

Appendix C

Landscape Appraisal Tables

C.1 The following tables provide a summary of the baseline landscape, sensitivity and nature of effects during construction and operation of the Proposed Project upon landscape character as set out in Chapter 5. Effects are assumed to be adverse unless stated otherwise.

Table C.1: LCA 2E: Winchcombe to Dover's Hill

Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
The LCA is considered to have a high susceptibility to the Proposed Project due to the prominence of the steep sided and wooded slopes of the River Isbourne valley. The LCA is currently influenced by electrical infrastructure. The LCA is located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, is considered to be of national value. The sensitivity of the LCA is considered to be high.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Construction activity within the LCA will include construction of temporary access route from the B4632 including associated vegetation removal, construction of the Winchcombe CSEC including earthworks and erection of a replacement terminal pylon and construction of the haul road with associated cable trenches. The haul road and cable trenches will lead to the removal of a swathe of woodland within Breakheart Plantation. Existing pylons will also be removed from this LCA. Laydown areas will be located adjacent to the construction of the CSEC and further to the south-east and south-west adjacent to the underground cable route. Some indirect effects will occur where construction activity is perceptible from elevated ground further to the east of the site. The scale of landscape change is considered to be medium. The geographical extent of the Proposed Project is considered to be medium, as although changes will be perceived over the adjacent valley, it will not affect the wider linear LCA. Effects will be short-term, direct and reversible with the exception of tree removal within Breakheart Plantation. The overall effect of the construction work on the landscape character of LCA 2E: Winchcombe to Dover's Hill is considered to be Moderate adverse.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
The temporary access route from the B4632 will be reinstated, including any replacement tree, hedgerow and woodland planting. The cable route with associated haul road and laydown areas will be reinstated and all existing pylons removed to the south of the Winchcombe CSEC (with the exception of the replacement terminal pylon). The Winchcombe CSEC will incorporate native planting around its periphery. The gap within Breakheart Plantation will be partially planted with native woodland and scrub to provide connectivity and to visually enclose the gap in the wooded escarpment. Although trees cannot be planted over the cables, hedgerows can be replaced and linear strips of shallow rooting native shrubs can be planted. At Year 0, it is predicted that a small beneficial scale of landscape change to the LCA is likely to occur, as although there are benefits to the removal of the existing pylons, the planting surrounding the Winchcombe CSEC and within Breakheart Plantation will have not yet matured. With the influence of maturing planting, a medium beneficial scale of landscape change is predicted to the LCA at Year 15. The geographical extent of the Proposed Project is considered to be medium. Effects will be long-term, direct and not reversible. The overall effect of the Proposed Project upon the LCA during operation is considered to be Minor beneficial at Year 0, which will increase to Moderate beneficial at Year 15.

Table C.2: LCA 7C: Cotswolds High Wold Plateau

Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
The LCA is considered to have a high susceptibility to the Proposed Project due to the open and elevated nature of the plateau. The LCA is currently influenced by electrical infrastructure and the LCA notes that <i>'Pylon lines are also intrusive features across this part of the High Wold, notably on the plateau to the east and south of Cheltenham'</i> The LCA is located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, is considered to be of national value. The sensitivity of the LCA is considered to be high.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
Construction activity within the LCA will include construction of temporary access route from the A40 including associated vegetation removal, construction of the Whittington CSEC including localised earthworks, the temporary pylon diversion, the erection of a replacement pylon and construction of the haul road with associated cable trenches. The haul road and cable trenches will necessitate the removal of some limited areas of trees, hedgerows and woodland. Laydown areas, material storage areas and a site compound will be located adjacent to the construction of the cable route, CSEC and along the temporary access route. The scale of landscape change during construction is considered to be medium to large. The geographical extent of the Proposed Project is considered to be medium to large, due to the open nature of the plateau. Effects will be short-term, direct and reversible with the exception of tree removal within Warrens Farm Plantation. The overall effect of the construction work the landscape character of LCA 7C: Cotswolds High Wold Plateau is considered to be Moderate to Major adverse.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
The temporary access route from the A40 will be reinstated, including any replacement tree, hedgerow and woodland planting, as well as dry stone walls. The temporary pylon diversion will be dismantled. The cable route with associated haul road and laydown areas will be fully reinstated and all existing pylons removed to the north-east of the Whittington CSEC. Proposed link pillar boxes will be located along the underground cable route in discrete locations. The Whittington CSEC will incorporate native planting around its periphery as well as replacement stone walls to their original condition. At Year 0, it is predicted that a medium-high beneficial scale of landscape change to the LCA is likely to occur. There will be notable benefits from the removal of the existing pylons. Benefits will include the enhancement of the sense of tranquillity and remoteness and remove notable vertical infrastructure from the skyline and broad vistas. However, the planting surrounding the Whittington CSEC will have not yet matured. With the influence of maturing planting surrounding the Whittington CSEC, a high beneficial scale of landscape change is predicted to the LCA at Year 15. The geographical extent of the Proposed Project is considered to be medium to large. Effects will be long-term, direct and not reversible. The overall effect of the Proposed Project upon the LCA during operation is considered to be Moderate to Major beneficial at Year 0, which will increase to Major beneficial at Year 15.

Table C.3: LCA 1B Langley Hill

Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
The LCA is considered to have a high susceptibility to the Proposed Project due to the prominence of the steep sided and undulating slopes of Langley Hill. The LCA is currently influenced by electrical infrastructure. The LCA is located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, is considered to be of national value. The sensitivity of the LCA is considered to be high.

Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
This LCA will be indirectly affected by the perception of construction activity will be possible from elevated locations to the south of the LCA, limited in part by intervening vegetation and within context of existing pylons and other buildings and roads that exert an influence on existing landscape character. Elements of construction activity that will likely be perceptible from this LCA include highway works associated with a temporary access route from the B4632 with associated vegetation removal, construction of the Winchcombe CSEC including earthworks and erection of a replacement pylon and construction of the haul road with associated cable trenches. The haul road and cable trenches will lead to the removal of a swathe of woodland within Breakheart Plantation, which will be perceptible from certain parts of this LCA towards the skyline of LCAs to the south (LCA 2E and LCA 7C). Laydown areas adjacent to the underground cable route will also likely be perceptible on rising land, though this will be limited by the network of intervening vegetation. The perception of construction activity from areas further north in the LCA will be restricted by landform and areas of woodland. The scale of landscape change is considered to be small. The geographical extent of the Proposed Project is considered to be medium to small, as changes will be perceived over the adjacent valley to the south of the LCA only. Effects will be short-term, indirect and reversible. The overall effect of the construction work the landscape character of 1B Langley Hill LCA is considered to be Minor adverse.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
On completion, the temporary access route (outside this LCA) from the B4632 will be reinstated, including any replacement tree, hedgerow and woodland planting. The cable route (outside this LCA) with associated haul road and laydown areas will be fully reinstated and all existing pylons removed to the south of the Winchcombe CSEC. The Winchcombe CSEC will incorporate native planting around its periphery. Removed woodland within Breakheart Plantation will be partially replaced with native woodland and scrub which will reduce the appearance of fragmentation and help to visually enclose the gap in the wooded escarpment. At Year 0, it is predicted that a small beneficial scale of landscape change to the LCA is likely to occur, as there will be benefits associated with the perception of the removal of the existing pylons outside the LCA but the planting surrounding the Whittington CSEC will have not yet matured. With the influence of maturing planting within Breakheart Plantation and surrounding the Winchcombe CSEC a small to medium beneficial scale of landscape change is predicted to the LCA at Year 15. The geographical extent of the Proposed Project is considered to be medium. Effects will be long-term, indirect and not reversible. The overall effect of the Proposed Project upon the LCA during operation is considered to be Minor beneficial at Year 0, which will increase to Moderate to Minor beneficial at Year 15

Table C.4: LCA 2D Cooper's Hill to Winchcombe

Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
The LCA is considered to have a high susceptibility to the Proposed Project, due to the prominence of steep sided slopes which are wooded in places. The LCA is currently influenced by electrical infrastructure. The LCA is located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, is considered to be of national value. The sensitivity of the LCA is considered to be high.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
The perception of construction activity from the northern part of the LCA will largely be obscured by landform. Construction activity will be largely imperceptible from areas of the LCA in the north, as land falls away steeply to the west towards Bishop's Cleeve and Cheltenham. However, construction activity to the south will be perceived from nearby southern parts of the LCA including the construction of the Whittington CSEC and access roads, though perception will be largely restricted by intervening vegetation, including Dowdeswell Wood. The construction of the Whittington CSEC including the temporary pylon

diversion and temporary access road from the A40, and the construction of the haul road with associated cable trenches and temporary laydown areas are likely to be perceptible from a distance from elevated roads and footpaths to the south of the Whittington CSEC. The scale of landscape change is considered to be small to medium. The geographical extent of the Proposed Project is considered to be medium to small as topography will generally limit the perception of construction activity from much of the LC and the temporary pylons will be seen in the context of an existing overhead line. Effects will be short-term, indirect and reversible. The overall effect of the construction work the landscape character of LCA 2D Cooper's Hill to Winchcombe is considered to be Minor adverse.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15 On completion, the temporary pylon diversion will be dismantled and the temporary access roads, laydown areas and cable route with associated haul road will be reinstated. Existing pylons will also have been removed and the working areas and temporary construction access routes reinstated. The presence of the Whittington CSEC may be perceived from elevated locations to the south of the LCA, balanced against the perception of removal of existing pylons on the skyline. At Year 0, it is predicted that a small beneficial scale of landscape change to the LCA is likely to occur, as there will be benefits associated with the perception of the removal of the existing pylons outside the LCA and the Whittington CSEC will not be greatly perceptible due to intervening vegetation. However, the proposed mitigation planting around the Whittington CSEC will not have matured. With the influence of maturing planting surrounding the Whittington CSEC, a small to medium beneficial scale of landscape change is predicted to the LCA at Year 15. The geographical extent of the Proposed Project is considered to be medium to small. Effects will be long-term, indirect and not reversible. The overall effect of the Proposed Project upon the LCA during operation is considered to be Minor beneficial at Year 0, which will increase to Moderate to Minor beneficial at Year 15

Table C.5: LCA 19D Vale of Evesham Fringe

Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity) The LCA is considered to have a medium susceptibility to the Proposed Project, as it is gently undulating and relatively low-lying in comparison to adjacent escarpment and high wold plateau landscapes. The LCA is currently influenced by electrical infrastructure to the south-west of Winchcombe. The LCA is located within the Cotswolds National Landscape (an AONB), therefore, is considered to be of national value. The sensitivity of the LCA is considered to be high.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction This LCA will be directly affected by the construction of a permanent access road to the Winchcombe CSEC. It will also be indirectly affected due to the perception of construction activity from small parts of the LCA within the valley to the south. This will be limited in part by intervening vegetation and buildings. Elements of perceptible construction activity will include the construction of the Winchcombe CSEC including localised earthworks, the removal of existing pylons and the erection of a replacement terminal pylon and construction of the haul road with associated cable trenches. The haul road and cable trenches will lead to the removal of a swathe of woodland within Breakheart Plantation, which will be perceptible from certain areas within the LCA on the skyline. Laydown areas adjacent to the underground cable route may also be perceptible, though this will be limited by the network of intervening vegetation and landform. The perception of construction activity further to the north of the LCA will be restricted by landform and areas of woodland. The scale of landscape change is considered to be small. The geographical extent of the Proposed Project is considered to be medium to small, as a combination of topography and intervening vegetation will limit perception of construction activity and only a small part of the LCA will be directly affected. Effects will be short-term, direct and not reversible.

The overall effect of the construction work the landscape character of LCA 19D Vale of Evesham Fringe is considered to be Minor adverse .
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
On completion, the cable route with associated haul road and laydown areas will be fully reinstated. The presence of the Whittington CSEC and permanent access road may be perceived from small parts of the LCA balanced by the fact that all existing pylons will be removed from the skyline of adjacent LCAs to the south (LCA 2E and LCA 7C). The Winchcombe CSEC will receive native planting around its periphery. The removed woodland from within Breakheart Plantation will be partially replaced with native woodland and scrub which will reduce fragmentation and help to visually enclose the gap in the wooded escarpment. At Year 0, it is predicted that a small beneficial scale of landscape change to the LCA is likely to occur, as there will be benefits associated with the perception of the removal of the existing pylons outside the LCA. However, the proposed mitigation planting within Breakheart Plantation and around the Winchcombe CSEC will have not yet matured. With the influence of maturing planting within Breakheart Plantation and surrounding the Winchcombe CSEC, a small to medium beneficial scale of landscape change is predicted to the LCA at Year 15. The geographical extent of the Proposed Project is considered to be medium to small. Effects will be long-term, direct and not reversible. The overall effect of the Proposed Project upon the LCA during operation is considered to be Minor beneficial at Year 0, which will increase to Moderate to Minor beneficial at Year 15

Table C.6: LCA VE 1A Teddington and Great Vale

Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
The LCA is considered to have a medium susceptibility to the Proposed Project as it is broadly undulating and relatively low-lying in comparison to nearby escarpment and high wold plateau landscapes of the adjacent National Landscape. The LCA is located not located within any landscape designation and is therefore considered to be of community value. The sensitivity of the LCA is considered to be medium.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
There will be no direct effects upon the LCA as a result of construction activity. There will be no indirect effects associated with the Winchcombe CSEC or temporary access road, with no views possible towards these elements of construction. However, some distant, limited glimpses may be possible towards, the removal of trees within Breakheart Plantation on the distant skyline. The scale of landscape change is considered to be imperceptible. The geographical extent of the Proposed Project is considered to be small. Effects will be short-term, indirect and reversible. The overall effect of the construction work the landscape character of VE 1A Teddington and Great Vale LCA is considered to be Negligible adverse.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
Limited indirect glimpses of the Breakheart Plantation removal will be possible, balanced against the removal of the existing pylons on the skyline. An imperceptible neutral scale of landscape change to the LCA is likely to occur at Year 0 and Year 15. The geographical extent of the Proposed Project is considered to be small. Effects will be long-term and not reversible. The overall effect of the Proposed Project upon the LCA during operation is considered to be Negligible neutral at Year 0 and Year 15.

Table C.7: LCA SV 6B Vale of Gloucester

Nature of Receptors (Sensitivity)
The LCA is considered to have a medium susceptibility to the Proposed Project, as it is relatively flat and low-lying in comparison to nearby escarpment and high wold plateau landscapes of the adjacent National Landscape. The LCA is located not located within any landscape designation and is therefore considered to be of community value. The sensitivity of the LCA is considered to be low.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Construction
There will be no direct effects upon the LCA as a result of construction activity. There will be very few indirect effects as a result of construction activity due to intervening landform; these indirect effects will relate to some distant, glimpses of activity relating to the removal of the overhead line The geographical extent of the Proposed Project is considered to be small. Effects will be short-term, indirect and reversible. The overall effect of the construction work the landscape character of SV 6B Vale of Gloucester LCA is considered to be Negligible adverse.
Nature of Effects (Magnitude) – Operation Years 0 & 15
The removal of the existing pylons on the skyline will provide some very limited indirect landscape effects. An imperceptible beneficial scale of landscape change to the LCA is likely to occur at Year 0 and Year 15. The geographical extent of the Proposed Project is considered to be small. Effects will be long-term and not reversible. The overall effect of the Proposed Project upon the LCA during operation is considered to be Negligible beneficial at Year 0 and Year 15.