



Viewpoint 3

Direction of view: North northwest
Distance to nearest site boundary: 0 m
Elevation: 126 m AOD
Grid reference: TL 46113 28652
Date photo was taken: 20.01.2022

The existing view

PRoW 5/27 terminates at the boundary of the substation, joining with PRoW 5/25 which heads east to join with PRoW 5/26. Views towards the Site from PRoW 5/25 are very restricted by a substantial intervening hedgerow, even in winter. PRoW 5/26, however, heads south, first affording clear views over the Site, as at this point, and then it continues through the Site until it meets Ginns Lane.

Predicted changes to the view without mitigation

The solar farm will be visible in the foreground, with the panels facing the viewer when heading north, seen through the deer fence. Walkers will then continue through the solar farm within a corridor flanked to the east by an existing hedge and the deer fence of the proposed solar farm set around 12 m from the hedge.

The sensitivity of walkers is High and the magnitude of change is High in winter and summer resulting in a Major adverse impact on visual amenity.

Mitigation and assessment of residual impact

It is proposed to plant a native hedge set 2 m out from the deer fence to screen the proposed solar farm. Once established the hedge will be managed at a winter cut height of 3 m and 3 m wide at the base, leaving a 7 m wide grass corridor for the PRoW.

Once established the hedge will screen the solar farm from view in summer, resulting in a Minor impact on visual amenity (due mainly to the loss of openness). In winter it will be possible to glimpse the panels and fencing through the leafless branches (a Medium magnitude of change), resulting in an adverse impact of Moderate - Major significance.

