



G3



APPENDIX C: SITING ZONE OPTIONS APPRAISALS
VIP COTSWOLDS CSEC SITING STUDY

DECEMBER 2021 - FINAL

VIP Cotswolds – Cable Sealing End Compound (CSEC) Siting Study

APPENDIX C: Siting Zone Option Appraisals

Introduction

- 1.1 This appendix presents the appraisal of Siting Zone options within the northern and southern CSEC search areas as listed below and shown on in key plans in this appendix and Figure 5 of the main body of the report.

Northern CSEC Search Area, Siting Zones:

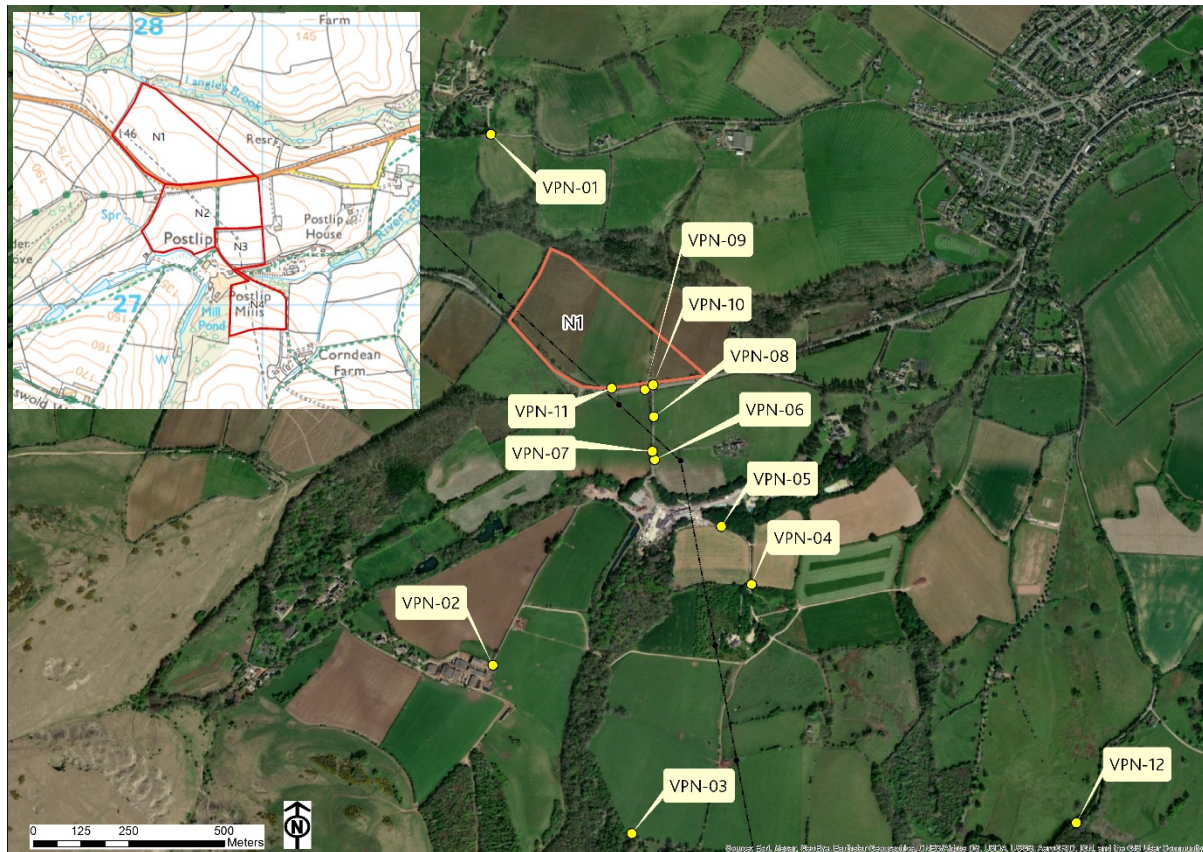
- **N1** – located to the north of the CSEC Search Area, size approximately 9.5 hectares
- **N2** – located roughly in the central portion of the CSEC Search Area, size approximately 8.25 hectares
- **N3** – located in the central southern portion of the CSEC Search Area, size approximately 2.25 hectares
- **N4** – located in the south of the CSEC Search Area, size approximately 3.25 hectares

Southern CSEC Search Area, Siting Zones:

- **S1** – located to the north west of the CSEC Search Area, size approximately 10.25 hectares
- **S2** – located to the north and centre of the CSEC Search Area, size approximately 10 hectares
- **S3** – located to the north east of the CSEC Search Area, size approximately 12 hectares
- **S4** – located to the east of the CSEC Search Area, size approximately 7 hectares
- **S5** – located to the south east of the CSEC Search Area, size approximately 0.5 hectares
- **S6** – located to the south west of the CSEC Search Area, size approximately 1 hectares

- 1.2 The options appraisal presented in this appendix broadly follows National Grid's 'Options Appraisal - Toolkit for Project Teams' guidance (2012) for outline siting options (Stage 2). The appraisal has been informed by findings of desk and site work and considers the landscape and visual baseline; key issues/receptors (designations/character/views); main potential impacts; likely mitigation requirements and residual impacts or implications; and summary and conclusions. The Horlock Rules 'NGC Substations and the Environment: Guidelines on Siting and Design' has also been taken into consideration.

Siting Zone N1



Landscape designations

- 1.3 Siting Zone N1 falls within the Cotswolds AONB. This nationally valued landscape is considered to be of high sensitivity to the Option, albeit that sensitivity is locally reduced in proximity to the existing overhead lines.
- 1.4 Sudeley Castle, a Grade II* Registered Park and Garden, is located approximately 1.6km to the east. This valued historic landscape is considered to be of high sensitivity to the Option.

Landscape character

- 1.5 The site falls within 107: Cotswolds National Character Area (NCA). Overall, this NCA is considered to be of regional to national value due to 65% of the NCA being covered by National AONB designation. Although it is highly valued, it is likely to vary in sensitivity with areas of slightly lowered sensitivity typically where infrastructure, large-scale commercial development and urban land use influence tranquillity and character. At a local level the site is located within The Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment, LCT 19: Unwooded Vale and LCA 19D: Vale of Evesham Fringe. It lies adjacent to LCT 2: Escarpment and LCA 2E: Winchcombe to Dover's Hill. The LCTs and LCAs are of national value, being within the AONB; however, they are of varying sensitivity to the Option. Landscape sensitivity near the site is lowered to some degree as it is already affected by the B4632 and existing overhead lines.
- 1.6 The site spans across three arable fields immediately north of the B4632, which forms the south west site boundary. The site comprises predominantly arable crop, hedgerows and some hedgerow trees. Landform gently slopes down to Langley Brook; which forms a small part of the northernmost site boundary. An existing suspension pylon falls just outside the west boundary within the westernmost field.

Visual amenity

- 1.7 The following settlements lie within approximately 3km of the Siting Zone: Winchcombe, Gretton, Greet and Woodmancote. There are scattered properties within 3km of the Siting Zone, including the following which are within 1km and fall within the indicative ZTV:
 - Postlip Lodge situated at the entrance drive to Postlip Hall which lies approximately 70m south west of the Siting Zone;
 - Dry Ground Farm, approximately 200m to the southeast;
 - Several properties along Langley Road, approximately 290m to the north;
 - Dryfield Farm, approximately 640m to the west;
 - Corndean Cottages (Corndean Farm), approximately 700m to the south;
 - Postlip Hall Farm, approximately 840m to the southwest;
 - Langley Hill Farm, approximately 960m to the north;
 - Corndean Hall, approximately 1.45km to the southeast.
- 1.8 Residential receptors are considered to be of medium to high sensitivity to a new CSEC.
- 1.9 The Cotswold Way National Trails lies within 815m of the Siting Zone at its closest point. There are several Regional Trails in the area. Winchcombe Way/ Gloucestershire Way is located approximately 1km to the northeast at its closest point. Warden's Way is located approximately 1.5km to the east at its closest point. Windrush Way is located approximately 1.7km to the northeast at its closest point.
- 1.10 There are no National Cycle Network routes within 3km of the Siting Zone.
- 1.11 Cleeve Hill Golf Club is located approximately 1.85km southwest of the site and Sudeley Castle and Gardens approximately 1.6km to the east. There are no other recreational facilities within 3km of the Siting Zone (within the ZTV).
- 1.12 There are two viewpoints within 3km at Cleeve Hill; however, neither of these are in the ZTV and therefore there would be no views to Siting Zone N1.
- 1.13 Langley Hill is a marked highpoint approximately 1.3km north of the Siting Zone, the ZTV suggests that views might be just possible.

Main potential impacts

- 1.14 This option has the potential to locally impact upon LCT 19: Unwooded Vale and LCA 19E: Vale of Evesham Fringe due to the introduction of a new CSEC. Although the character of the landscape in the vicinity of the site is generally less sensitive due to the vicinity of a main road and existing overhead lines, there may be adverse effects from the introduction of additional infrastructure in the landscape. The loss of hedgerow and trees in the area would likely be minimal, dependant on exact location, as the fields are predominantly separated by post and wire fencing.
- 1.15 Views from residential receptors in the area may be adversely affected. Although a new CSEC would be seen in the context of existing overhead lines. There is potential for views from elevated community the north of the site along Langley Road (Langley Farm, The Cottage, Langley Cottage and Lower Langley Farm). The views of the CSEC from this direction may however be partially screened by the mature vegetation along Langley Brook. To the south, Postlip Lodge and Dry Ground Farm may experience limited intervisibility with the CSEC, noting that the existing B4632 and overhead lines are existing detractors to the view.

Likely Mitigation Requirements & Residual Impacts or Implications

- 1.16 New planting should be considered and designed to respect the pattern of and extend and connect with existing hedgerows and tree cover. Shelter belts and woodland are features in this landscape and these could be locally planted to help integrate a new CSEC. Should

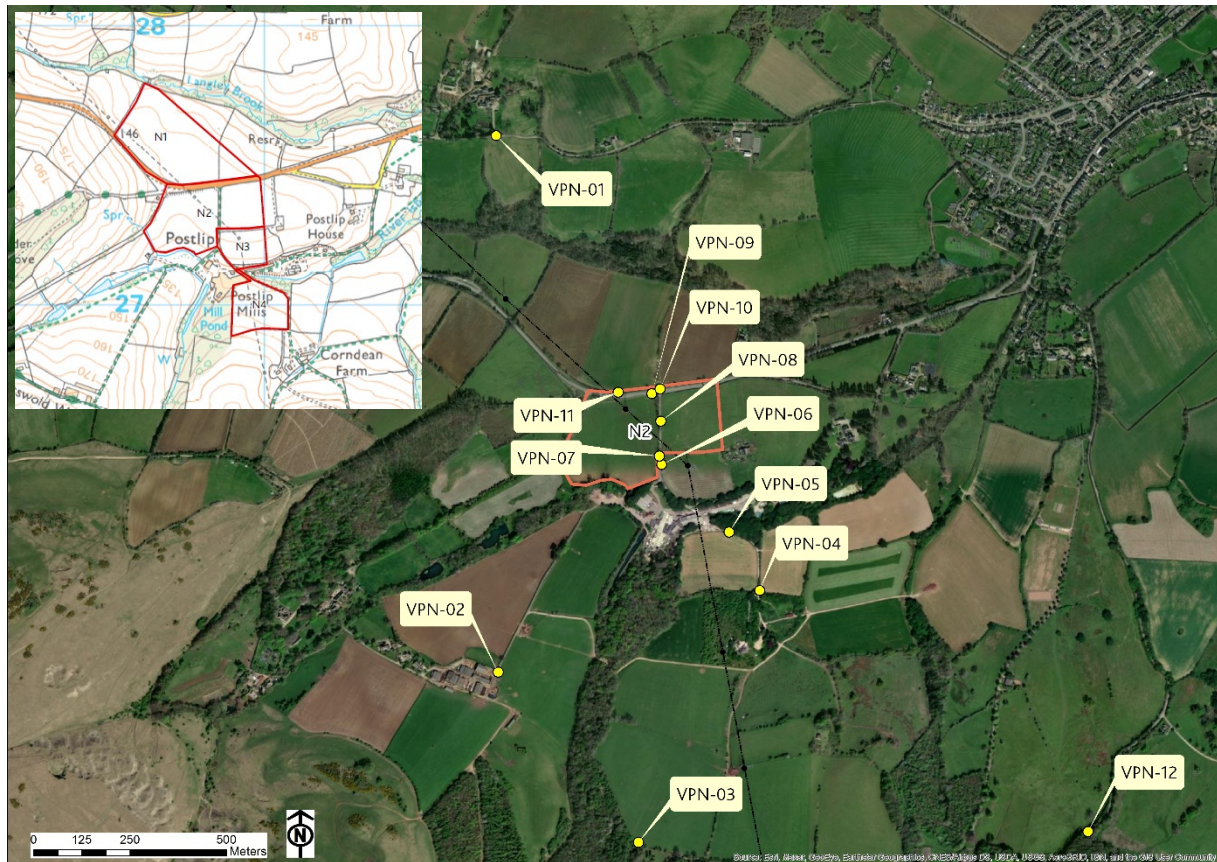
part of existing hedgerows and any trees be lost then these should be replaced either in situ or nearby.

- 1.17 Sensitively designed mounding/ false cuttings should be considered, in combination with areas of planting to maximise screening of the lower components of a new CSEC.
- 1.18 The new CSEC should be set back from the adjacent road and in lower lying parts of the Siting Zone to minimise effects on the local community and people travelling around the area.
- 1.19 With careful siting and design, it is considered that impacts on the landscape character and visual amenity could be minimised; however, it is still considered that there would be a potential residual negative effect of the Option on the constraints.

Summary & Conclusions

- 1.20 This Option is moderately constrained. There is limited opportunity to take advantage of existing vegetation cover for screening, however, there are opportunities to avoid landscape constraints and for mitigation through more detailed assessment, siting, design and construction, which would prevent and/or reduce potential for significant landscape effects. The visual amenity, including for a number of properties may be affected and some significant residual visual effects are possible.

Siting Zone N2



Landscape designations

- 1.21 This site falls within the Cotswolds AONB. This nationally valued landscape is considered to be of high sensitivity to the Option, albeit that sensitivity is locally reduced in proximity to the existing overhead lines.
- 1.22 Sudeley Castle, a Grade II* Registered Park and Garden, is located approximately 1.6km to the east. This valued historic landscape is considered to be of high sensitivity to the Option.

Landscape character

- 1.23 The site falls within 107: Cotswolds NCA. Overall, this NCA is considered to be of regional to national value due to 65% of the NCA being covered by National AONB designation. Although it is highly valued, it is likely to vary in sensitivity with areas of slightly lowered sensitivity typically where infrastructure, large-scale commercial development and urban land use influence tranquillity and character. At a local level, the western section of the site is located within The Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment, LCT 19: Unwooded Vale and LCA 19D: Vale of Evesham Fringe. The western section of the site is located within LCT 2: Escarpment and LCA 2E: Winchcombe to Dover's Hill. The LCTs and LCAs are of national value, being within the AONB; however, they are of varying sensitivity to the Option. Landscape sensitivity in the vicinity of the site is lowered as it is already affected by the B4632 and existing overhead lines.
- 1.24 The site spans across two pastoral fields immediately south of the B4632, which forms the northern site boundary. The entrance drive to Postlip Hall forms part of the western boundary of the site. The site comprises predominantly pastoral fields, hedgerows, some hedgerow trees and an unnamed road, which separates the fields and leads to Dry Ground Farm, Postlip Paper Mill and a sewage works adjacent to the River Isbourne. There are two

existing pylons within the Siting Zone, one in each field. The northern part of the Siting Zone is relatively flat being on the top of a shallow ridgeline which separates the valleys of Langley Brook and the River Isbourne, whilst the landform gently slopes down to the south west corner of the site towards the River Isbourne.

Visual amenity

- 1.25 The following settlements lie within approximately 3km of the Siting Zone: Winchcombe, Gretton, Greet and Woodmancote. There are scattered properties within 3km of the Siting Zone, including the following which are within 1km and fall within the indicative ZTV:
 - Postlip Lodge situated at the entrance drive to Postlip Hall, immediately west of the Siting Zone;
 - Dry Ground Farm, immediately to the south east;
 - Corndean Cottages (Corndean Farm), approximately 505m to the south;
 - Several properties along Langley Road, approximately 620m to the north;
 - Postlip Hall Farm, approximately 630m to the southwest;
 - Dryfield Farm, approximately 640m to the west;
 - West Lodge and South Lodge, approximately 650m to the southwest;
 - Postlip Hall, approximately 825m to the southwest;
 - Mill House, approximately 950m to the southwest;
 - Corndean Hall, approximately 1.25km to the southeast.
- 1.26 Residential receptors are considered to be of medium to high sensitivity to a new CSEC.
- 1.27 The Cotswold Way National Trail lies within 600m of the Siting Zone at its closest point. There are several Regional Trails in the area. Winchcombe Way/ Gloucestershire Way is located approximately 1.1km to the northeast at its closest point. Warden's Way is located approximately 1.5km to the east at its closest point. Windrush Way is located approximately 1.5km to the northeast at its closest point.
- 1.28 There are no National Cycle Network routes within 3km of the Siting Zone.
- 1.29 Cleeve Hill Golf Club is located approximately 1.7km southwest of the site and Sudeley Castle and Gardens approximately 1.6km to the east. There are no other recreational facilities within 3km of the Siting Zone (within the ZTV).
- 1.30 There are two viewpoints within 3km of the Siting Zone at Cleeve Hill. The southernmost viewpoint falls within the ZTV whereas the northern viewpoint is outside and therefore there would be no views to Siting Zone N2.
- 1.31 Langley Hill is a marked highpoint approximately 1.6km north of the Siting Zone; the ZTV suggests that views might be just possible.

Main potential impacts

- 1.32 This option has the potential to locally impact upon LCT 19: Unwooded Vale and LCA 19D: Vale of Evesham Fringe and LCT 2: Escarpment and LCA 2E: Winchcombe to Dover's Hill due to the introduction of a new CSEC. Although the character of the landscape in the vicinity of the site is generally less sensitive due to the vicinity of the sewage works and Postlip Paper Mill to the south as well as existing overhead lines/ pylons, there may be adverse effects from the introduction of additional infrastructure in the landscape. The loss of hedgerow and trees in the area would likely be minimal, dependant on exact location.
- 1.33 Views from residential receptors in the area may be adversely affected. Although a new CSEC would be seen in the context of existing overhead lines. Residents at Postlip Lodge to the west and Dry Ground Farm to the east are in close proximity and there is potential for open, unfiltered, close up views of the CSEC. There is also potential for views from

elevated community the north of the site along Langley Road (Langley Farm, The Cottage, Langley Cottage and Lower Langley Farm), particularly if the CSEC was sited in the easternmost field. The field to the east is elevated in the context of the rest of the CSEC Search Area and as such may be more challenging to screen in views from both the local and wider landscape.

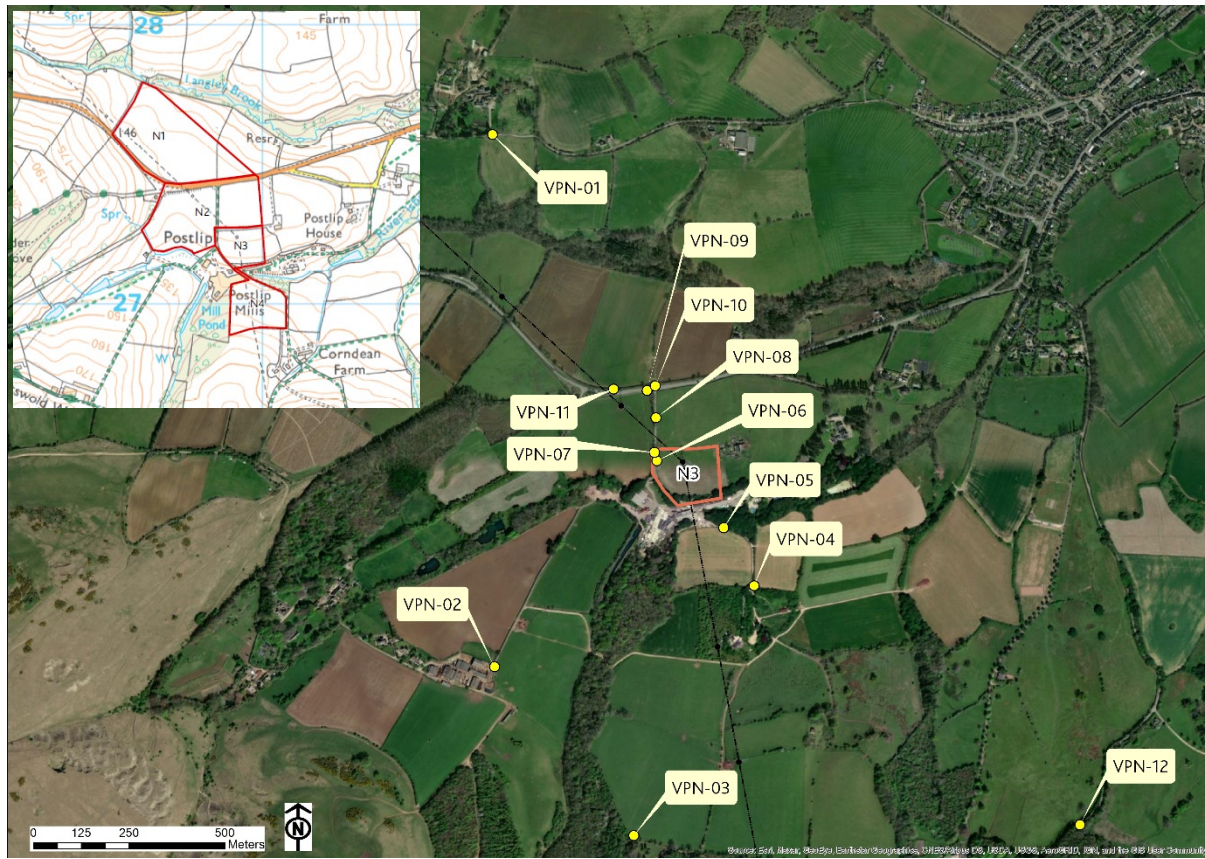
Likely Mitigation Requirements & Residual Impacts or Implications

- 1.34 New planting should be considered and designed to respect pattern of and extend and connect with existing hedgerows and tree cover. Shelterbelts and woodland are features in this landscape and these could be locally planted to help integrate a new CSEC. Sensitively designed mounding/ false cuttings should also be considered, in combination with areas of planting to maximise screening of the lower components of a new CSEC. It is important to note that any mitigation or siting of infrastructure in the western field may also impact on the setting of nearby Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monument at Postlip Hall and this must be borne in mind and advice sought from Cultural Heritage specialist. Should part of existing hedgerows and any trees be lost then these should be replaced either in situ or nearby.
- 1.35 The new CSEC should be set back from the adjacent road to minimise effects on the local community and people travelling around the area. Mature trees along the access road to Postlip Paper Mill should be retained and could be utilised to assist with filtering of views
- 1.36 With careful siting and design, it is considered that impacts on the landscape character and visual amenity could be reduced; however, it is still considered that there would be a potential residual negative effect of the Option on the constraints.

Summary & Conclusions

- 1.37 This Option is moderately constrained. There is little opportunity to take advantage of existing vegetation cover for screening, (with the exception of some mature trees) along the access road to Postlip Paper Mill); however, there are opportunities to avoid landscape constraints and for mitigation through more detailed assessment, siting, design and construction, which would prevent and/or reduce potential for significant landscape effects. The visual amenity, including for a number of properties may be affected and some significant residual visual effects are possible.

Siting Zone N3



Landscape designations

- 1.39 This site falls within the Cotswolds AONB. This nationally valued landscape is considered to be of high sensitivity to the Option, albeit that sensitivity is locally reduced in proximity to the existing overhead lines.
- 1.40 Sudeley Castle, a Grade II* Registered Park and Garden, is located approximately 1.6km to the east. This valued historic landscape is considered to be of high sensitivity to the Option.

Landscape character

- 1.41 The site falls within 107: Cotswolds NCA. Overall, this NCA is considered to be of regional to national value due to 65% of the NCA being covered by National AONB designation. Although it is highly valued, it is likely to vary in sensitivity with areas of slightly lowered sensitivity typically where infrastructure, large-scale commercial development and urban land use influence tranquillity and character. At a local level, the site is located within The Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment, LCT 19: Unwooded Vale and LCA 19D: Vale of Evesham Fringe. It lies adjacent to LCT 2: Escarpment and LCA 2E: Winchcombe to Dover's Hill. The LCTs and LCAs are of national value, being within the AONB; however, they are of varying sensitivity to the Option. Landscape sensitivity in the vicinity of the site is lowered as it is already affected by overhead lines, the factory buildings associated with Postlip Paper Mill and a sewage works adjacent to the River Isbourne to the south.
- 1.42 The site comprises a pastoral field with the Postlip Paper Mill access road (off the B4632) forming the boundary to the west and south. The site is immediately north of Postlip Paper Mill. Hedgerow planting runs along the western boundary and hedgerow and hedgerow trees to the south. There is an existing pylon roughly in the centre of the site. The ground gently slopes down to the south towards the River Isbourne.

Visual amenity

- 1.43 The following settlements lie within approximately 3km of the Siting Zone: Winchcombe, Gretton, Greet and Woodmancote. There are scattered properties within 3km of the Siting Zone, including the following which are within 1km and fall within the indicative ZTV:
- Dry Ground Farm, immediately to the east;
 - Postlip and Middle Mill, approximately 180m to the southeast;
 - Postlip Lodge situated at the entrance drive to Postlip Hall which lies approximately 235m northwest of the Siting Zone;
 - Corndean Cottages (Corndean Farm), approximately 400m to the south;
 - Postlip Hall Farm, approximately 630m to the southwest;
 - Several properties along Langley Road, approximately 795m to the north;
 - West Lodge and South Lodge, approximately 870m to the southwest;
 - Woodpeckers and Briarwood (two properties set back within Breakheart Plantation) and Corndean Hall, approximately 1.1km to the south and southeast.
- 1.44 Residential receptors are considered to be of medium to high sensitivity to a new CSEC.
- 1.45 The Cotswold Way National Trail lies within 670m of the Siting Zone at its closest point. There are several Regional Trails in the area. Winchcombe Way/ Gloucestershire Way is located approximately 1.25km to the northeast at its closest point. Warden's Way is located approximately 1.6km to the east at its closest point. Windrush Way is located approximately 1.85km to the northeast at its closest point.
- 1.46 There are no National Cycle Network routes within 3km of the Siting Zone.
- 1.47 Cleeve Hill Golf Club is located approximately 1.7km southwest of the site and Sudeley Castle and Gardens approximately 1.6km to the east. There are no other recreational facilities within 3km of the Siting Zone (within the ZTV).
- 1.48 There are two viewpoints within 3km of the Siting Zone at Cleeve Hill. The southernmost viewpoint falls within the ZTV whereas the northern viewpoint is outside and therefore there would be no views to Siting Zone N3.
- 1.49 Langley Hill is a marked highpoint approximately 1.75km north of the Siting Zone; the ZTV suggests that views might be just possible.

Main potential impacts

- 1.50 This option has the potential to locally impact upon LCT 19: Unwooded Vale and LCA 19D: Vale of Evesham Fringe due to the introduction of a new CSEC. Although the character of the landscape in the vicinity of the site is generally less sensitive due to the vicinity of the factory buildings associated with Postlip Paper Mill and infrastructure associated with the sewage works to the south as well as existing overhead lines, there may be adverse effects from the introduction of additional infrastructure in the landscape. The loss of hedgerow and trees in the area would likely be minimal, dependant on exact location.
- 1.51 Views from residential receptors in the area may be adversely affected. Although a new CSEC would be seen in the context of existing overhead lines, residents at Dry Ground Farm are in close proximity to the Siting Zone and would have the potential for close up open views of the CSEC. More distantly, there is potential for residents at Postlip Lodge and along Langley Road (Langley Farm, The Cottage, Langley Cottage and Lower Langley Farm) to have filtered views of the Siting Zone. Site visits have determined that it is likely that intervening vegetation would screen views of the CSEC from Corndean Cottages and Corndean Hall, West Lodge, South Lodge and Postlip Hall. Residents at Postlip Hall Farm may experience intervisibility with the CSEC; however, this would be seen within the context of the factory buildings associated with Postlip Paper Mill directly southwest of the Siting Zone.

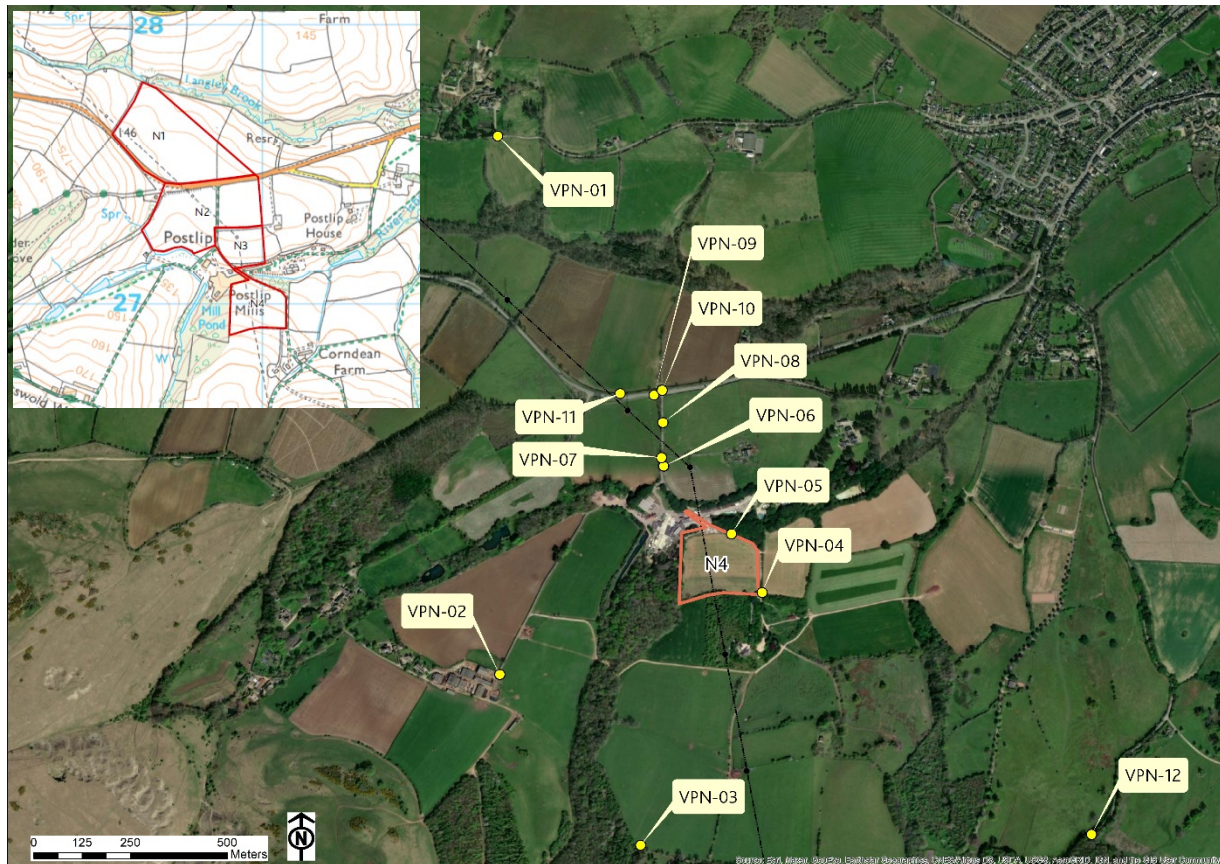
Likely Mitigation Requirements & Residual Impacts or Implications

- 1.52 New planting should be considered and designed to respect pattern of and extend and connect with existing hedgerows and tree cover. Shelterbelts and woodland are features in this landscape and these could be locally planted to help integrate a new CSEC. Sensitively designed mounding/ false cuttings should also be considered, in combination with areas of planting to maximise screening of the lower components of a new CSEC. Should part of existing hedgerows and any trees be lost then these should be replaced either in situ or nearby.
- 1.53 The new CSEC should be set back from residential properties to minimise effects on the local community. Mature trees along the access road to Postlip Paper Mill, to the south should be retained and could be utilised to assist with filtering of views
- 1.54 With careful siting and design, it is considered that impacts on the landscape character and visual amenity could be minimised; however, it is still considered that there would be a potential residual negative effect of the Option on the constraints.

Summary & Conclusions

- 1.55 This Option has some constraints, with opportunities to avoid constraints and for mitigation through more detailed assessment, siting, design and construction, which would prevent and/or reduce potential for significant landscape effects. However, the visual amenity for the adjacent property may be affected and some significant residual visual effects are possible.

Siting Zone N4



Landscape designations

- 1.57 This site falls within the Cotswolds AONB. This nationally valued landscape is considered to be of high sensitivity to the Option, albeit that sensitivity is locally reduced in proximity to the existing overhead lines.
- 1.58 Sudeley Castle, a Grade II* Registered Park and Garden, is located approximately 1.6km to the northeast. This valued historic landscape is considered to be of high sensitivity to the Option.

Landscape character

- 1.59 The site falls within 107: Cotswolds NCA. Overall, this NCA is considered to be of regional to national value due to 65% of the NCA being covered by National AONB designation. Although it is highly valued, it is likely to vary in sensitivity with areas of slightly lowered sensitivity typically where infrastructure, large-scale commercial development and urban land use influence tranquillity and character. At a local level, the site is located within The Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment, LCT 2: Escarpment and LCA 2E: Winchcombe to Dover's Hill. The LCTs and LCAs are of national value, being within the AONB; however, they are of varying sensitivity to the Option. Landscape sensitivity in the vicinity of the site is lowered as it is already affected by Postlip Paper Mill northwest of the Siting Zone and a sewage works adjacent to the River Isbourne to the northeast.
- 1.60 The Siting Zone spans across two small arable fields, which are largely enclosed by existing woodlands and hedgerows. The driveway to Corndean Farm and Corndean Cottages forms the boundary to the north and east and to the south and west are blocks of woodland and an overgrown hedgerow. The overhead line spans the two fields. The ground has a slight slope from approximately 142m in the southwestern corner down to approximately 126m in the northeastern field.

Visual amenity

- 1.61 The settlement of Winchcombe lies approximately 1km northeast of the Siting Zone. There are scattered properties within 3km of the Siting Zone, including the following which are within 1km and fall within the indicative ZTV:
- Corndean Cottages (Corndean Farm), approximately 150m to the south;
 - Postlip and Middle Mill, approximately 190m to the northeast;
 - Dry Ground Farm, approximately 215m to the north;
 - Postlip House, approximately 365m to the northeast;
 - Postlip Lodge situated at the entrance drive to Postlip Hall which lies approximately 400m northwest of the Siting Zone;
 - Postlip Hall Farm, approximately 750m to the west;
 - Woodpeckers and Briarwood - properties set back within Breakheart Plantation, approximately 850m to the south;
 - West Lodge and South Lodge, approximately 860m to the west;
 - Corndean Hall, approximately 880m to the southeast;
 - Several properties along Langley Road, approximately 960m to the north;
 - Cleveley Cottage, approximately 1km to the southeast; and
 - Postlip Hall, approximately 1km to the west.
- 1.62 Residential receptors are considered to be of medium to high sensitivity to a new CSEC.
- 1.63 The Cotswold Way National Trail lies within 490m of the Siting Zone at its closest point. There are several Regional Trails in the area. Winchcombe Way/ Gloucestershire Way is located approximately 1.45km to the northeast at its closest point. Warden's Way is located approximately 1.65km to the northeast at its closest point. Windrush Way is located approximately 2km to the east at its closest point.
- 1.64 There are no National Cycle Network routes within 3km of the Siting Zone.
- 1.65 Cleeve Hill Golf Club is located approximately 2km southwest of the site and Sudeley Castle and Gardens approximately 1.6km to the north east. There are no other recreational facilities within 3km of the Siting Zone (within the ZTV).
- 1.66 There are two viewpoints within 3km of the Siting Zone at Cleeve Hill. The southernmost viewpoint falls within the ZTV whereas the northern viewpoint is outside and therefore there would be no views to Siting Zone N4.
- 1.67 Langley Hill is a marked highpoint approximately 1.95km north of the Siting Zone; the ZTV suggests that views might be just possible.

Main potential impacts

- 1.68 This option has the potential to locally impact upon LCT 2: Escarpment and LCA 2E: Winchcombe to Dover's Hill due to the introduction of a new CSEC. Although the character of the landscape in the vicinity of the site is generally less sensitive due to the vicinity of the factory buildings associated with Postlip Paper Mill and infrastructure associated with the sewage works, as well as existing overhead lines, there may be adverse effects from the introduction of additional infrastructure in the landscape. The loss of hedgerow and trees in the area would likely be minimal, dependant on exact location.
- 1.69 Views from residential receptors in the area may be adversely affected. Although a new CSEC would be seen in the context of existing overhead lines, residents at Corndean Cottages are in close proximity to the Siting Zone and would have views of the CSEC from the entrance driveway. Existing vegetation would likely filter/ screen views from the property itself. Residents to the north and northeast such as Dry Ground Farm, Postlip,

Middle Mill and Postlip House may have views of the CSEC; however, it is likely views would be partly screened by intervening vegetation around the buildings associated with the sewage works. More distantly, there is potential for residents at Postlip Lodge and Postlip Hall Farm to experience intervisibility with the Siting Zone, although this would be seen within the context of the existing factory buildings associated with Postlip Paper Mill. Corndean Hall and Cleveley Cottage, both to the southeast, may have limited views of the Siting Zone.

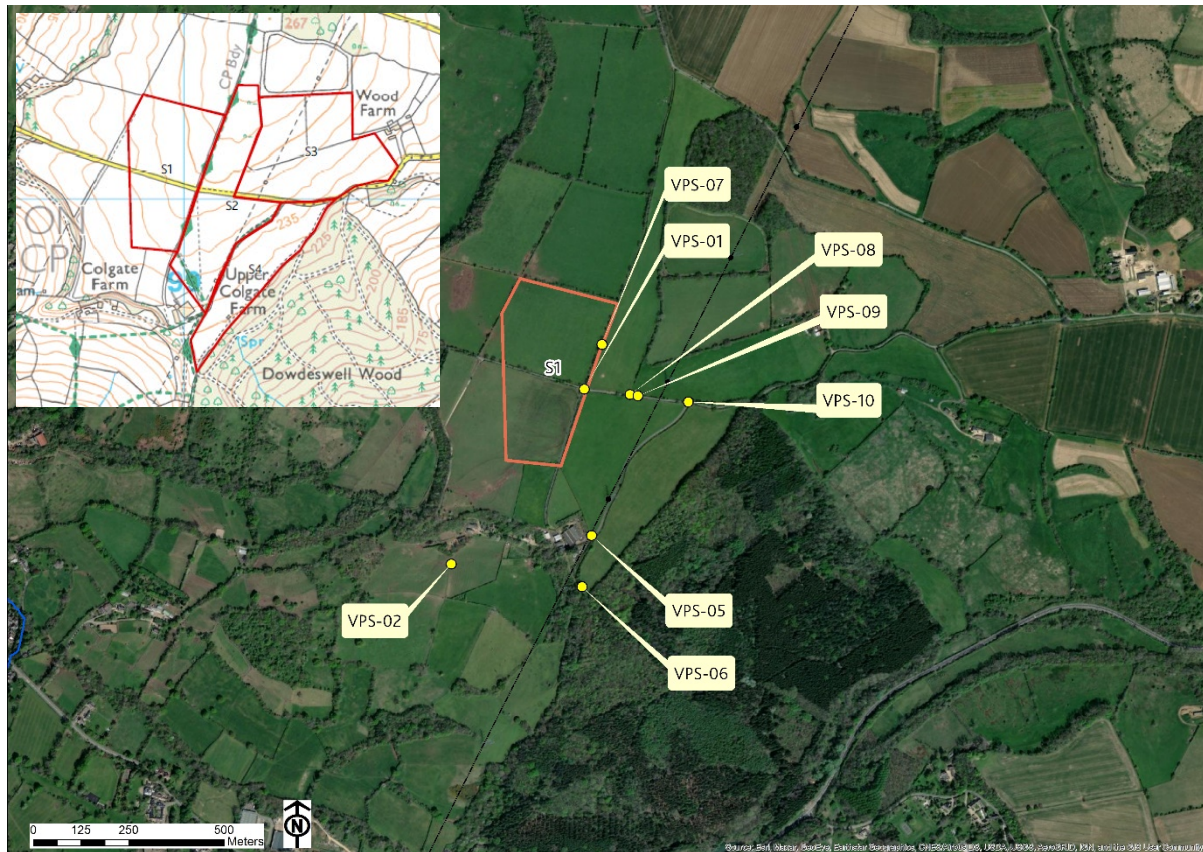
Likely Mitigation Requirements & Residual Impacts or Implications

- 1.70 New planting should be considered and designed to respect pattern of and extend and connect with existing hedgerows and tree cover. Shelterbelts and woodland are features in this landscape and these could be locally planted to help integrate a new CSEC. Sensitively designed mounding/ false cuttings should also be considered, in combination with areas of planting to maximise screening of the lower components of a new CSEC. Should part of existing hedgerows and any trees be lost then these should be replaced either in situ or nearby.
- 1.71 The new CSEC should be set back from the access road to the residential property to the south to minimise effects on the local community. Mature trees around the site should be retained as far as practicable and could be utilised to assist with filtering of views
- 1.72 With careful siting and design, it is considered that impacts on the landscape character and visual amenity could be minimised; however, it is still considered that there would be a potential residual negative effect of the Option on the constraints.

Summary & Conclusions

- 1.73 This Option has relatively few constraints. Some opportunities exist for mitigation through more detailed assessment, siting, design and construction, which would reduce the potential for some visual effects. Some limited significant residual visual effects are possible.

Siting Zone S1



Landscape designations

- 1.74 This site falls within the Cotswolds AONB. This nationally valued landscape is considered to be of high sensitivity to the Option, albeit that sensitivity is locally reduced in proximity to the existing overhead lines.
- 1.75 There are three Grade II Registered Parks and Gardens within 3km of the Siting Zone. Glenfall House is located approximately 670m to the northwest, Dowdeswell Court is located approximately 1.2km to the southeast and Bouncer's Lane Cemetery, Cheltenham is located 2.3km to the northwest. These valued historic landscapes are considered to be of high sensitivity to the Option.

Landscape character

- 1.76 The site falls within 107: Cotswolds NCA. Overall, this NCA is considered to be of regional to national value due to 65% of the NCA being covered by National AONB designation. Although it is highly valued, it is likely to vary in sensitivity with areas of slightly lowered sensitivity typically where infrastructure, large-scale commercial development and urban land use influence tranquillity and character. At a local level, the site is located within The Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment, LCT 7: High Wold and LCA 7C: Cotswolds High Wold Plateau. The LCTs and LCAs are of national value, being within the AONB; however, they are of varying sensitivity to the Option.
- 1.77 Existing overhead lines to the east lower landscape sensitivity in the vicinity of the site. The Siting Zone comprise two pastoral fields, divided to the north and south by Ham Road in the centre. The fields are bound by hedgerows and frequent hedgerow trees. The Siting Zone is situated on the western slopes of a shallow ridgeline of the High Wold along which the Cotswold Way runs adjacent and parallel to the eastern boundary of the Siting Zone. Landform slopes away from the northeastern corner, which is approximately 256m AOD down to the southwestern area of the Siting Zone, which is ~237m AOD.

Visual amenity

- 1.78 The following settlements lie within approximately 3km of the Siting Zone: Cheltenham and Whittington. There are scattered properties within 3km of the Siting Zone, including the following which are within 1km and fall within the indicative ZTV:
- Ham Hill Farm, approximately 80m to the west;
 - Upper Colgate Farm, approximately 185m to the southeast;
 - Northfield Farm, approximately 995m to the northwest.
- 1.79 Residential receptors are considered to be of medium to high sensitivity to a new CSEC.
- 1.80 The Cotswold Way National Trail is immediately adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Siting Zone. The Cheltenham Circular Footpath, a Regional Trail, is located approximately 370m southwest of the Siting Zone at its closest point.
- 1.81 There are no National Cycle Network routes within 3km of the Siting Zone.
- 1.82 The Dowdeswell Wood and Reservoir Nature Reserve is located approximately 300m southwest of the Siting Zone at its closest point. Whittington Court (Historic Houses Association visitor attraction) is located approximately 2.2km east of the Siting Zone and Lilley Brook Golf Club is located approximately 3km southwest of the Siting Zone. Colgate Farm B&B and campsite is approximately 185m to the south. There are no other recreational facilities within 3km of the Siting Zone (within the ZTV).
- 1.83 The Kilkenny viewpoint is located approximately 2.75km to the southeast of the Siting Zone and is within the ZTV.

Main potential impacts

- 1.84 This Option has the potential to locally impact upon LCT 7: High Wold and LCA 7C: Cotswolds High Wold Plateau due to the introduction of a new CSEC. Although the character of the landscape in the vicinity of the site is generally less sensitive due to the existing overhead lines approximately 200m to the east, there may be adverse effects from the introduction of additional infrastructure in this elevated and more open part of the landscape. The loss of hedgerow and trees in the area would be minimal, dependant on exact location.
- 1.85 Views from residential receptors in the area may be adversely affected. Although a new CSEC would be seen in the context of existing overhead lines, residents at Upper Colgate Farm would have the potential for partially filtered views of the CSEC. The degree of filtering would depend on exact positioning of the compound as the mature hedgerows and trees around Ham Road would obscure clear views. To the northwest, residents at Northfield Farm may have the potential for views of the CSEC; however, these are likely to be filtered by existing vegetation. Other residents within 1km of the Siting Zone are not predicted to have intervisibility with the CSEC.

Likely Mitigation Requirements & Residual Impacts or Implications

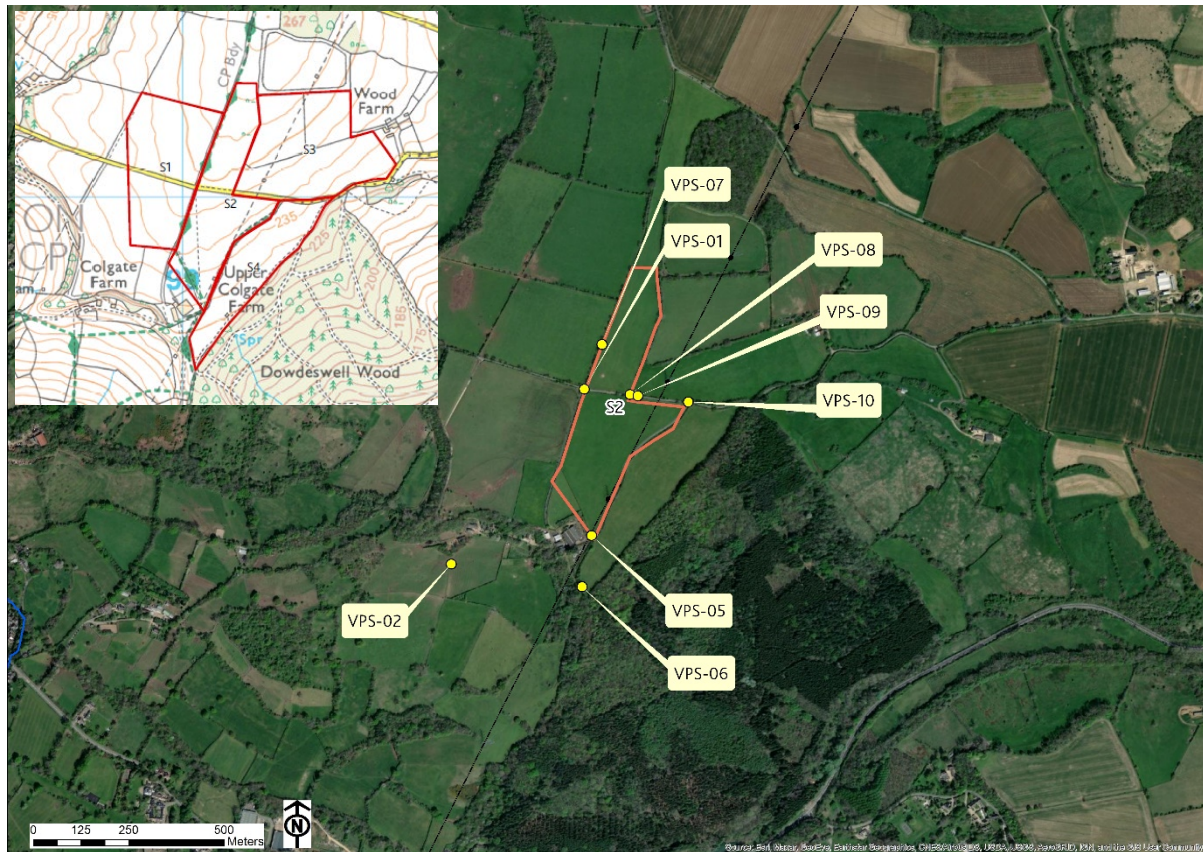
- 1.86 New planting should be considered and designed to respect pattern of and extend and connect with existing hedgerows and tree cover. Although shelterbelts and woodland are features in the wider landscape and could be considered to help integrate a new CSEC the introduction of any notable areas of tree planting may conflict with the elevated and more open part of the High Wold Plateau. Sensitively designed mounding/ false cuttings should also be carefully considered, in combination with areas of planting to maximise screening of the lower components of a new CSEC. Should part of existing hedgerows and any trees be lost then these should be replaced either in situ or nearby.
- 1.87 The new CSEC should be set back from the Cotswold Way National Trail and Ham Road to minimise effects on people engaged in recreation and travelling around the local community. Existing mature hedgerow trees should be retained as far as practicable and could be utilised to assist with filtering of views.

- 1.88 With careful siting and design, it is considered that impacts on the landscape character and visual amenity could be reduced to some degree; however, it is still considered that there would be a potential residual negative effect of the Option on the constraints.

Summary & Conclusions

- 1.89 This Option is moderately constrained. There is little opportunity to take advantage of existing vegetation cover for screening due to the elevated and sloping nature of the site; there is potential for significant residual landscape effects. The visual amenity, including for people walking on the Cotswold Way National Trail may be affected and some significant residual visual effects are possible.

Siting Zone S2



Landscape designations

- 1.90 This site falls within the Cotswolds AONB. This nationally valued landscape is considered to be of high sensitivity to the Option, albeit that sensitivity is locally reduced in proximity to the existing overhead lines.
- 1.91 There are three Grade II Registered Parks and Gardens within 3km of the Siting Zone. Glenfall House is located approximately 890m to the west, Dowdeswell Court is located approximately 1km to the southeast and Bouncer's Lane Cemetery, Cheltenham is located 2.5km to the northwest. These valued historic landscapes are considered to be of high sensitivity to the Option.

Landscape character

- 1.92 The site falls within 107: Cotswolds NCA. Overall, this NCA is considered to be of regional to national value due to 65% of the NCA being covered by National AONB designation. Although it is highly valued, it is likely to vary in sensitivity with areas of slightly lowered sensitivity typically where infrastructure, large-scale commercial development and urban land use influence tranquillity and character. At a local level, the site is located within The Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment, LCT 7: High Wold and LCA 7C: Cotswolds High Wold Plateau. The LCTs and LCAs are of national value, being within the AONB; however, they are of varying sensitivity to the Option.
- 1.93 Landscape sensitivity in the vicinity of the site is lowered by the existing overhead lines in the southern section and to the east of the Siting Zone. The Siting Zone comprise two pastoral fields, divided to the north and south by Ham Road in the centre. The fields are bound by hedgerows and frequent hedgerow trees. The Siting Zone is situated on the eastern slopes of a shallow ridgeline of the High Wold along which the Cotswold Way runs adjacent and parallel to the western boundary of the Siting Zone. Landform slopes away

from the northern area of the Siting Zone, which is approximately 260m AOD down to the southeast of the Siting Zone, which is ~228m AOD.

Visual amenity

- 1.94 The following settlements lie within approximately 3km of the Siting Zone: Cheltenham and Whittington. There are scattered properties within 3km of the Siting Zone, including the following which are within 1km and fall within the indicative ZTV:
- Upper Colgate Farm, approximately 40m to the southeast;
 - Wood Farm, approximately 400m to the east; and
 - Woodlands Farm, approximately 775m to the east.
- 1.95 Residential receptors are considered to be of medium to high sensitivity to a new CSEC.
- 1.96 The Cotswold Way National Trail is immediately adjacent to the western boundary of the Siting Zone. The Cheltenham Circular Footpath, a Regional Trail, is located approximately 410m southwest of the Siting Zone at its closest point.
- 1.97 There are no National Cycle Network routes within 3km of the Siting Zone.
- 1.98 The Dowdeswell Wood and Reservoir Nature Reserve is located approximately 80m southwest of the Siting Zone at its closest point. Whittington Court (Historic Houses Association visitor attraction) is located approximately 1.9km east of the Siting Zone and Lilley Brook Golf Club is located approximately 3km southwest of the Siting Zone. There are no other recreational facilities within 3km of the Siting Zone (within the ZTV).
- 1.99 The Kilkenny viewpoint is located approximately 2.55km to the southeast of the Siting Zone and is within the ZTV.

Main potential impacts

- 1.100 This Option has the potential to locally impact upon LCT 7: High Wold and LCA 7C: Cotswolds High Wold Plateau due to the introduction of a new CSEC. Although the character of the landscape in the vicinity of the site is generally less sensitive due to the existing overhead lines in the southern section of the Siting Zone and to the east, there may be adverse effects from the introduction of additional infrastructure in this elevated and more open part of the landscape. The loss of hedgerow and trees in the area would be minimal, dependant on exact location.
- 1.101 Views from Ham Road would be fleeting and oblique, often screened by the mature hedgerow and tree planting on each side of the road.
- 1.102 Views from residential receptors in the area may be adversely affected. Although a new CSEC would be seen in the context of existing overhead lines, residents at Upper Colgate Farm are in close proximity and may have views of the CSEC depending on its exact positioning. Views are likely from the local community accessing both Upper and Middle Colgate Farms. It is likely that views from Wood Farm and Woodlands Farm would be heavily filtered by intervening hedgerow field boundaries with hedgerow trees.

Likely Mitigation Requirements & Residual Impacts or Implications

- 1.103 New planting should be considered and designed to respect pattern of and extend and connect with existing hedgerows and tree cover. Although shelterbelts and woodland are features in the wider landscape and could be considered to help integrate a new CSEC the introduction of any notable areas of tree planting may conflict with the elevated and more open part of the High Wold Plateau. Sensitively designed mounding/ false cuttings should also be carefully considered, in combination with areas of planting to maximise screening of the lower components of a new CSEC. Should part of existing hedgerows and any trees be lost then these should be replaced either in situ or nearby.
- 1.104 The new CSEC should be set back from the Cotswold Way National Trail and Ham Road to minimise effects on people engaged in recreation and travelling around the local

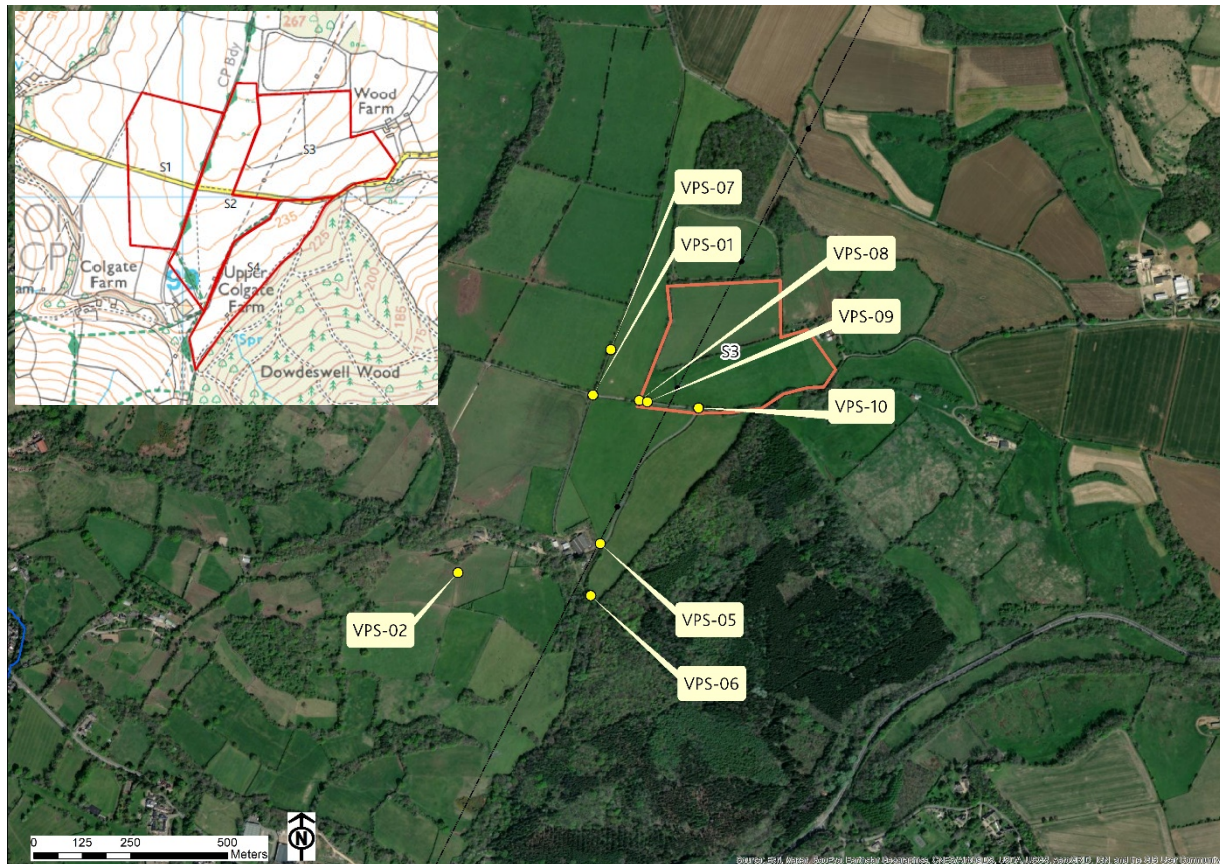
community. Existing mature hedgerow trees should be retained as far as practicable and could be utilised to assist with filtering of views

- 1.105 With careful siting and design, it is considered that impacts on the landscape character and visual amenity could be reduced to some degree; however, it is still considered that there would be a potential residual negative effect of the Option on the constraints.

Summary & Conclusions

- 1.106 This Option is moderately constrained. There is little opportunity to take advantage of existing vegetation cover for screening due to the elevated and sloping nature of the site; there is potential for significant residual landscape effects. The visual amenity, including for people walking on the Cotswold Way National Trail may be affected and some significant residual visual effects are possible.

Siting Zone S3



Landscape designations

- 1.107 This site falls within the Cotswolds AONB. This nationally valued landscape is considered to be of high sensitivity to the Option, albeit that sensitivity is locally reduced in proximity to the existing overhead lines.
- 1.108 There are three Grade II Registered Parks and Gardens within 3km of the Siting Zone. Glenfall House is located approximately 930m to the west, Dowdeswell Court is located approximately 1.1km to the southeast and Bouncer's Lane Cemetery, Cheltenham is located 2.6km to the northwest. These valued historic landscapes are considered to be of high sensitivity to the Option.

Landscape character

- 1.109 The site falls within 107: Cotswolds NCA. Overall, this NCA is considered to be of regional to national value due to 65% of the NCA being covered by National AONB designation. Although it is highly valued, it is likely to vary in sensitivity with areas of slightly lowered sensitivity typically where infrastructure, large-scale commercial development and urban land use influence tranquillity and character. At a local level, the site is located within The Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment, LCT 7: High Wold and LCA 7C: Cotswolds High Wold Plateau. The LCTs and LCAs are of national value, being within the AONB; however, they are of varying sensitivity to the Option.
- 1.110 Landscape sensitivity in the vicinity of the site is lowered by the existing overhead lines within and to the north and south of the Siting Zone. The Siting Zone comprises two pastoral fields top the north of Ham Road. The fields are divided by a hedgerow boundary with hedgerow trees, which also comprises the majority of the Siting Zone edges. The Cotswold Way is approximately 115m west of the Siting Zone running from north to south. The ground slopes away from the northwestern area of the Siting Zone, which is

approximately 259m AOD down to the eastern area of the Siting Zone, which is ~232m AOD.

Visual amenity

- 1.111 The following settlements lie within approximately 3km of the Siting Zone: Cheltenham, Whittington and Andoversford. There are scattered properties within 3km of the Siting Zone, including the following which are within 1km and fall within the indicative ZTV:
- Wood Farm which lies approximately 50m east of the Siting Zone;
 - Woodlands Farm, approximately 450m to the east;
 - Whalley Farm, approximately 825m to the east;
 - Puckham Farm, approximately 990m to the northeast; and
 - Upper Colgate Farm, approximately 380m to the southwest.
- 1.112 Residential receptors are considered to be of medium to high sensitivity to a new CSEC.
- 1.113 The Cotswold Way National Trail is approximately 115m west of the Siting Zone at its closest point. The Cheltenham Circular Footpath, a Regional Trail, is located approximately 720m southwest of the Siting Zone at its closest point.
- 1.114 There are no National Cycle Network routes within 3km of the Siting Zone.
- 1.115 The Dowdeswell Wood and Reservoir Nature Reserve is located approximately 20m south of the Siting Zone at its closest point. Whittington Court (Historic Houses Association visitor attraction) is located approximately 1.55km east of the Siting Zone. There are no other recreational facilities within 3km of the Siting Zone (within the ZTV).
- 1.116 The Kilkenny viewpoint is located approximately 2.55km to the southeast of the Siting Zone and is within the ZTV.

Main potential impacts

- 1.117 This Option has the potential to locally impact upon LCT 7: High Wold and LCA 7C: Cotswolds High Wold Plateau due to the introduction of a new CSEC. Although the character of the landscape in the vicinity of the site is generally less sensitive due to the existing overhead lines in the Siting Zone, there may be adverse effects from the introduction of additional infrastructure in the landscape. The loss of hedgerow and trees in the area would likely be minimal, dependant on exact location.
- 1.118 Views from Ham Road would be fleeting and oblique typically filtered and screened by the mature hedgerow and tree planting along the road.
- 1.119 Views from residential receptors in the area may be adversely affected. Although a new CSEC would be seen in the context of existing overhead lines, residents at Wood Farm are in close proximity and may have some views of the CSEC depending on its exact positioning. Residents at Upper Colgate Farm would have more filtered views due to the mature tree and hedgerow planting around Ham Road. The residents of Woodlands Farm may have filtered views towards the CSEC, noting that there are scattered copses of woodland between this property and the compound, which would limit views.

Likely Mitigation Requirements & Residual Impacts or Implications

- 1.120 New planting should be considered and designed to respect pattern of and extend and connect with existing hedgerows and tree cover. Although shelterbelts and woodland are features in the wider landscape and could be considered to help integrate a new CSEC the introduction of any notable areas of tree planting should be carefully planned in this elevated and slightly more open part of the High Wold Plateau. Sensitively designed mounding/ false cuttings should also be carefully considered, in combination with areas of planting to maximise screening of the lower components of a new CSEC. Should part of

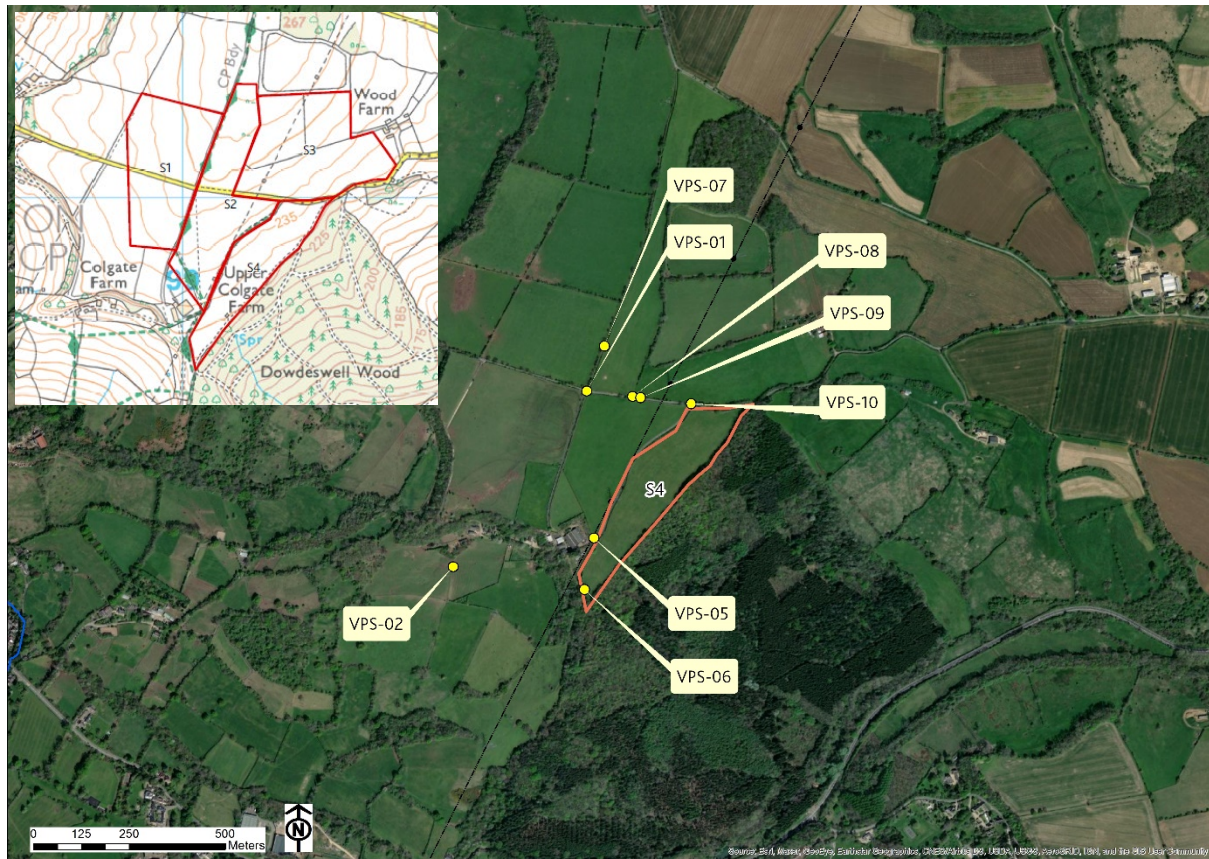
existing hedgerows and any trees be lost then these should be replaced either in situ or nearby.

- 1.121 The new CSEC should be set back from residential properties to minimise effects on the local community. Existing mature hedgerow trees should be retained as far as practicable and could be utilised to assist with filtering of views
- 1.122 With careful siting and design, it is considered that impacts on the landscape character and visual amenity could be minimised; however, it is still considered that there would be a potential residual negative effect of the Option on the constraints.

Summary & Conclusions

- 1.123 This Option is moderately constrained. There is some opportunity to take advantage of and build upon existing vegetation cover for screening, and there are opportunities to avoid landscape constraints and for mitigation through more detailed assessment, siting, design and construction, which would prevent and/or reduce potential for significant landscape effects. The visual amenity, including for a number of properties may be affected and some significant residual visual effects are possible.

Siting Zone S4



Landscape designations

- 1.124 This site falls within the Cotswolds AONB. This nationally valued landscape is considered to be of high sensitivity to the Option, albeit that sensitivity is locally reduced in proximity to the existing overhead lines.
- 1.125 There are three Grade II Registered Parks and Gardens within 3km of the Siting Zone. Glenfall House is located approximately 1.2km to the northwest, Dowdeswell Court is located approximately 930m to the southeast and Bouncer's Lane Cemetery, Cheltenham is located 2.85km to the northwest. These valued historic landscapes are considered to be of high sensitivity to the Option.

Landscape character

- 1.126 The site falls within 107: Cotswolds NCA. Overall, this NCA is considered to be of regional to national value due to 65% of the NCA being covered by National AONB designation. Although it is highly valued, it is likely to vary in sensitivity with areas of slightly lowered sensitivity typically where infrastructure, large-scale commercial development and urban land use influence tranquillity and character. At a local level, the site is located within The Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment, LCT 7: High Wold and LCA 7C: Cotswolds High Wold Plateau. The LCTs and LCAs are of national value, being within the AONB; however, they are of varying sensitivity to the Option.
- 1.127 Landscape sensitivity in the vicinity of the site is lowered by the existing overhead lines to the west of the Siting Zone. The Siting Zone comprises of a pastoral field, bound by Ham Road to the north and the access road to Upper Colgate Farm to the west. The field boundaries predominantly consist of mature hedgerow and hedgerow trees. To the east and south the Siting Zone is bound by Dowdeswell Wood (Ancient Woodland). The Cotswold Way National Trail runs adjacent to the southwestern boundary of the Siting Zone. The ground slopes away from the northern area of the Siting Zone, which is

approximately 238m AOD down to the southern area of the Siting Zone, which is ~220m AOD.

Visual amenity

- 1.128 The following settlements lie within approximately 3km of the Siting Zone: Cheltenham, Whittington and Andoversford. There are scattered properties within 3km of the Siting Zone, including the following which are within 1km and fall within the indicative ZTV:
- Wood Farm which lies approximately 340m northeast of the Siting Zone;
 - Woodlands Farm, approximately 630m to the east; and
 - Upper Colgate Farm, approximately 60m to the west.
- 1.129 Residential receptors are considered to be of medium to high sensitivity to a new CSEC.
- 1.130 The Cotswold Way National Trail is adjacent to the southwest boundary of the Siting Zone at its closest point though views are filtered by existing boundary vegetation. The Cheltenham Circular Footpath, a Regional Trail, is located approximately 360m west of the Siting Zone at its closest point.
- 1.131 There are no National Cycle Network routes within 3km of the Siting Zone.
- 1.132 The Dowdeswell Wood and Reservoir Nature Reserve is adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Siting Zone at its closest point. Whittington Court (Historic Houses Association visitor attraction) is located approximately 1.75km east of the Siting Zone. There are no other recreational facilities within 3km of the Siting Zone (within the ZTV).
- 1.133 The Kilkenny viewpoint is located approximately 2.45km to the southeast of the Siting Zone and is within the ZTV.

Main potential impacts

- 1.134 This Option has the potential to locally impact upon LCT 7: High Wold and LCA 7C: Cotswolds High Wold Plateau due to the introduction of a new CSEC. Although the character of the landscape in the vicinity of the site is generally less sensitive due to the existing overhead lines to the north and west of the Siting Zone, there may be adverse effects from the introduction of additional infrastructure in the landscape. The loss of hedgerow and trees in the area would likely be minimal, dependant on exact location.
- 1.135 Views from Ham Road would be fleeting and oblique, often screened by the mature hedgerow and tree planting along the road.
- 1.136 Views from residential receptors in the area may be adversely affected. Although a new CSEC would be seen in the context of existing overhead lines, residents at Upper Colgate Farm are in close proximity and may have filtered views of the CSEC depending on its exact positioning. Residents at Wood Farm would likely have heavily filtered views due to intervening mature trees and hedgerows. The residents of Woodlands Farm would likely have limited views of the CSEC due to the mature tree planting at Dowdeswell Woods.

Likely Mitigation Requirements & Residual Impacts or Implications

- 1.137 New planting should be considered and designed to respect pattern of and extend and connect with existing hedgerows and tree cover. Shelterbelts and woodland are features in this landscape and these could be locally planted to help integrate a new CSEC. Sensitively designed mounding/ false cuttings should also be considered, in combination with areas of planting to maximise screening of the lower components of a new CSEC. Should part of existing hedgerows and any trees be lost then these should be replaced either in situ or nearby.
- 1.138 The new CSEC should be set back from the access road to the residential property to minimise effects on the local community and should also be set back from Dowdeswell Wood (Ancient Woodland) to avoid direct or indirect impacts on the woodland. Mature

trees around the site should be retained as far as practicable and could be utilised to assist with filtering of views.

- 1.139 With careful siting and design, it is considered that impacts on the landscape character and visual amenity could be minimised; however, it is still considered that there would be a potential residual negative effect of the Option on the constraints.

Summary & Conclusions

- 1.140 This Option has some constraints, with opportunities to avoid constraints and for mitigation through more detailed assessment, siting, design and construction, which would prevent and/or reduce potential for significant landscape effects. However, some significant residual visual effects are possible.

Siting Zone S5



Landscape designations

- 1.141 This site falls within the Cotswolds AONB. This nationally valued landscape is considered to be of high sensitivity to the Option, albeit that sensitivity is locally reduced in proximity to the existing overhead lines.
- 1.142 There are three Grade II Registered Parks and Gardens within 3km of the Siting Zone. Dowdeswell Court is located approximately 1.05km to the east, Glenfall House is located approximately 2.1km to the northwest and Bouncer's Lane Cemetery, Cheltenham is located 3.6km to the northwest. These valued historic landscapes are considered to be of high sensitivity to the Option.

Landscape character

- 1.143 The site falls within 107: Cotswolds NCA. Overall, this NCA is considered to be of regional to national value due to 65% of the NCA being covered by National AONB designation. Although it is highly valued, it is likely to vary in sensitivity with areas of slightly lowered sensitivity typically where infrastructure, large-scale commercial development and urban land use influence tranquillity and character. At a local level, the site is located within The Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment, LCT 2: Escarpment and LCA 2D: Cooper's Hill to Winchcombe. The LCTs and LCAs are of national value, being within the AONB; however, they are of varying sensitivity to the Option.
- 1.144 Landscape sensitivity in the vicinity of the site is lowered by the A40 directly to the north of the Siting Zone and the existing overhead lines. The Siting Zone is comprised of an area of grassland through which the Cotswold Way passes, bound by the A40 to the north and Lineover Wood (Woodland Trust) Open Access woodland to the south. A picnic bench is located within the grassland near to the Cotswold Way National Trail. To the east is the access road to Lineover Wood visitor car park. The boundaries of the Siting Zone

predominantly consist of mature woodland. Although the Siting Zone is located in the bottom of the River Chelt valley the localised landform is varied due to the steep banks of the A40 to the north and very steep banks associated with a dismantled railway to the south.

Visual amenity

- 1.145 The following settlements lie within approximately 3km of the Siting Zone: Cheltenham and Whittington. There are scattered properties within 3km of the Siting Zone, including the following which are within 1km and fall within the indicative ZTV:
- Property at Dowdeswell Reservoir which lies approximately 70m northeast of the Siting Zone;
 - Salts Farm, approximately 100m to the north;
 - Property south of the A40, approximately 140m to the west;
 - Langate, approximately 170m to the northeast;
 - Rossley Gate, approximately 565m to the east;
 - Whitethorne Cottage, approximately 570m west;
 - Coxhorne Farm, approximately 685m northwest;
 - Old Dole Farm, approximately 895m south; and
 - Middle and Lower Colgate Farm, approximately 1km north.
- 1.146 Residential receptors are considered to be of medium to high sensitivity to a new CSEC.
- 1.147 The Cotswold Way National Trail runs within the Siting Zone. The Cheltenham Circular Footpath, a Regional Trail, is located approximately 385m west of the Siting Zone at its closest point.
- 1.148 There are no National Cycle Network routes within 3km of the Siting Zone.
- 1.149 Lineover Wood (Woodland Trust) site is immediately adjacent to the Siting Zone to the south. The visitor's car park is located approximately 20m south. Salts Farm, campsite (caravan site) is located approximately 60m north on the opposite side of the A40, and a restaurant and bar is located immediately west of the Siting Zone. Dowdeswell Wood and Reservoir Nature Reserve is approximately 265m northeast of the Siting Zone. Colgate Farm B&B and campsite is located approximately 1km to the north. There are no other recreational facilities within 3km of the Siting Zone (within the ZTV).
- 1.150 The Kilkenny viewpoint is located approximately 2km to the east of the Siting Zone; however, it is not within the ZTV and therefore there would be no views of the Siting Zone from here.

Main potential impacts

- 1.151 This Option has the potential to locally impact upon LCT 2: Escarpment and LCA 2D: Cooper's Hill to Winchcombe due to the introduction of a new CSEC. Although the character of the landscape in the vicinity of the site is generally less sensitive due to the existing overhead lines and the A40 immediately to the north. Requirements for ground levelling/ localised changes in topography are unknown; however due to the small size of the Siting Zone consequential impacts on trees may occur if cut and fill is required.
- 1.152 Views from the A40 would be close up but fleeting.
- 1.153 Views from residential receptors in the area may be adversely affected. Although a new CSEC would be seen in the context of the A40 and existing overhead lines, residents at the Property at Dowdeswell Reservoir are in close proximity and may have views of the CSEC. Residents of a property approximately 140m west (located south of the A40) may also have some filtered views. Although approximately 1km away, views from Lower and Middlegate farm are likely as these properties are elevated with views down into the valley

bottom. Residents at Langate and Residents and people camping at Salts Farm would be unlikely to have views due to intervening landform and/ or vegetation. Residents at Rossley Gate and Old Dole Farm would also be unlikely to experience intervisibility with the CSEC due to the intervening vegetation.

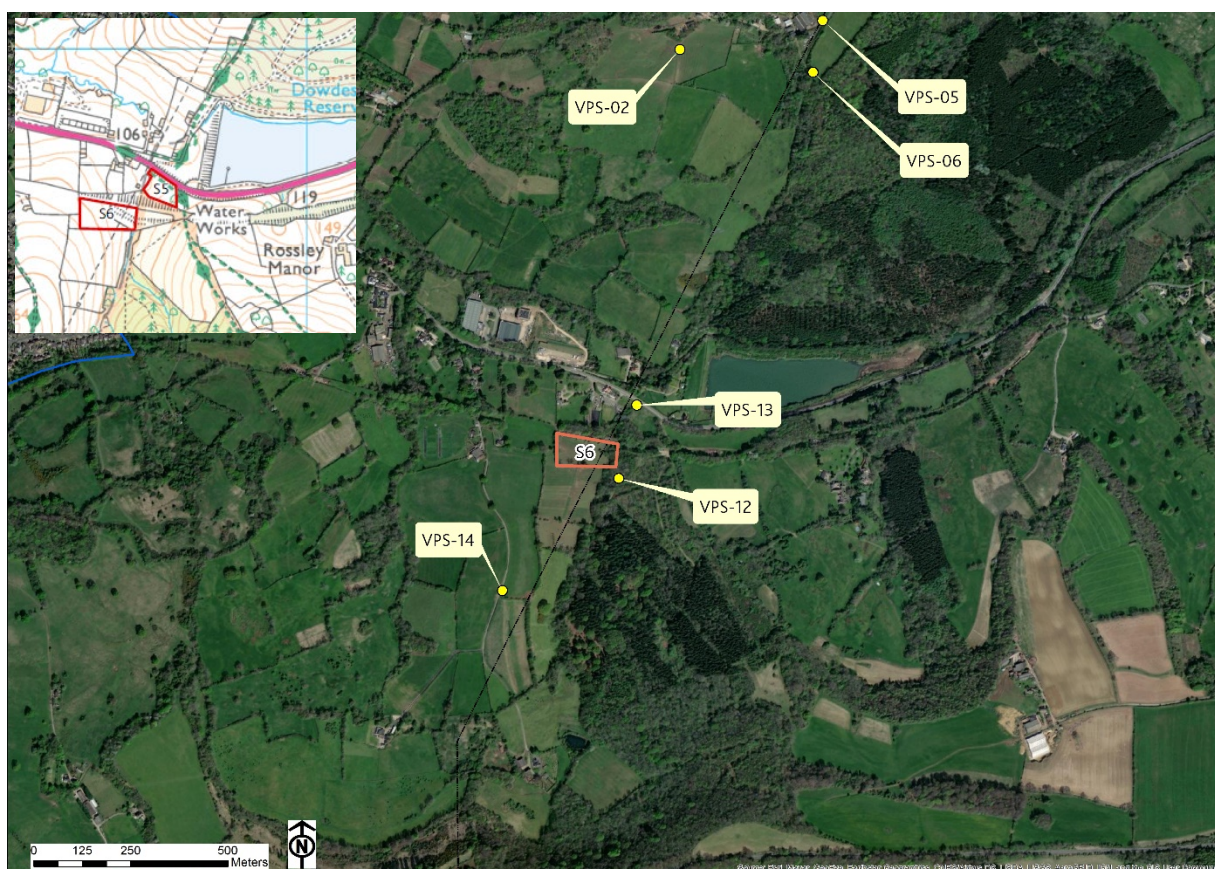
Likely Mitigation Requirements & Residual Impacts or Implications

- 1.154 Due to the small size of the Siting Zone, there may be limitations in terms of what mitigation could be considered. If space permits, new planting should be considered to extend and connect with existing hedgerows and tree cover. Sensitively designed mounding/ false cuttings should also be carefully considered, in combination with areas of planting to maximise screening of the lower components of a new CSEC. Should any trees be lost then these should be replaced either in situ or nearby. If space for mitigation is heavily restricted then options such as sensitively designed walling/ fencing should be explored.
- 1.155 With careful mitigation design, it is considered that impacts on the landscape character and visual amenity could be reduced; however, it is still considered that there would be a potential residual negative effect of the Option on the constraints.

Summary & Conclusions

- 1.156 This Option has some constraints. There is opportunity to take advantage of and build upon existing vegetation cover for screening (space permitting). However, some significant residual visual effects are possible, including for a number of properties and the Cotswold Way National Trail and some significant residual visual effects are possible.

Siting Zone S6



Landscape designations

- 1.157 This site falls within the Cotswolds AONB. This nationally valued landscape is considered to be of high sensitivity to the Option, albeit that sensitivity is locally reduced in proximity to the existing overhead lines.
- 1.158 There are three Grade II Registered Parks and Gardens within 3km of the Siting Zone. Dowdeswell Court is located approximately 1.2km to the east, Glenfall House is located approximately 2.1km to the northwest and Bouncer's Lane Cemetery, Cheltenham is located 3.6km to the northwest. These valued historic landscapes are considered to be of high sensitivity to the Option.

Landscape character

- 1.159 The site falls within 107: Cotswolds NCA. Overall, this NCA is considered to be of regional to national value due to 65% of the NCA being covered by National AONB designation. Although it is highly valued, it is likely to vary in sensitivity with areas of slightly lowered sensitivity typically where infrastructure, large-scale commercial development and urban land use influence tranquillity and character. At a local level, the site is located within The Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment, LCT 2: Escarpment and LCA 2D: Cooper's Hill to Winchcombe. The LCTs and LCAs are of national value, being within the AONB; however, they are of varying sensitivity to the Option.
- 1.160 Landscape sensitivity in the vicinity of the site is lowered by the A40 approximately 120m to the north of the Siting Zone and the existing overhead lines. The Siting Zone comprises horse paddocks and is bound by Lineover Wood (Woodland Trust) Open Access woodland to the east. The field boundaries consist of a combination of hedgerow, hedgerow trees and post and wire fencing. The ground is undulating, with steep vegetated embankments of a dismantled railway running within the northern boundary of the Siting Zone.

Visual amenity

- 1.161 The following settlements lie within approximately 3km of the Siting Zone: Cheltenham and Whittington. There are scattered properties within 3km of the Siting Zone, including the following which are within 1km and fall within the indicative ZTV:
- Property at Dowdeswell Reservoir which lies approximately 185m northeast of the Siting Zone;
 - Salts Farm, approximately 215m to the north;
 - Langate, approximately 280m to the northeast;
 - Property south of the A40, approximately 60m to the north;
 - Properties on Capel Lane, approximately 130m to 190m to the west;
 - Rossley Gate, approximately 680m to the east;
 - Coxhorne Farm, approximately 545m northwest;
 - Balcarras Farm, approximately 870m northwest; and
 - Old Dole Farm, approximately 775m south.
- 1.162 Residential receptors are considered to be of medium to high sensitivity to a new CSEC.
- 1.163 The Cotswold Way National Trail is approximately 130m east of the Siting Zone at its closest point. The Cheltenham Circular Footpath, a Regional Trail, is located approximately 185m west of the Siting Zone at its closest point.
- 1.164 There are no National Cycle Network routes within 3km of the Siting Zone.
- 1.165 Lineover Wood (Woodland Trust) site is immediately adjacent to the Siting Zone to the east. Salts Farm, campsite (caravan site) is located approximately 60m north of the Siting Zone on the opposite side of the A40. The Dowdeswell Wood and Reservoir Nature Reserve is approximately 380m northeast of the Siting Zone at its closest point. There are no other recreational facilities within 3km of the Siting Zone (within the ZTV).
- 1.166 The Kilkenny viewpoint is located approximately 2.1km to the southeast of the Siting Zone; however, it is not within the ZTV and therefore there would be no views of the Siting Zone from here.

Main potential impacts

- 1.167 This Option has the potential to locally impact upon LCT 2: Escarpment and LCA 2D: Cooper's Hill to Winchcombe due to the introduction of a new CSEC. Although the character of the landscape in the vicinity of the site is generally less sensitive due to the existing overhead lines and the A40 to the north, there may be adverse effects from the introduction of additional infrastructure in the landscape. The loss of hedgerow and trees in the area would be minimal, dependant on exact location.
- 1.168 Views from the A40 would be predominantly screened by mature trees and vegetation to the north of the Siting Zone.
- 1.169 Close up open views from residential receptors in the area would likely be limited due to topography and vegetation cover; however, glimpsed/ filtered views may be afforded from a property approximately 60m to the north and another approximately 130m to the west. Residents at Old Dole Farm would likely experience intervisibility with the Siting Zone as they sit at a higher ground level, though views would likely be filtered to some degree by hedgerow field boundaries and occasional trees. Intervening landform and/ or vegetation is likely to filter and screen views from other parts of the community.

Likely Mitigation Requirements & Residual Impacts or Implications

- 1.170 Due to the small size of the Siting Zone, there may be limitations in terms of what mitigation could be considered. If space permits, new planting should be considered to

extend and connect with existing hedgerows and tree cover. Sensitive designed mounding/ false cuttings should also be carefully considered, in combination with areas of planting to maximise screening of the lower components of a new CSEC. Should part of existing hedgerows and any trees be lost then these should be replaced either in situ or nearby.

- 1.171 With careful mitigation design, it is considered that impacts on the landscape character and visual amenity could be minimised; however, it is still considered that there would be a potential residual negative effect of the Option on the constraints.

Summary & Conclusions

- 1.172 This Option has some constraints. There is opportunity to take advantage of and build upon existing vegetation cover for screening (space permitting). It is unlikely that significant visual impacts would be possible due to intervening vegetation and topography. Some residual landscape and visual effects are possible; however, these are not likely to be significant.

VIP COTSWOLDS CSEC SITING STUDY		ORIGINATOR GILLESPIES LLP 5 th Floor Phoenix House 3 South Parade Leeds LS1 5QX T: +44 (0)113 247 055	
P20826-00-001-GIL-0704-01			
REVISION 01	ISSUED DATE 21/12/21		
Author:	Checked	Version	Date
BF, RS & RG	HJ	01	21.12.21