when passing the site. The limited and transient visibility of the proposed development will cause a **Compact** scale of effect with a **Medium** duration. This will give rise to a **Very Small** magnitude of effect. As such, the proposed development will cause a **Negligible Neutral** effect upon the **Low** sensitivity receptors.

7.2.22. **Residual effects** - As the landscape scheme for the proposed development matures, additional hedgerow planting will enhance screening along the site boundary, further reducing visibility from the road. The effects upon the **Low** sensitivity visual receptors will remain **Negligible Neutral**.

Local Roads to the west of the site (within 300m)

7.2.23. **Year 1** – The development will be partially perceptible from local rural roads to the west of the site, particularly where roadside vegetation and field boundaries are lower or more fragmented. However, views will typically be filtered or interrupted by hedgerows, tree belts, and rolling landform. The transient nature of views, combined with the scale and location of the development, means visibility will be limited. The proposed development will cause a **Compact** scale of effect with a **Medium** duration. This will give rise to a **Very Small** magnitude of effect. As such, the proposed development will cause a **Negligible Neutral** effect upon the **Low** sensitivity receptors.

7.2.24. **Residual effects** - As the landscape scheme for the proposed development matures, the enhanced boundary vegetation will provide additional screening and increase visual integration of the development. The effects upon the **Low** sensitivity visual receptors will remain **Negligible Neutral**.

8. Openness

- 8.1.1. The application site lies within the designated Greater Manchester Green Belt. In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2025), consideration has been given to the potential effects of the proposed development on the openness of the Green Belt and whether the proposal conflicts with the five purposes of including land within it (Paragraph 143).
- 8.1.2. While the site is physically open in that it is currently undeveloped in terms of built form, it does not display characteristics of a wholly open or rural landscape. The site is visually contained by existing vegetation, including mature woodland blocks, field boundaries, and tree belts associated with Outwood Country Park to the north and east. While the site is open to some extent in views from the south and west, these are experienced in the context of existing energy infrastructure, including pylons and substations, and are filtered by surrounding woodland. The site is not located at a settlement edge, and views from the north and east are heavily screened by intervening vegetation. As such, the site does not contribute significantly to a perception of openness in long-range views from key receptors.
- 8.1.3. Due to this established containment, the site does not make a significant contribution to visual openness in the wider landscape. Views across or through the site are limited, and it does not facilitate an appreciation of rural openness, landscape pattern, or visual continuity between areas of built development. These findings are supported by the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) analysis and field observations recorded during the winter survey, when screening vegetation was not in leaf.
- 8.1.4. The proposed development, comprising low-height battery containers and associated infrastructure (maximum height c.2.8–3.0m), would be partially screened by retained vegetation and additional planting proposed as part of the landscape strategy. The relatively modest scale of development and its location within an already enclosed landscape setting would limit its influence on the perceived openness of the Green Belt. The proposals have been designed to sit within existing field boundaries, avoiding physical or visual encroachment into the surrounding open countryside.
- 8.1.5. There are no clear or continuous views across the site to the wider landscape from the west and south due to the containment provided by intervening vegetation. Viewpoints 3, 4 and 5 provide views across the site and towards the wider landscape, but these are experienced in the context of existing infrastructure and development, including adjacent energy infrastructure. While some openness is perceived in these views, it is limited and influenced by the semi-enclosed and already modified character of the site's setting.

- 8.1.6. Mitigation planting will help to integrate the development into the landscape of Outwood Country Park, in a manner similar to the existing electrical substation located to the north of the site.
- 8.1.7. In terms of the purposes of the Green Belt (as outlined in Paragraph 143 of the NPPF), the site does not play a key role in preventing urban sprawl, safeguarding the countryside from encroachment, or preserving separation between towns. The surrounding context is characterised by a mosaic of green infrastructure, woodland and utilities infrastructure. As such, the development would not contribute to coalescence of settlements or impact any historic town setting.
- 8.1.8. The proposed development is not considered to result in significant harm to the openness of the Green Belt as it will simply represent a foreshortening of perceived openness, where the existing woodland adjacent to the site boundary represents the existing extent of perceptual openness. Where minor visual changes occur, these are localised and limited in extent due to the containment of the site and the integrated landscape strategy.

9. Summary

- 9.1.1. A Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) has been undertaken by ADAS to assess the potential effects of the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Shore Top House, Radcliffe. The assessment considers the site's landscape character, its visual relationship with the surrounding area, and the likely effects arising from the proposed development.
- 9.1.2. The site lies within the Greater Manchester Landscape Character Type (LCT) 'Incised Urban Fringe Valley' and Landscape Character Area (LCA) 16: River Irwell and River Croal. The LCA is characterised by a complex topography of steep-sided valleys, woodland belts, and recreational green corridors, with existing large-scale energy and infrastructure features already present. The site occupies a mid-slope position within a rural pocket between Radcliffe, Kearsley, and Outwood, and is visually contained by surrounding landform and mature vegetation.
- 9.1.3. The site is not subject to any national or local landscape designations and is not considered to be a valued landscape under Box 5.1 of GLVIA3. The landscape is of Medium–Low value, and the site's visual containment and limited recreational function reduce its sensitivity to change. The development will be located in an area of former grassland and will not fundamentally alter key characteristics of the wider landscape.
- 9.1.4. The visual assessment indicates that the development will be largely screened or filtered by boundary vegetation and woodland cover. Visibility is most notable in short-range views from parts of the Irwell Sculpture Trail and local Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) which pass through or near the site. In these views, the development will be partially visible but will be experienced in the context of existing infrastructure and wooded landscape, with limited contrast against the existing setting.
- 9.1.5. A comprehensive landscape mitigation strategy has been incorporated to support visual integration and minimise effects on landscape character. Key measures include:
- Retention and enhancement of boundary vegetation and tree cover, to reinforce visual containment.
 - Planting of new hedgerows with hedgerow trees along the northern and eastern site boundaries.
 - Sensitive placement of infrastructure to reduce visibility and avoid breaking the skyline in key views.
 - Establishment of species-rich grassland to improve biodiversity and support green infrastructure objectives.

- 9.1.6. Effects on the landscape character of LCA 16: River Irwell and River Croal will be Minor Adverse, localised in extent, and largely reversible following decommissioning. The landscape strategy is consistent with guidance in the Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment (2018), particularly in enhancing woodland and hedgerow networks and supporting the multi-functional role of green infrastructure.
- 9.1.7. Visual effects will vary according to proximity and screening. Moderate Adverse effects are expected in close-range views from PRowS passing through the site (notably PRow 9SS and the Irwell Sculpture Trail), where users will experience perceptible change. Effects in mid- to long-range views will be limited to glimpsed or filtered visibility, resulting in Minor or Negligible effects. Residential receptors in the wider area are well screened, and no significant visual effects are anticipated.
- 9.1.8. The proposed development will be sensitively located and designed to align with the semi-rural, infrastructure-influenced character of the local landscape. It will not introduce an incongruous or uncharacteristic feature, and will remain a visually contained, functional element within the valley setting.
- 9.1.9. The proposed development is consistent with national and local planning policy relating to the use of land for low-carbon energy and biodiversity net gain. It aligns with guidance in the Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment by enhancing boundary structure, supporting green infrastructure, and delivering an integrated landscape framework.
- 9.1.10. It is therefore considered that, subject to implementation of the landscape scheme, the proposed development can be successfully accommodated within the existing character of the site and surrounding area. The visual and landscape effects will be localised, minor, and reversible following decommissioning, ensuring the development does not give rise to unacceptable harm to landscape character or visual amenity.
- 9.1.11. As a result, the proposed development will remain consistent with the established landscape pattern, reinforcing existing green infrastructure while enhancing biodiversity and ecological connectivity. The site's location, alongside existing infrastructure and commercial uses, ensures that it can accommodate the proposed development.
- 9.1.12. The proposed development lies within the designated Green Belt; however, it would not result in harm to its openness or conflict with the purposes of including land within it, as set out in the NPPF (2025). The site is visually contained by topography and existing vegetation, with views limited to short-range, infrastructure-influenced contexts. The development comprises low-height infrastructure, well integrated within the existing landscape structure and supported by a robust mitigation strategy. Its siting and scale ensure that any effects on perceived openness will be minimal, localised, and reversible. As

such, the development is considered consistent with national Green Belt policy and does not give rise to unacceptable impacts on openness or visual character.

10. References

- Ref.1 Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013), Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Third Edition).
- Ref.2 Landscape Institute (2019), TGN 06/19 Visual Representation of development proposals.
- Ref.3 Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (2023), National Planning Policy Framework.
- Ref.4 Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2021), National Design Guide.
- Ref.5 Greater Manchester Combined Authority. (Adopted 21 March 2024). Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document for Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan 2022 to 2039.
- Ref.6 Bury Council. (Adopted 1997). Bury Unitary Development Plan 1997.
- Ref.7 Natural England (2013) National Character Area 54: Manchester Pennine Fringe
- Ref. 8 Greater Manchester Combined Authority. (2018). Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment (2018)
- Ref.9 Bury Council. (2009). Bury Landscape Character Assessment 2009

Appendix 1: Illustrative Materials

Figures

Figure 1: Landscape Character Areas Plan

Figure 2: Policies and Designations Plan

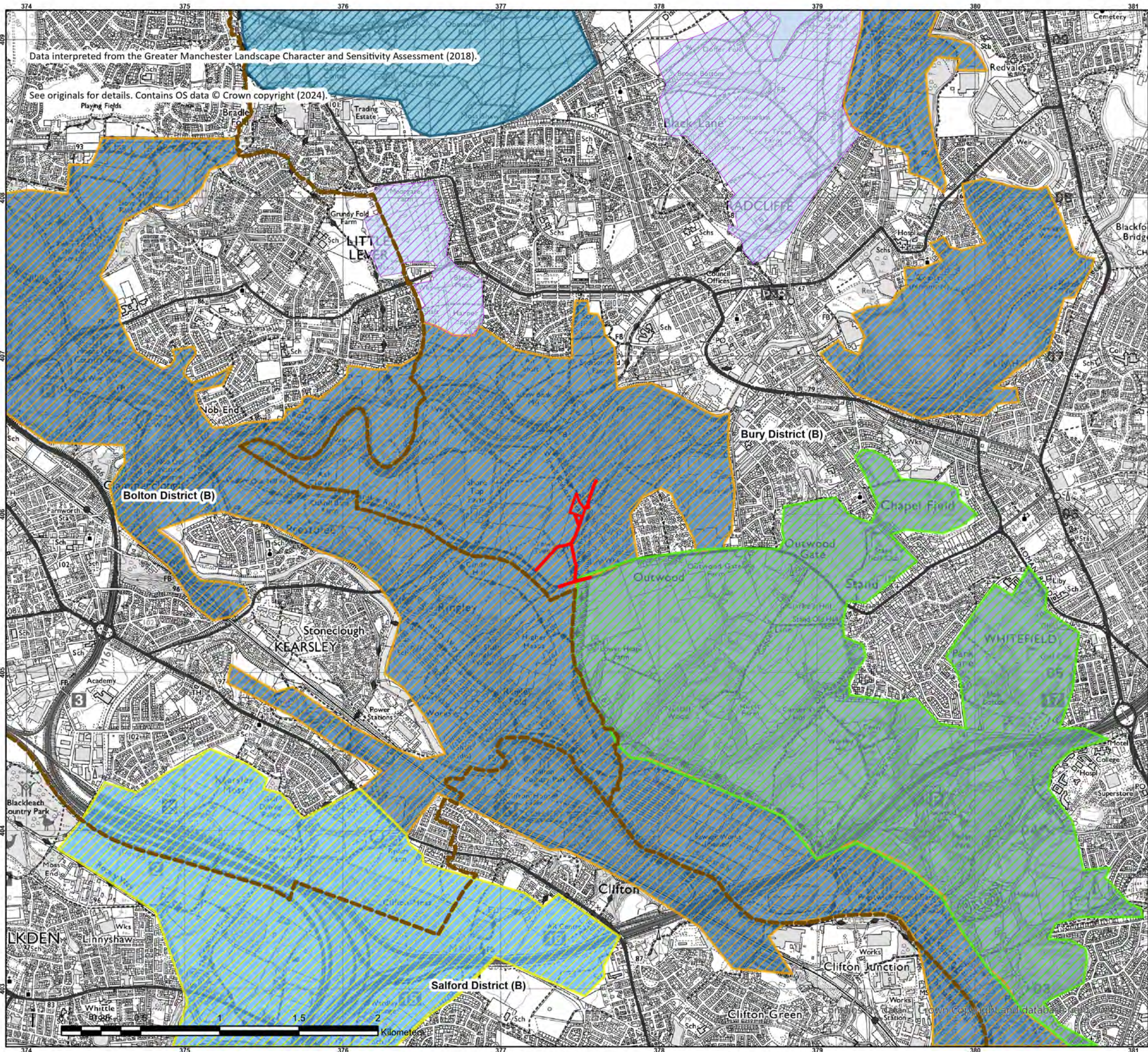
Figure 3: Topography Plan

Figure 4: Site Appraisal Plan

Figure 5: Visual Appraisal Plan

Figure 6: Landscape Masterplan

Viewpoint Photographs



LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- Local Authority Boundary

Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment (2018):

Landscape Character Types (LCT):

- LCT: Historic Parks and Wooded Estate Farmland
- LCT: Mosslands and Lowland Farmland
- LCT: Incised Urban Fringe Valleys
- LCT: Pennine Foothills (West/South Pennines)
- LCT: Urban Fringe Farmland

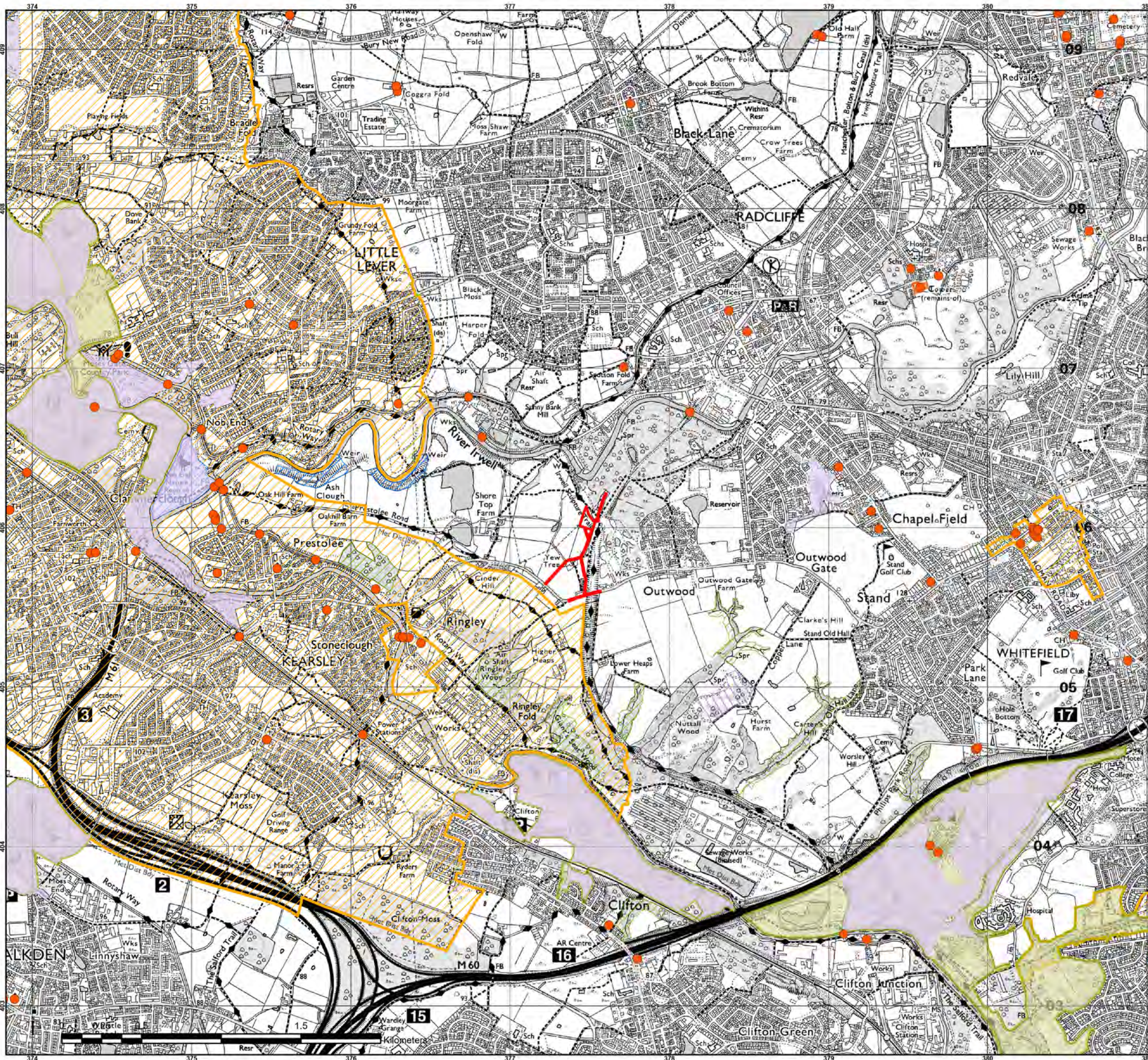
Landscape Character Areas (LCA):

- LCA 16: River Irwell (south Bury) and River Croal
- LCA 17: Clifton Moss
- LCA 19: Heaton, Prestwich, Whitefield and Stand Parklands
- LCA 20: Affetside and Ainsworth
- LCA 21: Little Lever and Elton Reservoir

01	25/07/2024
Issue.	Issue Details
	Date

Client:
Taiyo Power & Storage Ltd.
Project:
1120099 Radcliffe BESS
Drawing Title:
Figure 1: Landscape Character Plan
Drawing No: 1120099-ADAS-XX-XX-DR-L-8001
Scale: 1:24,000 at A3
Drawn by: BT
Checked by: RG
Date: 25/07/2024
Date: 25/07/2024

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LEGEND

-  Site Boundary
-  Sites of Special Scientific Interest
-  Countryside and Rights of Way Access
-  Ancient Woodland
-  Local Nature Reserve
-  Country Park
-  Conservation Area
-  Scheduled Monument
-  Listed Building

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Issue.	Issue Details
	Date

Client:
Taiyo Power & Storage Ltd.
Project:
1120099 Radcliffe BESS

Drawing Title:
Figure 2: Policy and Designations Plan
Drawing No:1120099-ADAS-XX-XX-DR-L-8002

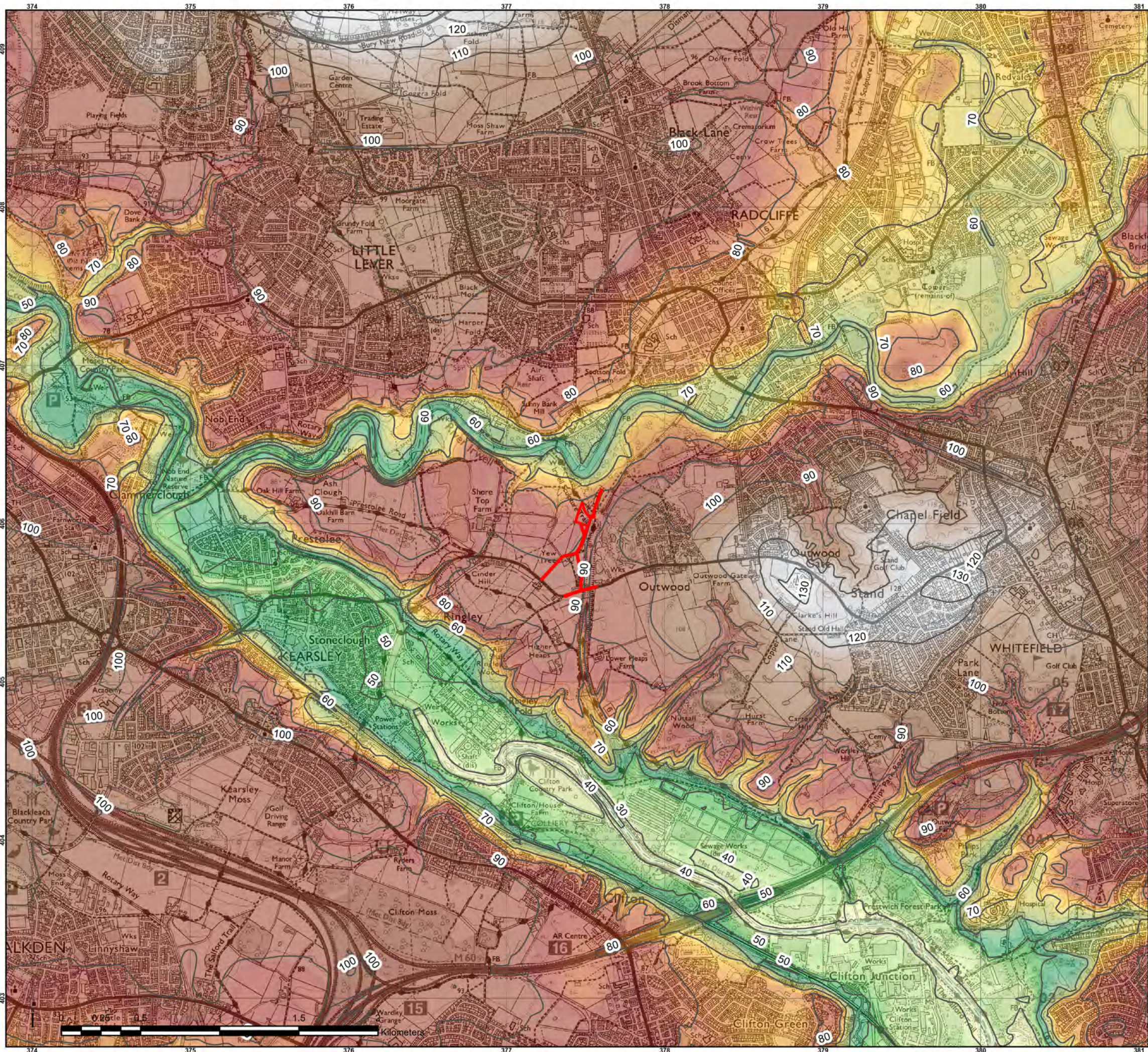
Scale: 1:24,000 at A3

Drawn by: BT
Checked by: RG
Date: 25/07/2024
Date: 25/07/2024

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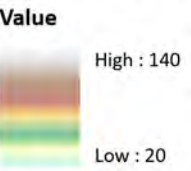
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LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- Contour line

Elevation in metres (AOD)



Elevations created using OS Terrain 50 data.
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Issue.	Issue Details
	Date

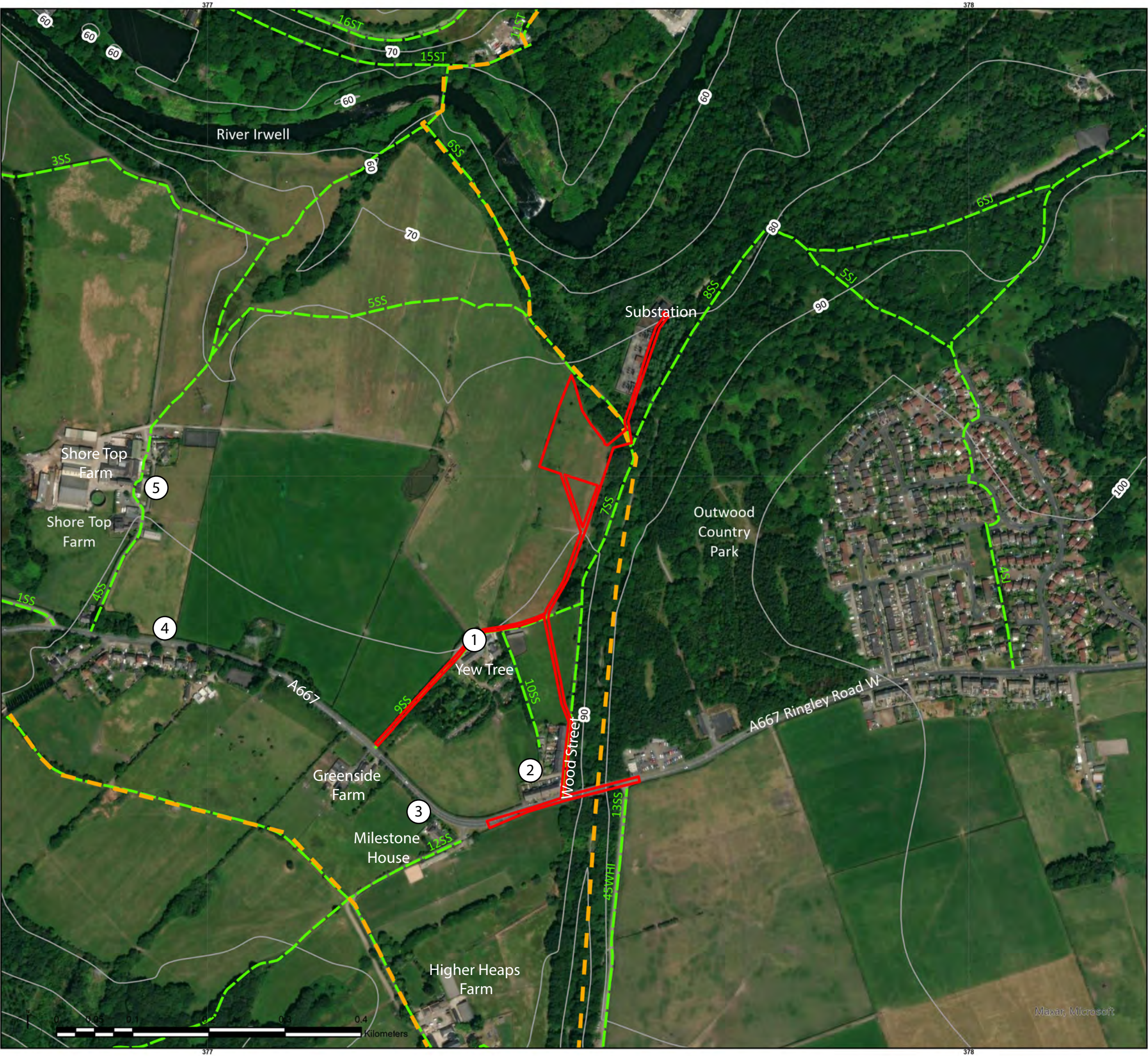
Client:
Taiyo Power & Storage Ltd.
Project:
1120099 Radcliffe BESS
Drawing Title:
Figure 3: Topography Plan
Drawing No:1120099-ADAS-XX-XX-DR-L-8003

Scale: 1:24,000 at A3
Drawn by: BT
Checked by: RG
Date: 25/07/2024
Date: 25/07/2024

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- LEGEND
- Site Boundary
 - Recreational route
 - Public Right of Way
 - 10m Contours

- Visual Appraisal Target Notes:
- 1 Properties on Yew Tree
 - 2 Properties on Wood Street
 - 3 Properties on Greenside Farm, Milestone House and Higher Heaps Farm
 - 4 Properties south of Shore Top Farm
 - 5 Properties on Shore Top Farm

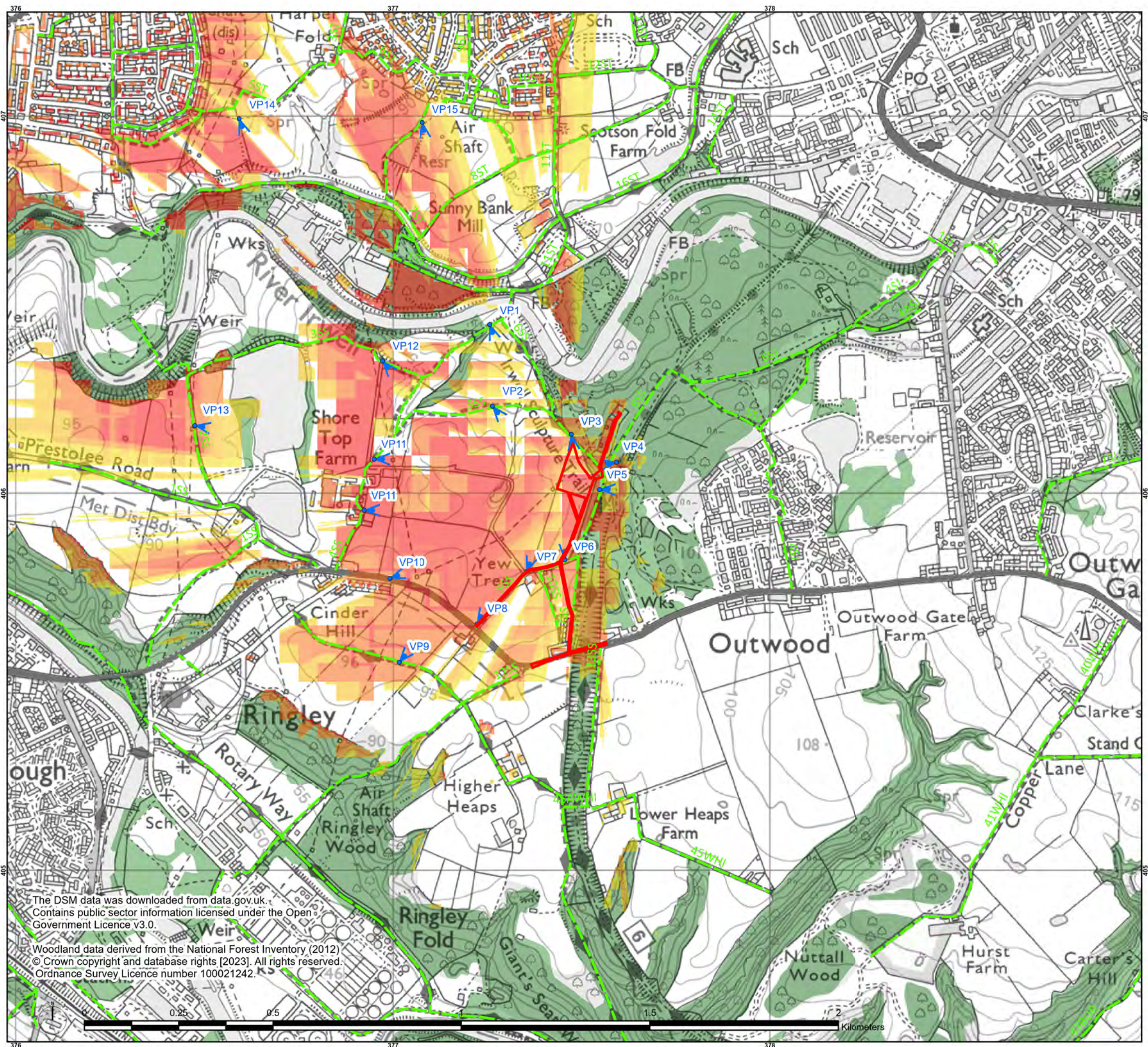
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01	25/07/2024
Issue.	Issue Details Date

Client:
Taiyo Power & Storage Ltd.
Project:
1120099 Radcliffe BESS
Drawing Title:
Figure 4: Site Appraisal Plan
Drawing No: 1120099-ADAS-XX-XX-DR-L-8004

Scale: 1:5,000 at A3
Drawn by: BT Date: 25/07/2024
Checked by: RG Date: 25/07/2024

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LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- Viewpoints
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility**
 - Higher proportion visible
 - Lower proportion visible
 - National Forest Inventory 2018
 - Public Rights of Way (PRoW)

To establish the potential extent of visibility of the proposed development a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV),

This ZTV was produced based on OS Terrain 50 data creating a Digital Surface Model which includes large blocks of vegetation and gives a representation of where the proposed development could be seen from, given the land form of the study area. The areas of woodland as shown in the National Forest Inventory have also been added to the plan to give an understanding of how the woodland effects visibility.

The map indicates theoretical visibility only - that is, the areas within which there may be a line of sight. However, the proposal may not actually be visible in reality due to localised screening which is not represented by the Digital Surface Model.

This Zone of Theoretical Visibility conveys how much of the proposed development may be visible from the areas shown. Areas in red would see a greater proportion of proposed development, whilst the area in yellow might see a smaller part.

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01	29/07/2024
Issue.	Issue Details Date

Client:
Taiyo Power & Storage Ltd.
Project:
1120099 Radcliffe BESS
Drawing Title:
Figure 5: Visual Appraisal Plan
Drawing No: 1120099-ADAS-XX-XX-DR-L-8005
Scale: 1:10,000 at A3
Drawn by: BT Date: 29/07/2024
Checked by: RG Date: 29/07/2024

The DSM data was downloaded from data.gov.uk.
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Woodland data derived from the National Forest Inventory (2012)
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Viewpoint 1: Looking south east towards the site from PRoW 4SS

Project: Shore Top House
Figure number: 1120099-ADAS-XX-XX-FG-L-8001
Issue: 01
Date of issue: 31/10/23

Grid reference: 377257, 406446
Altitude (AOD): 70
Camera height above ground level: 1.6m
Distance from site boundary: 360m
Conditions: Cloudy

Date: 15/02/23
Time: 14:28
Camera: Canon 6D (Full frame sensor)
Lens: Canon EF 50 mm f/1.8 II
Equipment: Manfrotto pano head and leveller

Horizontal field of view: 90°
Paper size: A1 (594 x 841mm)
Image size: 820mm x 250mm
Projection: Cylindrical
Enlargement factor: 96% at A1

EXISTING VIEW
VIEW FLAT AT A COMFORTABLE ARM'S LENGTH



Viewpoint 2: Looking south east towards the site from PRoW 5SS

Project: Shore Top House
Figure number: 1120099-ADAS-XX-XX-FG-L-8002
Issue: 01
Date of issue: 31/10/23

Grid reference: 377265, 406230
Altitude (AOD): 75
Camera height above ground level: 1.6m
Distance from site boundary: 220m
Conditions: Cloudy

Date: 15/02/23
Time: 14:51
Camera: Canon 6D (Full frame sensor)
Lens: Canon EF 50 mm f/1.8 II
Equipment: Manfrotto pano head and leveller

Horizontal field of view: 90°
Paper size: A1 (594 x 841mm)
Image size: 820mm x 250mm
Projection: Cylindrical
Enlargement factor: 96% at A1

EXISTING VIEW
VIEW FLAT AT A COMFORTABLE ARM'S LENGTH



Viewpoint 3: Looking south towards the site from Irwell Sculpture Trail/PRoW 7SS

Project: Shore Top House
Figure number: 1120099-ADAS-XX-XX-FG-L-8003
Issue: 01
Date of issue: 31/10/23

Grid reference: 377474, 406155
Altitude (AOD): 80
Camera height above ground level: 1.6m
Distance from site boundary: 10m
Conditions: Cloudy

Date: 15/02/23
Time: 13:21
Camera: Canon 6D (Full frame sensor)
Lens: Canon EF 50 mm f/1.8 II
Equipment: Manfrotto pano head and leveller

Horizontal field of view: 90°
Paper size: A1 (594 x 841mm)
Image size: 820mm x 250mm
Projection: Cylindrical
Enlargement factor: 96% at A1





Viewpoint 4: Looking south west towards the site from Outwood Country Park and Irwell Sculpture Trail

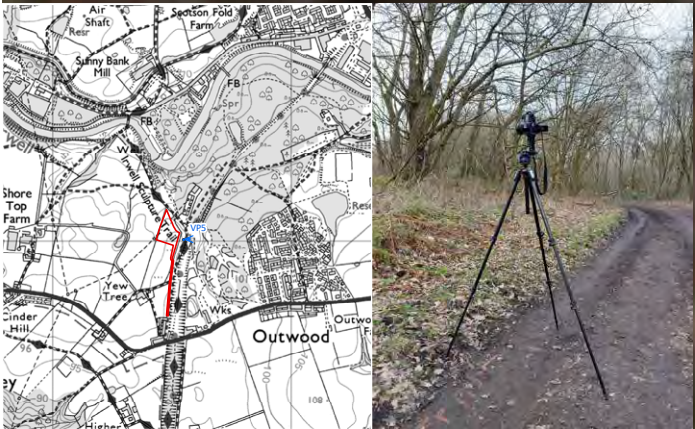
Project: Shore Top House
Figure number: 1120099-ADAS-XX-XX-FG-L-8004
Issue: 01
Date of issue: 31/10/23

Grid reference: 377592, 406083
Altitude (AOD): 89
Camera height above ground level: 1.6m
Distance from site boundary: 80m
Conditions: Cloudy

Date: 15/02/23
Time: 13:03
Camera: Canon 6D (Full frame sensor)
Lens: Canon EF 50 mm f/1.8 II
Equipment: Manfrotto pano head and leveller

Horizontal field of view: 90°
Paper size: A1 (594 x 841mm)
Image size: 820mm x 250mm
Projection: Cylindrical
Enlargement factor: 96% at A1





Viewpoint 5: Looking west towards the site from PRow 7SS

Project: Shore Top House
Figure number: 1120099-ADAS-XX-XX-FG-L-8005
Issue: 01
Date of issue: 31/10/23

Grid reference: 377456, 406010
Altitude (AOD): 85
Camera height above ground level: 1.6m
Distance from site boundary: 20m
Conditions: Cloudy

Date: 15/02/23
Time: 12:23
Camera: Canon 6D (Full frame sensor)
Lens: Canon EF 50 mm f/1.8 II
Equipment: Manfrotto pano head and leveller

Horizontal field of view: 90°
Paper size: A1 (594 x 841mm)
Image size: 820mm x 250mm
Projection: Cylindrical
Enlargement factor: 96% at A1

EXISTING VIEW
VIEW FLAT AT A COMFORTABLE ARM'S LENGTH



Viewpoint 6: Looking north west towards the site from PRow 9SS

Project: Shore Top House
Figure number: 1120099-ADAS-XX-XX-FG-L-8006
Issue: 01
Date of issue: 31/10/23

Grid reference: 377456, 405825
Altitude (AOD): 90
Camera height above ground level: 1.6m
Distance from site boundary: 0m
Conditions: Cloudy

Date: 15/02/23
Time: 15:49
Camera: Canon 6D (Full frame sensor)
Lens: Canon EF 50 mm f/1.8 II
Equipment: Manfrotto pano head and leveller

Horizontal field of view: 90°
Paper size: A1 (594 x 841mm)
Image size: 820mm x 250mm
Projection: Cylindrical
Enlargement factor: 96% at A1

EXISTING VIEW
VIEW FLAT AT A COMFORTABLE ARM'S LENGTH



Viewpoint 7: Looking north east towards the site from PRoW 95S

Project: Shore Top House
Figure number: 1120099-ADAS-XX-XX-FG-L-8007
Issue: 01
Date of issue: 31/10/23

Grid reference: 377355, 405793
Altitude (AOD): 95
Camera height above ground level: 1.6m
Distance from site boundary: 10m
Conditions: Cloudy

Date: 15/02/23
Time: 11:45
Camera: Canon 6D (Full frame sensor)
Lens: Canon EF 50 mm f/1.8 II
Equipment: Manfrotto pano head and leveller

Horizontal field of view: 90°
Paper size: A1 (594 x 841mm)
Image size: 820mm x 250mm
Projection: Cylindrical
Enlargement factor: 96% at A1

ADAS



Viewpoint 8: Looking north east towards the site from Ringley Road W/A667 and PRoW 95S

Project: Shore Top House
Figure number: 1120099-ADAS-XX-XX-FG-L-8008
Issue: 01
Date of issue: 31/10/23

Grid reference: 377224, 405655
Altitude (AOD): 95
Camera height above ground level: 1.6m
Distance from site boundary: 200m
Conditions: Cloudy

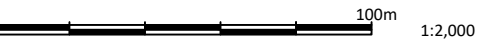
Date: 15/02/23
Time: 15:09
Camera: Canon 6D (Full frame sensor)
Lens: Canon EF 50 mm f/1.8 II
Equipment: Manfrotto pano head and leveller

Horizontal field of view: 90°
Paper size: A1 (594 x 841mm)
Image size: 820mm x 250mm
Projection: Cylindrical
Enlargement factor: 96% at A1

ADAS



Notes:
Do not scale from this drawing.
Not to be used for construction purposes.
Existing vegetation on Site to be retained and enhanced. Exact planting specification/locations to be agreed via planning conditions / the final conditioned Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP).



KEY

- Site Boundary (1.39ha)
- Existing Trees and Vegetation (Showing canopy extents)
- Proposed Hedgerow with Trees (To be maintained at a minimum height of 3m)
- Grassland Mix - Emorsgate EM2 'Standard General Purpose Meadow Mix' or similar approved
- Proposed SuDs Basin - Emorsgate EM8 'Meadow Mixture for Wetlands' or similar approved
- Existing Overhead Lines
- Proposed Fence
- Proposed Maintenance Track
- Proposed Hardstanding
- Public Rights of Way
- Existing Footpath

02	23/04/25	SuDs Basin added	SC	RG
01	24/03/25		SC	RG
Rev	Date	Description	Drawn	Appr'd



RSK ADAS Ltd.
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Manchester
ADAS, Fourways House, 57 Hilton St,
Manchester, M1 2EJ
Oxford
ADAS, 11D Park House, Park Dr, Milton, Abingdon,
Oxford, OX14 4RS

Client:
Taiyo Power & Storage Ltd.

Project No:
1120099

Project:
Radcliffe BESS

Drawing Title:
Landscape Masterplan

Drawn on: 24/03/2025	Drawn by: SC	Approved by: RG
Scale: 1:2000	Size: A3	Status: DRAFT
Drawing No: 1120099-ADAS-XX-XX-DR-L-8000	Revision: 02	

