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**Land at Nailcote Farm, Coventry**

**LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL APPRAISAL**

April 2024

**FPCR Environment and Design Ltd**

Registered Office: Lockington Hall, Lockington, Derby DE74 2RH

Company No. 07128076. [T] 01509 672772 [E] [mail@fpcr.co.uk](mailto:mail@fpcr.co.uk) [W] [www.fpcr.co.uk](http://www.fpcr.co.uk)

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**CONTENTS**

1.0 INTRODUCTION ..... 2

2.0 METHODOLOGY..... 3

3.0 PLANNING POLICY ..... 8

4.0 BASELINE CONDITIONS..... 10

5.0 LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS ..... 18

6.0 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL EFFECTS ..... 19

7.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS ..... 26

**FIGURES**

- Figure 1: Site Location Plan
- Figure 2: Aerial Photograph
- Figure.3: Landscape Character
- Figure 4: Designations
- Figure 5: Topography Plan
- Figure 6: Visual Appraisal
- Figures 7-16: Photo Viewpoints

**APPENDICES**

- Appendix A: LVA Methodology and Appraisal Criteria
- Appendix B: Landscape Effects Table
- Appendix C: Visual Effects Table

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) has been carried out for Land at Nailcote Farm, Coventry by FPCR Environment and Design Ltd (FPCR). The purpose of this LVA study is to provide an assessment of the likely landscape and visual effects of a new solar farm (the proposed development).
- 1.2 FPCR is a multi-disciplinary environmental and design consultancy established over 60 years, with expertise in architecture, landscape, ecology, arboriculture, urban design, masterplanning and environmental impact assessment. The practice is a member of the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment and is frequently called upon to provide expert evidence on landscape and visual issues at Public and Local Plan Inquiries.

### **Site Location**

- 1.3 Figures 1 and 2 show the location and context of the Site.
- 1.4 The Site is situated between Coventry, which is located approx. 4km to the south east, and Birmingham, which is located approx. 8km to the west. There are settlements in close proximity to the Site; these include Fillongley approx. 560m to the north, Corley Ash approx. 600m to the east and Corley Moor approx. 620m to the south.
- 1.5 The Site is comprised of six irregular shaped arable fields. It is bound to the north and east by hedgerow and hedgerow trees. The southern boundary is defined by the M6 motorway corridor and associated features such as a landscaped bund and tree belt. The western boundary is immediately bound by hedgerow, hedgerow trees, and tree belts. Beyond this Meriden Road (B4102) runs along the boundary on a north to south axis.

### **Proposed Development**

- 1.6 The proposed development is for the construction of a temporary Solar Farm providing 45.9 MW (DC) output, to include the installation of ground-mounted solar panels together with associated works, equipment and necessary infrastructure.



## 2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 This LVA has been prepared based upon the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, third edition (GLVIA3), published by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, in 2013. The assessment of Landscape Value also takes account of guidance in Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 02-21 “Assessing landscape value outside national designations”.

2.2 In summary, the GLVIA3 states:

*“Landscape and Visual impact assessment (LVIA), is a tool used to identify and assess the significance of and the effects of change resulting from development on both landscape as an environmental resource in its own right and on people’s views and visual amenity.”* (GLVIA3 paragraph 1.1.)

2.3 There are two components of LVIA:

- *“Assessment of landscape effects; assessing effects on the landscape as a resource in its own right;*
- *Assessment of visual effects: assessing effects on specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people.”* (GLVIA3 paragraph 2.21.)

2.4 The GLVIA3 states:

*“LVIA can be carried out either as part of a broader EIA, or as a standalone ‘appraisal’ of the likely landscape and visual effects of a proposed development...”*

- *As a standalone ‘appraisal’ the process is informal and there is more flexibility, but the essence of the approach – specifying the nature of the proposed change or development; describing the existing landscape and the views and visual amenity of the area that may be affected; predicting the effects, although not their likely significance; and considering how those effects might be mitigated – still applies”.* (GLVIA paragraph 3.2)

2.5 The components of this report include baseline studies; description and details of the landscape proposals and mitigation measures to be adopted as part of the scheme; and identification and description of likely effects arising from the proposed development.

2.6 In terms of baseline studies, the assessment provides an understanding of the landscape that may be affected, its constituent elements, character, condition and value. For the visual baseline, this includes an understanding of the area in which the development may be visible, the people who may experience views, and the nature of views.

### **Assessment of Landscape Effects**

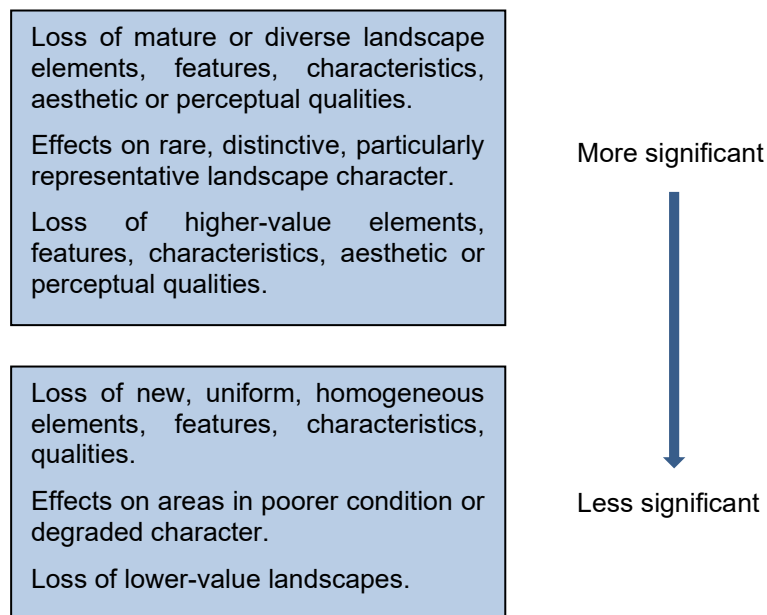
2.7 GLVIA3 states that *“An assessment of landscape effects deals with the effects of change and development on landscape as a resource”* (GLVIA3 paragraph 5.1).

2.8 The baseline landscape is described by reference to existing published Landscape Character Assessments and by a description of the Site and its context.

2.9 A range of landscape effects can arise through development. These can include:

- Change or loss of elements, features, aesthetic or perceptual aspects that contribute to the character and distinctiveness of the landscape;

- Addition of new elements that influence character and distinctiveness of the landscape;
  - Combined effects of these changes.
- 2.10 The characteristics of the existing landscape resource are considered in respect of the susceptibility of the landscape resource to the change arising from this development. The value of the existing landscape is also considered.
- 2.11 Each effect on landscape receptors is assessed in terms of size or scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced and its duration and reversibility. In terms of size or scale of change, the judgement takes account of the extent of the existing landscape elements that will be lost or changed, and the degree to which the aesthetic or perceptual aspects or key characteristics of the landscape will be altered by removal or addition of new elements. Geographical extent is considered by reference to the extent of the area over which there will be a change. Duration is considered for the landscape effects, with short term effects being defined as those lasting less than 5 years, medium term effects lasting between 5 and 10 years and long-term effects being defined as anything over 10 years in duration.
- 2.12 The level of effect is determined by considering the sensitivity of the landscape receptors and the magnitude of effect on the landscape. Final conclusions on the overall landscape effects are drawn from the assessment components described. This appraisal describes the nature of the landscape effects, and whether these are adverse or beneficial, at the following stages of development; construction, completion (year 1) and longer term (year 15).
- 2.13 GLVIA3 sets out some guidance on the underlying principles, which are used in this appraisal. This includes Figure 5.10, Scale of significance. Whilst this scheme is not EIA development, and judgements on significance are not therefore required, the Figure does provide useful guidance on reaching an overall judgement on the level of effects. This is repeated below (note this includes the correction of a typo, from the published document).



- 2.14 The criteria used in the appraisal are set out in Appendix A.

## Assessment of Visual Effects

- 2.15 An assessment of visual effects deals with the effects of change and development on the views available to people and their visual amenity. This appraisal describes the nature of the visual effects and, whether these are adverse or beneficial, at the following stages of development; construction, completion (year 1 Winter) and longer term (year 15 Summer).
- 2.16 The first stage in the assessment is to identify approximate visibility/ visibility mapping. This is done by either a computerised Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)<sup>1</sup>, or by manual methods using map study and field evaluation. A series of viewpoints are included within the assessment that are representative of views towards the Site from surrounding visual receptors. Other views of the Site are included where it supports the description and understanding of the Site's landscape and visual characteristics.
- 2.17 The views also typically represent what can be seen from a variety of distances from the development and different viewing experiences.
- 2.18 It is important to remember that visual receptors are all people. For each affected viewpoint, the assessment considers both the susceptibility to change in views and the value attached to views.
- “The visual receptors most susceptible to change are generally likely to include:*
- *Residents at home;*
  - *People, whether residents or visitors, who are engaged in outdoor recreation, including use of public rights of way, whose attention or interest is likely to be focused on the landscape and on particular views;*
  - *Visitors to heritage assets, or to other attractions, where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience;*
  - *Communities where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents in the area;*
- Travellers on road, rail or other transport routes tend to fall into an intermediate category of moderate susceptibility to change. Where travel involves recognised scenic routes awareness of views is likely to be particularly high.”* (GLVIA3 paragraph 6.33.)
- “Visual receptors likely to be less sensitive to change include:*
- *People engaged in outdoor sport or recreation which does not involve or depend upon appreciation of views of the landscape;*
  - *People at their place of work whose attention may be focused on their work or activity, not on their surroundings, and where the setting is not important to the quality of working life (although there may on occasion be cases where views are an important contributor to the setting and to the quality of working life).”* (GLVIA3 paragraph 6.34.)
- 2.19 Each of the visual effects is evaluated in terms of its size or scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced and its duration or reversibility.
- 2.20 In terms of size or scale, the magnitude of visual effects takes account of:

<sup>1</sup> Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV): A map usually digitally produced, showing areas of land within which a development is theoretically visible. [GLVIA3]

- “The scale of the change in the view with respect to the loss or addition of features in the view and changes in its composition, including proportion of the view occupied by the proposed development;
- The degree of contrast or integration of any new features or changes in the landscape with the existing or remaining landscape elements and characteristics in terms of form, scale and mass, line height, colour and texture;
- The nature of the view of the proposed development, in terms of the relative amount of time over which it will be experienced and whether views will be full, partial or glimpses” (GLVIA3 paragraph 6.39).

2.21 The geographical extent of the visual effect in each viewpoint is likely to reflect:

- The angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor;
- The distance of the viewpoint from the proposed development;
- The extent of the area over which the changes would be visible.

2.22 As with landscape effects, the duration of the effect could be short to long term or permanent and the same definitions apply.

2.23 GLVIA3 states that there are no hard and fast rules about what makes a significant effect, and there cannot be a standard approach since circumstances vary with the location and context and with the type of proposal, but the following points should be noted;

- *Effects on people who are particularly sensitive to changes in views and visual amenity are more likely to be significant*
- *Effects on people at recognised and important viewpoints or from recognised scenic routes are more likely to be significant*
- *Large-scale changes which introduce new, non-characteristic or discordant or intrusive elements into the view are more likely to be significant than small changes or changes involving features already present within the view. (GLVIA3 paragraph 6.44)*

2.24 The criteria used in this appraisal are set out in Appendix A.

### **Overall Landscape and Visual Effects**

2.25 The final conclusions on effects, whether adverse or beneficial, are drawn from the separate judgements on the sensitivity of the receptors and the magnitude of the effects. This overall judgement is formed from a reasoned professional overview of the individual judgements against the assessment criteria.

2.26 GLVIA3 notes, at paragraphs 5.56 and 6.44, that there are no hard and fast rules with regard to the level of effects, therefore the following terms have been used for this appraisal:

- **Major**
- **Moderate**
- **Minor**
- **Negligible**

- 2.27 Where it is determined that the assessment falls between or encompasses two of the defined criteria terms, then the judgement may be described as, for example, Major/ Moderate or Moderate/ Minor. This indicates that the effect is assessed to lie between the respective definitions or to encompass aspects of both.

### 3.0 PLANNING POLICY

#### National Planning Policy

##### National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, December 2023)

- 3.1 The NPPF sets out the Government's economic, environmental and social planning policy and in combination these policies give the Government's vision of sustainable development. The NPPF emphasises the need for well-designed places, promoting healthy and safe communities and conserving and enhancing the natural environment.
- 3.2 Regarding landscape and green infrastructure, the Natural Environment section of the NPPF provides a policy context for the countryside and green infrastructure. The key objectives include protecting and enhancing valued landscapes and, minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.
- 3.3 Paragraph 180 states at part a) that planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance valued landscapes and goes on to clarify that this should be in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan. Part b) states that planning policies and decisions should recognise *"the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside"*.
- 3.4 Paragraph 181 advises that:  
*"Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated Sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries"*.
- 3.5 Paragraph 182 goes on to add:  
*"Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues". And*  
*"The scale and extent of development within all these designated areas should be limited, while development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas."*
- 3.6 The Site is within an undesignated landscape with no special protected status and is not in the setting of a nationally designated landscape. The character of the Site and its immediate context is assessed within this report to help inform decisions regarding *"the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside"*. The potential to enhance green infrastructure networks is also considered.

##### Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)

- 3.7 The PPG was first published on 6th March 2014 and is a regularly updated online planning resource which provides guidance on the NPPF and the planning system. The NPPF continues to be the primary document for decision making.

## Local Planning Policy

### North Warwickshire Adopted Local Plan (2021)

- 3.9 The following policies are of relevance to landscape and visual matters and the proposed development:

#### “Landscape LP14

*Within landscape character areas as defined in the Landscape Character Assessment (2010), Arden Landscape Guidelines (1993) and the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project (June 2010) (or successor document) development should look to conserve, enhance and where appropriate, restore landscape character as well as promote a resilient, functional landscape able to adapt to climate change. Specific landscape, geo-diversity, wildlife and historic features which contribute to local character will be protected and enhanced as appropriate.*

#### Policy LP14 A: Landscaping Proposals

*New development should, as far as possible retain existing trees, hedgerows and nature conservation features such as water bodies with appropriate protection from construction where necessary and strengthen visual amenity and biodiversity through further hard and soft landscaping. The Council will seek replacement or enhancement to such natural features where their loss results from proposed development. Development proposals should be designed so that existing and new conservation features, such as trees and hedgerows and water bodies are allowed to grow to maturity without causing undue problems, or are not unacceptably compromised by development, for example by impairing visibility, shading or damage. Development will not be permitted which would directly or indirectly damage existing mature or ancient woodland, veteran trees or ancient or species-rich hedgerows (other than where appropriate avoidance, mitigation, or compensation has been taken and any minimised harm is justified having considered the policies in this plan as a whole).*

#### Policy LP14 B: New Landscape Features.

*The landscape and hydrological impacts of development proposals which themselves directly alter the landscape, or which involve associated physical change to the landscape such as recontouring, terracing, new bunds or banks and new water features such as reservoirs, lakes, pools and ponds will be assessed against the descriptions in the Landscape Character Areas. Particular attention will be paid in this assessment as to whether the changes are essential to the development proposed; the scale and nature of the movement of all associated materials and deposits, the cumulative impact of existing and permitted schemes, the impact on the hydrology of the area and its catchment, any consequential ecological impacts and the significance of the outcome in terms of its economic and social benefits. New landscape schemes will look to use native species and incorporate benefits for biodiversity. Species that are invasive or problematic to the natural environment will be avoided.”*

## 4.0 BASELINE CONDITIONS

### Landscape Character

#### National Character

- 4.1 National Character Area (NCA) profiles have been prepared by Natural England for the 159 NCAs defined across England. These NCA profiles include a description of the natural and cultural features that shape the landscape, how the landscape has changed over time, the current key drivers for ongoing change, and a broad analysis of each area's characteristics. Figure 3 illustrates the NCAs and other defined character areas within the context of the Site.
- 4.2 At this very broad landscape scale, the Site lies within Natural England's National Character Area (NCA) 97 "Arden". This NCA comprises farmland and former wood-pasture lying to the south and east of Birmingham, including part of the West Midlands conurbation, the Arden landscape also extends into north Worcestershire to abut the Severn and Avon Vales. To the north and north-east it drops down to the open landscape of the Mease/Sence Lowlands. The eastern part of the NCA abuts and surrounds Coventry, with the fringes of Warwick and Stratford-upon-Avon to the south.
- 4.3 This NCA has higher ground to the west, the Clent and Lickey Hills and to the east, the Nuneaton ridge. The landscape of the lower lying central area is gently rolling with small fragmented semi-natural and ancient woodlands. Mature oaks set in hedgerows, distinctive field boundaries, historic parklands and narrow river corridors are key features, all on the doorstep of a heavily urbanised area.
- 4.4 Land use throughout the area is mainly, residential, agricultural and industrial including coal mining, which is still active in the north-east of the NCA. Numerous transport corridors; road, rail, air and canal run through the area.
- 4.5 Key characteristic of this NCA include;
- *"This NCA is among the most geologically diverse. This has had a strong impact on the landscape's character and development and is further reflected in the range of locally and nationally important geological assets across the NCA.*
  - *Well-wooded farmland landscape with rolling landform.*
  - *Mature oaks, mostly found within hedgerows, together with ancient woodlands, and plantation woodlands that often date from the time of enclosure. Woodlands include historic coppice bounded by woodbanks.*
  - *Numerous areas of former wood-pasture with large, old, oak trees often associated with isolated remnants of more extensive heathlands. Village greens/commons have a strong association with remnant lowland heath. Fragmented heathland persists on poorer soils in central and northern areas.*
  - *Diverse field patterns, ranging from well hedged, irregular fields and small woodlands that contrast with larger semi regular fields on former deer park estates, such as, Packington Hall and Stoneleigh Park.*
  - *Transport infrastructure, the M42, M40, M6 and M5 are major transport corridors that sit within the landscape of this NCA.*



- 4.6 The description has four Statements of Environmental Opportunity (SEO). Pertinent statements are listed below;
- 4.7 *“SEO 1: Manage and enhance the valuable woodlands, hedgerows, heaths, distinctive field boundaries and enclosure patterns throughout the NCA, retaining the historic contrast between different areas while balancing the needs for timber, biomass production, climate regulation, biodiversity and recreation.*
- 4.8 *SEO 2: Create new networks of woodlands, heaths and green infrastructure, linking urban areas like Birmingham and Coventry with the wider countryside to increase biodiversity, recreation and the potential for biomass and the regulation of climate.”*

### **The Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines (1993)**

- 4.9 Despite the date of publication being 30 years ago, The Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines are still relevant and provide county level guidance. Within the document it describes the Ancient Arden key characteristics. These include;

#### “Overall character and qualities

- *A small scale farmed landscape with a varied, undulating topography, characterised by an irregular pattern of fields and narrow, winding lanes.*

#### Characteristic features

- *A varied undulating topography.*
- *A network of winding lanes and trackways often confined by tall hedge banks.*
- *An ancient irregular pattern of small to medium sized fields.*
- *Hedgerow and roadside oaks.*
- *Field ponds associated with permanent pasture.*
- *Many place names ending in Green or End .”*

### **The North Warwickshire Landscape Character Assessment (2010)**

- 4.10 The North Warwickshire Landscape Character Assessment has been undertaken at a Regional level. It subdivides the landscape into 13 LCA. The Site falls within LCA7 Church End to Corley – Arden Hills and Valleys. The key characteristics of this LCA are listed below.

*“An elevated farmed landscape of low, rounded hills, steep scarps and small incised valleys. This landform combined with extensive hilltop woodlands and tree cover creates an intricate and small-scale character, punctuated by numerous scattered farms, and hamlets.*

*Streams within the valley bottoms generally converge to the west and outfall towards the Shustoke Reservoir. A rail line winds discretely through the base of the central valley. Daw Mill Colliery is nestled within this valley adjacent to the rail line and has little influence on the wider landscape. This settled landscape includes a dense network of older hamlets and farmsteads, ancient, moated Sites such as at Astley Castle as well as a number of settlements that have been subject to modern expansion, including Old and New Arley, Ansley, Fillongley, Corley and Corley Moor. The majority of these settlements are located to the south and east where they are connected by a network of busier lanes which link to the nearby urban areas of Nuneaton, Bedworth and Coventry.*

Collectively, and combined with the M6 motorway and lines of pylons within the south, this area has many suburban elements.

The majority of the character area is deeply rural and the tranquil. Ancient Arden landscape is apparent in the complex pattern of woodland, former wood pasture and heath, winding, frequently sunken hedged lanes and scattered farms and hamlets, built of wood or timber. This is most notable in close proximity to the hilltop woodland blocks and particularly to the west of Fillongley, where a complex and irregular network of small well-hedged pastoral fields with field ponds and numerous field trees is apparent in the vicinity of Fillongley Hall. There are similar areas around Fillongley Lodge and towards Over Whitacre. Elsewhere fields have been enlarged for arable production, although many still retain an irregular outline. To the south of Ansley and New Arley, numerous hedgerow trees around larger semi-regular arable fields combine to provide a sense of Parkland character towards Arbury Park located just to the east within the Nuneaton and Bedworth District.

Throughout much of the area the landscape has a well wooded character formed by a mixture of woodlands, spreading hedgerow and field oaks, small parks and strongly wooded streamlines. Some areas retain a heathy character, and this is noted at Shaw Lane, where there is oak/birch mix woodland with an understory of bracken. Large mixed broadleaved and coniferous woodland blocks are located upon the peripheral escarpment to the north, east and south, framing the LCA.

Within the area landform relates intimately with tree cover and field pattern to provide enclosure. In the more intimate pastoral areas views tend to be restricted by thick roadside hedgerows and are often short, overlooking two or three fields to a wooded skyline. Elsewhere there are local views across small valleys, often to wooded skylines. Occasional distant views are afforded from hilltops and ridgelines revealing a varied, wooded topography. From elevated western parts of the area and from the steep scarp at the western edge of the LCA there are occasional panoramic views across the Blythe Valley to Birmingham.

#### 4.11 Key landscape related designations;

- Numerous small-medium sized 'Ancient Woodland' blocks on higher
- land, some of which are designated as SINCs;
- RIG and SINC Site at railway line south of Ansley;
- 3 further small RIGS;
- SAMs at Astley Castle, Fillongley and south of Corley;
- Conservation Area at Fillongley;
- SINC Site south of Fillongley;

#### 4.12 Pressures for change / key issues;

This area retains much of the classic 'Arden' landscape characteristics, the main pressure for change comprises agricultural intensification and conversion of broad land swathes to arable. Associated changes in land management practices lead to gradual loss or deterioration of hedgerows, field ponds, wetland and heathland habitats and hedgerow trees. Around the south and eastern peripheries settlement expansion and associated increase in peripheral road traffic along with the presence of the M6 motorway and pylons have an urbanising influence and bring associated ongoing development pressures."

## Designations

- 4.13 The Site itself is not subject to any Landscape Designations, and there are no such designations within the study area (e.g. an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) or National Park).
- 4.14 There are no Listed Buildings located within the Site, however there are numerous listed buildings nearby. The closest being Grade II listed entries, these include White House Farm located approx. 220m west of the Site and the Cartshed and Granary located 380m north of the Site.
- 4.15 There are Scheduled Monuments located within the surrounding landscape. The nearest Scheduled Monument is Ringwork Castle, which is located 480m north of the Site.
- 4.16 The site is also located within the Birmingham Green Belt.

## Topography

- 4.17 The following should be read in conjunction with Figure 5.

### Context – Landform

- 4.18 The wider landscape is described as being on a “*An elevated farmed landscape of low, rounded hills, steep scarps and small incised valleys*”. The highest local elevation is found to the west at Green End 170-175m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD). From this high point the landform gently slopes east toward the Site.

### Site - Landform

- 4.19 The local topography is undulating, with levels rising from two high points located in the centre of the Site, this creates a ridge at 145m AOD. From these points the gradient gradually falls away toward the Site boundary. The lowest point within the Site is located to the north east, this is at 118m AOD.

## Site and Immediate Context

- 4.20 An assessment of landscape character of the Site and its immediate context has been carried out, providing a finer level of assessment than the published studies.
- 4.21 The Site extends to approx. 60ha, principally comprising of six large, irregular shaped arable fields, bounded by the M6 to the south. The Site will be accessed via Meriden Road. The field itself comprises crop planting, with the PRow (WK-175-M294/1) running through the middle, on a south west to north east axis. Two brooks pass through the Site, one towards the west which follows the route of a PRow and the second along the eastern boundary. With the exception of boundary vegetation and gentle undulations, the fields are largely devoid of landscape features.
- 4.22 To the north and east, the Site is contained by a strong native hedgerow. The landscape to the south is bounded by a series of tree belts and strong hedgerows that contain a large number of mature deciduous trees. Beyond this the M6 corridor is located, this has a strong influence on the south of the Site through noise disturbance and visual connection. The landscape to the west is defined by a series of field boundaries, farm land and buildings.
- 4.23 In the wider context, the settlements of Fillongley and Corley Ash are located to the north east while a number of scattered farms are also present.

- 4.24 There are multiple Public Rights of Way (PRoW) within proximity of the Site.
- 4.25 Generally, the Site's character is broadly agricultural with urbanising influences from the settlement and infrastructure located to the north and south of the Site.

### **Landscape Value**

- 4.26 In terms of 'landscape value' it is appropriate to examine the role of the Site and its immediate context in terms of the range of local factors set out in LI TGN 02-21 and summarised in the methodology. This considers the landscape in terms of a range of factors as set out below. As a starting point, landscape designations have been considered.
- 4.27 Landscape Designations: The Site is not subject to any national, local, or other landscape designations.
- 4.28 Natural Heritage: The immediate context does not hold any statutory designations.
- 4.29 Cultural Heritage: The Site does not hold any known specific cultural heritage features although a number of listed buildings are located in the wider context with a Scheduled Monument also located south of Fillongley.
- 4.30 Landscape Condition: The Site is currently used for agricultural purposes. The northern boundary is formed by a strong native hedgerow and contains mature trees. The eastern and western boundaries are defined by hedgerow, semi mature trees, scrub and tree groups. The southern boundary is contained by the M6 corridor and associated features, including a bund and structural planting. Overall, the Site appears to be well managed and in a moderate condition.
- 4.31 Associations: As far as it is known the Site and the immediate landscape are not subject to any specific cultural associations in terms of artists or writers, nor known events in history.
- 4.32 Distinctiveness: The Site does not lie within a rare Landscape Character Area or Type at either a national or local level and does not contain any unusual landscape features. Whilst the field is bounded by hedges and semi mature trees, these features are common elements within this landscape context.
- 4.33 Recreational Value: A public footpath (WK-175-M294/1) passes through the Site and the site features within views along the route.
- 4.34 Perceptual (Scenic): It is considered that the Site and the local landscape does not display any pronounced sense of scenic quality such that it is 'out of the ordinary' in landscape terms. Views north, east and west from the Site provide some attractive views of rolling hills, woodland blocks and farms. The views south are dominated by the M6 corridor, which creates an abrupt less attractive edge. Overall, the Site and its immediate context is considered to be of medium scenic value
- 4.35 Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity): Due to the location of the Site, which is between the settlement edge of Fillongley and the M6, it is not considered either tranquil or wild.
- 4.36 Functional aspects: The Site and the immediate landscape do not feature any special functional aspects, it is not part of a flood plain, not an identified part of a green infrastructure network and does not form a setting to a designated landscape.
- 4.37 In conclusion and having appraised the above factors it is judged that the Site and the immediate landscape is of **Medium** landscape value.

## Visual Baseline

- 4.38 A visual appraisal has been undertaken for the Site. This has explored the nature of the existing visual amenity of the area and sought to establish the approximate visibility of the Site from surrounding locations and receptors. A total of 13 photo viewpoints have been selected which support this analysis.
- 4.39 Photographs have been taken to illustrate a view from a specific vantage point, or to demonstrate a representative view for those receptors that are moving through the landscape, e.g., rights of way users. The photographs may demonstrate varying degrees of visibility and include both short- and long-range views. The photographs were taken on the 4th of January 2023 and seasonal differences have been taken into account when determining the visual effects on these receptors.
- 4.40 'Photo Viewpoints', as referred to in this report are 'Type 1 Visualisations' or 'Annotated Viewpoint Photographs', as referred to in the Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note on 'Visual Representation of Development Proposals' (TGN 06/19).

## Photo Viewpoints

- 4.41 An assessment of the likely visual effects of the proposed development upon surrounding receptors is detailed in the subsequent section. Figure 6 details the location of the Photo Viewpoints and Figure 7-16 illustrates the photo viewpoints. They are briefly described below.

### Photo Viewpoints 1, 2 and 3: View from Public Right of Way WK-175-M294/1

- 4.42 These Photo Viewpoints are obtained along Public Right of Way WK-175-M294/1. This PRoW runs through the Site on a south west to north east axis. This PRoW helps connect Fillongley to the wider network of PRoW and landscape to the south.
- 4.43 Photo Viewpoint 1 illustrates the view experienced by footpath users travelling north east. The Viewpoint is located on the south western boundary, beside the farm track and Fillongley Clay Shooting Club. Views directly north and east are open and look out across arable farmland and individual trees and tree groups found within the Site, mid-range views to the south are of the M6 corridor, tree belt and bund. Long range views are impeded by the local landform that runs through the centre of the Site.
- 4.44 Photo Viewpoint 2 shows the view experienced by public footpath users when facing south east. The Photo Viewpoint is located on the northern boundary of the Site. Immediate views east from this location are limited by the ridge that runs through the Site. Immediate and mid-range views are available to the south. These are open and contain features such as the arable field, tree groups and the M6 corridor.
- 4.45 Photo Viewpoint 3 is located approx. 680m north of the Site and is representative of footpath users and residents along the south western fringe of Fillongley. The foreground of the view is of an arable field. Mid-range views show the hedgerow and tree cover that surround the Scheduled Monument Ringwork Castle. It is evident within the view that the field boundary is of good quality and helps contain and filter views south.

Viewpoints 4 & 5 : View from Public Right of Way WK|175|M294a/1

- 4.46 These Photo Viewpoints are obtained along Public Right of Way WK|175|M294a/1. This PRoW passes along the eastern boundary of the Site on a north to south axis. Similar to PRoW WK-175-M294/1 it also connects Fillongley to the landscape to the south.
- 4.47 Photo Viewpoint 4 shows the view experienced by footpath users travelling south and is located approx.400m north east of the Site beside Ringwork Castle. As walkers emerge from the tree cover that surrounds Ringwork Castle, the view opens up. The view is dominated by agricultural fields, which are broken up by trees and hedgerows. Overall, the Site is not clearly visible in the view, although a break in tree cover and hedgerow allows for partial views into the Site.
- 4.48 Photo Viewpoint 5 is located approx. 150m east of the Site. The views experienced by users of the footpath at this location experience immediate views toward the Site. Views are marginally screened by a thin tree belt along the eastern boundary and the ridge that runs through the Site.

Viewpoint 6 View north west from Public Right of Way WK|175|M294a/5 (beside the M6 motorway)

- 4.49 Photo Viewpoint 6 is located on the south eastern Site boundary. The view from this location is of the Site, it shows open agricultural fields with limited features in the foreground. Mid-distance views of the Site show a tree group, the M6 corridor and notably the Grade II listed farmhouse “White House Farm” is visible from this location.

Viewpoint 7 View north west from PRoW WK|175|M294a/5 & Footbridge crossing the M6

- 4.50 This view is obtained from the pedestrian bridge that crosses the M6 and is approx. 75m from the Site. This view is representative for users of this bridge facing north west. The foreground of the view is associated with infrastructure such as the bridge, protective barriers and the M6. Mid-range and long-range views into the Site show farmland that is subdivided by hedgerows and associated vegetation. Grade II listed farmhouse “White House Farm” is visible from this location.

Viewpoint 8 View north east from Meriden Road

- 4.51 This view is representative of road users, the Photo Viewpoint is located approx. 80m south west of the Site. Views from this location are largely screened by a strong field boundary that consists of deciduous trees. However, a gap in tree cover allows for glimpsed views into the Site. Mid distance views are of elevated landform within the Site.

Viewpoint 9 View south from Meriden Road beside Park House Farm

- 4.52 Photo Viewpoint 9 illustrates the view experienced from Park House Farm when looking south. The Photo Viewpoint is located approx. 580m north of the Site. It is difficult to make out the Site in the view due to level changes and intervening vegetation, however it is possible to have partial/glimpsed views of the northern extent of the Site. The view is dominated by arable fields that are bounded by hedgerows and hedgerow trees.

Viewpoint 10 View south east from Public Right of Way WK|175|M289/1 beside Manor House Farm

- 4.53 This Viewpoint illustrates the experience for footpath users and residents of Manor House. The Photo Viewpoint is located approx. 625m north west of the Site and is taken from higher land.

There are views toward the Site, particularly the ridge that runs through the Site. However, due to intervening vegetation and undulating topography the views are partial. Overall, The view is dominated by arable fields and associated hedgerows and hedgerow trees.

Viewpoint 11 View east from Public Right of Way WK|175|M289a/1

- 4.54 This view is representative of footpath users, the Photo Viewpoint is located 50m west and at the periphery of the Site boundary. Users of this route experience immediate views into the Site along this section. The immediate view is of a paddock and a hedgerow bounding it. Beyond this there are views into the Site, of an open arable field with a field boundary and ridge running through its centre. There are urbanising features present within this view, these include a line of low voltage power lines.

Viewpoint 12 View north east from National Trail Heart of England Way

- 4.55 This view is experienced by users of this National Trail travelling north west. It is approximately 1.2km south west of the Site. Beyond the immediate field a series of dense hedgerows and belts of vegetation prevent views toward the Site. Overall, It is difficult to make out the Site in the view, The view is dominated by agricultural fields bounded by hedgerows and hedgerow trees just beyond.

Viewpoint 13 View west from National Trail Coventry Way

- 4.56 This view is representative of footpath users, the Photo Viewpoint is located 670m west. The viewpoint is taken from elevated land, this allows for wide, open views across the Site. Mid to long distance views are available from this location and dwellings such as "White House Farm" and "Manor House Farm" are visible.

**Summary of Visual Baseline**

- 4.57 The baseline analysis results in a number of reasoned conclusions which are summarised below:
- The visual envelope (i.e. areas from where views of the Site can be experienced) is largely restricted (shown in Figure 6), due to the screening effects of the M6 corridor, settlement edge, mature vegetation and undulating topography. Although long-range views of the Site can be experienced (e.g. rising hillside west and east of the Site).
  - Primary receptors (i.e. those who will experience views of the Site) are generally limited to residents on the southern edge of Fillongley and eastern edge Corley Ash and users of the immediate footpath network.

## 5.0 LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS

### Introduction

- 5.1 The development proposals are described in the applicants drawing 'Nailcote Farm\_01\_General Layout', FPCR's '11370-FPCR-ZZ-XX-DR-L-0001-Landscape Strategy Plan' and other information accompanying the planning application. The existing landscape resource and the visual receptors and amenity of the Site have been considered by the planning and design process and have informed the resultant scheme. The landscape components of the scheme are an important integral part of the proposals.

### Landscape Design and GI Objectives

- 5.2 The key objectives of the landscape and Green Infrastructure (GI) proposals for the scheme are to:

- Respect the existing landscape character by retaining landscape features and habitats, such as boundary trees, hedgerows, and Public Rights of Way (PRoW) within the Site wherever possible.
- Create planting to areas, where space allows, to minimise landscape and visual effects of the development on peripheral residential and PRoW receptors.
- Creation of a Community Garden Area adjacent to PRoW WK|175|M294/1 as it enters the site to the north. Proposed area, potentially, will provide seating, information boards and areas of new planting.

### Landscape and Green Infrastructure (GI) Proposals

- 5.3 The landscape and GI proposals for the scheme are detailed in the drawings accompanying the planning application. In summary these proposals include:

- The provision of structural planting along the western and southern boundaries.
- Individual tree planting along boundaries, where space allows.
- Hedgerows are proposed along either side of the existing PRoW that runs through the Site.
- Retention and appropriate management for mature boundary trees, the semi mature tree belt along the northern, eastern, southern and western Site boundary.
- New landscape planting to comprise native, locally occurring species.
- New grassland habitats in the form of meadow grassland and shade/semi-shade tolerant meadow mixes.
- New areas of wet-tolerant meadow grassland within SUDS basins.

### Landscape Management

- 5.4 All of the landscape areas will be managed and maintained. This would be achieved through the implementation of a comprehensive Landscape Management Plan (LMP), to ensure the successful establishment and continued thriving of the landscape proposals.



## 6.0 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL EFFECTS

6.1 The following section outlines the likely landscape and visual effects that would arise from proposed development on the Site. Schedules detailing these likely landscape and visual effects for the receptors are included in Appendices B and C respectively. Please refer to these in conjunction with the following descriptions.

### Landscape Effects

#### Construction

6.2 During the construction phase there would be short-term adverse landscape effects resulting from the general disturbance to the site. Construction effects would be temporary in nature and short term only. During the construction phase, some short term reversible adverse effects upon the landscape will occur. Anticipated effects will primarily be caused by;

- Clearance and set up of temporary compound area;
- Building works; and
- Construction traffic, including HGVs and staff cars travelling to and from Site.

6.3 All construction works will be carried out in full accordance with best practice procedures to minimise and protect, as far as practicable. The landscape effects during construction is assessed as being of a transient nature and, given that the timescales involved will be relatively short, this is considered to be of limited significance overall. Please refer to Appendix B: Landscape Effects Table for assessment.

6.4 Overall and relative to the local landscape character and resources, it is judged there would be a **Moderate Adverse** landscape effect on the Site and immediate context during construction phase with effects localised to the Site and nearby settlement edge context.

6.5 Landscape effects for the wider landscape character areas are assessed as **Minor Adverse** for LCA7 Church End to Corley – Arden Hills and Valleys LCA and the Ancient Arden LCA within the North Warwickshire and Warwickshire County Landscape Character Assessments and **Negligible** for NCA 97 Arden.

#### Operation (following Completion)

##### National level

6.6 The landscape falls within Natural England's National Character Area (NCA) 97 "Arden". The Site and local context does share some characteristics with this NCA, these include; *"Well-wooded farmland landscape with rolling landform."*, *"Mature oaks, mostly found within hedgerows"* and *"Diverse field patterns, ranging from well hedged, irregular fields and small woodlands"*. Additionally, the Site is bounded by the M6 which is one of many major transport routes that are found within this NCA.

6.7 The proposed development will result in the loss of six arable fields and some vegetation for access and during construction phases. The development seeks to retain the existing field pattern, boundary trees and hedges. Additionally, the development maintains Public Right of Way WK-175-M294/1 which runs through the Site. As a result of the relatively small scale of the development

with the extensive NCA and retention of existing landscape features, it is assessed that the development will have a **Negligible** effect at completion and at year 15.

#### Regional level: Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines

- 6.8 The Site lies wholly within the Ancient Arden Landscape Character Area. The Site shares many of the key characteristics with this LCA. These include; *“A small scale farmed landscape with a varied, undulating topography, characterised by an irregular pattern of fields and narrow, winding lanes”, “A varied undulating topography.”, ...confined by tall hedge banks.”, “An ancient irregular pattern of small to medium sized fields.”* and *“Hedgerow and roadside oaks.”*
- 6.9 The development will seek to retain characteristic landscape elements, including hedgerows and trees where possible.
- 6.10 The development will result in a loss of existing arable fields and will result in some vegetation being removed, but this loss will be mitigated for by proposed GI. The proposed development would result in no change to the topography of the Site.
- 6.11 The proposal includes new habitats in the form of structural planting that will consist of trees and hedges. Additionally, the Site forms a very small and contained part of this landscape receptor, resulting in a **Minor Adverse** effect at completion and at year 15.

#### County Level: North Warwickshire LCA

- 6.12 The entirety of the Site lies within the LCA7 “Church End to Corley – Arden Hills and Valleys” The Site shares many of the key characteristics with this LCT. These include *“An elevated farmed landscape of low, rounded hills, steep scarps and small incised valleys. This landform combined with extensive hilltop woodlands and tree cover creates an intricate and small-scale character, punctuated by numerous scattered farms, and hamlets.”* and *“This settled landscape includes a dense network of older hamlets and farmsteads, ancient moated Sites such as at Astley Castle”* and *“...Collectively, and combined with the M6 motorway and lines of pylons within the south, this area has many suburban elements.”*
- 6.13 With the exception of removing small sections of vegetation and changing agricultural land into a solar farm development, the proposals will not impact any of the key characteristics of this LCT. The character of the proposed development area will change, as a result of the proposed development. Proposed development will be set within Green Infrastructure, comprising of retained trees and hedgerows, in addition to new landscape features will mature and help to strengthen the overall landscape structure and retain the overall character of the LCT. Landscape effects are judged to be **Minor Adverse** at completion and at year 15.

#### Site and Immediate Context

- 6.14 The landscape is not recognised by any national or local landscape designations such as National Park or AONB. It does fall within Birmingham’s Green Belt; however, this is principally a planning designation.
- 6.15 The proposed development will be introducing a solar farm scheme to existing arable farmland. Overall it is considered that the Site and immediate surrounding context has a medium susceptibility. This is because of the characteristics of the receiving landscape, proximity to the M6 corridor and the minimal changes to existing features i.e. tree cover, hedgerow and topography.

- 6.16 The screening effect of the adjacent M6 corridor will provide enclosure to the south of the Site. The local landscape features such as undulating landform and series of strong tree belts and well vegetated field boundary will help to assimilate new development more readily.
- 6.17 The proposed solar farm will result in the loss of agricultural land, resulting in a change of character. The boundary vegetation will largely be retained, with the exception of a small stretch of boundary vegetation required to construct the access. The proposed development will be incorporated into the existing field pattern. Existing boundary hedgerows and vegetation are to be retained and reinforced, with additional proposed planting to the northern and southern boundaries. A new hedgerow will also be implemented to either side of the PRow through the site and new planting along the boundaries will aid in screening the Site once mature.
- 6.18 In summary, The proposed development incorporates existing features and new landscaping. This includes structural planting to the northern and southern Site boundaries, which will aid in providing containment and creating an appropriate transition to the development. Retained vegetation and field boundaries will help to integrate the panel structures from the outset. At completion, the landscape effects are judged to be **Moderate Adverse**. By year 15, as the GI proposals mature, the landscape effects are judged to reduce to **Moderate/ Minor Adverse**. The effects on the features of the site – vegetation will be **Minor Beneficial** by year 15 as planting approaches maturity.

## Visual Effects

### Visual Envelope (VE)

- 6.19 The VE (Figure 6) of the proposed development identifies the surrounding land from within which views towards any part of the proposed development are likely to be possible. The VE is not however, an indicator of the effect of the proposed development on the view but simply, its visible extent in the surrounding landscape.
- 6.20 A hand drawn VE for the proposed development was initially prepared based upon the local topography context and proposed solar farm. This has then been reviewed on Site and refined to take account of the visual “screening” provided by buildings, trees and other features.
- 6.21 The VE is relatively limited in extent, given the size of the development. This is due to a combination of topographical changes and containment created by vegetation and infrastructure.
- 6.22 The settlement edge of Fillongley, topographical changes and series of strong field boundaries limit views of the Site from the north, the western and eastern boundaries are generally more open as the landform rises in these locations. The visual envelope extends approximately 1.2km east and 850m north west beyond the Site. The VE extent is limited from the south, this is largely due to the M6 corridor, intact field boundaries and tree belts.
- 6.23 There could be some limited locations (beyond the extent of the VE shown) that could have a potential distant or very limited view to a part of the development. Equally, there could be some locations shown within the VE that would not experience any views to the resultant development.

### Construction

- 6.24 During construction there would be some short term adverse visual effects, resulting from the construction work, and the views to partially completed works and construction activity. None of

these effects would be of greater significance than the visual effects arising through the operational phase. Mitigation could include the erection of hoardings around the development Site.

- 6.25 Construction effects for local residents are assessed as **Moderate/Minor Adverse** or **Minor Adverse** while effects on users of the PRoW through the site are assessed as **Major/Moderate Adverse**. Effects for users of PRoW outside of the site boundary are assessed as **Moderate/Minor Adverse** and effects for road user receptors are assessed as **Minor Adverse** and **Negligible**.

#### **Operation (following Completion)**

- 6.26 The following provides a summary of the visual effects assessment included at Appendix C.

#### Residential Properties and Settlement

- 6.27 Overall, visibility of the proposed development will be limited to a relatively small number of existing properties in Fillongley and Corley Ash or those with elevated positions further away.
- 6.28 The majority of residential receptors are located on the settlement edge of Fillongley. These photos are represented by Viewpoints 3 and 9. The effects on residents of more distant dwellings beyond the immediate context are also considered here, this is represented by Viewpoint 10.

#### *Receptor A: Residents of Fillongley (Southern Boundary):*

- 6.29 The proposed development will only be glimpsed at best from south facing windows from residents on the south west of Fillongley. Proposed development will be seen beyond intervening tree belts and will constitute a small part of the overall view. The immediate view of existing tree belt located along the south west of Fillongley, will filter views south and help to readily assimilate the development at completion. By year 15 the existing tree belt will become denser and continue to filter views and new planting within the site will assist with softening views in places. Resultant visual effects for the residents at receptor A are judged to be **Minor Adverse** at completion and in the long term.

#### *Receptor B: View south from Meriden Road beside Park House Farm:*

- 6.30 It is difficult to make out the Site within views from Park House Farm due to level changes and intervening vegetation. However it is possible to have partial/glimpsed views of the northern extent of the Site. This is largely due to the proximity and that sits on elevated land. A strong field boundary limits views for much of the Site. The north western boundary has minor breakages in hedgerow and tree cover which allows for partial views into the Site. The proposal has allocated this part of the Site for scattered trees are proposed along this northern boundary which will assist with filtering views of the proposed development, reducing long term visual effects once matured. At completion and in the long term, the visual effects are judged to be **Moderate/Minor Adverse**.

#### *Receptor C: View south east from Public Right of Way WK\175\M289/1 beside Manor House Farm:*

- 6.31 This Viewpoint illustrates the experience for footpath users and residents of Manor House. The Photo Viewpoint is located approx. 625m north west of the Site and is taken from higher land. There are views toward the Site, particularly the ridge that runs through the Site. However, due to intervening vegetation and undulating topography the views are partial.
- 6.32 It is anticipated that the proposed development would be seen from first floor windows. Construction of the solar farm would result in only a medium/low degree of change to the view. When the intervening vegetation is in leaf, it is anticipated that the built development would result

in very little discernible change to the views experienced by residents. At completion, the visual effects are judged to be **Moderate/Minor Adverse**. By year 15 the proposed GI along the northern boundary is anticipated to help screen views toward Site. Reducing the visual effects to **Minor Adverse**.

Public Rights of Way (PROW) and Other Footpaths etc

*Receptor D: View from Public Right of Way WK-175-M294/1 :*

6.33 These are referenced as receptor D within the Visual Effects Table. The PROW runs through the Site. The development retains the alignment of the PROW and receptors will be able to walk through the Site to open countryside beyond. However, the sequential experience and immediate context of the Site will be altered from a settlement edge/countryside interface to a more urbanised context of a solar farm and soft landscaping. The PVS will restrict views out from the PROW, however gaps between rows will allow for some views out to the wider countryside. Additionally, views will be softened by new hedgerow planting to either side of the PROW which will help provide some separation to some of the panels and will mature to further filter views over time. The proposed Community Garden Area and related planting will provide an additional screening and softening effect, similarly, two SuDS basins sown with meadow grassland will provide interest along the route.

6.34 It is judged that at completion, the visual effects upon users of this section of the PROW is likely to be **Major/ Moderate Adverse**. By year 15 the proposed landscaping will help to screen views into Site, at year 15 the visual effects are considered to reduce to **Moderate Adverse**.

*Receptor E: View from Public Right of Way WK\175\M294a/1:*

6.35 This PROW passes along the eastern boundary of the Site on a north to south axis. Similar to PROW WK-175-M294/1 it also connects Fillongley to the landscape to the south.

6.36 The extent of the development will be visible for footpath users travelling along this route. However, views do vary along the length of this footpath. It is anticipated that the solar farm will be mostly hidden from northern sections of the path, in the vicinity of Scheduled Monument Ringwork Castle. Shallow views are afforded to the proposed development area. This will result in a medium/ low degree of change to views in the most exposed locations. Unlike views experienced by residents, these views would be temporary, due to the transient nature of footpaths.

6.37 Additional robust blocks of screen planting proposed to the eastern boundary edge will help to soften & screen views from this receptor into the site.

6.38 At completion visual effects are judged to be **Moderate/Minor Adverse** and in the long term the visual effects are judged to be **Minor Adverse**.

*Receptor F: View north west from Public Right of Way WK\175\M294a/5 (bedside the M6 motorway):*

6.39 This PROW runs through the south eastern boundary of the Site and crosses the M6. The visual experience will change, users currently experience open views across the Site from this location.

6.40 Proposed solar panels will replace crops, and become dominant elements in the view, resulting in a high magnitude of change initially. However the overall effect is reduced as the PROW is in close proximity to the M6 corridor, this motorway has a strong visual impact on this PROW.

6.41 There is an existing landscape buffer to the south of the Site. Over time, proposed boundary vegetation within this buffer will help to soften views of built development, helping the solar farm to assimilate into its setting. Similarly to Receptor E, additional robust blocks of screen planting proposed to the eastern boundary edge will help to soften & screen views from this receptor into the site.

6.42 At completion, the visual effects from this receptor are judged to be **Moderate/Minor Adverse**. New planting along the south will further help to soften views reducing long term effects to **Minor adverse**.

*Receptor G: View east from Public Right of Way WK175|M289a/1:*

6.43 This view is representative of footpath users, the Photo Viewpoint is located 50m west and on the periphery of the Site boundary. Users of this route experience immediate views into the Site along this section. The immediate view is of a paddock and a hedgerow bounding it. Beyond this there are views into the Site, of an open arable field with a field boundary and ridge running through its centre. There are urbanising features present within this view, these include a line of low voltage power lines. For users of this PRow traveling east the view is largely open toward Site, as a low level hedge is the only screening. Views south are impeded by a strong field boundary. This vegetation will screen direct views toward the south of the Site. Where views are possible the scale of effect will be medium due to the proximity of proposals.

6.44 At completion of the development, the visual effects are judged to be **Moderate Adverse**. By year 15 the proposed landscaping to the west of the Site and the new hedgerows along the PRow will help to screen views into Site, at year 15 the visual effects are considered to be **Moderate/Minor Adverse**.

*Receptor H: View north east from National Trail Heart of England Way:*

6.45 This view is experienced by users of this National Trail travelling north west. It is approximately 1.2km south west of the Site. Beyond the immediate field a series of dense hedgerows and belts of vegetation prevent views toward the Site. The proposed development will be set beyond intervening vegetation. Users of this PRow will have a limited visual relationship with the Site, due to screening provided by strong intervening field boundaries and mature specimen trees and minimal breaks in hedgerow between the PRow and the Site. Additionally, views are limited by topographical changes. At completion, the visual effects from this PRow are judged to be **Negligible/ None** this is judged to remain **Negligible/ None** at 15 years.

*Receptor I:*

6.46 This view is representative of footpath users; the Photo Viewpoint is located 670m west. The viewpoint is taken from elevated land, this allows for wide, open views across the Site. Mid to long distance views are available from this location and dwellings such as "White House Farm" and "Manor House Farm" are visible. The proposed development will be evident to receptors using this National Trail. This is largely a consequence of topographical changes. The route runs on elevated land. However, the Site is set beyond intervening vegetation, strong hedgerows and features the M6 corridor. Which allows for some screening from this location. At completion, the visual effects from this PRow are judged to be **Moderate Adverse** this is judged to remain **Moderate Adverse** at 15 years.

### Roads & Transport Users

#### *Receptor J: View north east from Meriden Road:*

- 6.47 This view is representative of road users; the Photo Viewpoint is located approx. 80m south west of the Site. Views from this location are largely screened by a strong field boundary that consists of deciduous trees. However, a gap in tree cover allows for glimpsed views into the Site. Mid distance views are of elevated landform within the Site. Road users of Meriden Road may experience temporary glimpsed views of the Site. However, in general the solar farm will not be readily apparent, and the development will not be readily discernible behind the strong tree belt located to the south west of the Site. Further north, views will become more open and apparent for road users as the field boundary becomes lower and less dense. At completion, the visual effects from this road are judged to be **Moderate Adverse** this is judged to reduce to **Minor Adverse** at 15 years as proposed planting along the western boundary matures.

#### *Receptor K: View south west from M6 footbridge:*

- 6.48 Road users of the M6 will experience partial/ glimpsed views of the solar farm. This is largely a consequence of a series of breakages in tree cover along the southern boundary of the Site. Views for road users will be transient as users move along the road. Additionally planting along the southern boundary will help to assimilate the development into its surroundings and break up views of the panels as it matures. At completion, the visual effects from this road are judged to be **Minor Adverse / Negligible** this is judged to reduce **Negligible** at 15 years, as existing and proposed GI matures.

## 7.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 The proposed solar farm south of Fillongley, adjacent to the M6 has the following features: Existing vegetation along the northern, eastern, southern and western that provides a degree of enclosure. The design principles for the proposed development are guided by the drawings that support this application. The GI design principles for the proposed development are detailed within application drawing 11370-FPCR-ZZ-XX-DR-L-0001-Landscape Strategy Plan. It indicates that the solar farm sits within the existing onsite vegetation and will be supplemented by additional structural planting.

7.2 The GI proposals include:

- The provision of structural planting (tree and hedgerow) along the northern and western boundaries.
- Retention and appropriate management mature boundary trees, the semi mature tree belt along the northern, eastern, southern and western Site boundary.
- New landscape planting to comprise native, locally occurring species.
- New SUDS basins seeded with wet-tolerant meadow grassland.

### Landscape Summary

7.3 The proposed development will be introducing a high-quality solar farm scheme to existing arable land. To enable construction of the development, the removal of some trees to create a wider access is expected. Mitigation measures include the incorporation of existing features and new landscaping, such as structural tree planting which will aid in creating an appropriate transition to the development. Retained vegetation and field boundaries will help to integrate the built form from the outset. At completion, the landscape effects are judged to be **Moderate Adverse**. By year 15 the landscape effects are judged to reduce to **Moderate / Minor Adverse**. The effects on the features of the site – vegetation will be **Minor Beneficial** by year 15 as planting approaches maturity.

7.4 Overall, it is considered that the proposed development and associated green infrastructure are of a modest scale and nature in the wider context and could be accommodated within the Site and local landscape with limited and localised landscape effects.

### Visual Summary

7.5 The visual envelope of the proposed development is restricted by screening elements such as hedgerows, trees, settlement edge, the M6 corridor and topography. Visual receptors include residential properties, of which there are relatively few, public rights of way, the M6 and local roads. Generally, receptors that are affected are largely limited to those located nearest the Site.

7.6 The development is contained by existing features and proposed GI planting. This creates a green framework for development that can accommodate the solar farm and creates an appropriate landscape setting for the development, with new planting filtering views. Overall, the development is likely to contribute to a very limited degree of visual change.

7.7 The majority of residential receptors that will be affected are located along the southern boundary of Fillongley (receptors A and B). Field survey work has determined the most noticeable visual effects for residents would be experienced by receptors of Park House Farm and Manor House Farm. Views from the properties to the Site will be available from first floor level, resultant long term



visual effects are considered to be **Moderate /Minor Adverse**. The majority of the existing properties in the area will be unaffected by the proposed development and resultant long term visual effects are considered to be **Minor Adverse**.

- 7.8 Views of the proposed development from Public Rights of Way will largely be limited to those in closest proximity to the Site, affording close and medium range visibility. It is considered that initial resultant visual effects will vary between **Major/Moderate Adverse** along PRoW WK|175|M294/1 and **Negligible/None** where they are more distant along the western National Trail Heart of England Way. By year 15 with the maturing of the proposed mitigation planting, assessed effects reduce to between Moderate and Minor Adverse for those receptors which are assessed as initially having greater effects.
- 7.9 Views of the proposed development from the local road network will be limited to the M6 and Meriden Road with users likely to experience a **Minor Adverse and Negligible** effect at completion and in 15 years. New planting along the Site boundaries would assist in screening and filtering views in the medium/long term.

### Conclusions

- 7.10 In conclusion, it is assessed that the Site's landscape character has the ability in which to absorb development of the scale and type proposed. The development of a solar farm and new planting is an appropriate design approach within this landscape context. The GI would be multifunctional in its design and management, so that it performs a range of functions, to include benefits for biodiversity, screening and climate change. New planting will help assimilate the development into its surroundings
- 7.11 It is assessed that the design and mitigation approaches adopted by the proposed development are appropriate and would minimise impacts on landscape and visual receptors in the longer term. In conclusion, it is assessed that the proposed development would not result in any unacceptable long-term landscape and visual effects.

## **Appendix A**

### **Landscape and Visual Appraisal – Methodology and Assessment Criteria**

#### **Introduction**

- 1.0 The methodology for the Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) undertaken for the proposed development is detailed in the LVA report. The following information should be read in conjunction with this methodology.
- 1.1 As advised in the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd Edition) (GLVIA3), the judgements made in respect of both landscape and visual effects are a combination of an assessment of the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of the landscape or visual effect. The following details the definitions and criteria used in assessing sensitivity and magnitude for landscape and visual receptors.
- 1.2 Where it is determined that the assessment falls between or encompasses two of the defined criteria terms, then the judgement may be described as High/ Medium or Moderate/ Minor etc. This indicates that the assessment lies between the respective definitions or encompasses aspects of both.

#### **Landscape**

##### **Landscape Sensitivity**

- 1.3 Landscape receptors are assessed in terms of their 'Landscape Sensitivity'. This combines judgements on the value to be attached to the landscape and the susceptibility to change of the landscape from the type of change or development proposed. The definition and criteria adopted for these contributory factors is detailed below.
- 1.4 There can be complex relationships between the value attached to landscape receptors and their susceptibility to change which can be especially important when considering change within or close to designated landscapes. For example, an internationally, nationally or locally valued landscape does not automatically or by definition have a high susceptibility to all types of change. The type of change or development proposed may not compromise the specific basis for the value attached to the landscape.

##### Landscape Value

- 1.5 Value can apply to a landscape area as a whole, or to the individual elements, features and aesthetic or perceptual dimensions which contribute to the character of the landscape. The following criteria have been used to categorise landscape value. Where there is no clear existing evidence on landscape value, an assessment is made based on the criteria/ factors identified below (based on the guidance in the Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 02/21 "Assessing landscape value outside national designations", (which provides more up to date guidance than Box 5.1 of GLVIA3).

- Natural Heritage
- Cultural Heritage
- Landscape Condition
- Associations
- Distinctiveness
- Recreational
- Perceptual (scenic)
- Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)
- Functional

<b>Landscape Value</b>	<b>Definition</b>
High	Landscape receptors of high importance based upon factors of natural and cultural heritage, condition, distinctiveness, recreational value, perceptual qualities associations and functional aspects.
Medium	Landscape receptors of medium importance based upon factors of natural and cultural heritage, condition, distinctiveness, recreational value, perceptual qualities and quality, rarity, representativeness, conservation interest, recreational value, perceptual qualities, associations and functional aspects.
Low	Landscape receptors of low importance based upon factors of natural and cultural heritage, condition, distinctiveness, recreational value, perceptual qualities and quality, rarity, representativeness, conservation interest, recreational value, perceptual qualities, associations and functional aspects.

#### Landscape Susceptibility to Change

- 1.6 This means the ability of the landscape receptor (overall character type/ area or individual element/ feature) to accommodate the change (i.e. the proposed development) without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline position and/ or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies. The definition and criteria for the assessment of Landscape Susceptibility to Change is as follows:

<b>Landscape Susceptibility to Change</b>	<b>Definition</b>
High	A highly distinctive and cohesive landscape receptor, with positive characteristics and features with no or very few detracting or intrusive elements. Landscape features intact and in very good condition and/ or rare. Limited capacity to accept the type of change/ development proposed.
Medium	Distinctive and more commonplace landscape receptor, with some positive characteristics/ features and some detracting or intrusive elements. Landscape features in moderate condition. Capacity to accept well planned and designed change/ development of the type proposed.
Low	Landscape receptor of mixed character with a lack of coherence and including detracting or intrusive elements. Landscape features that may be in poor or improving condition and few that could not be replaced. Greater capacity to accept the type of change/ development proposed.

#### **Magnitude of Landscape Effects**

- 1.7 The magnitude of landscape effects is the degree of change to the landscape receptor in terms of its size or scale of change, the geographical extent of the area influenced and its duration and reversibility. The table below sets out the categories and criteria adopted in respect of the separate considerations of Scale or Size of the Degree of Change, Reversibility the geographical extent and duration of change are described where relevant in the appraisal.

### Scale or Size of the Degree of Landscape Change

<b>Scale or Size of the Degree of Landscape Change</b>	<b>Definition</b>
High	Total loss of or substantial alteration to key characteristics / features and the introduction of new elements totally uncharacteristic to the receiving landscape. Overall landscape receptor will be fundamentally changed.
Medium	Partial loss of or alteration to one or more key characteristics / features and the introduction of new elements that would be evident but not necessarily uncharacteristic to the receiving landscape. Overall landscape receptor will be obviously changed.
Low	Limited loss of, or alteration to one or more key characteristics/ features and the introduction of new elements evident and/ or characteristic to the receiving landscape. Overall landscape receptor will be perceptibly changed.
Negligible	Very minor alteration to one or more key characteristics/ features and the introduction of new elements characteristic to the receiving landscape. Overall landscape receptor will be minimally changed.
None	No loss or alteration to the key characteristics/ features, representing 'no change'.

### Geographical Extent

<b>Geographical extent</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Extensive	Notable change to an extensive proportion of the geographic area.
Moderate	Notable change to part of the geographic area,
Minimal	Change over a limited part of the geographic area.
Negligible	Change over a very limited part of the geographical area

### Duration

<b>Duration</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Short term	The change will occur for up to 5 years.
Medium Term	The change will occur for between 5 and 10 years.
Long term	The change will occur for over 10 years

### Reversibility

<b>Reversibility</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Irreversible	The development would be permanent and the assessment site could not be returned to its current/ former use.

Reversible	The development could be deconstructed/ demolished and the assessment site could be returned to broadly its current/ historic use (although that may be subject to qualification depending on the nature of the development).
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## Visual

### Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

- 1.8 Visual sensitivity assesses each visual receptor in terms of their susceptibility to change in views and visual amenity and also the value attached to particular views. The definition and criteria adopted for these contributory factors is detailed below.

#### Visual Susceptibility to Change

- 1.9 The susceptibility of different visual receptors to changes in views and visual amenity is mainly a function of; firstly, the occupation or activity of people experiencing the view at particular locations; and secondly, the extent to which their attention or interest may therefore be focussed on the views and visual amenity they experience.

Visual Susceptibility to Change	Definition
High	Residents at home with primary views from ground floor/garden and upper floors. Public rights of way/ footways where attention is primarily focussed on the landscape and on particular views. Visitors to heritage assets or other attractions whose attention or interest is likely to be focussed on the landscape and/ or on particular views. Communities where views make an important contribution to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents. Travellers on recognised scenic routes.
Medium	Residents at home with secondary views (primarily from first floor level). Public rights of way/ footways where attention is not primarily focussed on the landscape and/ or particular views. Travellers on road, rail or other transport routes.
Low	Users of outdoor recreational facilities where the view is less important to the activities (e.g. sports pitches). Travellers on road, rail or other transport where views are primarily focussed on the transport route. People at their place of work where views of the landscape are not important to the quality of the working life.

#### Value of Views

- 1.10 The value attached to a view takes account of any recognition attached to a particular view and/ or any indicators of the value attached to views, for example through guidebooks or defined viewpoints or references in literature or art.

<b>Value of Views</b>	<b>Definition</b>
High	A unique or identified view (e.g. shown as such on Ordnance Survey map, guidebook or tourist map) or one noted in literature or art. A view where a heritage asset makes an important contribution to the view.
Medium	A typical and/ or representative view from a particular receptor.
Low	An undistinguished or unremarkable view from a particular receptor.

### **Magnitude of Visual Effects**

- 1.11 Magnitude of Visual Effects evaluates each of the visual effects in terms of its size or scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced and its duration and reversibility. The table below sets out the categories and criteria adopted in respect of the Scale or Size (including the degree of contrast) of Visual Change. The distance and nature of the view and whether the receptor's view will be stationary or moving are also detailed in the Visual Effects Table.

<b>Scale or Size of the Degree of Visual Change</b>	<b>Definition</b>
High	The proposal will result in a large and immediately apparent change in the view, being a dominant and new and/ or incongruous feature in the landscape.
Medium	The proposal will result in an obvious and recognisable change in the view and will be readily noticed by the viewer.
Low	The proposal will constitute a minor component of the wider view or a more recognisable component that reflects those apparent in the existing view. Awareness of the proposals will not have a marked effect on the overall nature of the view.
Negligible/ None	Only a very small part of the proposal will be discernible and it will have very little or no effect on the nature of the view.

### **Level of Effect**

- 1.12 The final conclusions on effects, whether adverse or beneficial, are drawn from the separate judgements on the sensitivity of the receptors and the magnitude of the effects. This overall judgement is formed from a reasoned professional overview of the individual judgements against the assessment criteria.
- 1.13 GLVIA3 notes, at paragraphs 5.56 and 6.44, that there are no hard and fast rules with regard to the level of effects, therefore the following descriptive thresholds have been used for this appraisal:
- **Major**
  - **Moderate**
  - **Minor**
  - **Negligible**

- 1.14 Where it is determined that the assessment falls between or encompasses two of the defined criteria terms, then the judgement may be described as, for example, Major/ Moderate or Moderate/ Minor. This indicates that the effect is assessed to lie between the respective definitions or to encompass aspects of both.

APPENDIX B: LANDSCAPE EFFECTS TABLE (LET)									
Landscape Receptor and Reference	Judged Sensitivity of Landscape			Judged Magnitude of Landscape Effect		Description/ Notes	Overall Effect at Construction Phase	Overall Effect Upon Completion	Overall Effect at 15 Years Post Completion
	Susceptibility to Change	Landscape Value	Overall Sensitivity	Scale or Size of the Degree of Change including degree of contrast/ integration) at Stages of Project	Where applicable, are the Effects Reversible?				
	High Medium Low	High Medium Low	High Medium Low	High Medium Low Negligible None	Yes No N/A		Major Moderate Minor Negligible None	Major Moderate Minor Negligible None	Major Moderate Minor Negligible None
<b>National Landscape Character (NCA)</b>									
Natural England's National Character Area (NCA) 97 "Arden".	Medium	Medium	Medium	Construction: Negligible Completion: Negligible Year 15: Negligible	Yes	The landscape falls within Natural England's National Character Area (NCA) 97 "Arden". The Site and local context does share some characteristics with this NCA, these include; "Well-wooded farmland landscape with rolling landform.", "Mature oaks, mostly found within hedgerows" and "Diverse field patterns, ranging from well hedged, irregular fields and small woodlands". Additionally, the site is bounded by the M6 which is one of many major transport routes that are found within this NCA.  The proposed development will result in the loss of six arable fields and some vegetation for access and during construction phases. The development is of a small scale within the extensive NCA and seeks to retain the existing field pattern, boundary trees and hedges. Additionally, the development maintains Public Right of Way WK-175-M294/1 which runs through the Site	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
<b>Landscape Character Assessment (LCA): Regional</b>									
Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines Ancient Arden Landscape Character Area	Medium	Medium	Medium	Construction: Low Completion: Low Year 15: Low	Yes	The Site lies wholly within the Ancient Arden Landscape Character Area. The Site shares many of the key characteristics with this LCA. These include; "A small scale farmed landscape with a varied, undulating topography, characterised by an irregular pattern of fields and narrow, winding lanes", "A varied undulating topography.", "...confined by tall hedge banks.", "An ancient irregular pattern of small to medium sized fields." and "Hedgerow and roadside oaks."  The development will seek to retain characteristic landscape elements, including hedgerows and trees where possible.  The development will result in a loss of existing arable fields and will result in some vegetation being removed, but this loss will be mitigated for by proposed GI. The proposed development would result in no change to the topography of the site.	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse



APPENDIX B: LANDSCAPE EFFECTS TABLE (LET)									
Landscape Receptor and Reference	Judged Sensitivity of Landscape			Judged Magnitude of Landscape Effect		Description/ Notes	Overall Effect at Construction Phase	Overall Effect Upon Completion	Overall Effect at 15 Years Post Completion
	Susceptibility to Change	Landscape Value	Overall Sensitivity	Scale or Size of the Degree of Change (including degree of contrast/ integration) at Stages of Project	Where applicable, are the Effects Reversible?				
	High Medium Low	High Medium Low	High Medium Low	High Medium Low Negligible None	Yes No N/A		Major Moderate Minor Negligible None	Major Moderate Minor Negligible None	Major Moderate Minor Negligible None
							Adverse Beneficial	Adverse Beneficial	Adverse Beneficial
<b>Landscape Character Assessment: County</b>									
North Warwickshire LCA  LCA7 Church End to Corley – Arden Hills and Valleys	Medium	Medium	Medium	Construction: Low Completion: Low Year 15: Low	Yes	<p>The entirety of the Site lies within the LCA7 “Church End to Corley – Arden Hills and Valleys” The Site shares many of the key characteristics with this LCT. These include “An elevated farmed landscape of low, rounded hills, steep scarps and small incised valleys. This landform combined with extensive hilltop woodlands and tree cover creates an intricate and small-scale character, punctuated by numerous scattered farms, and hamlets.” and “This settled landscape includes a dense network of older hamlets and farmsteads, ancient, moated sites such as at Astley Castle” and “...Collectively, and combined with the M6 motorway and lines of pylons within the south, this area has many suburban elements.”</p> <p>With the exception of removing small sections of vegetation and changing agricultural land into a solar farm development, the proposals will not alter any of the key characteristic of this LCT, although the open fields will be changed to fields containing the solar panels. Proposed development will be set within Green Infrastructure, comprising retained trees and hedgerows, in addition to new landscape features to provide a stronger landscape framework.</p>	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse

APPENDIX B: LANDSCAPE EFFECTS TABLE (LET)									
Landscape Receptor and Reference	Judged Sensitivity of Landscape			Judged Magnitude of Landscape Effect		Description/ Notes	Overall Effect at Construction Phase	Overall Effect Upon Completion	Overall Effect at 15 Years Post Completion
	Susceptibility to Change	Landscape Value	Overall Sensitivity	Scale or Size of the Degree of Change including degree of contrast/ integration) at Stages of Project	Where applicable, are the Effects Reversible?		Major Moderate Minor Negligible None	Major Moderate Minor Negligible None	Major Moderate Minor Negligible None
	High Medium Low	High Medium Low	High Medium Low	High Medium Low Negligible None	Yes No N/A		Adverse Beneficial	Adverse Beneficial	Adverse Beneficial
<b>Landscape Character: Site and Immediate Context</b>									
Site and Immediate Context	Medium	Medium	Medium	Construction: High/ Medium Completion: Medium Year 15: Medium/ Low	Yes	<p>The landscape is not recognised by any national or local landscape designations such as National Park or AONB. It does fall within Birmingham’s Green Belt; however, this is principally a planning designation.</p> <p>The proposed development will be introducing a solar farm scheme to existing arable farmland. Overall, it is considered that the Site and immediate surrounding context has a medium susceptibility to large-scale solar farm. This is because of the characteristics of the receiving landscape, proximity to the M6 corridor and the minimal changes to existing features i.e. tree cover, hedgerow and topography.</p> <p>The screening effect of the adjacent M6 corridor will provide enclosure to the south of the Site. The local landscape features such as undulating landform and series of strong tree belts and well vegetated field boundary will help to assimilate new development more readily.</p> <p>The proposed solar farm will result in the loss of agricultural land, resulting in a change of character from semi-rural agricultural, to a solar farm. The boundary vegetation will largely be retained, with the exception of a small stretch of boundary vegetation required to construct the access. The proposed development will be incorporated into the existing field pattern.</p> <p>Existing boundary hedgerows and vegetation are to be retained and reinforced, with additional proposed planting to the boundaries. With further hedgerow planting which will follow the PRow through the site.</p>	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Moderate / Minor Adverse

APPENDIX B: LANDSCAPE EFFECTS TABLE (LET)									
Landscape Receptor and Reference	Judged Sensitivity of Landscape			Judged Magnitude of Landscape Effect		Description/ Notes	Overall Effect at Construction Phase	Overall Effect Upon Completion	Overall Effect at 15 Years Post Completion
	Susceptibility to Change	Landscape Value	Overall Sensitivity	Scale or Size of the Degree of Change including degree of contrast/ integration) at Stages of Project	Where applicable, are the Effects Reversible?				
	High Medium Low	High Medium Low	High Medium Low	High Medium Low Negligible None	Yes No N/A		Major Moderate Minor Negligible None	Major Moderate Minor Negligible None	Major Moderate Minor Negligible None
<b>Site Landscape Features/Characteristics</b>									
Site Landscape Features	Medium	Medium	Medium	Construction: None Completion: None Year 15: None	N/A	The proposed solar farm is temporary in nature and will not result in alterations to the existing landform of the site.	None	None	None
Site Landscape Features <i>Woodland, Trees, Hedgerows and Vegetation</i>	Medium	Medium	Medium	Construction: Low/Negligible Completion: Negligible Year 15: Low	No	The proposed solar farm will retain all existing vegetation within the site where possible.  As part of the landscaping proposals, the existing green infrastructure framework will be strengthened and enhanced wherever possible. Gaps within existing vegetation will be planted up and maintained to a height of 2.5m. New hedgerow planting will be introduced south of the gas easement, which runs east to west across the centre of the site. Incremental 6m wide gaps will be introduced to give a more naturalised, broken up sense to the boundary as well access points for maintenance around the panels.  Provision of infill and proposed shrub/tree planting along the eastern boundary as well as hedgerow planting where applicable. New trees will be introduced where space permits and where overcasting onto panels will be minimised such as around the north eastern edge of the site and adjacent to the PRow running south to north through the site.  Shrub/tree planting along the eastern edge and through the centre of the site will aid screening of views from PRow users to the east. The enhanced green infrastructure and additional planting will result in some long term, minor beneficial effects overall.	Negligible	Negligible	Minor Beneficial
Site Landscape Features <i>Water Features and Watercourses</i>	Medium/Low	Medium	Medium/Low	Construction: None Completion: None Year 15: None	N/A	There are limited water features and watercourses within the site with a small number of drainage ditches along the boundaries. The temporary solar farm will not result in any alterations to the existing water features.	None	None	None

APPENDIX C: VISUAL EFFECTS TABLE (VET)												
Ref	Receptor Type, Location and photographs <small>(including approx no. of dwellings where applicable)</small>	Judged Sensitivity of Visual Receptor			Judged Magnitude of Visual Effects				Description/ Notes	Overall Effect at Construction Phase	Overall Effect Upon Completion (Winter)	Overall Effect at 15 Years Post Completion (Summer)
		Susceptibility to Change	Value	Overall Sensitivity	Distance from Site Boundary (or Built Development where stated) <small>(approx. m/km)</small>	Nature of View	Is the View Temporary or permanent?	Size/Scale of Visual Effect (including degree of contrast/integration) at Stages of Project		Major Moderate Minor Negligible None	Major Moderate Minor Negligible None	Major Moderate Minor Negligible None
		High Medium Low	High Medium Low	High Medium Low		Full Partial Glimpse None		High Medium Low Negligible/ None		Adverse or Beneficial	Adverse or Beneficial	Adverse or Beneficial
<b>A</b>	Residents of Fillongley (Southern Boundary)  Approx. no. of dwellings 9 VP3	High	Medium	High	680m	Glimpsed/ None	Permanent	Construction: Low Completion: Low Year 15: Low	The proposed development will only be glimpsed at best from south facing windows from residents on the south west of Fillongley. Proposed development will be seen beyond intervening tree belts and will constitute a small part of the overall view, new planting within the site will assist with softening the view in places.	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
<b>B</b>	Residents of Park House Farm Approx. no. of dwellings 1  VP9	High	Medium	High	580m	Partial	Permanent	Construction: Medium/low Completion: Medium/low Year 15: Low	It is difficult to make out the Site within views from Park House Farm due to level changes and intervening vegetation. Residents of Park House Farm will have a visual connection to the Site. This is largely due to the proximity and that sits on elevated land. A strong field boundary limits views for much of the Site. The north western boundary has minor breakages in hedgerow and tree cover which allows for partial views into the Site. New planting along the northern boundary will assist with softening views of the proposed development once matured.	Moderate/Minor Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse
<b>C</b>	Residents of Manor House Farm  Approx. no. of dwellings 1  VP10	High	Medium	High	625m	Partial / Glimpsed	Permanent	Construction: Medium/Low Completion: Medium/Low Year 15: Low	This receptor currently experiences partial views towards the site with views limited by intervening vegetation and undulating topography.  It is anticipated that the proposed development would be seen from first floor windows.  During construction of the solar farm, the receptor would experience only a medium/low degree of change to views.  When the intervening vegetation is in leaf, and once proposed GI proposals have matured, it is anticipated that the proposed development would be filtered in views experienced by residents.	Moderate/Minor Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
<b>D</b>	Users of footpath WK 175 M294/1 VP 1 & 2	High	Medium	High	0m	Full/Partial	Temporary	Construction: High/ Medium	The PRoW runs through the Site. The development retains the alignment of the PRoW and receptors will be able to walk through the Site to open countryside	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse

								Completion: High/Medium Year 15: Medium	beyond. However, the sequential experience and immediate context of the Site will be altered from a settlement edge/countryside view to views of the proposed solar panels. The PVS will restrict views out from the PROW, however gaps between rows will allow for some views out to the wider countryside  Additionally, views will be softened by new hedgerow planting to either side of the PROW which will help provide some separation to some of the panels and will mature to further filter views over time.  The creation of a community garden space to the northern section of the site, east of the PROW, will also help to soften and screen views into the solar farm.			
<b>E</b>	Users of footpath WK 175 M294a/1 VP 4,5	High	Medium	High	150-400m	Partial/ Glimpse	Temporary	Construction: Medium/Low Completion: Medium/Low Year 15: Low	These Photo Viewpoints are obtained along Public Right of Way WK 175 M294a/1. This PROW passes along the eastern boundary of the Site on a north to south axis. Similar to PROW WK-175-M294/1 it also connects Fillongley to the landscape to the south.  The extent of the development will be visible for footpath users travelling along this route. However, views do vary along the length of this footpath. It is anticipated that the solar farm will be mostly hidden from northern sections of the path, in the vicinity of Scheduled Monument Ringwork Castle. Shallow views are afforded to the proposed development area. This will result in a medium/ low degree of change to views in the most exposed locations.  Proposal of wider blocks of screen planting against the eastern boundary edge will further reduce the prevalence of views from this position and reduce the scale of effect at year 15 to low, resulting in an overall effect at year 15 of Minor Adverse.  Unlike views experienced by residents, these views would be temporary, due to the transient nature of footpaths.	Moderate/Minor Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
<b>F</b>	Users of footpath WK 175 M294a/5 VP 6,7	High	Medium	High	0-75m	Full/ Partial	Temporary	Construction: Medium Completion: Medium Year 15: Low	Photo Viewpoints 6 and 7 are obtained along Public Right of Way WK 175 M294a/1. This PROW runs through the south eastern boundary of the Site and crosses the M6. The visual experience will change, users currently experience open views across the Site from this location.  Proposed solar panels will replace crops, and become dominant elements in the view, resulting in a high magnitude of change initially. However the overall effect is reduced as the PROW is in close proximity to the M6 corridor, this motorway has a strong visual impact on this PROW.  There is an existing landscape buffer to the south of the Site. Over time, proposed boundary vegetation within this buffer will help to soften views of built development, helping the solar farm to assimilate into its setting. New planting along the south will further help to soften views reducing long term effects to moderate / minor adverse.  Proposal of wider blocks of screen planting against the southeastern boundary edge will further reduce the prevalence of views from this position. Extension of the existing vegetation will also benefit this, coupled	Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse

									with the introduction of more trees leading to an overall reduction of the scale of effect at year 15 to low, giving an overall effect at year 15 of Minor Adverse.			
<b>G</b>	Users of footpath WK 175 M289a/1 VP 11	High	Medium	High	50m	Full/ Partial	Temporary	Construction: Medium Completion: Medium Year 15: Medium/ Low	<p>This view is representative of footpath users, the Photo Viewpoint is located 50m west and the periphery of the Site boundary. Users of this route experience immediate views into the Site along this section. The immediate view is of a paddock and a hedgerow bounding it. Beyond this there are views into the site, of an open arable field with a field boundary and ridge running through its centre. There are urbanising features present within this view, these include a line of low voltage power lines.</p> <p>For users of this PRoW traveling east the view is largely open toward site, as a low level hedge is the only screening. Views south are impeded by a strong field boundary. This vegetation will screen direct views toward the south of the Site. Where views are possible the scale of effect will be medium due to the proximity of proposals.</p> <p>The proposed planting along the western boundary and new hedegrows to either side of the PRoW that goes through the Site, would in time reduce visibility to the wider site at maturity, reducing the long term effects.</p>	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Moderate/ Minor Adverse
<b>H</b>	Users of National Trail Heart of England Way  VP 12	High	Medium	High	1.2km	None	Temporary	Construction: Negligible/ None Completion: Negligible/ None Year 15: Negligible/ None	Views for users of the National Trail travelling north west are restricted by dense hedgerows and belts of vegetation. The proposed development will be set beyond intervening vegetation. Users of this PRoW will experience limited views of the proposed development due to screening provided by strong intervening field boundaries and mature specimen trees and minimal breaks in hedgerow between the PRoW and the Site. Additionally, views are limited by topographical changes.	Negligible/ None	Negligible/ None	Negligible / None
<b>I</b>	Users of National Trail Coventry Way  VP13	High	Medium	High	670m	Full/ Partial	Temporary	Construction: Medium Completion: Medium Year 15: Medium	The proposed development will be evident to receptors using this National Trial. This is largely a consequence of topographical changes. The route runs on elevated land. However, the Site is set beyond intervening vegetation, strong hedgerows and features the M6 corridor, which allows for some screening from this location.	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse
<b>J</b>	Road users of Meriden Road  VP 8	Medium	Medium	Medium	80m	Partial/ Glimpse	Temporary	Construction: Medium/ Low Completion: Medium/ Low Year 15: Low	<p>Road users of Meriden Road will have views across the site from the section of road immediately adjacent, with views across the new solar farm. New planting along the western site boundary will assist with filtering and softening views from the west.</p> <p>Further down the road users may experience temporary glimpsed views of the new panels once installed. However, the solar farm will not be readily apparent, and the development will not be readily discernible behind the strong tree belt located to the south west of the Site.</p> <p>Views for road users will however be transient as users move along the road and will be seen in context with the M6 motorway which crosses through the area. Planting within the site, along the western boundary will help to filter and soften views of the</p>	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse

									panels as it matures resulting in minor adverse long term effects.			
<b>K</b>	Road users of the M6 VP 7	Low	Low	Low	20m	Glimpse	Temporary	Construction: Low Completion: Low Year 15: Negligible	Road users of the M6 will experience glimpsed views of the solar farm. This is largely a consequence of a series of breakages in tree cover along the southern boundary of the Site. Views for road users will however be transient as users move along the road at speed.  New planting along the southern boundary will help to assimilate the development into its surroundings and filter views of the panels as it matures reducing long-term effects to negligible overall.	Minor Adverse / negligible	Minor Adverse / Negligible	Negligible





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Site Boundary



client  
Enviromena

project  
Land at Nailcote Farm,  
Coventry

**fpcr** SITE LOCATION

scale  
1:25,000 @ A3

drawn  
TW/CEH

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**Figure 1**



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Site Boundary

PRoW - Footpath

PRoW - Byways Open to all Traffic

client  
Enviromena

project  
Land at Nailcote Farm,  
Coventry

drawing title  
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

scale  
NTS @ A3

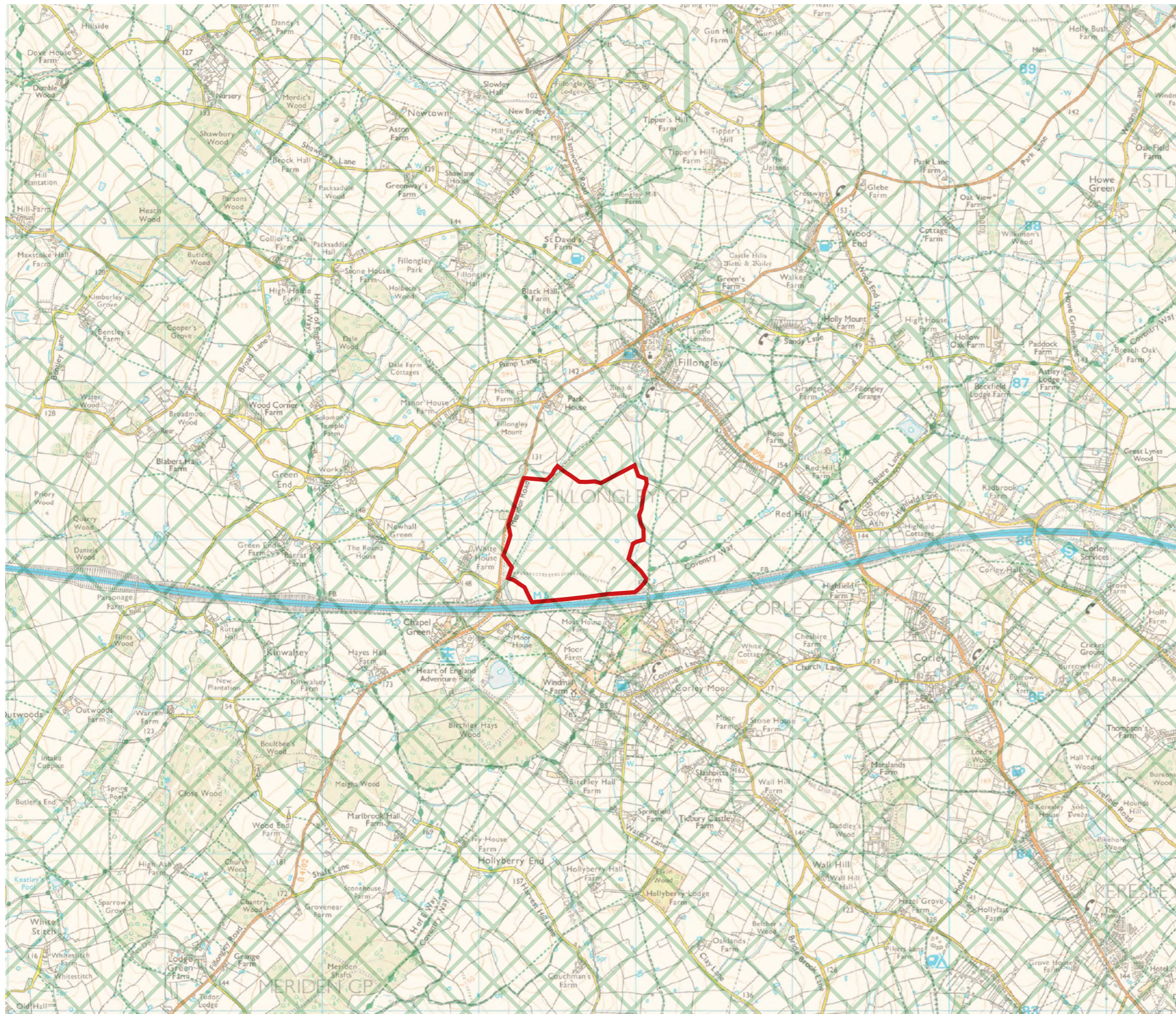
drawn  
TW/CEH

issue date  
3 Jan 2023

rev

**Figure 2**





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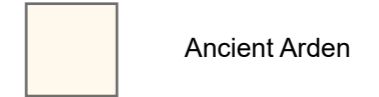
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Site Boundary

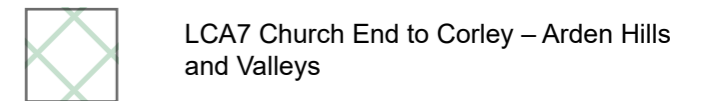
Note: All mapping extent lies within National Character Area (NCA) 97: Arden

**Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines**

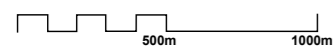


Ancient Arden

**North Warwickshire Landscape Character Assessment 2010**



LCA7 Church End to Corley – Arden Hills and Valleys



client  
**Enviromena**

project  
**Land at Nailcote Farm,  
Coventry**

drawing title  
**LANDSCAPE CHARACTER**

scale  
1:25,000 @ A3

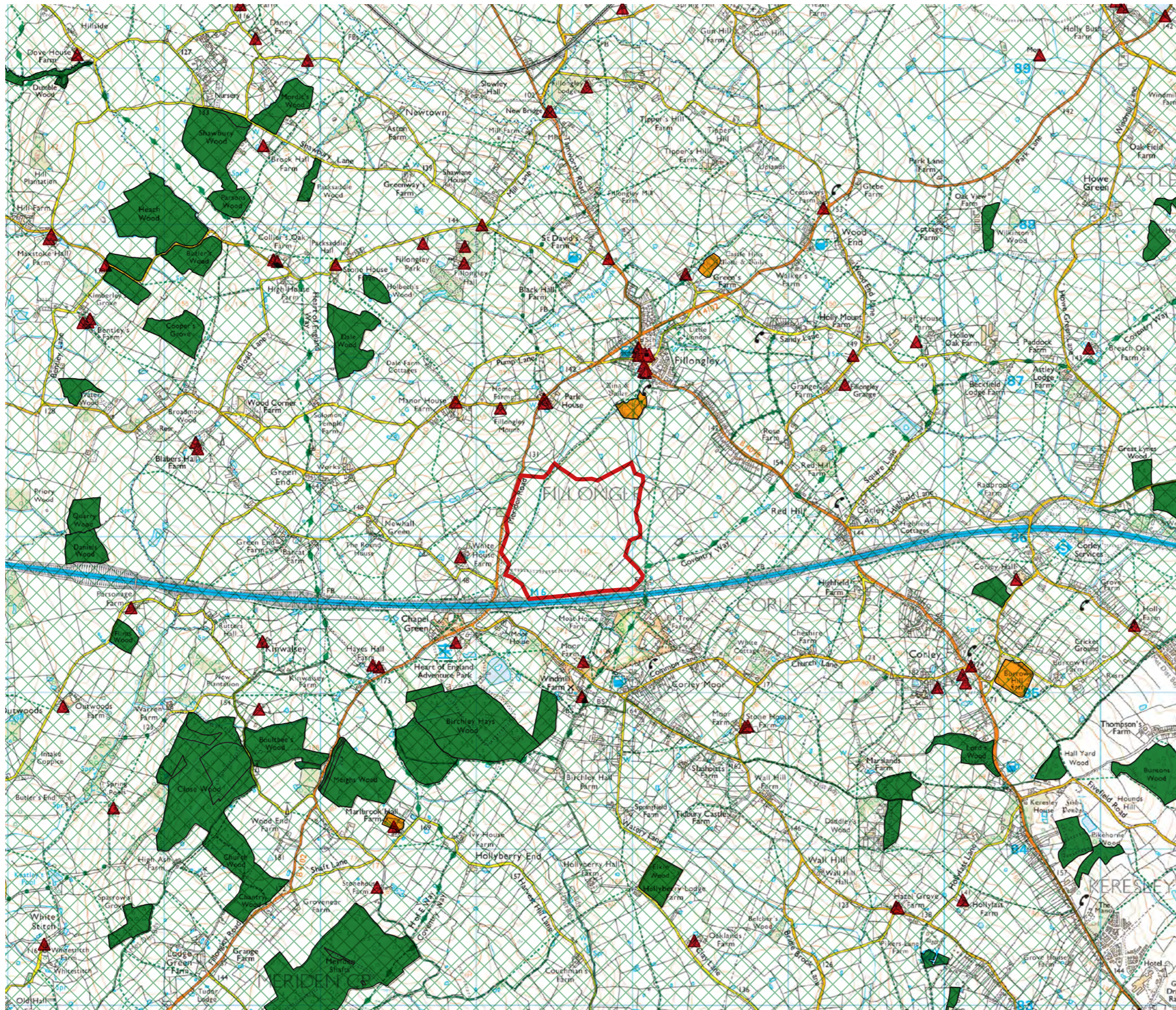
drawn  
TW/CEH

issue date  
3 Jan 2023

rev






**Figure 3**

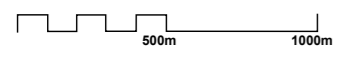




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-  Site Boundary
-  Birmingham Green Belt
-  Scheduled Monument
-  Listed Building
-  Ancient Woodland



client  
Enviromena  
project  
Land at Nailcote Farm,  
Coventry  
**fpcr** DESIGNATIONS

scale  
1:25,000 @ A3  
drawing / figure number

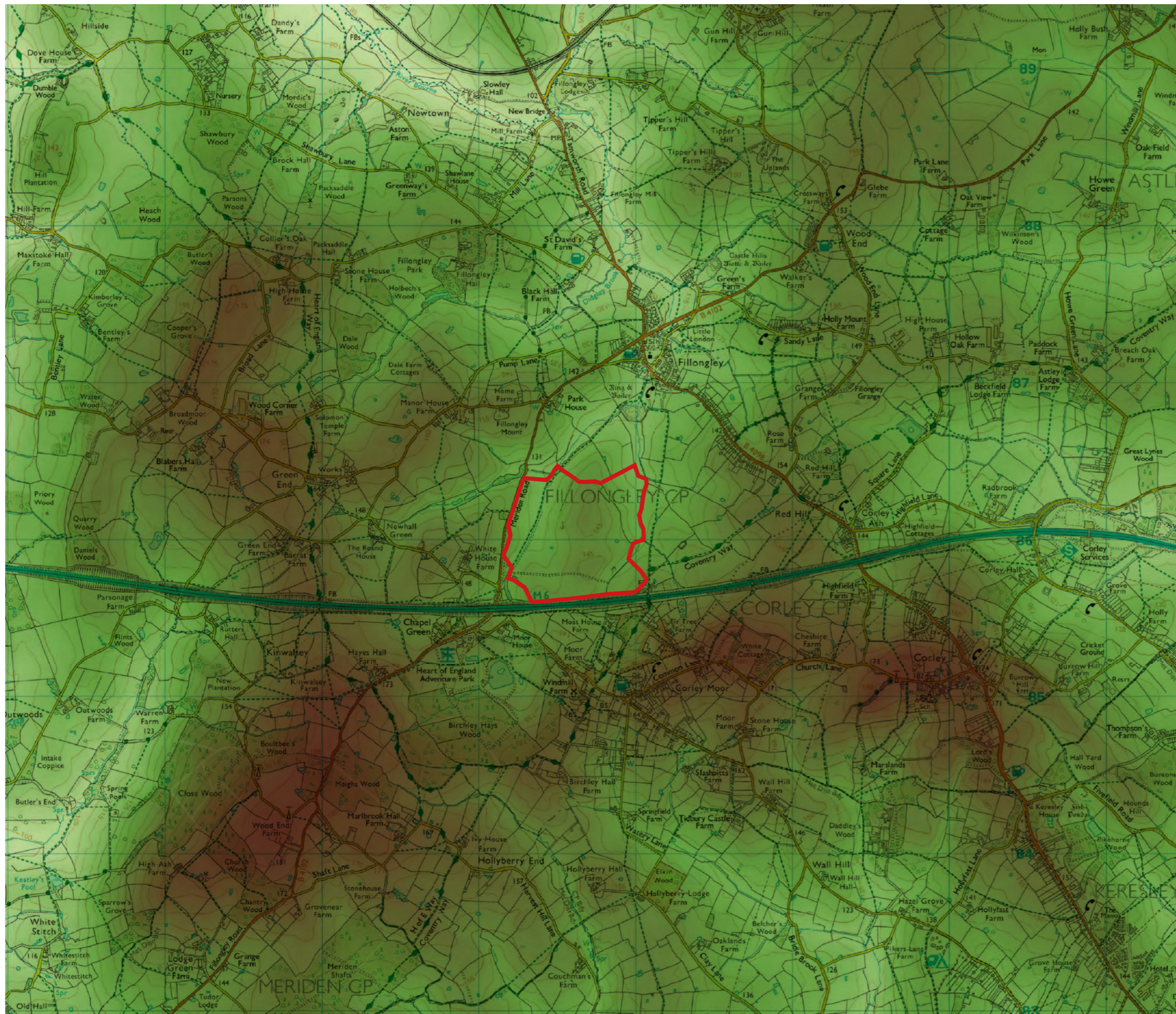
drawn  
TW/CEH

issue date  
3 Jan 2023  
rev



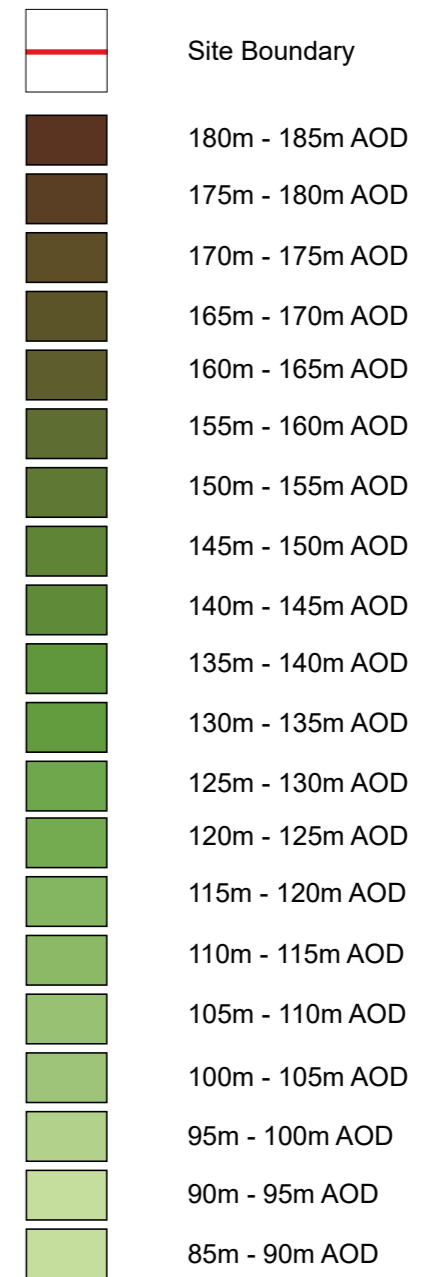
# Figure 4





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client  
**Enviromena**

project  
**Land at Nailcote Farm,  
Coventry**

drawing title  
**TOPOGRAPHY PLAN**

scale  
1:25,000 @ A3

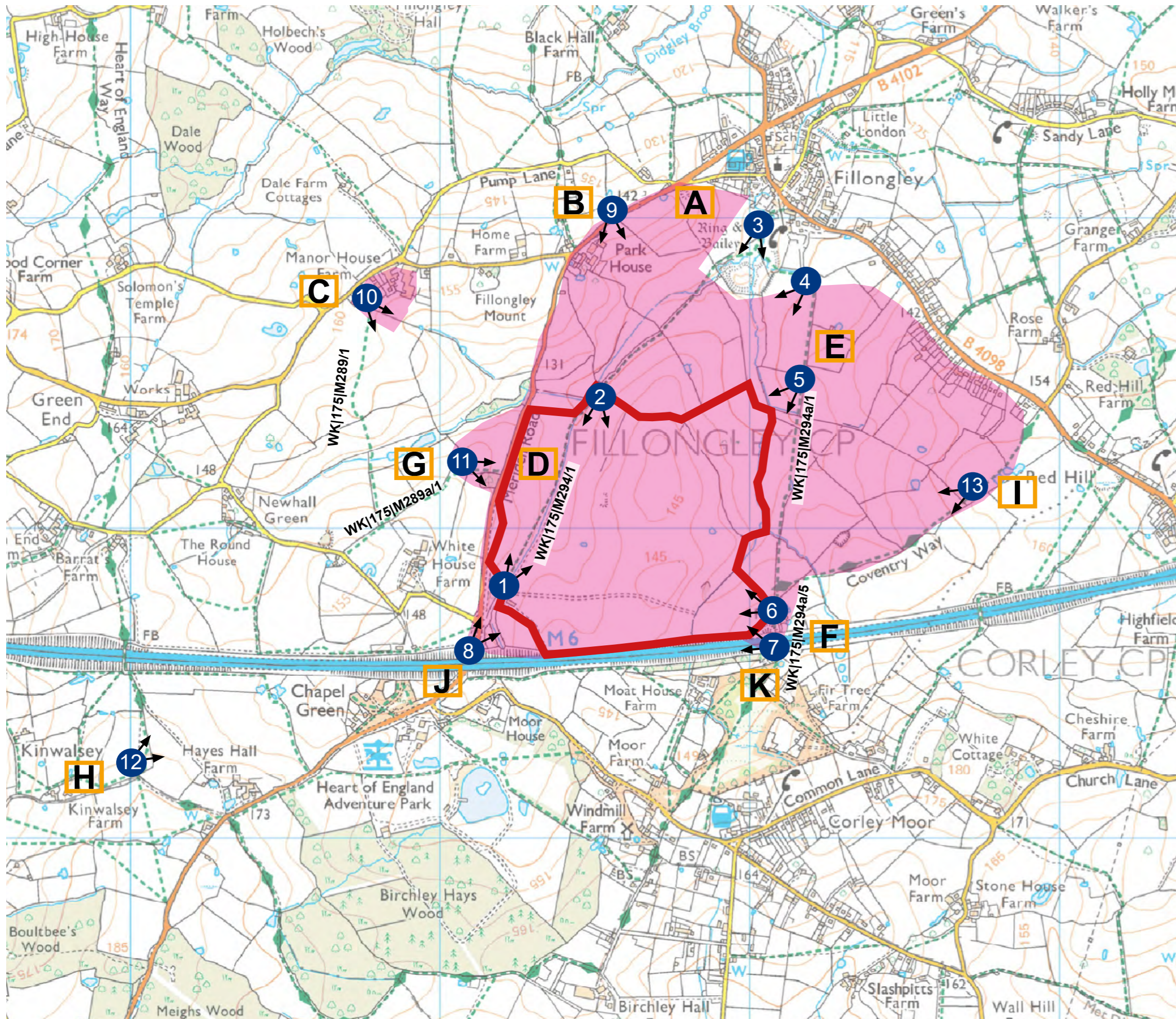
drawn  
TW/CEH

issue date  
3 Jan 2023

rev





**Figure 5**





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-  Site Boundary
-  Approximate Visual Envelope
-  Photo viewpoint Location
-  Visual Receptors

**Residents**

- A Residents of Fillongley (Southern Boundary)
- B Residents of Park House Farm
- C Residents of Manor House Farm

**Rights of Way/Pedestrian**

- D Users of footpath WK|175|M294/1
- E Users of footpath WK|175|M294a/1
- F Users of footpath WK|175|M294a/5
- G Users of footpath WK|175|M289a/1
- H Users of National Trail Heart of England Way
- I Users of National Trail Coventry Way

**Road Users**

- J Road users of Meriden Road
- K Road users of the M6

client  
Enviromena  
project  
Land at Nailcote Farm,  
Coventry

drawing title  
VISUAL APPRAISAL

scale  
1:10,000 @ A3  
drawing / figure number  
drawn  
TW/CEH

issue date  
3 Jan 2023  
rev



**Figure 6**



Fillongley

Approximate Site Extents



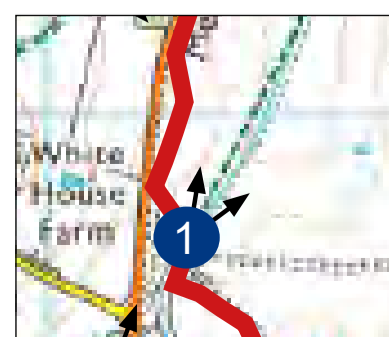
Photo Viewpoint 1: View north east from Public Right of Way WK-175-M294/1

M6 Motorway

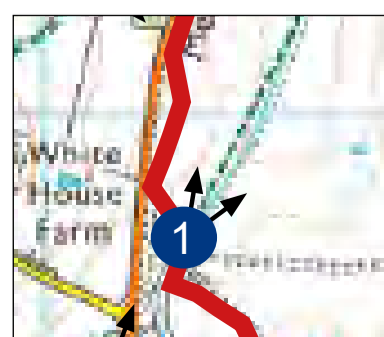
Approximate Site Extents



Photo Viewpoint 1: Continued



**Photo Viewpoint 1**  
 Date & time of photo: 04 Jan 2023,09:53  
 Camera make & model, & sensor format:  
 Canon EOS 6D, FFS  
 Horizontal Field of View: 87°  
 Direction of View: 30°, bearing from North



**Photo Viewpoint Continued 1**  
 Date & time of photo: 04 Jan 2023,09:53  
 Camera make & model, & sensor format:  
 Canon EOS 6D, FFS  
 Horizontal Field of View: 87°  
 Direction of View: 117°, bearing from North

Printing note: To give the correct viewing distance the sheet should be printed at a scale of 1:1 on A1. To be viewed at comfortable arms length.

Visualisation Type: Type 1  
 Projection: Cylindrical  
 Enlargement factor: 100%

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Ridge That Runs Through The Site

Approximate Site Extents

Hedgerow & Trees Located In The Centre Of The Site



Photo Viewpoint 2: View south east from Public Right of Way WK-175-M294/1

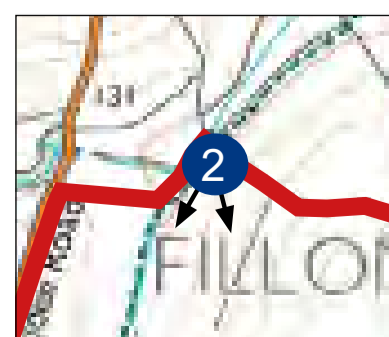
M6 Motorway

Approximate Site Extents

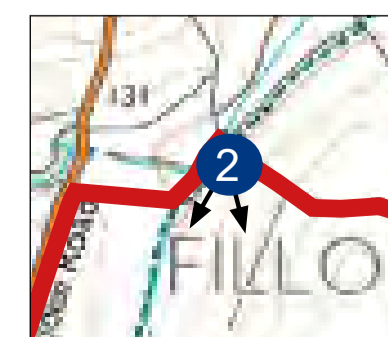
PRoW WK-175-M294/1



Photo Viewpoint 2: Continued



**Photo Viewpoint 2**  
 Date & time of photo: 04 Jan 2023, 10:05  
 Camera make & model, & sensor format:  
 Canon EOS 6D, FFS  
 Horizontal Field of View: 87°  
 Direction of View: 90°, bearing from North



**Photo Viewpoint 2 Continued**  
 Date & time of photo: 04 Jan 2023, 10:05  
 Camera make & model, & sensor format:  
 Canon EOS 6D, FFS  
 Horizontal Field of View: 87°  
 Direction of View: 177°, bearing from North

Printing note: To give the correct viewing distance the sheet should be printed at a scale of 1:1 on A1. To be viewed at comfortable arms length.

Visualisation Type: Type 1  
 Projection: Cylindrical  
 Enlargement factor: 100%

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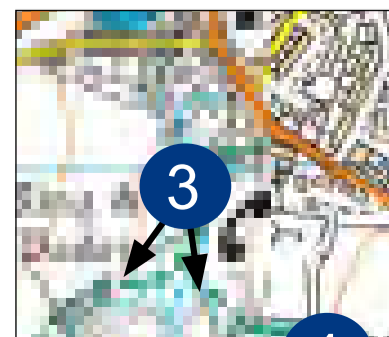
Approximate Site Extents



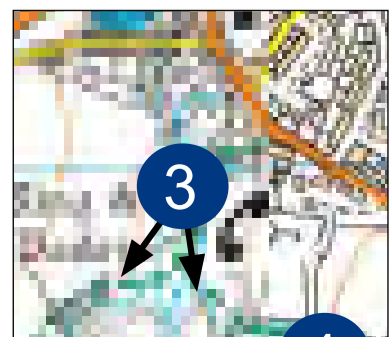
Photo Viewpoint 3: View south from the edge of Fillongley, along the Public Right of Way WK|175|M294/1



Photo Viewpoint 3: Continued



**Photo Viewpoint 3**  
 Date & time of photo: 04 Jan 2023, 10:12  
 Camera make & model, & sensor format:  
 Canon EOS 6D, FFS  
 Horizontal Field of View: 87°  
 Direction of View: 170°, bearing from North



**Photo Viewpoint 3 Continued**  
 Date & time of photo: 04 Jan 2023, 10:12  
 Camera make & model, & sensor format:  
 Canon EOS 6D, FFS  
 Horizontal Field of View: 87°  
 Direction of View: 257°, bearing from North

Printing note: To give the correct viewing distance the sheet should be printed at a scale of 1:1 on A1. To be viewed at comfortable arms length.

Visualisation Type: Type 1  
 Projection: Cylindrical  
 Enlargement factor: 100%

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PRoW WK|175|M294a/1

Approximate Site Extents



Photo Viewpoint 4: View south west from Public Right of Way WK|175|M294a/1

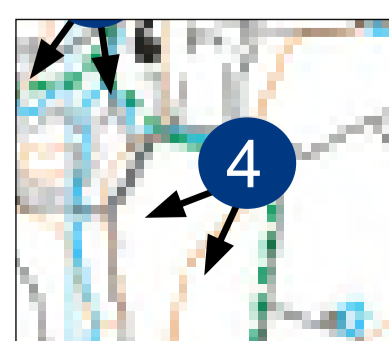
Approximate Site Extents

Scheduled Monument  
Ringwork Castle

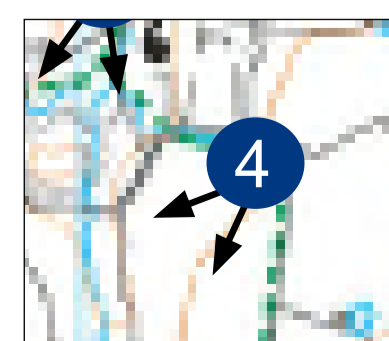
PRoW WK|175|M294a/1



Photo Viewpoint 4: Continued



**Photo Viewpoint 4**  
 Date & time of photo: 04 Jan 2023, 10:20  
 Camera make & model, & sensor format:  
 Canon EOS 6D, FFS  
 Horizontal Field of View: 87°  
 Direction of View: 165°, bearing from North



**Photo Viewpoint 4 Continued**  
 Date & time of photo: 04 Jan 2023, 10:20  
 Camera make & model, & sensor format:  
 Canon EOS 6D, FFS  
 Horizontal Field of View: 87°  
 Direction of View: 252°, bearing from North

Printing note: To give the correct viewing distance the sheet should be printed at a scale of 1:1 on A1. To be viewed at comfortable arms length.

Visualisation Type: Type 1  
 Projection: Cylindrical  
 Enlargement factor: 100%

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**Photo Viewpoint 5:** View south west from Public Right of Way WK|175|M294a/1



**Photo Viewpoint 6:** View north west from Public Right of Way WK|175|M294a/5 (bedside the M6 motorway)

**Photo Viewpoint 5**  
 Date & time of photo: 04 Jan 2023, 10:31  
 Camera make & model, & sensor format:  
 Canon EOS 6D, FFS  
 Horizontal Field of View: 87°  
 Direction of View: 185°, bearing from North

**Photo Viewpoint 6**  
 Date & time of photo: 04 Jan 2023, 10:43  
 Camera make & model, & sensor format:  
 Canon EOS 6D, FFS  
 Horizontal Field of View: 87°  
 Direction of View: 260°, bearing from North

Printing note: To give the correct viewing distance the sheet should be printed at a scale of 1:1 on A1. To be viewed at comfortable arms length.  
 Visualisation Type: Type 1  
 Projection: Cylindrical  
 Enlargement factor: 100%

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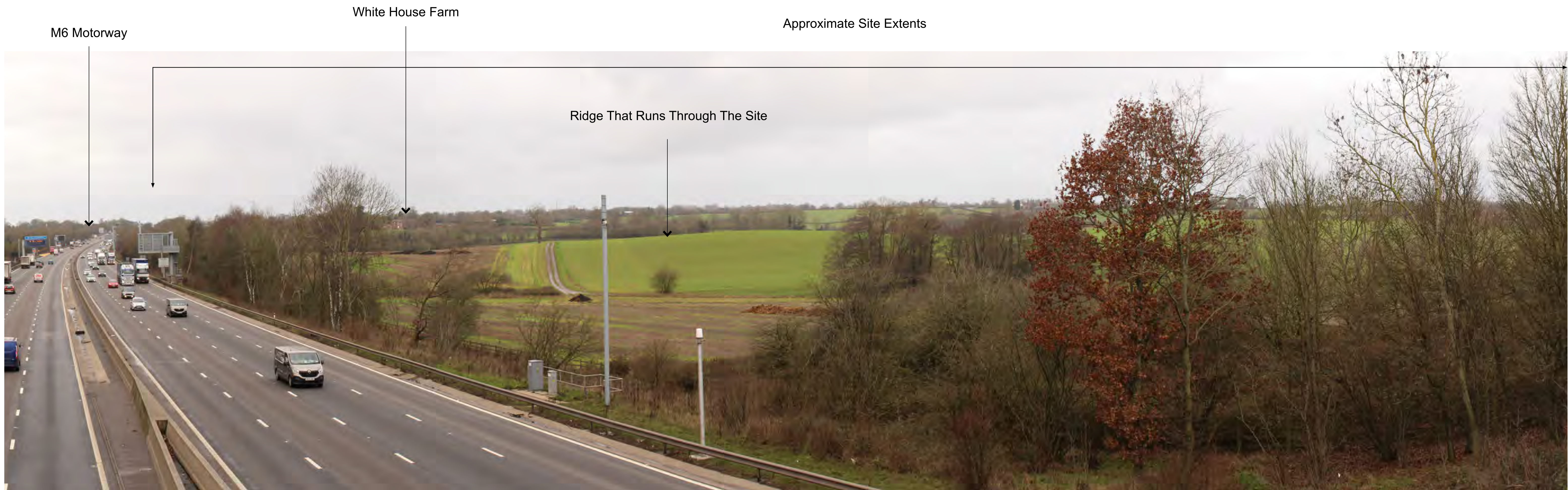


Photo Viewpoint 7: View north west from PRoW WK|175|M294a/5 & Footbridge crossing the M6



Photo Viewpoint 8: View north east from Meriden Road

**Photo Viewpoint 7**  
 Date & time of photo: 04 Jan 2023, 10:45  
 Camera make & model, & sensor format:  
 Canon EOS 6D, FFS  
 Horizontal Field of View: 87°  
 Direction of View: 275°, bearing from North

**Photo Viewpoint 8**  
 Date & time of photo: 04 Jan 2023, 11:20  
 Camera make & model, & sensor format:  
 Canon EOS 6D, FFS  
 Horizontal Field of View: 87°  
 Direction of View: 10°, bearing from North

Printing note: To give the correct viewing distance the sheet should be printed at a scale of 1:1 on A1. To be viewed at comfortable arms length.  
 Visualisation Type: Type 1  
 Projection: Cylindrical  
 Enlargement factor: 100%

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Fillongey Village

Approximate Site Extents



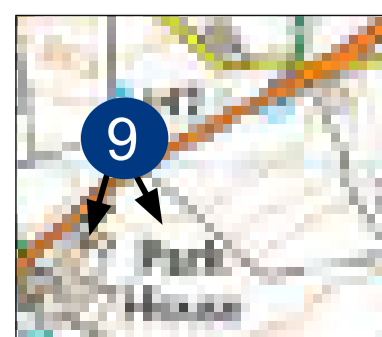
Photo Viewpoint 9: View south from Meriden Road beside Park House Farm

Approximate Site Extents

Park House Farm



Photo Viewpoint 9: Continued



**Photo Viewpoint 9**  
 Date & time of photo: 04 Jan 2023, 11:53  
 Camera make & model, & sensor format:  
 Canon EOS 6D, FFS  
 Horizontal Field of View: 87°  
 Direction of View: 150°, bearing from North



**Photo Viewpoint 9 continued**  
 Date & time of photo: 04 Jan 2023, 11:53  
 Camera make & model, & sensor format:  
 Canon EOS 6D, FFS  
 Horizontal Field of View: 87°  
 Direction of View: 237°, bearing from North

Printing note: To give the correct viewing distance the sheet should be printed at a scale of 1:1 on A1. To be viewed at comfortable arms length.

Visualisation Type: Type 1  
 Projection: Cylindrical  
 Enlargement factor: 100%

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Manor House Farm

Approximate Site Extents

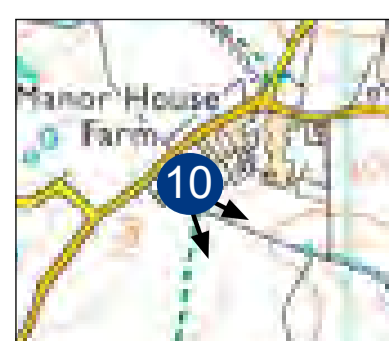


Photo Viewpoint 10: View south east from Public Right of Way WKJ175|M289/1 beside Manor House Farm

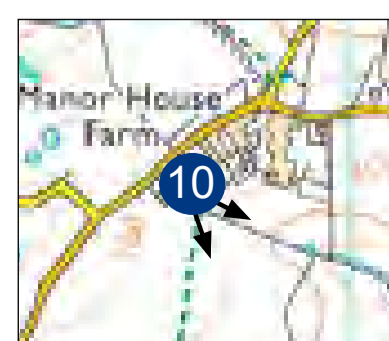
Approximate Site Extents



Photo Viewpoint 10: Continued



**Photo Viewpoint 10**  
 Date & time of photo: 04 Jan 2023, 12:09  
 Camera make & model, & sensor format:  
 Canon EOS 6D, FFS  
 Horizontal Field of View: 87°  
 Direction of View: 100°, bearing from North



**Photo Viewpoint 10 continued**  
 Date & time of photo: 04 Jan 2023, 12:09  
 Camera make & model, & sensor format:  
 Canon EOS 6D, FFS  
 Horizontal Field of View: 72°  
 Direction of View: 187°, bearing from North

Printing note: To give the correct viewing distance the sheet should be printed at a scale of 1:1 on A1. To be viewed at comfortable arms length.

Visualisation Type: Type 1  
 Projection: Cylindrical  
 Enlargement factor: 100%

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**Photo Viewpoint 11:** View east from Public Right of Way WK|175|M289a/1



**Photo Viewpoint 12:** View north east from National Trail Heart of England Way

**Photo Viewpoint 11**  
 Date & time of photo: 04 Jan 2023, 12:34  
 Camera make & model, & sensor format:  
 Canon EOS 6D, FFS  
 Horizontal Field of View: 87°  
 Direction of View: 90°, bearing from North

**Photo Viewpoint 12**  
 Date & time of photo: 04 Jan 2023, 13:02  
 Camera make & model, & sensor format:  
 Canon EOS 6D, FFS  
 Horizontal Field of View: 87°  
 Direction of View: 75°, bearing from North

Printing note: To give the correct viewing distance the sheet should be printed at a scale of 1:1 on A1. To be viewed at comfortable arms length.  
 Visualisation Type: Type 1  
 Projection: Cylindrical  
 Enlargement factor: 100%

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Photo Viewpoint 13: View west from National Trail Coventry Way

L:\1\30011370\LANDSU\W\Figure1370 Figure 7-16.dwg



**Photo Viewpoint 13**  
 Date & time of photo: 04 Jan 2023, 13:43  
 Camera make & model, & sensor format:  
 Canon EOS 6D, FFS  
 Horizontal Field of View: 87°  
 Direction of View: 270°, bearing from North

Printing note: To give the correct viewing distance the sheet should be printed at a scale of 1:1 on A1. To be viewed at comfortable arms length.  
 Visualisation Type: Type 1  
 Projection: Cylindrical  
 Enlargement factor: 100%

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