

9.0 LANDSCAPE MITIGATION



Figure 9 Landscape Mitigation Sketch Plan
Drawing produced by The Landmark Practice

Landscape Mitigation

9.1. A number of measures will be incorporated by iterative design to ensure that any adverse landscape and visual effects of the proposed development are minimised. These include primary (embedded) mitigation which includes the siting, design and choice of materials and secondary mitigation, informed by this assessment to address outstanding effects.

- ① Development has been eased eastwards to provide a buffer between the proposed development and the Cotswold Natural Landscape (CNL), to respect the setting of the CNL and the visual amenity of receptors including residents of New Found Out Farm and walkers along adjacent PRow network.
- ② The layout of panels has been designed to retain the expansive views experienced along Wychwood Way / Akeman Street and nearby Ramsden Fields recreation ground along the north western edge of the site, respecting view corridors across the site, and maintaining the connection to the wider landscape. Additional buffers, restored historic hedgerows and mitigation planting are proposed to soften the appearance of panels in these views whilst ensuring deer 'push through's are kept.
- ③ St John's Lane in Singe Wood has a strong character and is well used. Some sections are enclosed by dense evergreen vegetation whilst other sections allow glimpsed views north-east across the site. The development, security fencing and solar PV panels along this edge have been offset from the path to provide a wide buffer to Singe Wood. This buffer will be enhanced through introduction of native planting and close to the development edge, variation in seed mixes together with a vegetated swale and small attenuation basin;
- ④ The access track associated with the proposed development has been positioned away from the edge of Singe Wood in order to mitigate against perceived visual effects and any detracting effects on the character and sensitivity of the wood;
- ⑤ Retention and enhancement of the existing vegetation on the site's boundaries and allowance for buffers off existing vegetated edges. The internal hedgerows within the site vary in height, depth, structure and quality. These will be enhanced, augmented (through management regimes) and supplemented with tree planting to assist in screening whilst also providing Green Infrastructure (GI) and ecological enhancements;
- ⑥ Strategic copse and shelter belt planting is proposed in specific locations, this will offset the circa 581/m of hedgerow loss whilst fitting with the local landscape character and assisting in screening and directing views across and away from the site as well as providing GI and ecological benefits;
- ⑦ Proposed inverters and storage features (BESS) are positioned to make use of existing screening;
- ⑧ Retention of rough grassland within the site and the seeding of species rich grass in verges and beneath solar PV panels, where appropriate. Provision for skylarks in the form of specific grassland/crops is proposed in fields with no panels;
- ⑨ Northern extent of the proposed development has been considered to mitigate against any perceived effects on the Ramsden Conservation area;
- ⑩ Historic hedgerow in the north has been reinstated and will strengthen the existing GI within the site, this aligns with policy and Wychwood Project objectives;
- ⑪ Stone wall rebuilding along the southern edge of the site beside Singe Wood, approach follows Wychwood Project objectives already apparent within the wood; and
Site wide specific ecological interventions such as bird and bat boxes positioned on mature trees, refer to Ecological Enhancement Plan.