

A. Appendix A8.4: Viewpoint Analysis

A.1 Introduction

- A.1.1 A viewpoint assessment has been carried out from a selection of representative viewpoint locations to inform the assessment of landscape and visual effects arising as a result of the Proposed Development.
- A.1.2 10 viewpoints were identified via the scoping and consultation process. Following desk study to identify key receptors and based on a ZTV study to identify likely visibility, 9 viewpoint locations were proposed in the scoping report to represent the main landscape and visual receptors found in the study area. An additional viewpoint located at Carew Castle was requested by consultees as set out within the consultation summary in the LVIA chapter and is included as viewpoint 10.
- A.1.3 The locations of the selected viewpoints are shown on Figure 8.5. Details for each viewpoint are provided below. Panoramic photographs, wireline diagrams and photomontages (in some cases) are provided to illustrate the existing view at each viewpoint location and the likely extent of the Proposed Development within the view. A summary of the viewpoint analysis is provided in the main LVIA chapter.
- A.1.4 This viewpoint assessment considers the nature of the predicted view and the scale of change. The wider extent of the effect (beyond the individual viewpoint considered), and its duration, are not captured in the viewpoint analysis (as a single viewpoint cannot capture extent or duration) and are considered in the LVIA chapter. Extent and duration are factors in the overall judgement on magnitude of change, therefore judgements on magnitude of change and overall level of effect and significance are also provided in the main assessment.
- A.1.5 The method of assessment used for the viewpoint analysis, which is described in Appendix A8.1, accords with current best-practice guidance for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management, 2013). Observations are made of the baseline landscape and visual characteristics at each of the representative viewpoints. Observations, computer modelling and professional judgement are applied to determine the scale of change attributable to the Proposed Development (**Large, Medium, Small and Negligible**) upon landscape character and visual amenity at each individual viewpoint in order to determine the scale of effect.
- A.1.6 The visual assessment takes into account the screening effect of intervening landform, vegetation and built form. It assumes excellent clear weather conditions; although the influence of different seasons, weather, sunlight and visibility conditions have been considered, where relevant.

Viewpoint 1	Minor Road to St Mary's Church
Distance/ Direction from Development	0km, SW
Landscape Character Area	LCA25: Hundleton and Lamphey
Visual Receptors	Local road users
Existing View	View from a field gate across undulating pasture within the site, divided by hedgerows with occasional hedgerow trees. The horizon is formed by rising ground and woodland beyond the site. Pylons can be seen to the left and far right of the view shown, with a double row of pylons continuing along the elevated skyline beyond the view shown to the right.
Predicted View & Scale of Visual Change	<p>Solar panels would be seen in nearby fields (the two eastern fields of the site), occupying the foreground and middle ground and set down in front of the skyline and woodland beyond. The retained tree line and hedgerow between the two fields would break up the continuity of panels in the view.</p> <p>The scale of change for a person standing at the field entrance (which is slightly off the road) would be Large, both before and after planting matures. For people driving past, the view is less open and the scale of change would be Medium – with the panels only glimpsed through the field gates and above hedges initially, and reducing to Small once hedgerows mature to 4m height around the boundary.</p>
Scale of Change to Landscape Character	The solar farm would be a readily apparent local characteristic, but not the most dominant feature given the sense of separation provided by the field hedgerows. The scale of change would be Medium
Scale of Change to Designated Area	This viewpoint is not located with a designated area but looks towards the National Park boundary which forms the skyline beyond the site. The Special Qualities of the National Park are not apparent in views from this location and there would be no effect on the appreciation of the special qualities of the National Park.
Cumulative effects	Cumulative developments are screened by roadside hedges at this viewpoint.

Viewpoint 2	A477 and footpath
Distance/ Direction from Development	0.2km, S
Landscape Character Area	LCA25: Hundleton and Lamphey
Visual Receptors	Road and footpath users
Existing View	View towards roadside hedgerow through which nearby fields can be seen through the base of the maturing hedge. Houses at Cosheston can be seen on the skyline. To the south of the road, gaps in the roadside hedges open up views to rising ground forming a nearby skyline. Woodlands, hedgerows, farm buildings and pylons can also be seen.
Predicted View & Scale of Visual Change	The solar farm would be set back from the roadside with further hedges along the southern edge and would not be visible. The scale of change would be Negligible.
Scale of Change to Landscape Character	The solar farm would not be visible. The scale of change would be Negligible.
Scale of Change to Designated Area	This viewpoint is not located with a designated area but looks towards the National Park which forms the skyline beyond the hedge but is not appreciable as a valued landscape from this viewpoint. There would be no effect on the appreciation of the special qualities of the National Park.
Cumulative effects	None of the cumulative sites are noticeable from this viewpoint.
Viewpoint 3	Footpath south of Little Mayeston
Distance/ Direction from Development	0.2km, NW
Landscape Character Area	LCA25: Hundleton and Lamphey
Visual Receptors	Footpath users
Existing View	Looking towards the site, the nearby arable field descends into the valley and the horizon is formed by rising ground on the far side of the valley with fields throughout the view divided by hedgerows, hedgerow trees and small woodlands. Lines of pylons cross the view in both the foreground and along the skyline. Looking away from the site, the view is contained by hedges to including only nearby fields.
Predicted View & Scale of Visual Change	Most of the site is not visible and only the western end of the development would be seen, set below the viewpoint and occupying a small area of the view. Effects would be Medium/Small scale.
Scale of Change to Landscape Character	The rolling farmland, hedges and trees would remain the key characteristics in this location. The solar farm would be a noticeable feature in this view but would not become a key characteristic. The scale of change would be Small.
Scale of Change to Designated Area	This viewpoint is not within and has no view towards a designated area.
Cumulative effects	Looking along the line of pylons which continue away from the viewpoint, some of the solar panels at Golden Hill can be seen on rising ground set amongst trees at a distance of over 2km. Other cumulative sites are screened from view.
Viewpoint 4	Footpath and Minor Road within Pembrokeshire Coast National Park
Distance/ Direction from Development	0.4km, NE
Landscape Character Area	LCA28: Daugleddau
Visual Receptors	Footpath and local road users

Existing View	Looking towards the site, the nearby arable field descends into the valley and the horizon is formed by rising ground on the far side of the valley with fields throughout the view divided by hedgerows, hedgerow trees and small woodlands dotted with farm buildings. Lines of pylons cross the view to the left, continuing away towards the skyline. To the north the view is contained by fields and trees on nearby rising ground.
Predicted View & Scale of Visual Change	As shown by the photomontage, the solar panels would occupy the lower ground to the right of view and would be predominantly screened by existing woodland and hedgerow vegetation. Managing existing hedgerows to 4m would further reduce views of the panels. Effects would be Small scale.
Scale of Change to Landscape Character	The solar farm would be barely perceptible in the local landscape in this location. The scale of change would be Small/Negligible.
Scale of Change to Designated Area	The views of the solar farm would be so limited as to not affect the Special Qualities of the National Park; the sense of 'Remoteness, tranquillity and wildness', would not be altered at this location, albeit it is not a pronounced baseline quality in this location at the edge of the National Park at present. Effects on the National Park would be Negligible scale.
Cumulative effects	None of the cumulative sites are noticeable from this viewpoint.

Viewpoint 5	Footpath at Upper Nash
Distance/ Direction from Development	0.5km, S
Landscape Character Area	LCA25: Hundleton and Lamphey
Visual Receptors	Footpath users
Existing View	Looking towards the site, the nearby fields descend into the shallow valley and the horizon is formed by rising ground on the far side of the valley with fields throughout the view divided by hedgerows, hedgerow trees and small woodlands dotted with occasional buildings. A line of small pylons cross the view to the left, continuing away towards Cosheston on the skyline. To the south the view is contained by fields and trees on rising ground.
Predicted View & Scale of Visual Change	The solar panels would occupy an area of the lower lying ground and lower valley slopes in the middle ground with visibility broken up by trees and narrowed by the shallow angle of view. Hedges and trees and proposed would break up the massing of the panels and would provide some additional screening when mature. Vegetation would provide greater mitigation when in leaf, but the extent of the site would remain apparent. Effects would be Medium scale initially reducing Medium/Small scale as hedgerows mature.
Scale of Change to Landscape Character	The solar farm would be a notable feature of the views from this location, but not a key characteristic of the local landscape. Effects would be Small scale.
Scale of Change to Designated Area	This viewpoint is not within a designated area but looks towards the National Park which forms the skyline beyond the site. The panels would not interrupt views towards the National Park, the Special Qualities of which are not apparent in views from this location. There would be no effect on the appreciation of the special qualities of the National Park.
Cumulative effects	Some of the solar panels at West Farm are visible above and adjacent to houses at Cosheston at a distance of over 2km, and to the left of those the wind turbines at Wear Point (beyond the cumulative study area). Other cumulative sites are screened from this viewpoint.

Viewpoint 6	Cosheston
Distance/ Direction from Development	0.5km, NW
Landscape Character Area	LCA25: Hundleton and Lamphey
Visual Receptors	Local Residents, road users
Existing View	Looking towards the site, the nearby fields descend into the shallow valley and the horizon is formed by rising ground on the far side of the valley with fields throughout the view divided by hedgerows, hedgerow trees and small woodlands which break up views into glimpses through the trees. A line of pylons run away from the viewpoint continuing away towards the skyline.
Predicted View & Scale of Visual Change	The development would not be visible from this location. There would be a Negligible scale of change.
Scale of Change to Landscape Character	The development would not be visible from this location. There would be a Negligible scale of change.
Scale of Change to Designated Area	This viewpoint is not within a designated landscape and the development would not be visible. There would be no effect on the Special Qualities of the National Park.
Cumulative effects	The turbine at Milton Manor can be seen on the skyline at a distance of over 4km from this viewpoint. Other cumulative sites developments are screened.
Viewpoint 7	Footpath in National Park
Distance/ Direction from Development	0.4km, N
Landscape Character Area	LCA28: Daugleddau
Visual Receptors	Footpath users
Existing View	Looking towards the site, the nearby fields descend into the shallow valley and the horizon is formed by rising ground on the far side of the valley with fields throughout the view divided by hedgerows, hedgerow trees and small woodlands which break up views into glimpses through the trees. A line of small pylons run away from the viewpoint towards the skyline.
Predicted View & Scale of Visual Change	Most of the site is not visible and only the western end of the development would be seen, set below the viewpoint and occupying a small area of the view in the middle distance. Effects would be Small scale initially reducing to Negligible once hedgerows and hedgerow trees mature to the northern boundary.
Scale of Change to Landscape Character	The rolling farmland, hedges and trees would remain the key characteristics in this location. The solar farm would be a minor noticeable feature in this view but would not become a key characteristic. The scale of change would be Small initially reducing to Negligible once hedgerows and hedgerow trees mature to the northern boundary.
Scale of Change to Designated Area	The views of the solar farm would be limited in terms of affects on the Special Qualities of the National Park; the sense of 'Remoteness, tranquillity and wildness', would be slightly altered at this location initially, albeit it is not a pronounced baseline quality in this location at the edge of the National Park at present. Effects on the National Park would be Small/Negligible scale initially reducing to Negligible once hedgerows and hedgerow trees mature to the northern boundary.
Cumulative effects	The turbine at Milton Manor can be seen on the skyline beyond the pylons at a distance of 3.6km from this viewpoint. Other cumulative developments are not noticeable from this location.

Viewpoint 8	Minor road / Deer Park Lane junction
Distance/ Direction from Development	1.3km, S
Landscape Character Area	LCA25: Hundleton and Lamphey
Visual Receptors	Local road users
Existing View	Looking towards the site over the field gate, the nearby fields descend into the shallow valley and the horizon is formed by rising ground on the far side of the valley with fields throughout the view divided by hedgerows, hedgerow trees and small woodlands. Occasional farms and dwellings can be seen, along with Cosheston on the skyline to the left of the view. To the right more distant views are available. Views to the south are mostly contained by roadside hedgerows.
Predicted View & Scale of Visual Change	The solar panels would occupy an area of the lower lying ground and lower valley slopes in the middle ground within visibility broken up by trees and narrowed by the shallow angle of view. Hedges and trees would break up the massing of the panels and hedgerows would provide limited additional screening when grown to 4m. Vegetation would provide greater mitigation when in leaf, but the panels would remain visible. There would be a Medium/Small scale of change for people standing at the field gate and a Small scale of change for drivers who would see a glimpsed view.
Scale of Change to Landscape Character	The solar farm would be a notable feature of the views from this location, but not a key characteristic of the local landscape. Effects would be Small scale.
Scale of Change to Designated Area	This viewpoint is not within a designated area but looks towards the National Park which forms the skyline beyond the site. The panels would not interrupt views towards the National Park, the Special Qualities of which are not apparent in views from this location. There would be no effect on the appreciation of the special qualities of the National Park.
Cumulative effects	The solar farm at West Farm can be seen through trees to the left of Cosheston on the skyline in this view along with some of the turbines at Wear Point (beyond the study area). Other cumulative developments are not noticeable from this viewpoint.

Viewpoint 9	Footpath at Carew Newton
Distance/ Direction from Development	2.4km, NE
Landscape Character Area	LCA28: Daugleddau
Visual Receptors	Footpath users
Existing View	Looking towards the site, most of the view is occupied by the field crossed by the footpath, with views over the field hedges to areas of rising ground divided by hedges and trees. There are rows of pylons on the skyline. Carew Castle is a notable nearby feature alongside the mill pond to the left of the view shown. Views away from the site are curtailed by hedgerows and rising ground.
Predicted View & Scale of Visual Change	The development would not be visible from this location. There would be a Negligible scale of change.
Scale of Change to Landscape Character	The development would not be visible from this location. There would be a Negligible scale of change.
Scale of Change to Designated Area	This viewpoint is within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and the development would not be visible. There would be Negligible effect on the Special Qualities of the National Park.
Cumulative effects	The turbine at Milton Manor can be seen from this viewpoint, at a distance of just over 3km. None of the other cumulative developments are noticeable from this viewpoint.
Viewpoint 10	Carew Castle
Distance/ Direction from Development	2.3km, NE
Landscape Character Area	LCA28: Daugleddau
Visual Receptors	Visitors to castle, recreational walkers, local residents
Existing View	Looking towards the site, the view across the mill pond in the foreground towards the mill is dominated by Carew Castle to the left. Trees and nearby areas of higher ground largely contain the view, but occasional pylons can be seen beyond these on the skyline.
Predicted View & Scale of Visual Change	The development would not be visible from this location. There would be a Negligible scale of change.
Scale of Change to Landscape Character	The development would not be visible from this location. There would be a Negligible scale of change.
Scale of Change to Designated Area	This viewpoint is within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and the development would not be visible. There would be Negligible effect on the Special Qualities of the National Park.
Cumulative effects	None of the cumulative sites are noticeable from this viewpoint.