STATERA

BALANCING THE GRID

EAST CLAYDON BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM Environmental Statement

APPENDIX 5.A: LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL AMENITY FIGURES, PART 3

November 2023

Rev A: 07.06.24 Revised to accord with the lastest layout

Figure 5.13: Long Distance Viewpoints

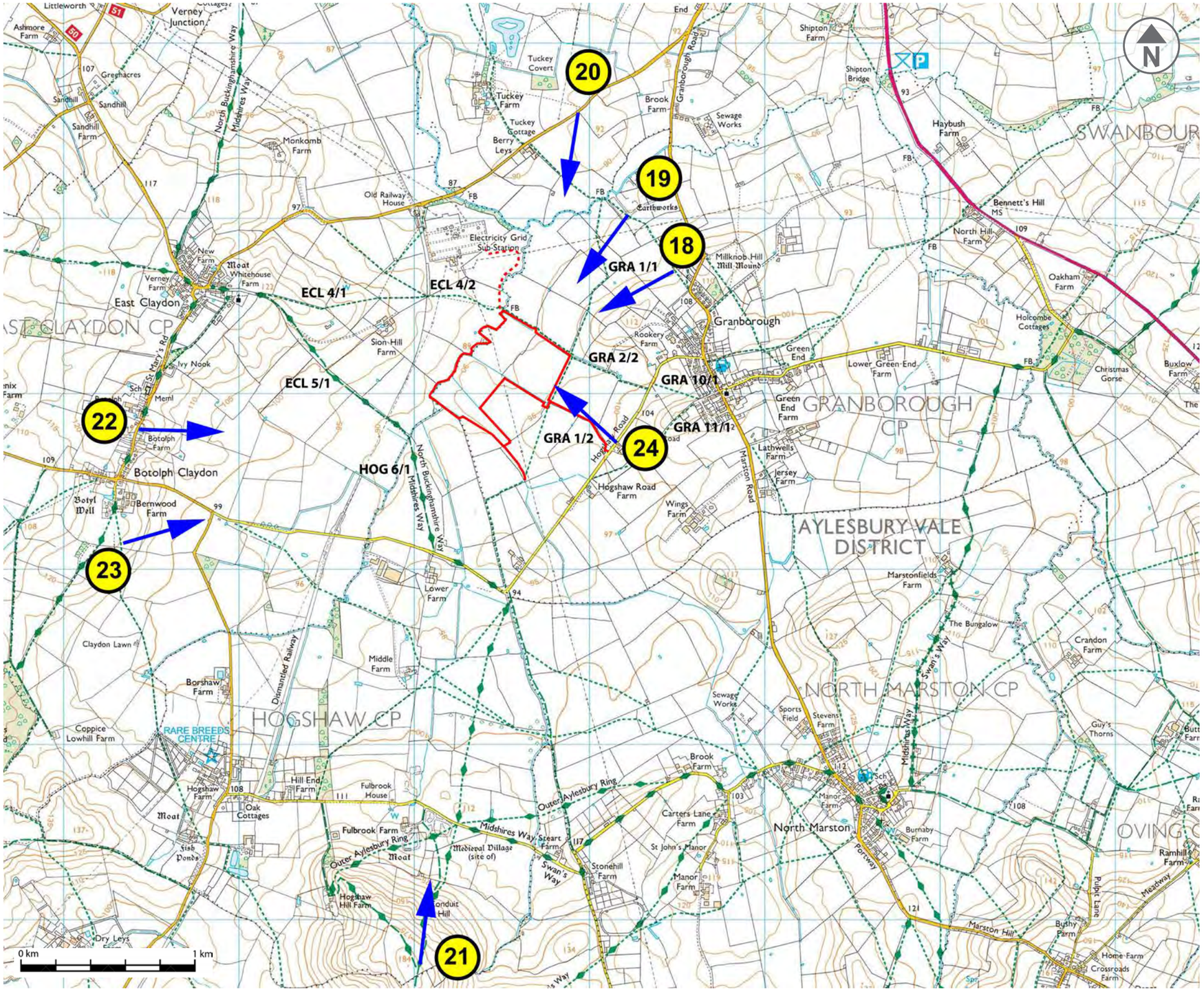


Figure 5.14.1: View from rural footpath GRA 3/1 as it descends a slope on the northern edge of Granborough (Panoramic View)

Viewpoint 18

Direction of view: West Southwest

Distance to nearest site boundary: 909m

Elevation: 89m AOD

Grid reference: SP 76209 26114

Date photo was taken: 18.11.2022

The existing view

This view illustrates how views of the Site from the footpaths and dwellings on the northern side of Granborough are restricted by tree cover and topography, although the East Claydon Substation and the transmission lines feeding into it are clearly visible.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Year 1

The majority of the proposed BESS will be screened by tree cover although the upper section of the proposed customer substation will be visible in winter through the leafless branches of the hedge (or if it is trimmed lower). As walkers descend the hill views become further restricted by the hedgerow cover.

The sensitivity is Medium and the magnitude of change Low in Winter and Negligible in summer, resulting in a Minor adverse effect in winter and Negligible in summer.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Years 10 and 20

The tree planting on the northeast side of the substation will start to reduce its visibility, but it will take up to 20 years for it to reach sufficient height to entirely screen the taller elements.

After 10 years the effect will still be Minor adverse but after 20 years the effect will be Neutral.

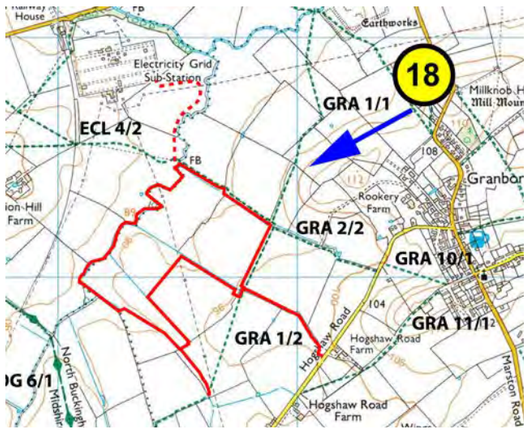


Figure 5.14.1: View from rural footpath GRA 3/1 as it descends a slope on the northern edge of Granborough - Winter View (Single Frame)

Figure 5.14.2: View from rural footpath GRA 3/1 as it passes through an area of historical earthworks north of the Site (un-designated) (Panoramic View)

Viewpoint 19

Direction of view: Southwest

Distance to nearest site boundary: 1.2Km

Elevation: 91m AOD

Grid reference: SP 75942 26606

Date photo was taken: 18.11.2022

The existing view

This view illustrates the Site in relation to the setting of this non-designated historical asset. It is a rural, lowland view, marred by the transmission lines which cross the field of view. Views of the fields which comprise the Site are blocked by intervening hedge and tree cover.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Year 1

The battery containers and inverter houses will be screened by the intervening hedges but the upper section of the proposed customer substation will be visible above the hedges, although partially screened by trees. The sensitivity is Medium and the magnitude of change Low resulting in a Minor adverse effect in summer and winter.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Years 10 and 20

The tree planting on the northeast side of the substation will start to reduce its visibility, but it will take up to 20 years for it to reach sufficient height to entirely screen the taller elements.

After 10 years the effect will still be Minor adverse but after 20 years the effect will be Neutral.

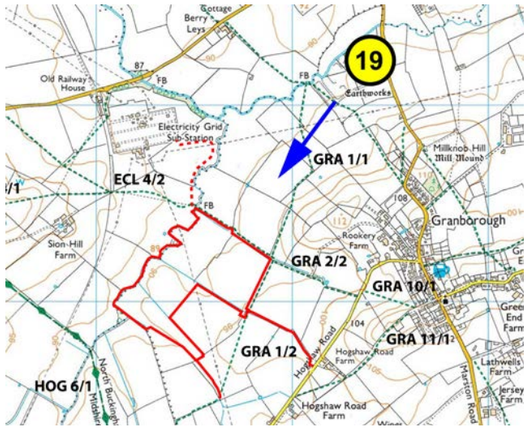
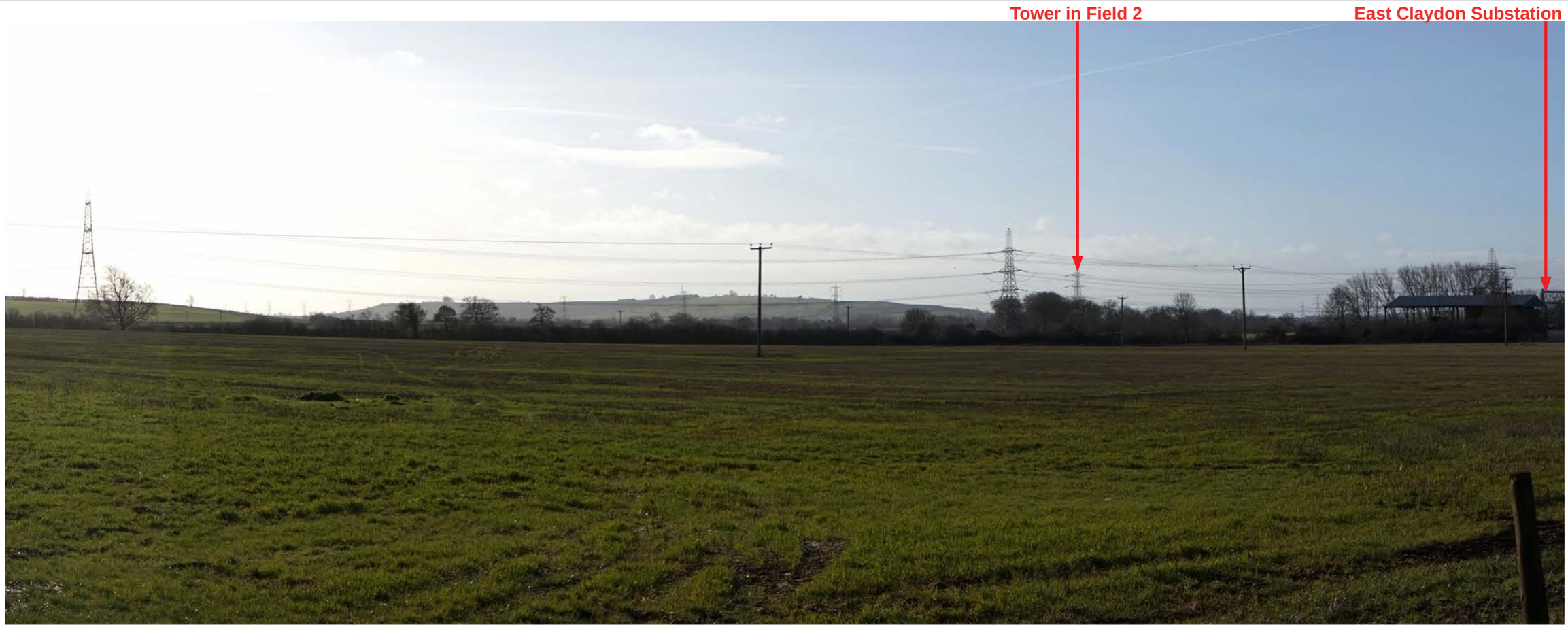


Figure 5.14.2: View from rural footpath GRA 3/1 as it passes through an area of historical earthworks north of the Site (un-designated) (Single Frame)

Figure 5.14.3: View from a field gateway on the East Claydon Road north of the Site and east of the East Claydon Substation (Panoramic View)



Viewpoint 20

Direction of view: South southwest

Distance to nearest site boundary: 5m

Elevation: 95m AOD

Grid reference: SP 75768 24943

Date photo was taken: 18.11.2022

The existing view

Views towards the Site from the East Claydon Road are restricted by hedges alongside the road and tree and hedge cover within the intervening landscape. This also limits views from public footpath GRA 1/1 as it crosses the fields, heading towards the Site. The Tuckey Farm solar farm would occupy intervening fields if built.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Year 1

The battery containers and inverter houses will be screened by the intervening hedges but the upper section of the proposed customer substation will be visible above the hedges, although partially screened by trees. The sensitivity is Medium and the magnitude of change Low resulting in a Minor adverse effect in summer and winter.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Years 10 and 20

The tree planting on the northeast side of the substation will start to reduce its visibility, but it will take up to 20 years for it to reach sufficient height to entirely screen the taller elements.

After 10 years the effect will still be Minor adverse but after 20 years the effect will be Neutral.

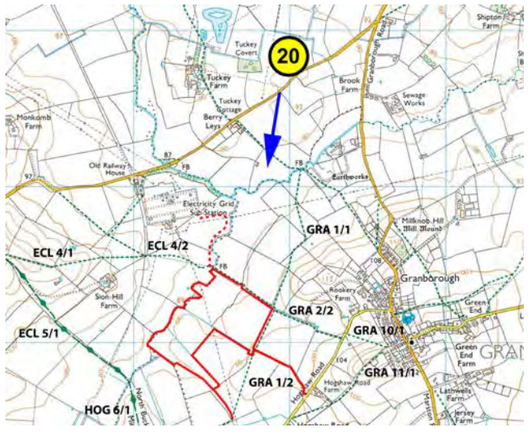


Figure 5.14.3: View from a field gateway on the East Claydon Road north of the Site and east of the East Claydon Substation (Single Frame)

Figure 5.14.5: View from Bridleway HOG 9/3 from the summit of Conduit Hill (part of Quainton Hill), south of the Site - Winter View (Panoramic View)

Viewpoint 21

Direction of view: North northwest

Distance to nearest site boundary: 2.7Km

Elevation: 175m AOD

Grid reference: SP 74980 21879

Date photo was taken: 18.11.2022

The existing view

Conduit Hill affords a panoramic view over the valley towards Granborough and Winslow. The East Claydon Substation is visible, but is difficult to make out, as are the fields which comprise the Site, which is 2.7km from the hill.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Year 1

Some of the battery containers and inverter houses will be visible in Field 1 as well as the upper part of the proposed customer substation. They will, however, be difficult to make out, particularly due to their disruptive green colour pattern proposed. Field 3 will remain in agricultural use and Field 4 will be used for landscaping and achieving BNG. The tree planting in these areas will establish layers of trees between the facility and the viewer. The sensitivity is High (Long Distance footpath) and the magnitude of change Low in winter and summer resulting in a Moderate adverse effect.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Years 10 and 20

The tree planting within Fields 1 and 5 will screen the proposed development from view. By Year 10 the effect will reduce to Minor adverse and by Year 20 it will be Neutral.

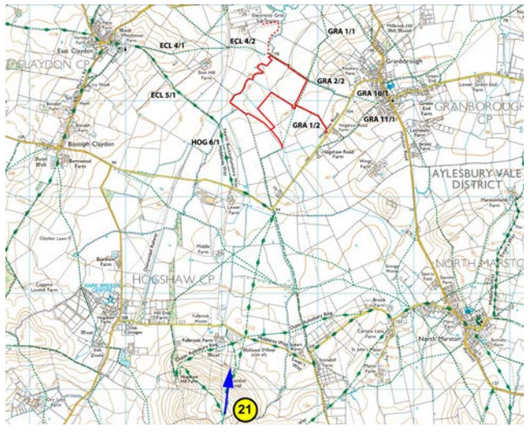


Figure 5.14.5: View from Bridleway HOG 9/3 from the summit of Conduit Hill (part of Quainton Hill), south of the Site - Winter View (Single Frame)

Figure 5.14.5: View from Bridleway HOG 9/3 from the summit of Conduit Hill (part of Quainton Hill), south of the Site - Winter View (Zoomed Image)

Figure 5.14.5: View from Bridleway HOG 9/3 from the summit of Conduit Hill (part of Quainton Hill), south of the Site - Summer View (Single Frame)

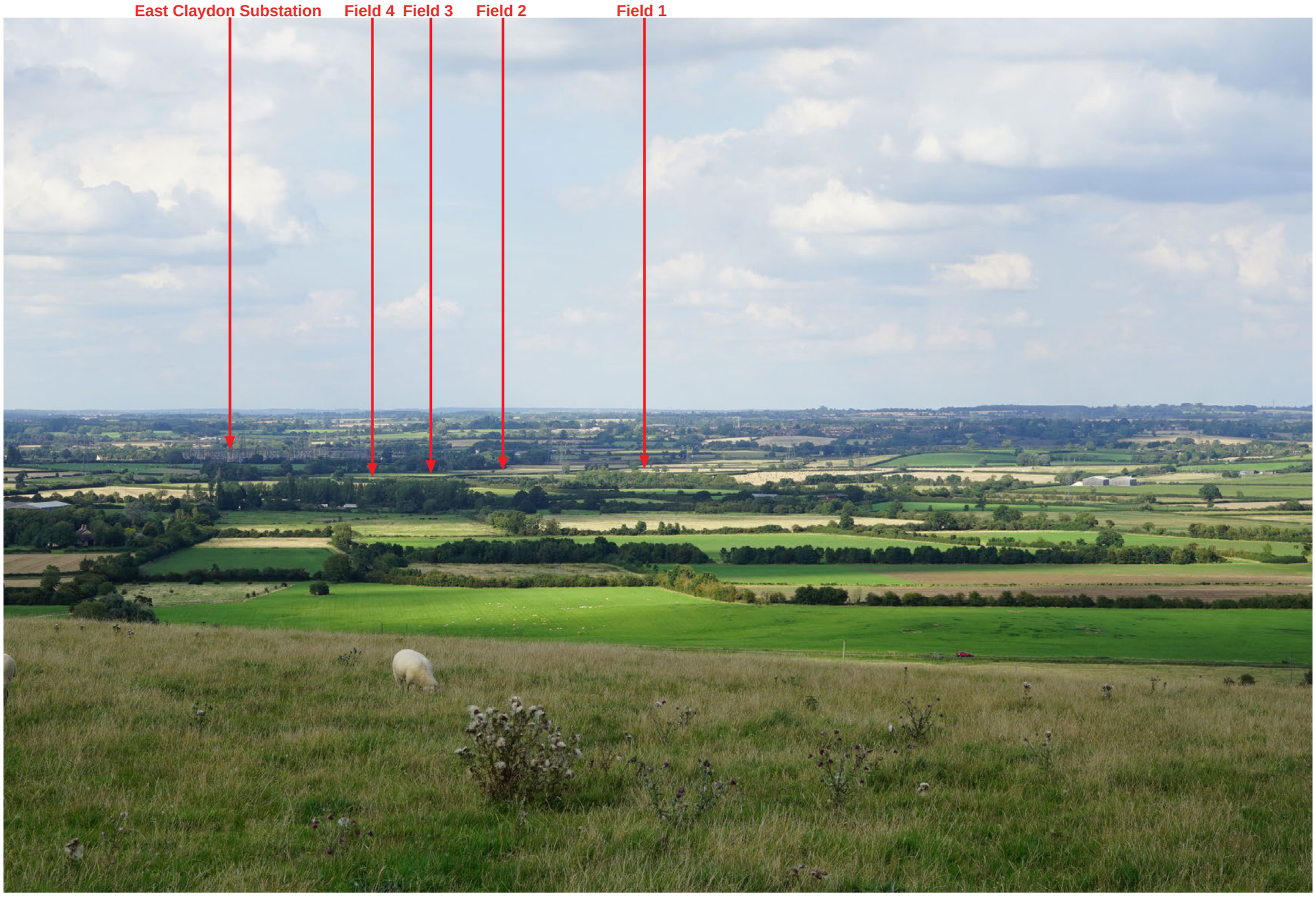
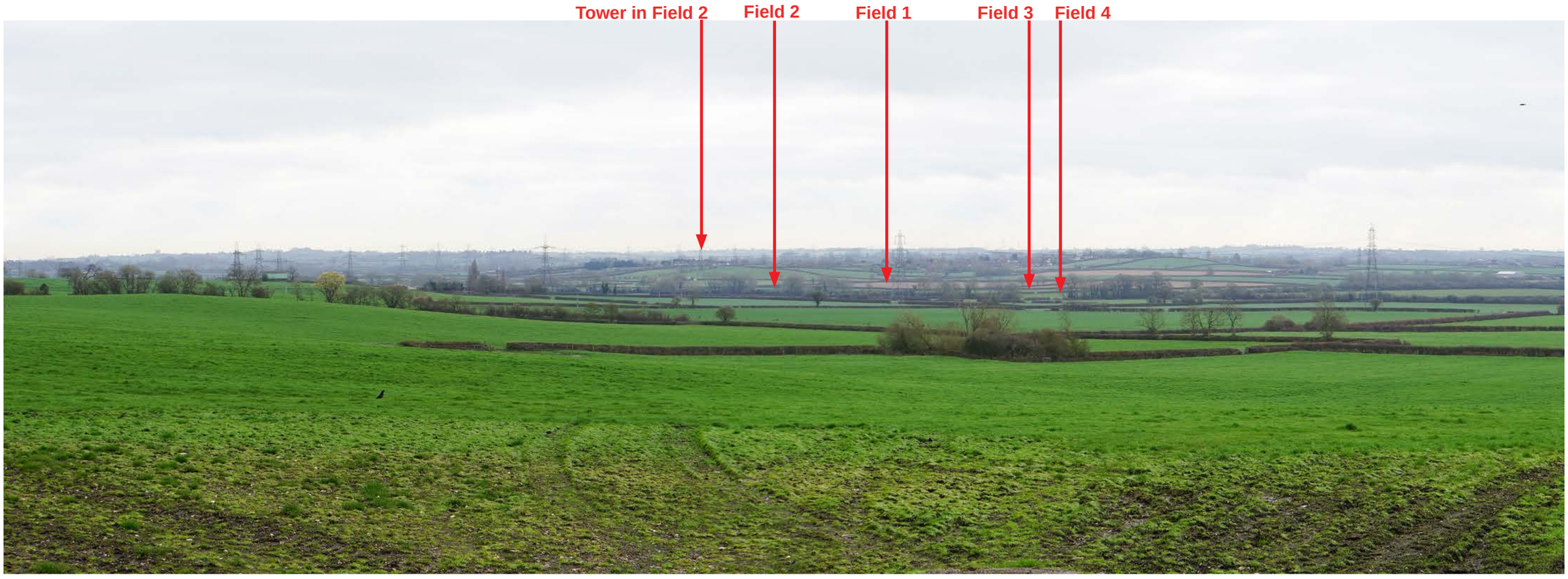


Figure 5.14.3: View from a field gateway on Botyl Road within Botolph Claydon (Panoramic View)



Viewpoint 22

Direction of view: East

Distance to nearest site boundary: 1.6Km

Elevation: 127m AOD

Grid reference: SP 73482 24917

Date photo was taken: 03.04.2023

The existing view

Views of the Site from the Botyl Road are blocked by tree and hedge cover along the road but this field gateway affords a fleeting view across the valley towards the Site. Similar views are afforded from the upper windows of a few properties along the road. It is a rural view but is substantially adversely affected by the numerous transmission lines and towers which radiate out from the East Claydon Substation. Fields 2 and 3 are largely obscured by tree cover along the brook, but Field 1 is clearly visible.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Year 1

The most prominent elements of the BESS will be the roofs of the inverter houses in Field 1, interspersed among the battery containers, but these will mainly be seen through tree branches in winter. In summer the trees along the brook will screen the majority of the BESS. Field 3 will remain in agricultural production and Field 4 will be used for landscaping and achieving BNG.The Sensitivity is High (residential and the setting of a Conservation Area) and the magnitude of change Medium in winter, Low in summer, resulting in a Moderate to Major adverse effect in winter (a significant effect) and Moderate adverse in summer. The fleeting view from the road will be a Minor adverse effect in winter and Negligible in summer.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Years 10 and 20

Substantial tree planting will be undertaken between the compounds and the brook and within Field 4. Within 10 years this will for a sufficiently dense strip of vegetation to screen the majority of the proposed electrical infrastructure except the roofs of a few inverter houses, winter and summer. The effect on visual amenity after 10 Years will be Minor adverse. After 20 years the effect will be Negligible winter and summer as the BESS will be entirely screened by trees.

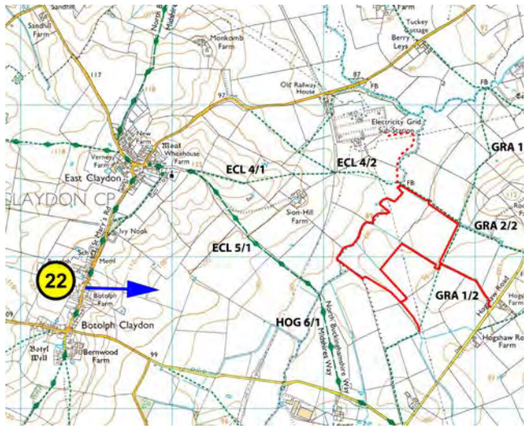


Figure 5.14.5: View from a field gateway on Botyl Road within Botolph Claydon - Winter View (Single Frame)

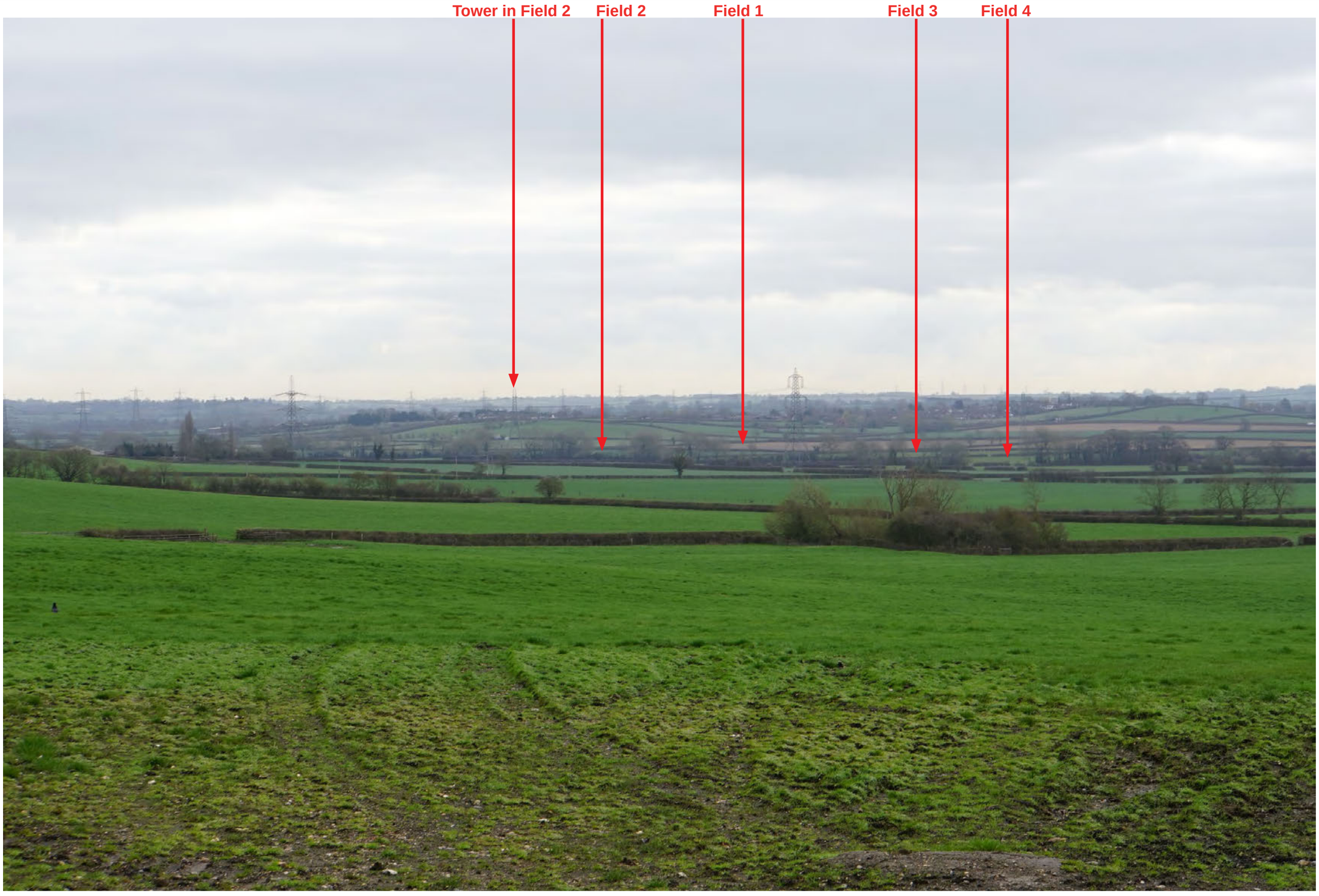


Figure 5.14.5: View from a field gateway on Botyl Road within Botolph Claydon - Summer View (Single Frame)

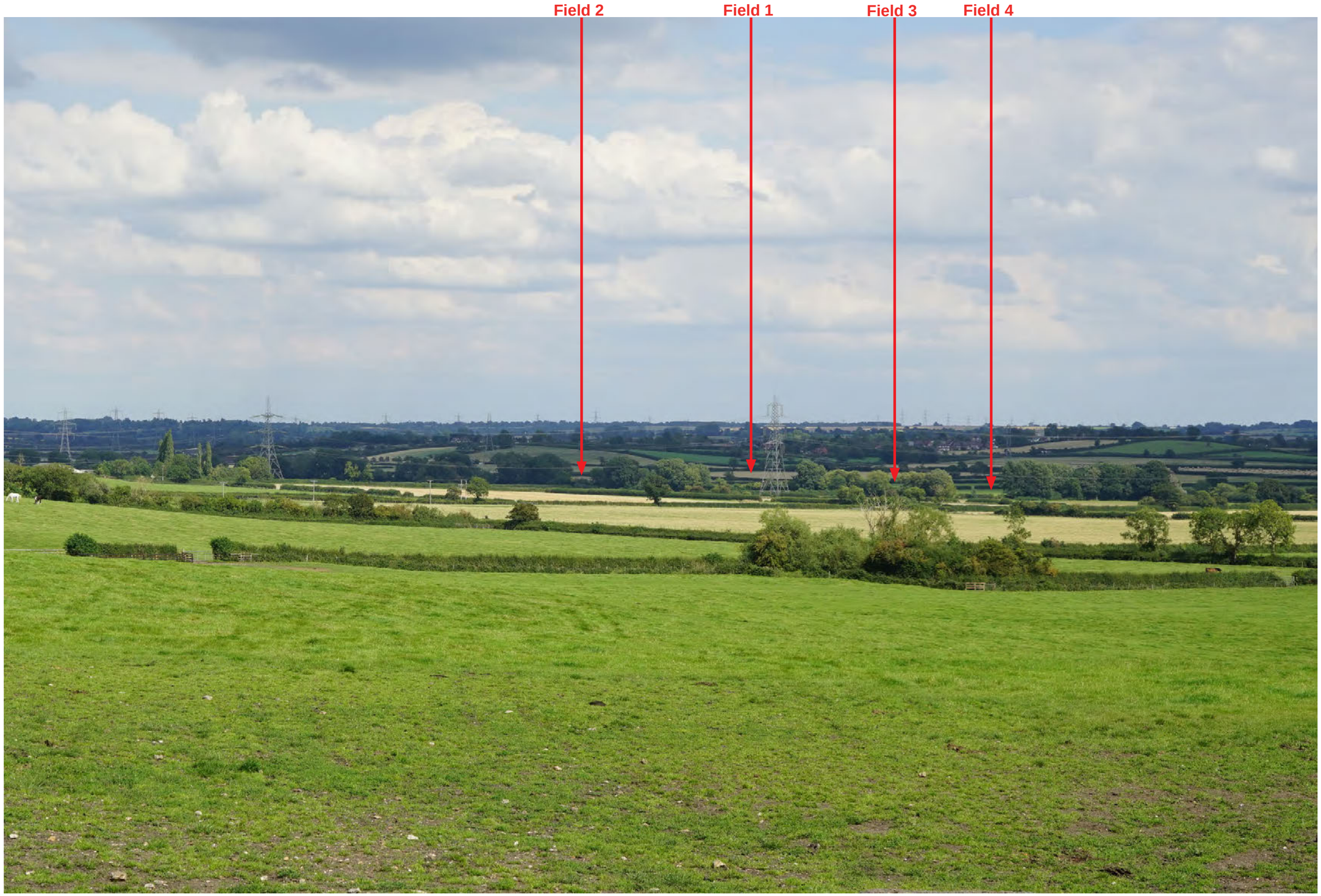
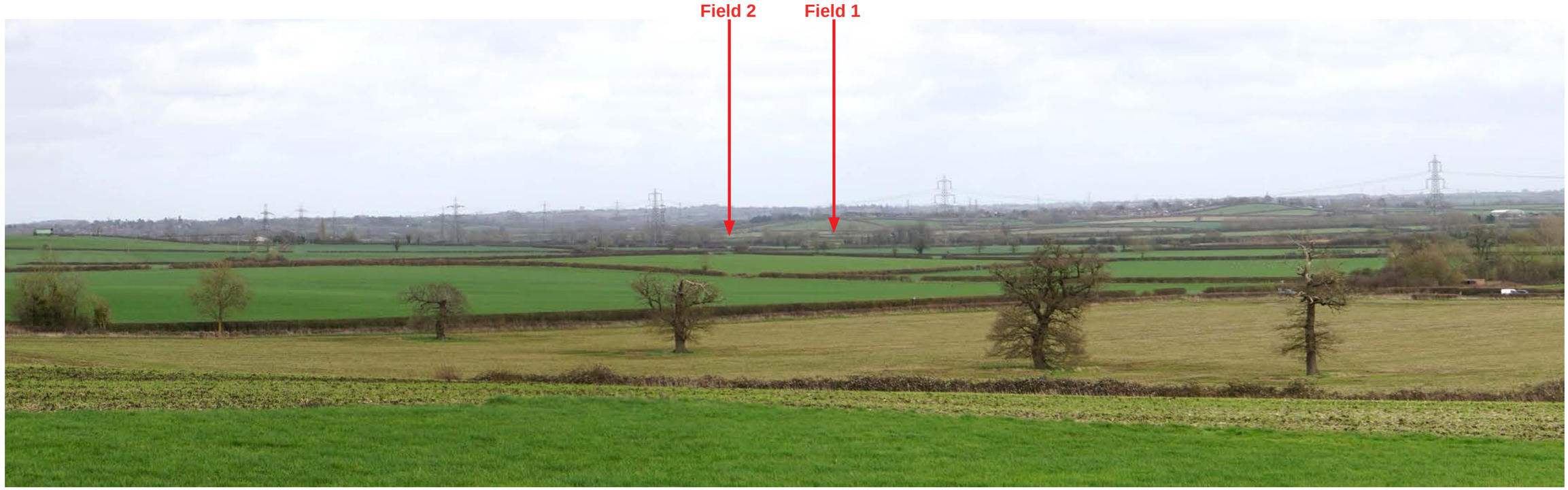


Figure 5.14.3: View from footpath ECL 7/2 at Bernwood Farm, Botolph Claydon (Panoramic View)



Viewpoint 23

Direction of view: East northeast

Distance to nearest site boundary: 1.9Km

Elevation: 122m AOD

Grid reference: SP 73415 24230

Date photo was taken: 23.03.2023

The existing view

This view illustrates the view from high ground to the west of Botolph Claydon and is similar to View 22 except more of the Site is screened by topography and tree cover along the brook.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Year 1

The roofs of a few inverter houses will be visible in summer and winter but the proposed customer substation will be screened by topography.

Sensitivity in Medium and the magnitude of change Low in winter and summer resulting in a Minor adverse effect, winter and summer.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Years 10 and 20

Substantial tree planting will be undertaken between the compounds and the brook and within Field 4. Within 10 years this will for a sufficiently dense strip of vegetation to screen the majority of the proposed electrical infrastructure except the roofs of a few inverter houses, winter and summer. The effect on visual amenity after 10 Years will be Minor adverse. After 20 years the effect will be Negligible winter and summer as the BESS will be entirely screened by trees.

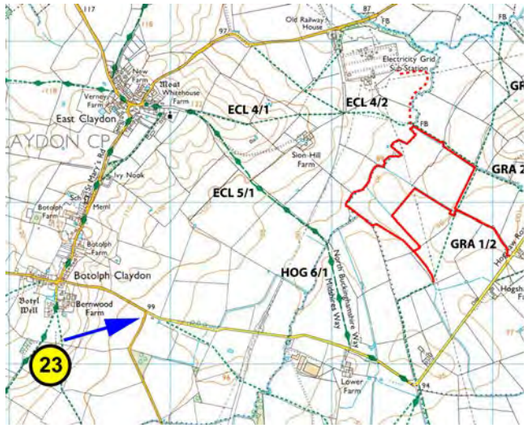


Figure 5.14.5: View from footpath ECL 7/2 at Bernwood Farm, Botolph Claydon (Single Frame)

Figure 5.14.3: View from Hogshaw Road outside Bracknall House (close to the proposed point of highway access) (Panoramic View)

Viewpoint 24

Direction of view: Northwest

Distance to nearest site boundary: 474m

Elevation: 100m AOD

Grid reference: SP 76146 24703

Date photo was taken: 23.03.2023

The existing view

This view illustrates the view from the environs of the house, although views from the house are restricted by a tree in the front garden. In winter road users have views over the hedge towards the Site but in summer views are blocked. The fields which comprise the Site lie behind the intermediate hedges. The tower in Field 2 is visible, to the right of Sion Hill Farm on the valley slope north of the brook.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Year 1

In winter the upper sections of the battery containers and inverter houses in Field 1 and the upper part of the proposed substation will be visible above the trimmed hedges. Field 3 will remain in agricultural production. The sensitivity is High and the magnitude of change Low resulting in a Moderate adverse effect in winter, Minor adverse in summer.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Years 10 and 20

Extensive tree planting around the boundaries of the site will screen the proposed facility from view by Year 10 in summer and winter, resulting in a Neutral effect. The effect will be Minor beneficial by Year 20 as the tree cover establishes.

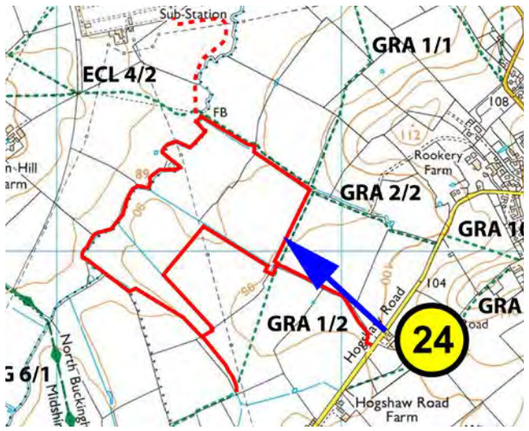


Figure 5.14.5: View from Hogshaw Road outside Bracknall House (close to the proposed point of highway access) (Single Frame)

Figure 5.15: Cummulative Impact

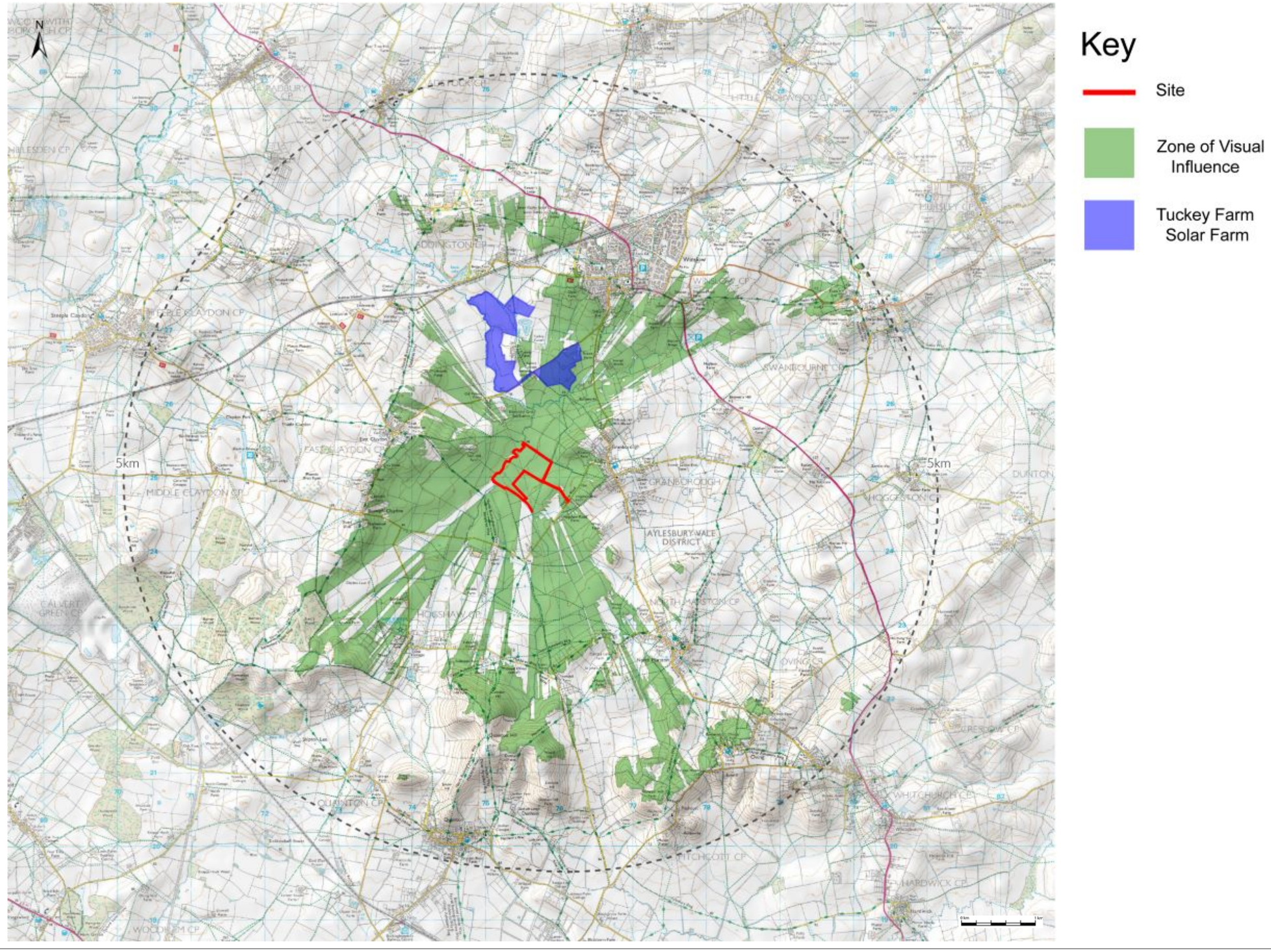
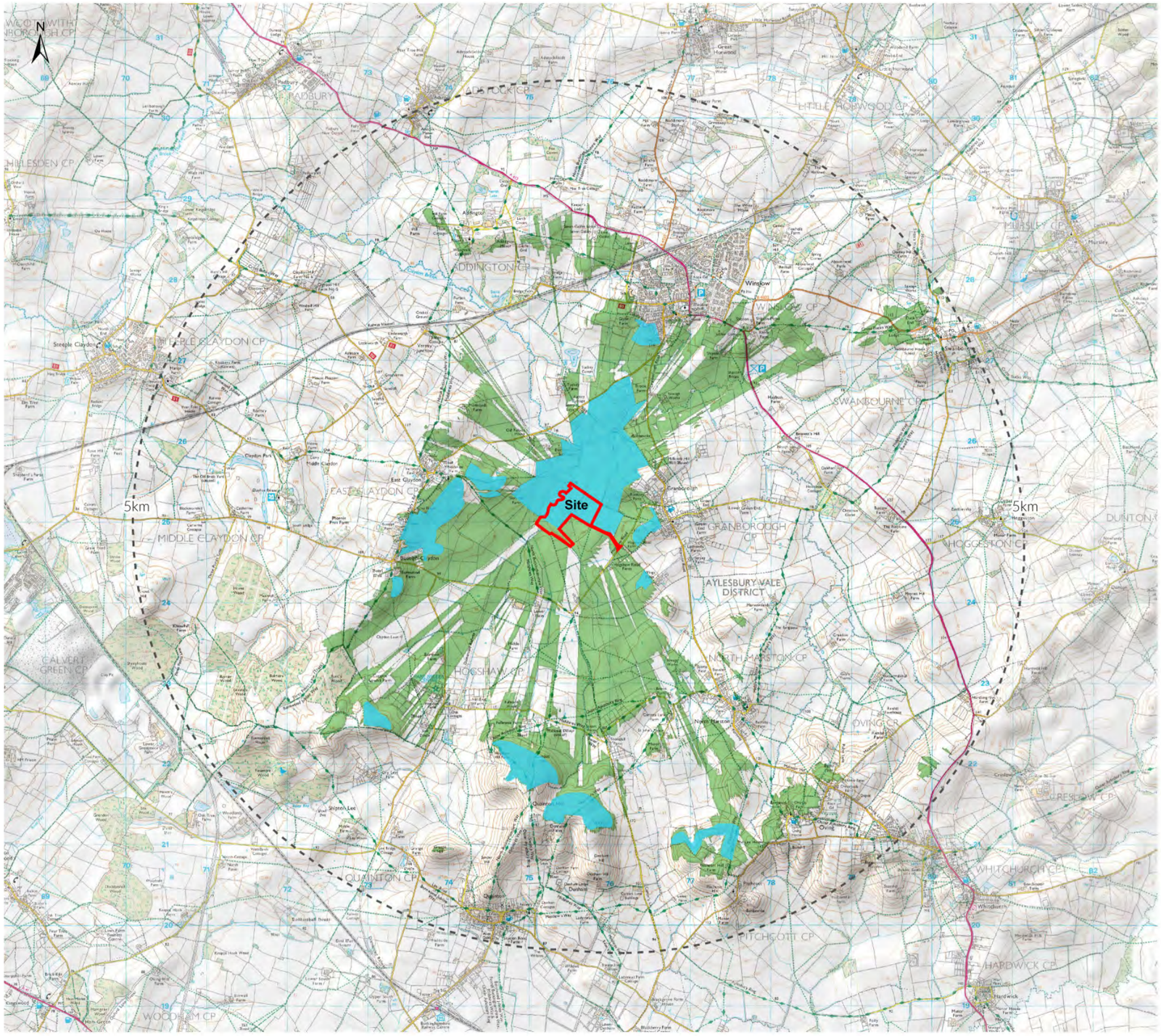


Figure 5.16: Predictive Zone of Visual Influence once the mitigation has become effective



Legend

- Site location
- 5km radial extent
- Zone of Theoretical Visibilty **without mitigation**
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility once mitigation is effective. Typically glimpsed views of electrical components. In summer this will largey be limited to glimpses of the the upper sections of the customer substation. There will be some glimpsed views of other equipment through leafless branches in winter. None of the residual effects on visual amenity will be Significantly adverse and there will be few Moderate Adverse effects.

The ZTV is generated from a receptor height of 1.6m (average eye level) and a receiver height of 11m (propsoed substation height). Multiple targets were placed within the site to best represent points that may be visible.

The ZTV is based on OS Pano 50m DTM (Digital Terrain Model). 'Exclusion zones' with heights of 12m and 8.5m have been added to the terrain to represent intervening woodland features and buildings respectively, however, other existing surface features such as hedgerows or single trees are not included which may reduce the viewshed further. Some changes within the landscape may have occured since the DTM data and ZTV was created. This ZTV also includes Earth's curvature.

0 1 2 km

Scale 1 : 50,000 @ A3

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APPENDIX 5.A: LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL AMENITY FIGURES, PART 1

November 2023

Rev A 07.06.24 Updated to accord with the latest layout.

Site Location

These figures are to be read in conjunction with the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment text document by Sightline Landscape.

Figure 5.1 shows the application red line area including the land to the north for the temporary haul road and the electrical connection and **Figure 5.2** outlines the permanent development area. This red line area is shown on the majority of plans within this document.

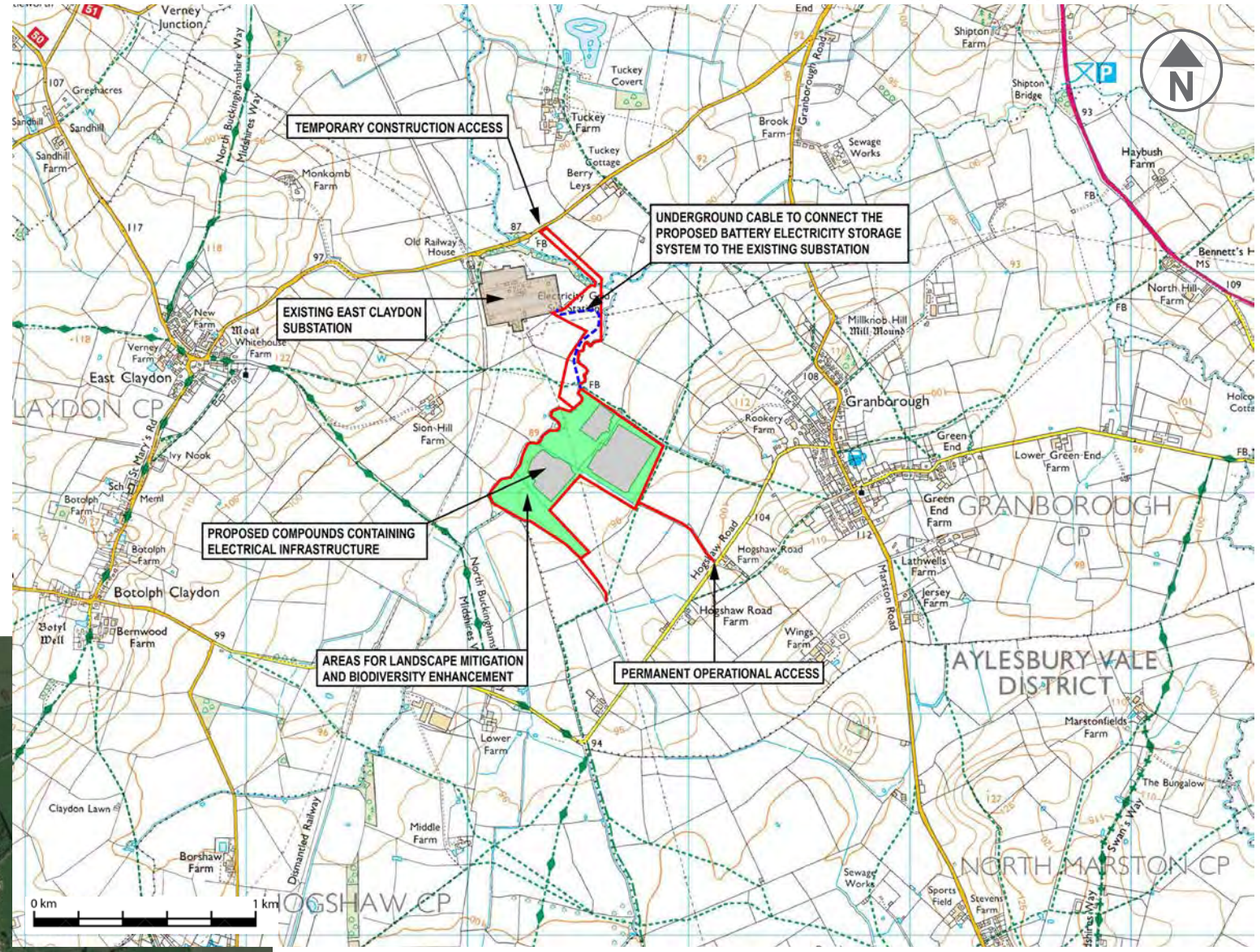

Figure 5.1: Location Plan

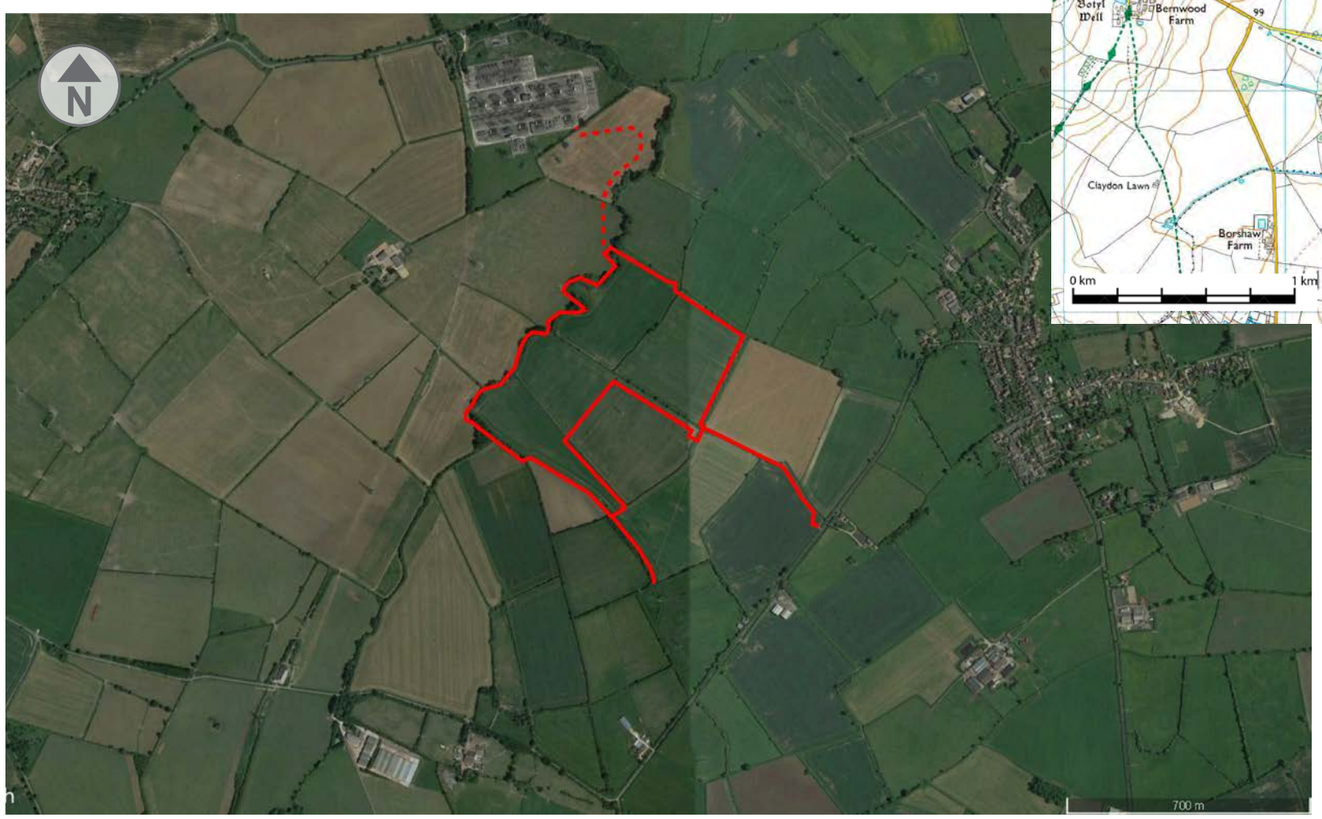

Figure 5.2: Aerial Plan

Figure 5.3: Topography

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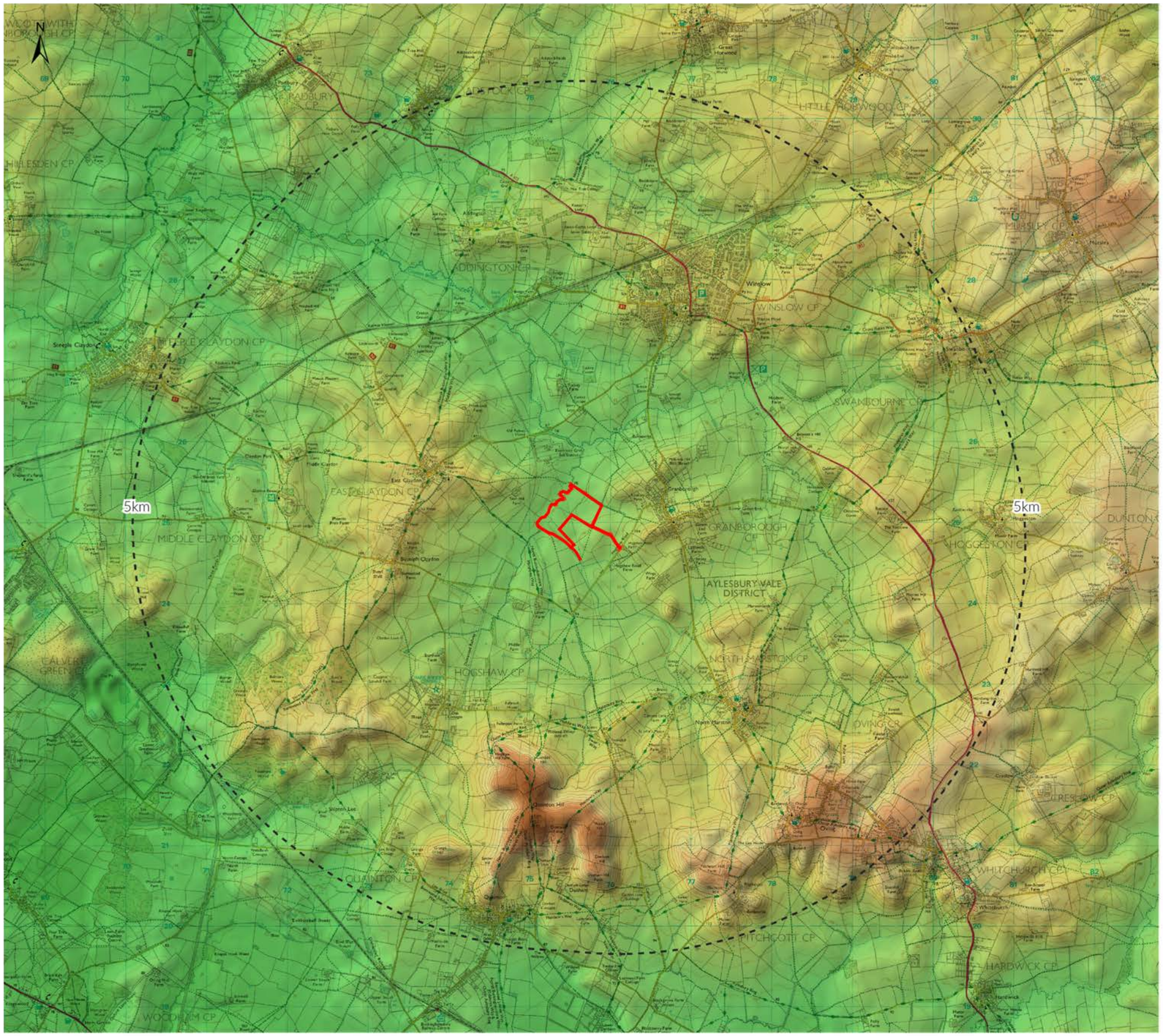


Figure 5.4: Theoretical Zone of Visual Influence (TZVI)

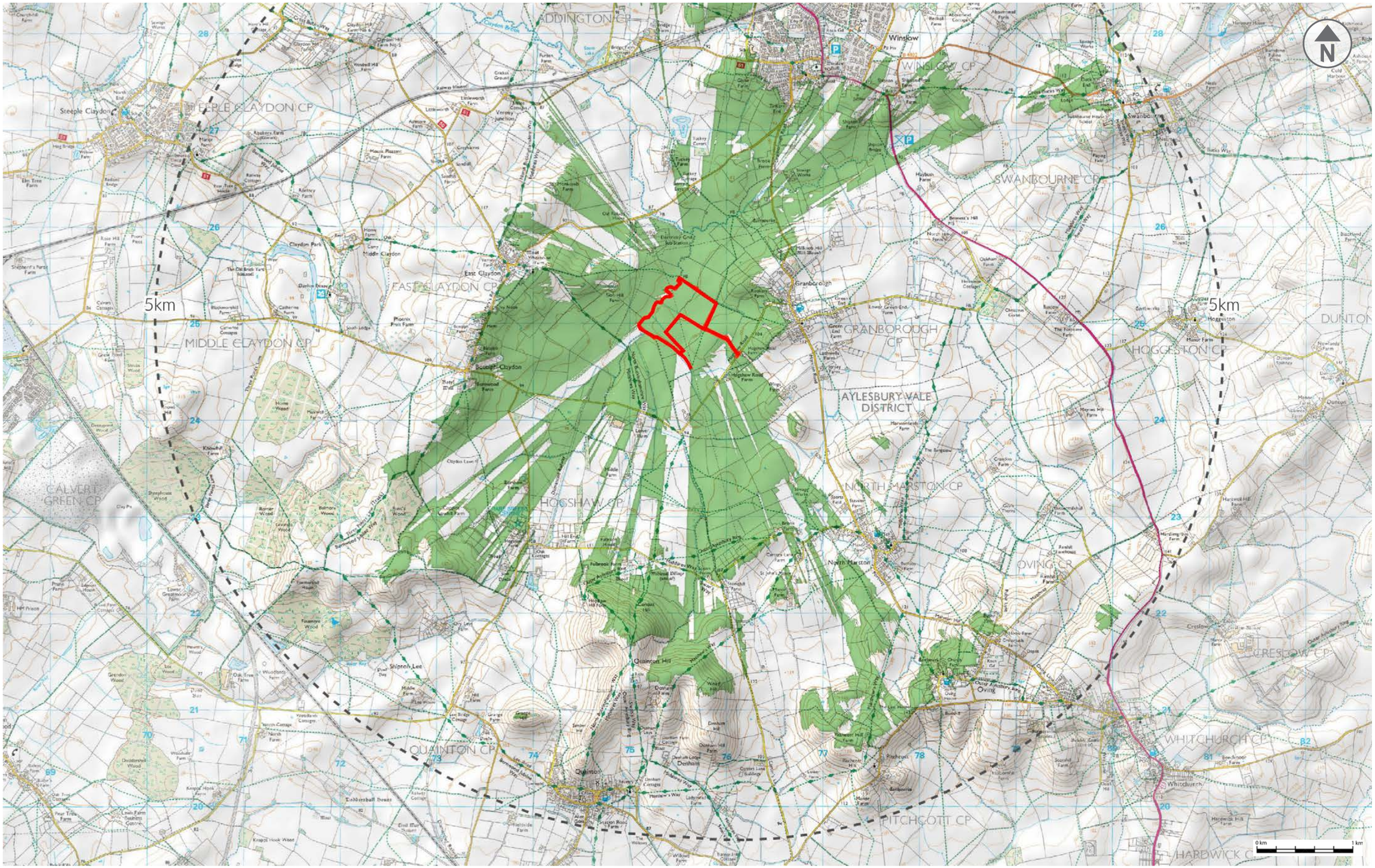


Figure 5.5: Designations

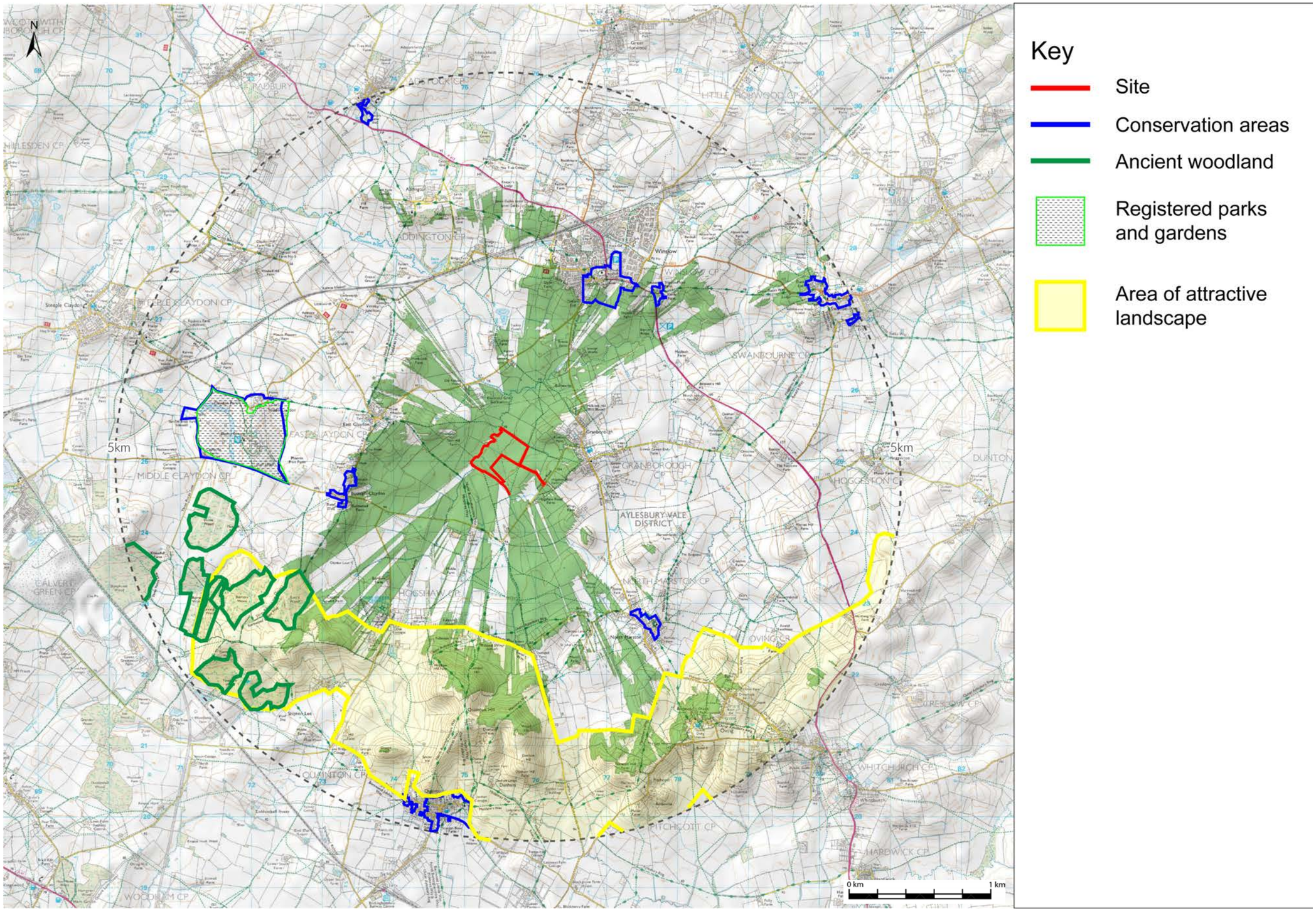


Figure 5.6: Internal Viewpoint Locations

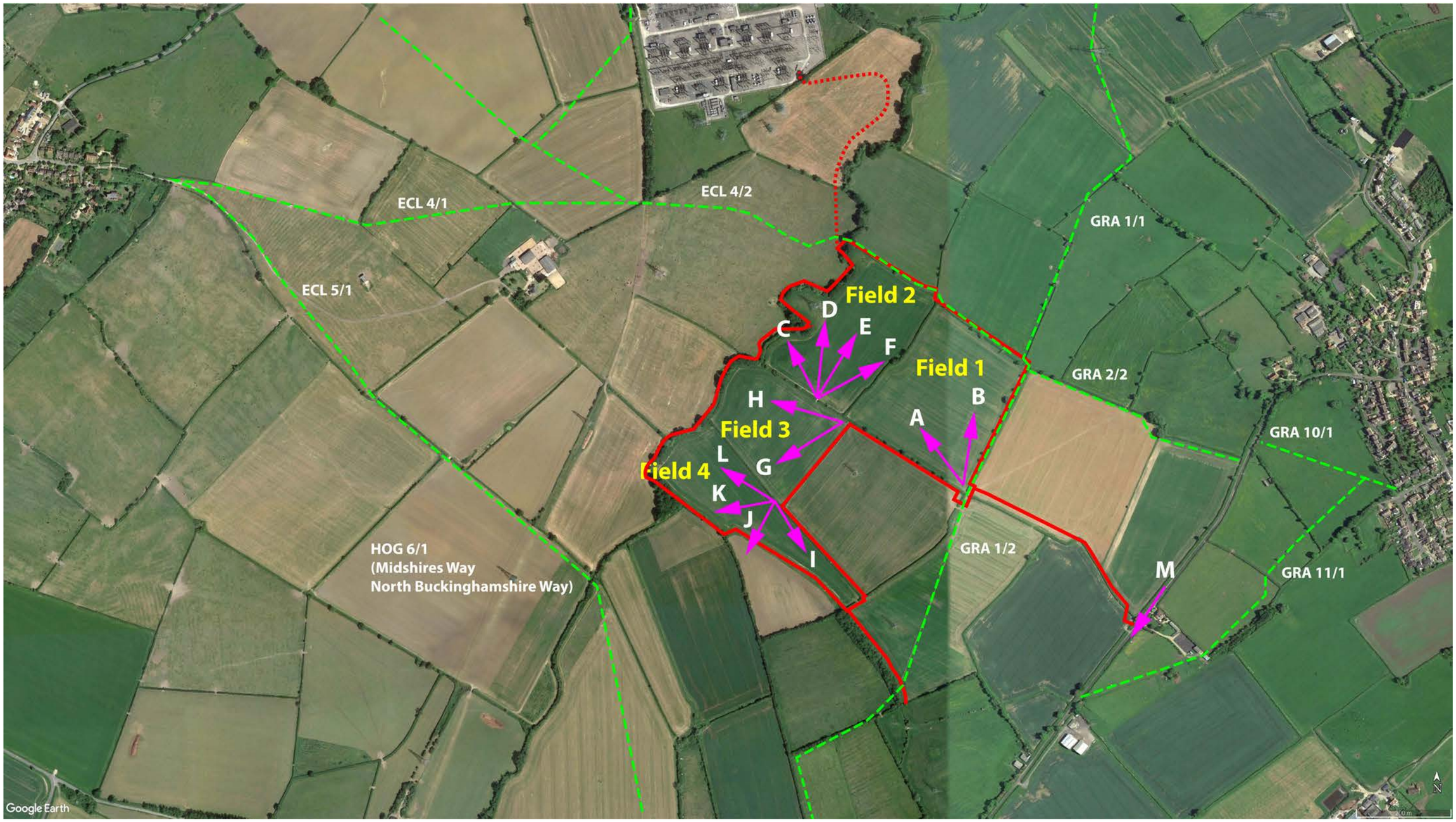
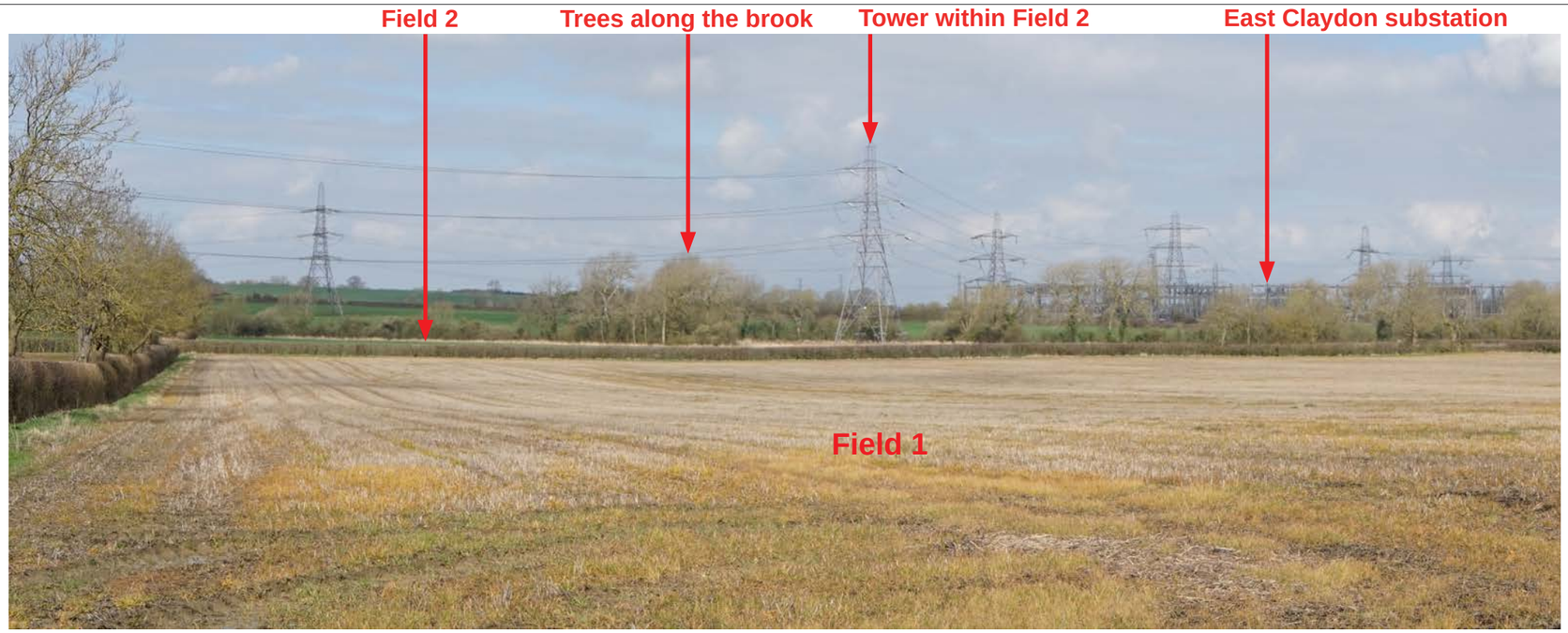


Figure 5.7.1: Internal viewpoints A & B



Photograph A Field 1

This is the first photograph of a series of panoramic photographs taken from the southwest edge of Field 1. The majority of the batteries and inverter houses will be located within this field. This view is looking north. The trees along the line of the Claydon Brook define the northern boundary of the Site. In summer the trees significantly screen the Site from the landscape to the north, affording filtered views in winter. It is proposed to augment this boundary with additional tree planting within Field 2. The ridge limits views from the countryside further to the north but the slopes potentially afford views down over the Site, although few dwellings or PRoW afford views (See Views 7 to 11). There are no views from the village of East Claydon, which sits slightly back on the ridge (see View 10).

The East Claydon Substation is visible in the middle distance and the transmission lines which feed into it are prominent locally detracting elements, reducing the aesthetic appeal of the landscape.

Photograph B Field 1

A continuation of Panorama A illustrating the flat, rectilinear form of the field which is beneficial in terms of laying out and building the BESS. Properties on the southern edge of Winslow occupy the distant high ground. Figure 6.7 includes a photograph of the buildings taken with a telephoto to allow an assessment of the likely degree of inter-visibility between the proposed BESS and the town.

It is proposed to manage the boundary hedges at a greater height and undertake tree planting within a 30m wide landscape buffer along the northeast boundary, to screen the proposed BESS from the town.

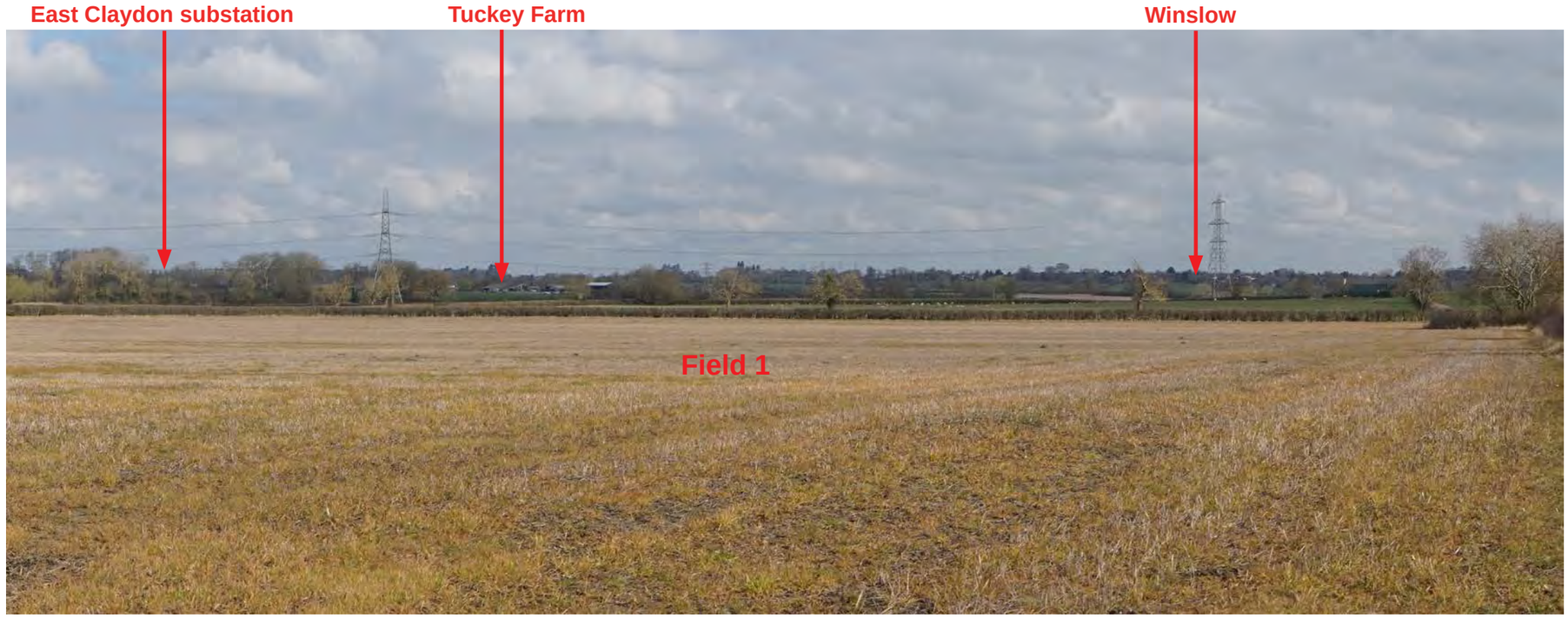


Figure 5.7.2: Internal viewpoints C & D

Photograph C Field 2

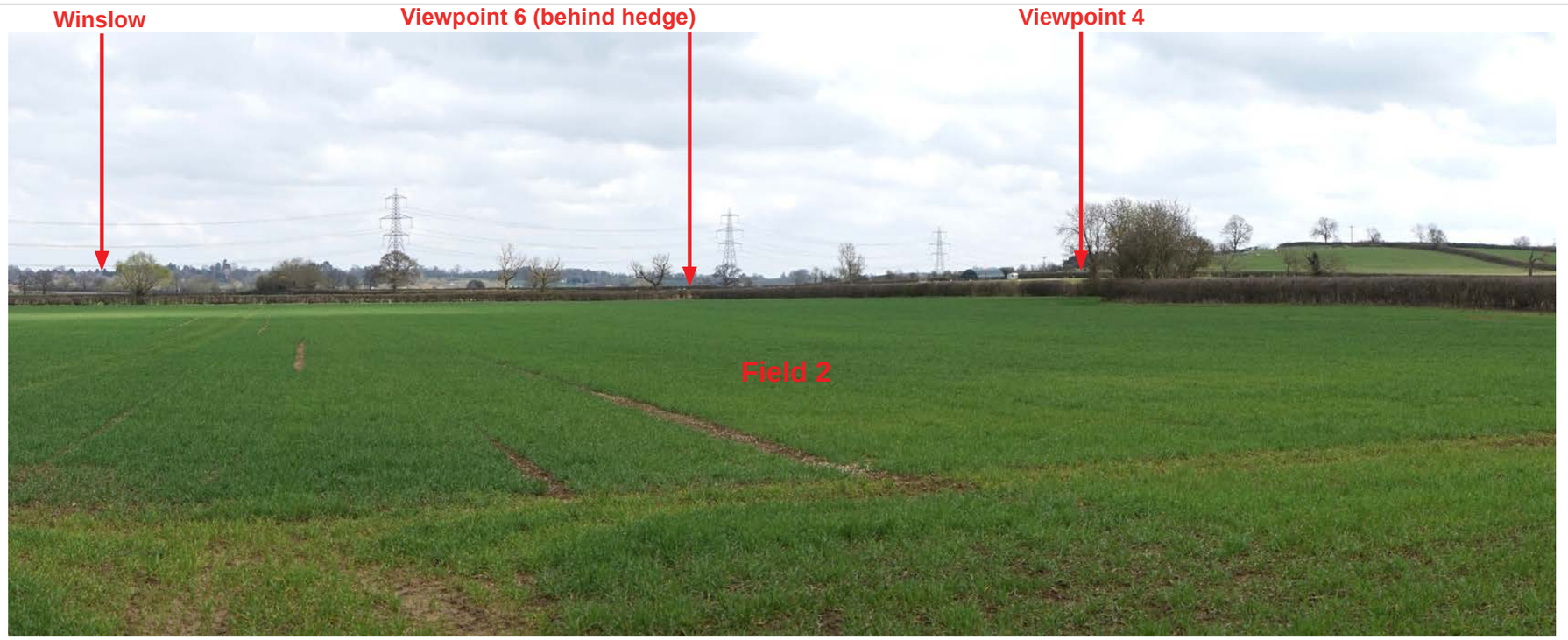
The first of four panoramic views within Field 2, taken from the southwest boundary. This is the view looking northwest, in which the northern boundary is defined by the tree cover along the brook. In winter the East Claydon Substation and transmission lines are just visible through the leafless branches.

Photograph D Field 2

A continuation of Pan C looking north. A transmission line tower lies in Field 2 and the East Claydon Substation is visible beyond the trees which line the brook. The photograph also indicated the inter-visibility with Winslow. Views within the valley floor, such as from roads and footpaths are blocked by hedge and tree cover within the valley (see Views 18, 19 and 20). Figure 5.7.7 includes a photograph of the buildings taken with a telephoto to allow an assessment of the likely degree of inter-visibility between the proposed BESS and the town. It is proposed to manage the boundary hedges at a greater height and undertake tree planting on the northeast boundary to screen the proposed BESS from the town.

It is proposed to build the customer substation in the northern corner of the field and an attenuation pond will be built on the west side of the overhead transmission lines. It has been designed to maximise value for wildlife. All development within this field will be located out of the flood zone which runs along the margin of the brook.

Figure 5.7.3: Internal viewpoints E & F



Photograph E Field 2

A continuation of Pan D looking northeast. Winslow is visible on the ridge. The view is marred by the overhead transmission line. A small area of rising ground screens the Site from the northeast, but also affords a view from footpath GRA 1/1 which runs along its base (see View 4).

Photograph F Field 2

A continuation of Pan E looking East towards Granborough. Figure 5.7.7 includes a photograph of the buildings taken with a telephoto to give an indication of the likely degree of inter-visibility between the proposed BESS and the village. View 1 is from the high ground as Footpath GRA 10/1 enters Church Lane. It is proposed to manage the Site boundary hedges at a greater height and undertake tree planting on the eastern boundary, within a landscape buffer which varies between 30m and 50m wide, to screen the proposed BESS from the village.

Photograph G Field 3

This is the start of a new pan within Field 3, looking south west. Views from the wider landscape are restricted by tree cover along the brook. Landscape quality is adversely affected by the transmission lines. There are no significant visual receptors within the landscape immediately to the south. There are no dwellings nearby and views from the footpath network are blocked by tree and hedge cover (see Views 11 to 16). The most significant receptors are residents in a few houses at Botolph Claydon where upper windows afford views of the Site, filtered by the tree cover along the brook. Figure 5.7.8 includes a photograph of the buildings taken with a telephoto to give an indication of the likely degree of inter-visibility between the proposed BESS and the village. There is also a fleeting view through a field gateway on Botyl Road, see View 22). It is proposed to augment the tree cover along the brook with fast growing species to screen the BESS from the village. **Following consultation the BESS compound previously proposed within this field has now been omitted and it will remain in agricultural production.**

Photograph H Field 3

A continuation of Pan H, looking west, illustrating how views are confined to the slopes of the valley side where only footpath ECL 4/1 affords views (see Views 7 to 10). The track running alongside the hedge will be made good and used as a second access for emergency services.

Photograph I Field 4

This is the first of four pans from Field 4, looking southeast. It illustrates the visual enclosure formed by the hedges, tree belts and woodland blocks within the adjacent countryside.

Photograph J Field 4

A continuation of Pan I, looking southwest. There are no significant visual receptors within the valley floor, but the Site is visible from distant high ground (Conduit Hill). It is proposed to plant a substantial area of woodland within Field 4 to screen the proposed BESS from those crossing the hill. No electrical infrastructure will be located within Field 4, it will only be used for landscape mitigation and to enhance biodiversity.

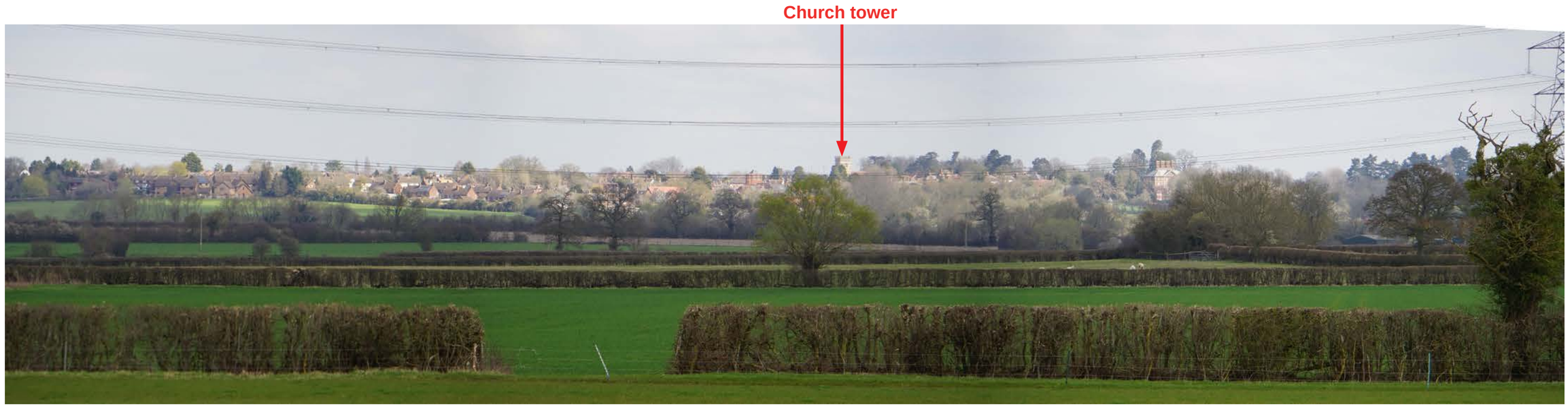
Photograph K Field 4

A continuation of Pan J, illustrating the tree cover along the brook, gaps within which allow views from the upper windows of a few properties within Botolph Claydon. Tree planting within Fields 3 and 4 and will, once established, screen the BESS from the village.

Photograph L Field 4

A continuation of Pan K illustrating the tree cover along the brook.

Granborough - View from the Site illustrating the number of properties which will afford views of the proposed development.



Winslow - View from the Site illustrating the number of properties which will afford views of the proposed development.

Botolph Claydon - View from the Site illustrating the number of properties which will afford views of the proposed development.

Figure 5.8: Temporary Haul Road Route

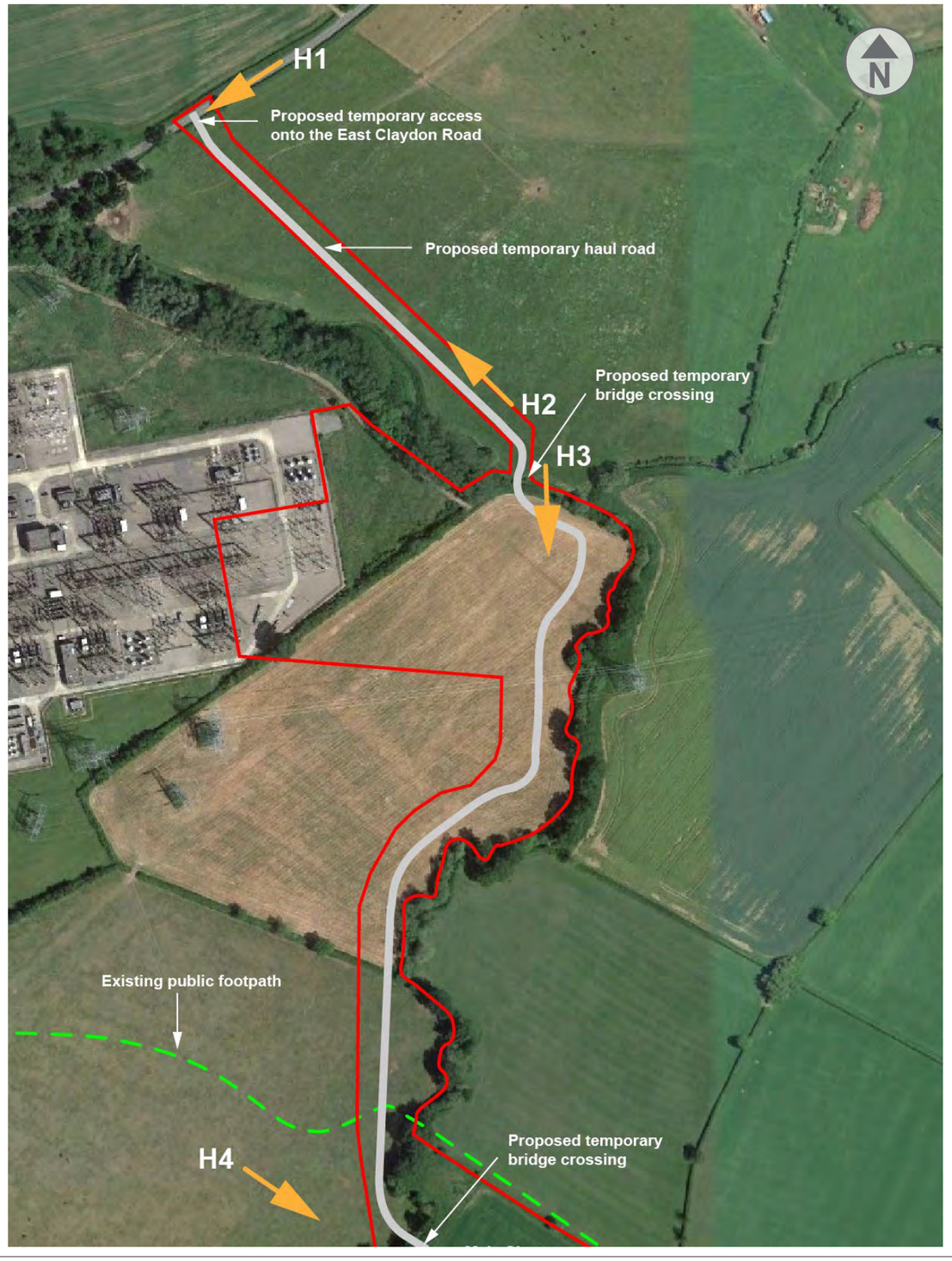


Figure 5.8.1: Route of the temporary Haul Road

View H1 - A temporary haul road will be built across farmland, starting at the East Claydon road at this point.

View H2 - on leaving the East Claydon road, the haul road will cross this field.

View H3 - the haul road will cross a tributary of East Claydon Brook into a second field.

View H4 - the haul road will recross the water course at this point passing between the bankside trees, and enter the Site.

Figure 5.9: Landscape Character Types

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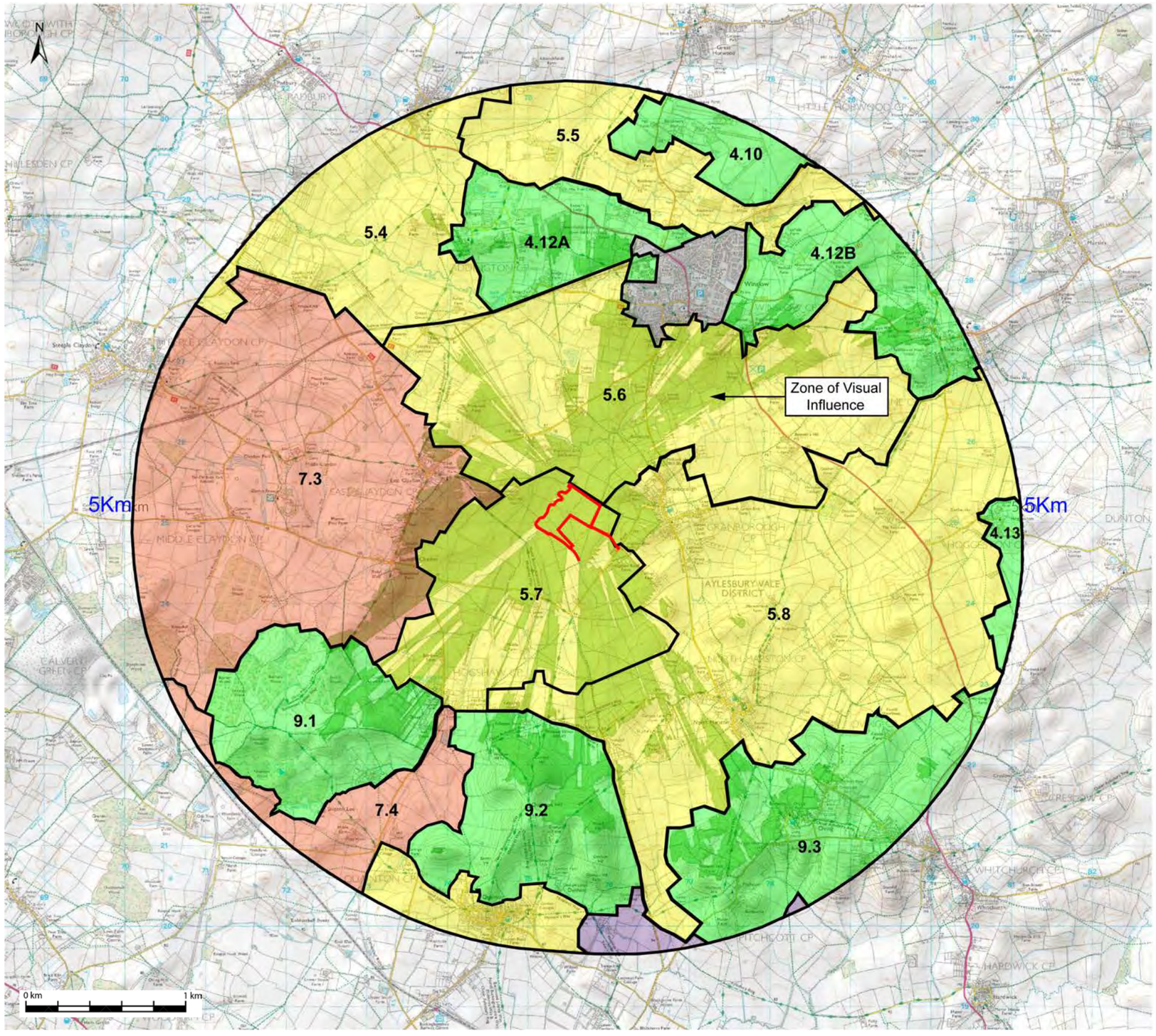


Key

Site

Landscape Character Types

- LCT 9 - Low Hills and Ridges
- LCT 5 - Shallow Valleys
- LCT 7 - Wooded Rolling Lowlands
- LCT 8 - Vale
- Settlements

Landscape Character Areas

- 4.10 - Greenway Open Farmland
- 4.12A - Winslow Ridge (West)
- 4.12B - Winslow Rodge (East)
- 4.13 - Cublington Wing Plateau
- 5.4 - Twyford Vale
- 5.5 - Claydon Tributary
- 5.6 - Claydon Valley
- 5.7 - Hogshaw Claylands
- 5.8 - North Marston Undulating Claylands
- 7.3 - Calvert Clay Pits
- 7.4 - Kingswood Woodland Farmland
- 9.1 - Finemere Hill
- 9.2 - Quainton Hill
- 9.3 - Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge

Figure 5.10: Layout Plan

Legend

- Site boundary
- Existing trees
- Existing hedgerows
- Proposed native broadleaved woodland
- New native scrub planting
- Hibernacula/habitat piles
- New substation compound
- 2.5m high weld-mesh security palisade fencing
- Crushed stone access track
- 5.5 wide crushed stone access track
- Existing hedgerow removed
- Solitary bee habitat
- Attenuation pond
- Loose permeable gravel
- Wildflower grassland
- Retained grassland
- Enhanced wet meadow
- Standing piles/deadwood
- Wildlife pond
- Proposed hedgerow planting
- Public Right of Way
- Proposed tree
- KG Kissing gate
- Flood zone 2
- Flood zone 3
- WT Source of water for irrigation trees during periods of inadequate rainfall
- 4m high infrared CCTV pole
- Bridge for brook maintenance vehicles and pedestrians
- 1.5m high post and wire stock fence
- Permissive access to nature reserve area for the operational life of the facility
- Temporary construction haul road and contractors compound
- Indicative drainage channel
- Inverter building (19 No)
- Transformer (74 No)
- Battery container (518 No)
- Storage container (3 No)
- Control room (7 No)
- WT Water tank (3 No)

Revision	Date	Comment
A	13.05.24	Scheme footprint reduced to one battery compound, orchard and biodiverse roofs removed. Screen landscaping increased.
B	22.05. 24	Additional hedges removed.

ON BEHALF	STATERA
PROJECT	EAST CLAYDON BESS
DATE	15 February 2023
SCALE	1 : 2,000 @ A1
DWG No	SL261_-_L_X_GA_-_1_Rev B
APPROVED	CMcD
TITLE	BLOCK PLAN

STATERA

BALANCING THE GRID

EAST CLAYDON BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM Environmental Statement

APPENDIX 5.A: LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL AMENITY FIGURES, PART 2

November 2023

Rev A 07.06.24: Amended to accord with the revised layout.

Figure 5.11: External Viewpoint Plan

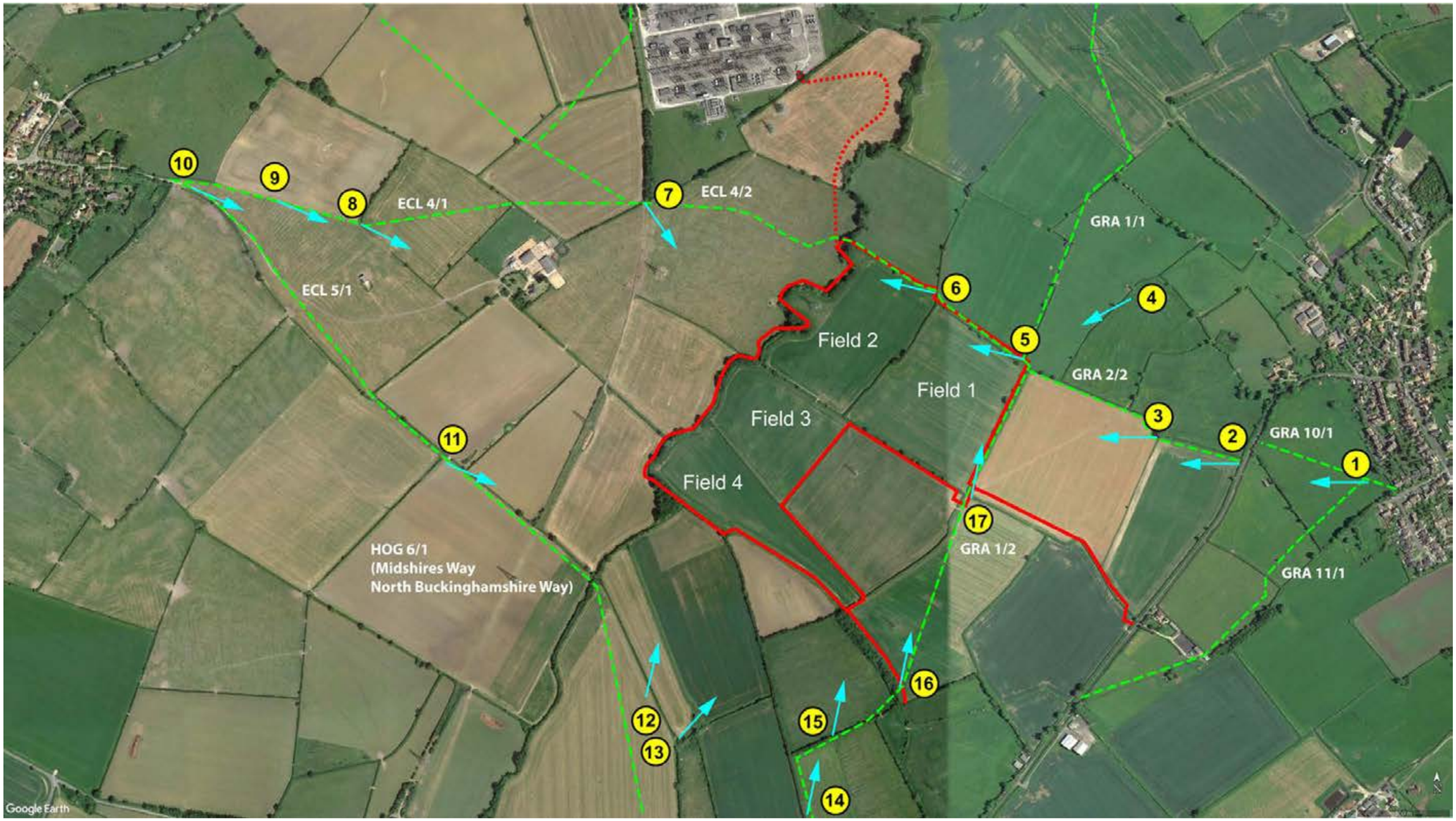
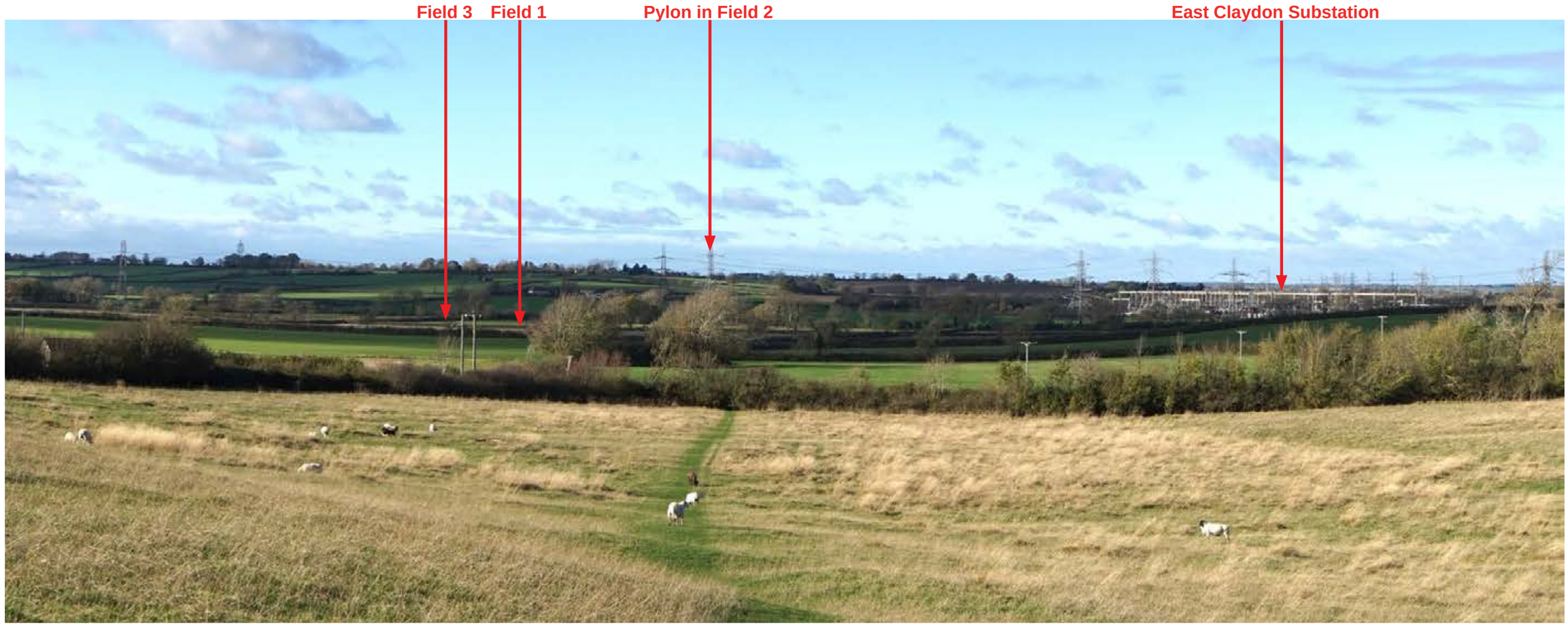


Figure 5.12.1: View from rural footpath GRA 10/1 on the western edge of Granborough (Panoramic View)



Viewpoint 1

Direction of view: West

Distance to nearest site boundary: 670m

Elevation: 112m AOD

Grid reference: SP 76568 24996

Date photo was taken: 18.11.2022

The existing view

A rural view across the valley with some properties within Botolph Claydon visible on the ridge. The view is marred by the overhead transmission lines which cross the field of view and the existing substation. The Site is visible within the valley floor as slivers of field, partly obscured by foreground tree cover.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Year 1

In winter the upper parts of the battery containers and inverter houses will be partially visible in Field 1, painted in a variety of recessive greens to create, overall, a disruptive colour pattern. The customer substation will also be clearly visible. The electrical infrastructure will be less visible in summer. Field 3 will remain in agricultural production.

The sensitivity is High (walkers but also some residents) and the magnitude of change High in winter and Medium is summer, resulting in a Major adverse effect in winter and a Moderate – Major adverse effect in summer. Both effects are Significant.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Years 10 and 20

It is proposed to screen the BESS with tree planting. It will be possible to use fast growing species such as poplar, willow and alder in the valley floor. It should be possible to form an effective screen in both winter and summer, with only the upper section of the substation remaining visible. After 10 years the residual effect will be Minor adverse in winter (some containers will be visible through the leafless branches) and Neutral in summer as the fields comprising the Site will appear to be replaced by woodland, an equally valid component of a rural landscape. After 20 years the effect will be Neutral in winter and summer.

Figure 15.12.1: View from rural footpath GRA 10/1 on the western edge of Granborough - Winter View (Single Frame)

Figure 15.12.1: View from rural footpath GRA 10/1 on the western edge of Granborough - Summer View (Single Frame)

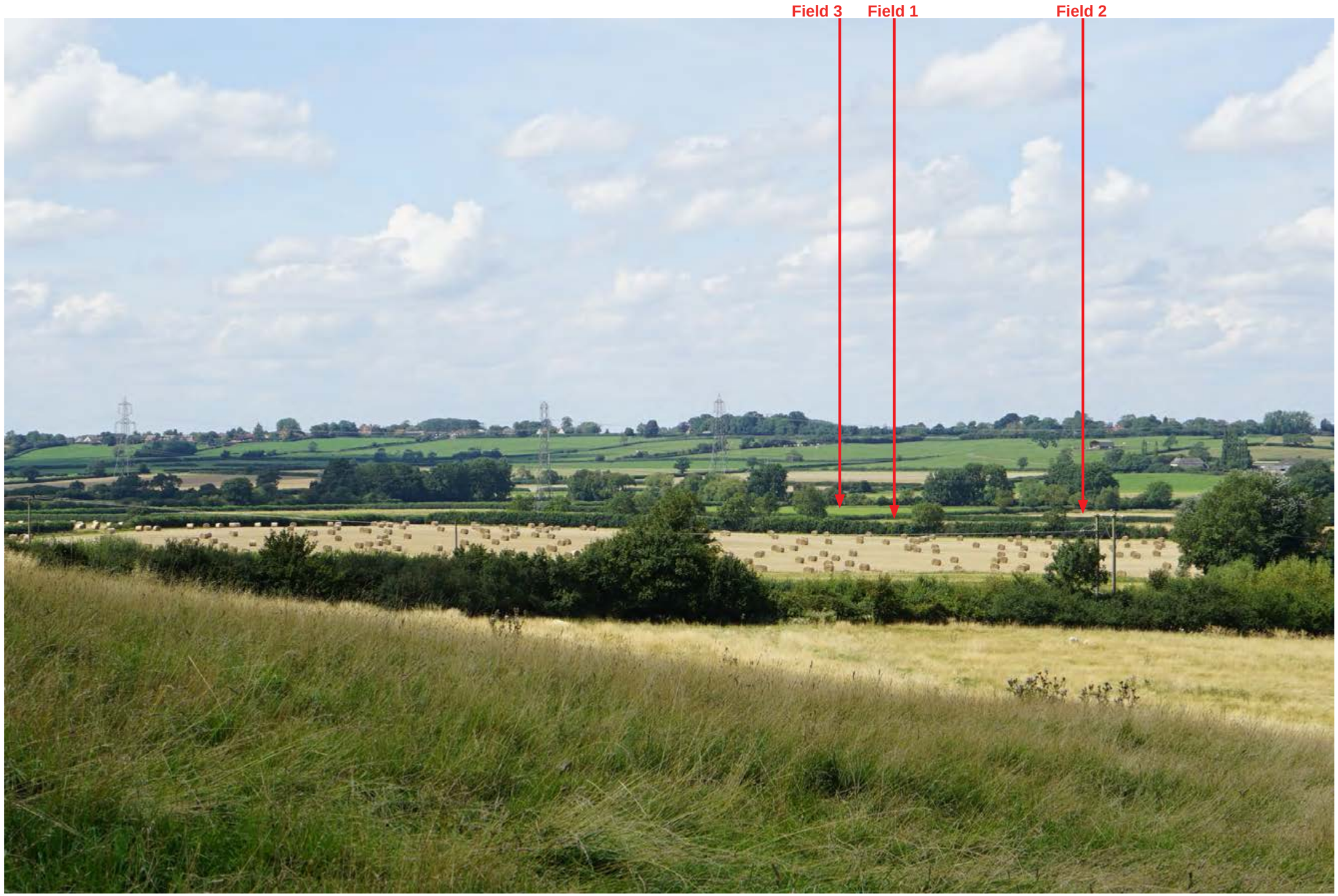


Figure 5.12.2: View from rural footpath GRA 2/2 as it joins Hogshaw Road, west of Granborough (Panoramic View)

Viewpoint 2

Direction of view: West

Distance to nearest site boundary: 431m

Elevation: 102m AOD

Grid reference: SP 76332 25032

Date photo was taken: 18.11.2022

The existing view

The lower elevation of the viewpoint means that the fields which make up the Site are not visible and only the hedges bounding the fields can be seen. It is a rural view but also marred by the transmission lines which cross the field of view.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Year 1

The upper sections of the containers and inverter houses will be visible above the hedge line, less so in summer. The proposed customer substation will be screened by the existing hedge alongside the PRoW. The sensitivity of the view is Medium (a local footpath) and the magnitude of change Medium (winter and summer), resulting in a Moderate adverse effect, winter and summer. Field 3 will remain in agricultual production and Field 4 will be used for landscaping and achieving BNG with permissive public access.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Years 10 and 20

It is proposed to screen the BESS with tree planting. It will be possible to use fast growing species such as poplar, willow and alder in the valley floor. It should be possible to form an effective screen in both winter and summer. After 10 years the residual effect will be Neutral in winter and summer as the fields comprising the Site will appear to be replaced by woodland, an equally valid component of a rural landscape. After 20 years the effect will be Neutral in winter and summer.

Figure 5.12.2: View from rural footpath GRA 2/2 as it joins Hogshaw Road, west of Granborough - Winter View (Single Frame)

Figure 5.12.2: View from rural footpath GRA 2/2 as it joins Hogshaw Road, west of Granborough - Summer View (Single Frame)

Figure 5.12.3: View from rural footpath GRA 2/2 heading towards the Site (Panoramic View)

Viewpoint 3

Direction of view: West

Distance to nearest site boundary: 264m

Elevation: 98m AOD

Grid reference: SP 76168 25081

Date photo was taken: 18.11.2022

The existing view

The lower elevation of the viewpoint means that the fields which make up the Site are not visible and only the hedges bounding the fields can be seen. It is a rural view but also marred by the transmission lines which cross the field of view and the East Claydon Substation.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Year 1

The upper sections of the containers and inverter houses will be visible above the hedge line, less so in summer. The proposed customer substation will be visible but will be seen in the context of the East Claydon Substation. The sensitivity of the view is Medium (a local footpath) and the magnitude of change Medium (winter and summer), resulting in a Moderate adverse effect, winter and summer.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Years 10 and 20

It is proposed to screen the BESS with tree planting. It will be possible to use fast growing species such as poplar, willow and alder in the valley floor. It should be possible to form an effective screen in both winter and summer. After 10 years the residual effect will be Neutral in winter and summer as the fields comprising the Site will appear to be replaced by woodland, an equally valid component of a rural landscape. After 20 years the effect will be Neutral in winter and summer.

Figure 5.12.3: View from rural footpath GRA 2/2 heading towards the Site - Winter View (Single Frame)

Figure 5.12.3: View from rural footpath GRA 2/2 heading towards the Site - Summer View (Single Frame)

Figure 5.12.4: View from rural footpath GAR 1/1 as it approaches the Site from the northeast (Panoramic View)

Viewpoint 4

Direction of view: Southwest

Distance to nearest site boundary: 190m

Elevation: 97m AOD

Grid reference: SP 75974 25396

Date photo was taken: 18.11.2022

The existing view

This section of this footpath affords a slightly elevated view over the Site and so extents of grassland within the Site can be seen between the hedge lines. It is a rural view, marred by the overhead transmission lines.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Year 1

The upper sections of the containers and inverter houses and proposed customer substation will be visible above the hedge line, less so in summer. The sensitivity of the view is Medium (a local footpath) and the magnitude of change Medium (winter and summer), resulting in a Moderate adverse effect, winter and summer.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Years 10 and 20

It is proposed to screen the BESS with tree planting. It will be possible to use fast growing species such as poplar, willow and alder in the valley floor. By Year 10 it should be possible to form an effective screen in summer with glimpses of equipment through the leafless branches in winter. The residual effect will be Minor adverse in winter and Neutral in summer as the fields comprising the Site will appear to be replaced by woodland, an equally valid component of a rural landscape. After 20 years the effect will be Neutral in winter and summer.

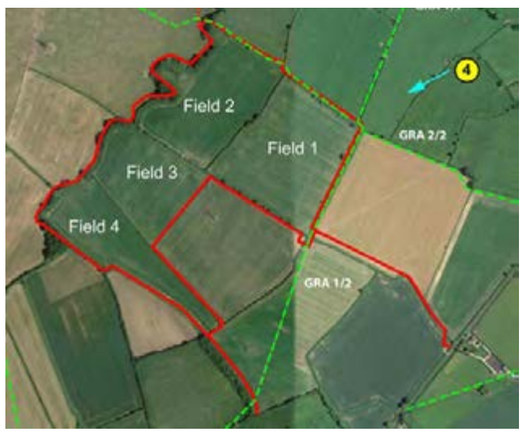


Figure 5.12.4: View from rural footpath GAR 1/1 as it approaches the Site from the northeast - Winter View (Single Frame)

Figure 5.12.4: View from rural footpath GAR 1/1 as it approaches the Site from the northeast - Summer View (Single Frame)

Figure 5.12.5: View from rural footpath GRA 2/1 as it runs just outside the northeast boundary of the Site (Panoramic View)

Viewpoint 5

Direction of view: West northwest

Distance to nearest site boundary: 10m

Elevation: 93m AOD

Grid reference: SP 75880 25236

Date photo was taken: 18.11.2022

The existing view

The existing hedge on the northeast side of the site is low but dense (it has a high content of blackthorn) and blocks views into the Site even in winter. It is a rural landscape marred by the overhead transmission lines and the East Claydon Substation, visible along the line of the footpath.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Year 1

The proposed battery storage containers and inverter houses will be set sufficiently far away from the boundary hedge (typically by 35m), that they will not be visible, but the upper section of the proposed customer substation will be just visible through gaps in the tree line. The sensitivity of the view is Medium (a local footpath) and the magnitude of change Low (winter and summer), resulting in a Minor adverse effect, winter and summer.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Years 10 and 20

It is proposed to plant trees within a 30m wide landscape buffer which will run inside the hedge on this boundary. By Year 10 it will still be possible to see the taller elements of the substation, resulting in a Negligible adverse effect, winter and summer. By Year 20 the planting will screen the customer substation from view in summer and winter (due to the depth of the planting). The residual effect on visual amenity will be Minor beneficial as the woodland will also screen the overhead transmission lines from view.

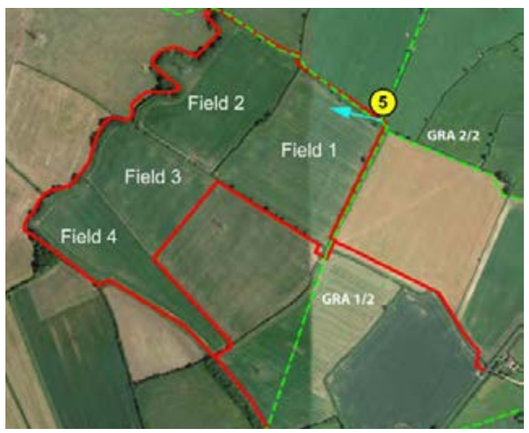


Figure 5.12.5: View from rural footpath GRA 2/1 as it runs just outside the northeast boundary of the Site - Winter View (Single Frame)

Figure 5.12.5: View from rural footpath GRA 2/1 as it runs just outside the northeast boundary of the Site - Summer View (Single Frame)

Figure 5.12.6: View from rural footpath GRA 2/1 as it runs just outside the northern boundary of the Site (Panoramic View)

Viewpoint 6

Direction of view: West northwest

Distance to nearest site boundary: 6m

Elevation: 90m AOD

Grid reference: SP 75694 25376

Date photo was taken: 18.11.2022

The existing view

A rural view marred by the overhead transmission lines. The boundary hedge blocks views into the Site, even in winter.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Year 1

The upper section of the proposed customer substation will be clearly visible, rising above the hedge. The sensitivity of the view is Medium (a local footpath) and the magnitude of change High (winter and summer), resulting in a Moderate to Major adverse effect, winter and summer.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Years 10 and 20

It is proposed to plant trees within a landscape buffer along this boundary which will form an effective screen in summer but will still allow glimpsed views of the upper part of the substation in winter since the buffer is narrower at this location. The substation cannot be set further away due to the constraint of the flood zone. By Year 10 it will still be possible to see the taller elements of the substation, resulting in a Negligible adverse effect, winter and summer. By Year 20 the planting will screen the customer substation from view in summer and winter resulting in a Negligible effect.

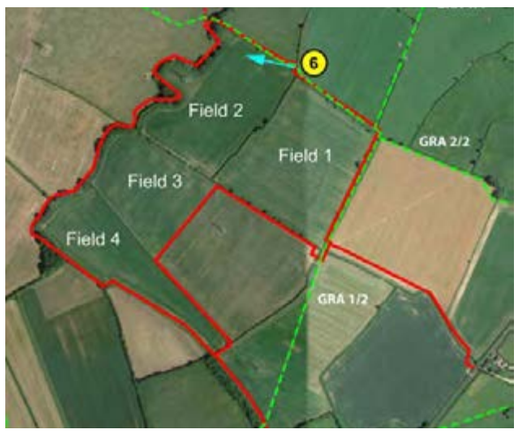


Figure 5.12.6: View from rural footpath GRA 2/1 as it runs just outside the northern boundary of the Site - Winter View (Single Frame)

Figure 5.12.6: View from rural footpath GRA 2/1 as it runs just outside the northern boundary of the Site - Summer View (Single Frame)

Figure 5.12.7: View from rural footpath ECL 4/2 as it heads east towards the Site (Panoramic View)

Viewpoint 7

Direction of view: South southeast

Distance to nearest site boundary: 351m

Elevation: 96m AOD

Grid reference: SP 75082 25550

Date photo was taken: 18.11.2022

The existing view

A rural view which is partly restricted by the tree cover along the brook. The view is marred by overhead transmission lines.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Year 1

There will be filtered views of the proposed electrical infrastructure when the vegetation along the brook is out of leaf; it will be far less visible in summer. The sensitivity of the view is Medium (a local footpath) and the magnitude of change Medium in winter and Low in summer, resulting in a Moderate adverse effect in winter and a Minor adverse effect in summer. Field 3 will remain in agricultural production aside from additional woodland planting close to the watercourse.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Years 10 and 20

The electrical infrastructure has to be located out of the flood zone and so there is a 30m – 150m wide landscape buffer alongside the brook. Tree and scrub planting within this area will augment the existing tree screen along the brook and screen the proposed development from view in summer and winter. After 10 years the residual effect on visual amenity will be Neutral in winter and summer and remain so for Year 20.

Figure 5.12.7: View from rural footpath ECL 4/2 as it heads east towards the Site - Winter View (Single Frame)

Figure 5.12.7: View from rural footpath ECL 4/2 as it heads east towards the Site - Summer View (Single Frame)

Figure 5.12.8: View from rural footpath ECL 4/2 as it continues up the hill, west of the Site (Panoramic View)

Viewpoint 8

Direction of view: Southeast

Distance to nearest site boundary: 775m

Elevation: 116m AOD

Grid reference: SP 74498 25494

Date photo was taken: 18.11.2022

The existing view

As the footpath climbs the side of the valley the grassland within the fields which comprise the Site become more visible. They are part of a rural view across the valley towards Granborough, although the view is marred by the overhead transmission lines. The buildings of Sion Hill Farm are visible in the foreground.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Year 1

The rows of proposed green coloured coloured battery container and inverter houses in Field 1 will be partially visible through the gaps in the tree line along the brook. The upper part of the proposed customer substation will also be visible. Field 3 will remain in agricultural production and Field 4 will be used for landscaping and to achieve BNG, with permissive public access. The sensitivity of the view is Medium (a local footpath) and the magnitude of change Medium in winter and summer, resulting in a Moderate adverse effect in winter and summer.

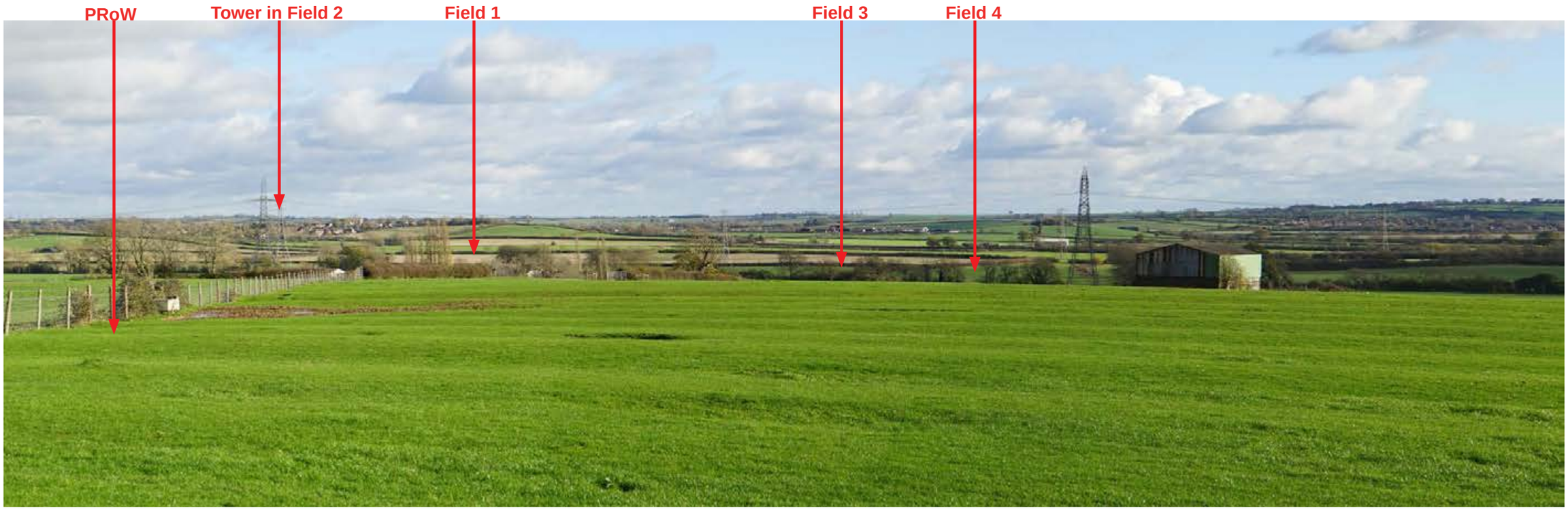
Predicted changes to the view and effect - Years 10 and 20

The electrical infrastructure has to be located out of the flood zone and so there is a 30m – 150m wide landscape buffer alongside the brook. Tree and scrub planting within this area will augment the existing tree screen along the brook and screen the proposed development from view in summer and winter. After 10 years the residual effect on visual amenity will be Neutral in winter and summer and remain so for Year 20.

Figure 5.12.8: View from rural footpath ECL 4/2 as it continues up the hill, west of the Site - Winter View (Single Frame)

Figure 5.12.8: View from rural footpath ECL 4/2 as it continues up the hill, west of the Site - Summer View (Single Frame)

Figure 5.12.9: View from rural footpath ECL 4/2 as it crests the hill, west of the Site (Panoramic View)



Viewpoint 9

Direction of view: Southeast

Distance to nearest site boundary: 965m

Elevation: 120m AOD

Grid reference: SP 74294 25535

Date photo was taken: 18.11.2022

The existing view

The top of the valley affords a panoramic view across the valley towards Granborough and North Marston. It is a rural view marred by the overhead transmission lines. The majority of the Site is screened, by either topography or tree cover along the brook. Field 1 and 3 are most visible, far less so in summer.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Year 1

The electrical infrastructure will be visible in Fields 1 and 3 and in winter it will be possible to glimpse the upper part of the substation through the leafless branches of the trees along the brook. Field 3 will remain in agricultural production and Field 4 will be used for landscaping and to achieve BNG, with permissive public access.

The sensitivity
of the view is Medium (a local footpath) and the magnitude of change Medium in winter and summer, resulting in a Moderate adverse effect in winter and summer.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Years 10 and 20

The electrical infrastructure has to be located out of the flood zone and so there is a 30m – 150m wide landscape buffer alongside the brook. Tree and scrub planting within this area will augment the existing tree screen along the brook and screen the proposed development from view in summer and winter. The residual effect on visual amenity will be Neutral in winter and summer and remain so for Year 20.

Figure 5.12.9: View from rural footpath ECL 4/2 as it crests the hill, west of the Site - Winter View (Single Frame)

Figure 5.12.9: View from rural footpath ECL 4/2 as it crests the hill, west of the Site - Summer View (Single Frame)

Figure 5.12.10: View from Bridleway ECL 5/1 as it enters the village of East Claydon (also part of the Midshires Way and Buckinghamshire Way) (Panoramic View)

Viewpoint 10

Direction of view: Southeast

Distance to nearest site boundary: 1Km

Elevation: 121m AOD

Grid reference: SP 74158 25557

Date photo was taken: 18.11.2022

The existing view

This view illustrates how the village of East Claydon sits back from the edge of the valley and so from its environs the Site lies out of view in the base of the slope. The long distance footpaths descend the side of the valley on a track which is set slightly down in the landform and so views of the Site when moving down the valley side are blocked.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Year 1

The proposed development will result in no changes to the view.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Years 10 and 20

No change to the view, no effect.

Figure 5.12.10: View from Bridleway ECL 5/1 as it enters the village of East Claydon (also part of the Midshires Way and Buckinghamshire Way) (Single Frame)

Figure 5.12.11: View from Bridleway ECL 5/1 as it descends the slope through countryside west of the Site (also part of the Midshires Way and Buckinghamshire Way) (Panoramic View)

Viewpoint 11

Direction of view: Southeast

Distance to nearest site boundary: 424m

Elevation: 94m AOD

Grid reference: SP 74669 25004

Date photo was taken: 18.11.2022

The existing view

This view illustrates how views towards the Site from this long distance footpath are blocked by the substantial hedges within the landscape.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Year 1

The proposed development will result in no changes to the view.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Years 10 and 20

No change to the view, no effect.

Figure 5.12.11: View from Bridleway ECL 5/1 as it descends the slope through countryside west of the Site (also part of the Midshires Way and Buckinghamshire Way) (Single Frame)

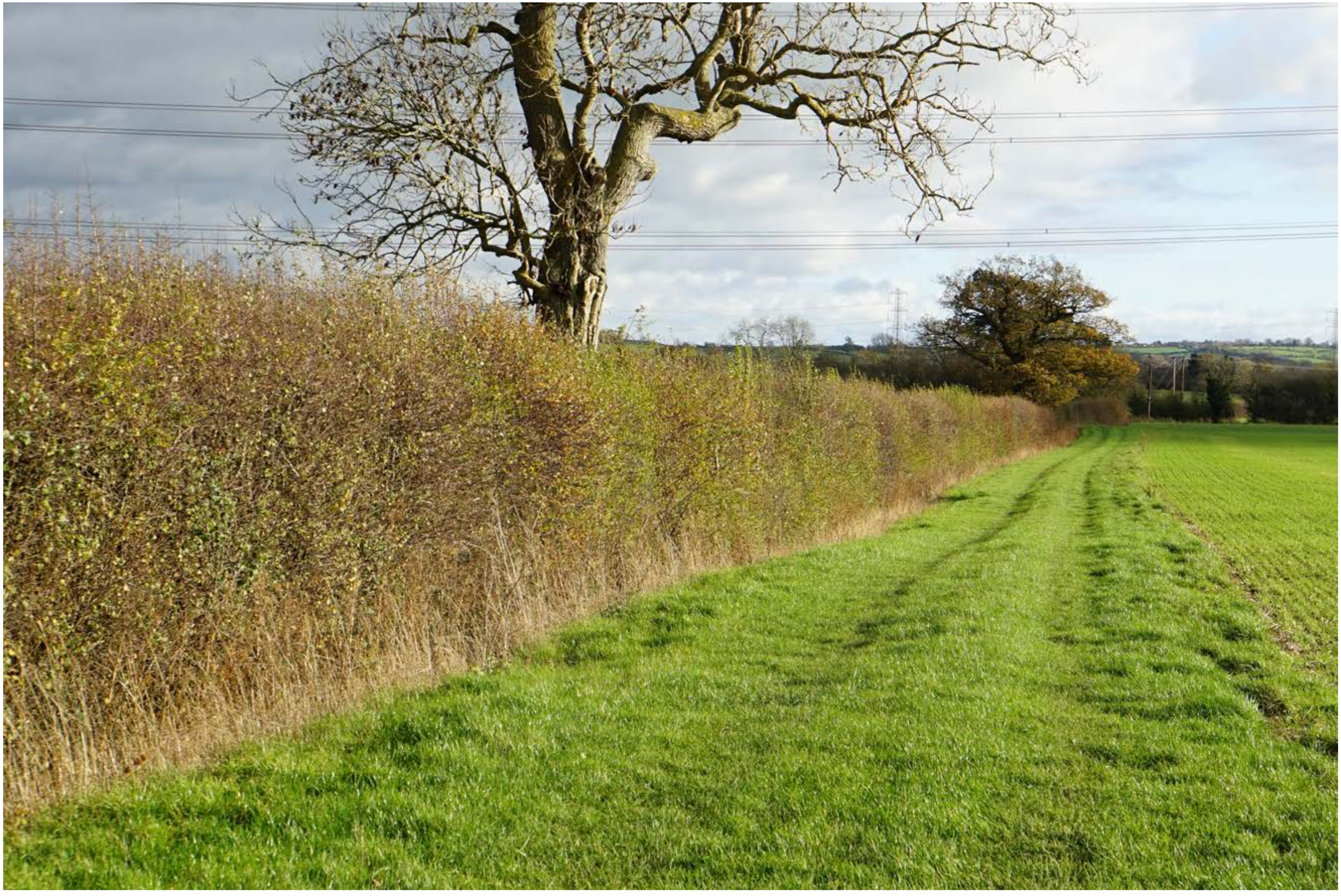


Figure 5.12.12: View from Bridleway HOG 6/1 (a continuation ECL 5/1) as it passes through countryside southwest of the site (Panoramic View)

Viewpoint 12

Direction of view: North northeast

Distance to nearest site boundary: 257m

Elevation: 91m AOD

Grid reference: SP 75097 24531

Date photo was taken: 18.11.2022

The existing view

This view illustrates how views towards the Site from this footpath are blocked by the substantial hedges within the landscape.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Year 1

The proposed development will result in no changes to the view.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Years 10 and 20

No change to the view, no effect.

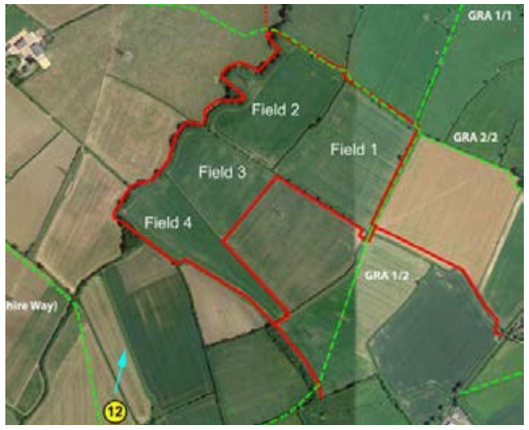


Figure 5.12.12: View from Bridleway HOG 6/1 (a continuation ECL 5/1) as it passes through countryside southwest of the site (Single Frame)

Figure 5.12.13: View from Bridleway HOG 6/1 looking through a field gateway southwest of the Site (Panoramic View)

Viewpoint 13

Direction of view: Northeast

Distance to nearest site boundary: 278m

Elevation: 91m AOD

Grid reference: SP 75155 24424

Date photo was taken: 18.11.2022

The existing view

This view illustrates how views towards the Site from this footpath are blocked by the substantial hedges within the landscape.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Year 1

The proposed development will result in no changes to the view.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Years 10 and 20

Year 10, no effect but soon after, the trees planted as part of the scheme will start to become visible above the foreground trees and will increasingly reduce the visibility of the existing transmission lines, resulting in a Minor beneficial effect, winter and summer.

Figure 5.12.13: View from Bridleway HOG 6/1 looking through a field gateway southwest of the Site - Winter View (Single Frame)

Figure 5.12.13: View from Bridleway HOG 6/1 looking through a field gateway southwest of the Site - Summer View (Single Frame)

Figure 5.12.14: View from rural footpath GRA 1/2 as it approaches the Site from the south (Panoramic View)

Viewpoint 14

Direction of view: North northeast

Distance to nearest site boundary: 401m

Elevation: 95m AOD

Grid reference: SP 75444 24252

Date photo was taken: 18.11.2022

The existing view

This view illustrates how views towards the Site from this footpaths are blocked by the substantial hedges within the landscape.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Year 1

The proposed development will result in no changes to the view.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Years 10 and 20

No change to the view, no effect.

Figure 5.12.14: View from rural footpath GRA 1/2 as it approaches the Site from the south - Winter View (Single Frame)

Figure 5.12.14: View from rural footpath GRA 1/2 as it approaches the Site from the south - Summer View (Single Frame)

Figure 5.12.15: View from rural footpath GRA 1/2 as it approaches the Site from the south (Panoramic View)

Viewpoint 15

Direction of view: North northeast

Distance to nearest site boundary: 238m

Elevation: 94m AOD

Grid reference: SP 75488 24439

Date photo was taken: 18.11.2022

The existing view

A rural view across a field towards a hedge and tree line, beyond which are visible, on the skyline, the overhead transmission lines and the upper section of the East Claydon Substation.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Year 1

The batteries and inverter houses will be screened by the existing trees but it will be possible to glimpse the top of the proposed customer substation through the leafless branches in winter (although it will be lower than the East Claydon Substation it will be closer to the viewer). The sensitivity of the view is Medium (a local footpath) and the magnitude of change Low in winter and Negligible in summer, resulting in a Minor adverse effect in winter and Negligible in summer.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Years 10 and 20

Several layers of tree planting will be established between the viewer and the proposed customer substation. By Year 10 the effect will be Negligible but shortly after Year 10 the trees, planted as part of the scheme will start to become visible above the foreground trees and will increasingly reduce the visibility of the existing transmission lines and substation, resulting in a Minor beneficial effect, winter and summer.

Figure 5.12.15: View from rural footpath GRA 1/2 as it approaches the Site from the south - Winter View (Single Frame)

Figure 5.12.15: View from rural footpath GRA 1/2 as it approaches the Site from the south - Summer View (Single Frame)

Figure 5.12.16: View from rural footpath GRA 1/2 as it approaches the Site from the south (Panoramic View)

Viewpoint 16

Direction of view: North northeast

Distance to nearest site boundary: 195m

Elevation: 91m AOD

Grid reference: SP 75636 24553

Date photo was taken: 18.11.2022

The existing view

A rural view across a field towards a boundary hedge, beyond which are visible, on the skyline, the overhead transmission lines and the upper section of the East Claydon Substation. Field 3 lies a further field away from the boundary hedge.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Year 1

The battery containers and inverter houses will be sufficiently low that they do not appear above the hedgerows and the customer substation will sufficiently distant that it will also not be visible. There will be no change to the view as a result of the Proposed Development.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Years 10 and 20

The upper part of the canopies of trees planted within fields 3 and 4 will become increasingly visible as they grow above the hedges, reducing the visible impact of the existing transmission lines. While the beneficial effect will not be significant by Year 10, by Year 20 there will be a Minor beneficial effect.

Figure 5.12.16: View from rural footpath GRA 1/2 as it approaches the Site from the south - Winter View (Single Frame)

Figure 5.12.16: View from rural footpath GRA 1/2 as it approaches the Site from the south - Summer View (Single Frame)

Figure 5.12.17: View from rural footpath GRA 1/2 as it passes along the southeast boundary of the main development area (Panoramic View)

Viewpoint 17

Direction of view: North northeast

Distance to nearest site boundary: 714m

Elevation: 99m AOD

Grid reference: SP 76493 25714

Date photo was taken: 18.11.2022

The existing view

Footpath GAA 1/2 runs along the outside of the hedge which forms the southeast boundary of Field 1. It is a dense hedge which prevents views of the Site, even in winter. It does, however, pass the existing access agricultural track and entrance into the field. There is a fleeting view of part of Field 1 to those passing along the footpath.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Year 1

The farm track will be upgraded with a wider track of crushed stone and the gateway into the Site will be widened but the scheme has been designed so that the access track bends on entering the Site. Initially it will be possible to see a small part of the BESS through the gateway until the proposed landscaping has matured sufficiently to block the views. It will not be possible to see the battery containers and inverter houses when following the footpath alongside the hedge, since they will be set between 45m and 60m deep into the Site.

The sensitivity is Medium and the magnitude Medium resulting in a Moderate adverse effect in winter and summer on visual amenity, primarily due to the need to cross the upgraded access track and glimpses of the BESS through the access.

Predicted changes to the view and effect - Years 10 and 20

Tree and hedge planting alongside the access track within Field 1 will block views of the BESS when looking down the track into the facility. The stoned access track crossed by the footpath will have weathered to appear as a farm track. Tree planting in the 30m – 50m wide landscape buffer along the southeast boundary will be visible above the hedge. The effect on visual amenity will be Neutral.

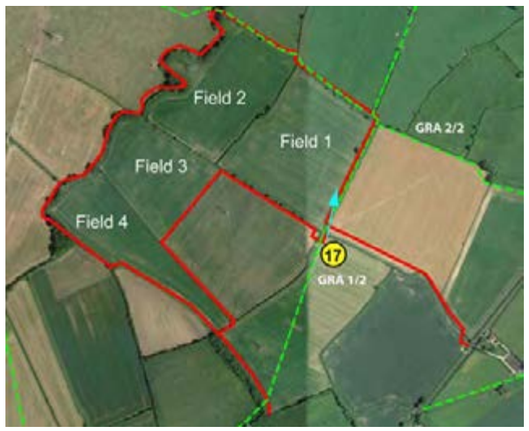


Figure 5.12.17: View from rural footpath GRA 1/2 as it passes along the southeast boundary of the main development area - Winter View (Single Frame)

Figure 5.12.17: View from rural footpath GRA 1/2 as it passes along the southeast boundary of the main development area - Summer View (Single Frame)