

Appendix I: Assessment of PRow Fulford 3

Assessment of additional Viewpoint 10.

This viewpoint is located at OS grid reference E394940 N338841 294m from the nearest proposed solar panels. The viewpoint is located on a public footpath (Fulford No.3) which links Fulford with Stallington, and represents recreational users located on high ground to the west of the Site. It is located in Settled Plateau Farmland Slopes LCT. The view is centred on an east-north-easterly direction and a panorama photograph, photomontage and wirelines with a 90-degree view splay are presented in Visualisations 10a-d. It should be noted that the visualisations have been created using photography taken during a period of lying snow, showing a worst-case view on a sunny day when the solar panels would appear dark in tone and more prominent in places. This visual pattern is relatively unusual.

The solar panels located in F10 and F13 would be prominent seen in front of the wider Site to the north and the changes to the view would affect much of a 90-degree viewsplay. The front face of the panels would be visible from this angle of view. The solar panels in F7 and F10 would be clearly visible, partially screened by the intervening hedge line and trees. In addition, the solar panels located in F8 and F11 would be partially visible. The solar panels located in the north-western part of the Site including F1, F3, F4, F5 and F6 would be visible in the middle distance. The communications mast and substation building would also be visible centrally. Built development in the north-east, east and south parts of the Site would be fully screened by landform and the existing trees and hedges within the Site.

These areas would be located within the existing field pattern, and occasional hedge trees and blocks of woodland would partly filter the view and break up the grouping. In the winter conditions shown in the photograph, the solar panels would stand out in colour and tone relative to the snow although on cloudy days they may appear paler and more recessive. In summer conditions, trees and hedges would provide more screening, and the solar panels would appear differently depending on the appearance of skies.

The Development would be the focus of the view and would affect 65% of a 90-degree view, introducing large areas of built development into a rural view. The solar panels would retain the field patterns, tree cover and the physical openness of fields, albeit affecting visual amenity and character.

The Development would be seen cumulatively with the Newton Farm Solar Farm located 2.5km to the east, although it is a glimpsed view and the two developments seen together would not cause a significant sense of renewable energy proliferation within the assessed or wider view.

The Development would be seen within the context of areas of built development in the distance including Blythe Bridge and Draycott the Moors. The outskirts of Stoke-on-Trent would be visible in the wider view including the large scale and pale coloured sheds (Meyer Timber Ltd.) located 1.6km to the north. On cloudy days the solar panels may share some visual characteristics with the pale tone and large scale of these buildings although they would be clearly separated by an area of countryside.

Construction processes would introduce machinery, built structures and excavations and would be clearly visible across the parts of the Site which are visible, albeit temporarily.

The proposed infill and management of the hedges, and the tree planting proposed on the west side of F7, F10 and F13 would filter or screen views to parts of the closer solar panels over time in winter and summer. Internal additional hedges across the Site would tend to become fuller and taller, and additional trees located within the northern part of the Site would increase the presence of trees in the middle distance. These would be planted as heavy standards to provide some filtering of views at Year 1. Within the first five years, existing and proposed hedges would provide screening, and over time the visual prominence of the solar farm would reduce, although areas of solar panels would remain clearly visible, particularly in winter. During periods of leaf cover, the view would take on a more wooded and generally vegetated character, strengthening the presence of existing hedges, hedge trees and small woodland blocks that already exist within the Site. The increased heights of hedges and numbers of hedge trees are in character with and would strengthen the character of Settled Plateau Farmland Slopes LCT.

Effects on recreational users of the path would be significant and adverse during the temporary construction period and the operational period up to approximately five years when hedges would have grown sufficiently to have an effect on screening and softening views to the solar panels closest to the viewer and across the Site generally. Visual effects would continue to decrease over time with the growth of the proposed trees.

Sensitivity	Recreational Users: High			
	Construction	Year 1	Year 5	Year 15
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Medium-Low	Medium-Low
Greatest Level of Visual Effect	Major/Moderate, adverse significant	Major/Moderate, adverse significant	Moderate, adverse not significant	Moderate, adverse not significant



BASELINE PHOTOGRAPH

THIS IMAGE PROVIDES LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL CONTEXT ONLY
IF VIEWING THIS IMAGE ON A SCREEN, ENLARGE TO FULL SCREEN HEIGHT

Date FEB 2025	By CTG		Notes: 1) This visualisation is a cylindrical projection panorama. It provides landscape and visual context only. 2) Data results have been derived directly from the computer model of the landform and include the effects of atmospheric refraction and the Earth's curvature. They do not take account of visual screening from obstacles such as existing built form and vegetation. 3) All directions given as bearings relative to Grid North (BN0). 4) The Application Site Boundary of the Proposed Development (outlined in red) is provided for reference on the location map (left), where visible and within range. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2025 © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey 0100031673	Proposed Development Information: Layout Files: Indicative Panels - 2023-10-31 WFL 312040-011a Site Layout REV2024 62.max Height of Solar Panels (Maximum): 3.6m Distance to Nearest Panel: ² 294m	Viewpoint Information: Grid Reference: E394940 N338841 Ground Height: 220m AOD Direction of Centre of View: ³ 069° Image Fields of View: 90° horizontal; 26° vertical Image Scale: 100% Principal Distance: 522mm	Photography Information: Camera: Nikon D610 Lens: 50mm Fixed Focal Length Camera Height: 1.5m Photography Date: 21/11/2024 Photography Time: 13:11
Image Size 820 x 237mm	QA CTG / LB / BT					
Paper Size 840 x 297mm	ISSUE 2.0					
312040-G014c LVIA Visuals ADD VP ½A1.indd						



Leaford Solar Farm • Renewable Energy Systems Ltd.
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

Viewpoint 10: PRow: Fulford No. 3
VISUALISATION 10a: BASELINE IMAGE



PHOTOWIRE

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Image Size 820 x 237mm	QA CTG / LB / BT						
Paper Size 840 x 297mm	ISSUE 2.0						
312040-G014c LVIA Visuals ADD VP 1/2A1.indd							



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Viewpoint 10: PRoW: Fulford No. 3
VISUALISATION 10b: PHOTOWIRE (Type 3 / AVR Level 0)



PHOTOMONTAGE

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Proposed Development Information:		Viewpoint Information:		Photography Information:
Layout Files:		Grid Reference:		Camera:
Height of Solar Panels (Maximum):		Ground Height:		Lens:
Distance to Nearest Panel: ²		Direction of Centre of View: ³		Camera Height:
		Image Fields of View:		Photography Date:
		Image Scale:		Photography Time:
		Principal Distance:		

