Peace Wood Quarry

Shelley, Huddersfield

LANDSCAPE & VISUAL APPRAISAL

September 2022

Collington winter
environmental

Project Name:	Peace Wood Quarry
Project Reference:	CW0194
Report Title:	Landscape & Visual Appraisal
Report Reference:	CW0194-RPT-001D
Printing Instructions:	Print at A4 Portrait, Double Sided. Pages 33 to 40 to be printed at A3 Landscape, Double Sided.

Rev	*Date*	*Description*	*Prepared*	*Reviewed*	*Approved*
/	12/09/2022	Report sent to Client for comment.	JW	OC	JW
A	20/09/2022	Report revised.	JW	OC	JW
B	26/09/2022	Report revised.	JW	JW	JW
C	25/11/2022	Report revised.	JW	JW	JW
D	13/03/2023	25/11/2022	JW	JW	JW

Wakefield - 12 miles

Huddersfield - 7 miles

Peace Wood Quarry

Holmfirth - 6 miles

Barnsley - 10 miles

Penistone - 7 miles

Sheffield - 22 miles

Figure 1: Application Site Location.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 SCOPE & PURPOSE

1.1.1 Collington Winter Ltd was commissioned by Naylor Industries PLC to prepare a Landscape & Visual Appraisal (LVA), to support an application to Kirklees Council, for an extension to Peace Wood Quarry, Shelley, Huddersfield (the application site).

1.1.2 The LVA will assess the landscape which surrounds the application site and will establish a landscape and visual baseline context for the site.

Aims of the Landscape and Visual Appraisal

- Consider, in outline, the **landscape character** of the application site, within the wider landscape setting and the likely effects of the proposal upon landscape character;
- Assess the **visual sensitivities** of the application site, from key public receptors and identify the potential for visual effects upon landscape character and visual amenity;
- Assess the potential for the scale and nature of the proposal to be successfully accommodated within the landscape and
- Establish **mitigation** of **landscape** and **visual sensitivities**, to aid the overall scheme proposals, where necessary.

1.1.3 This LVA was undertaken through desktop review of landscape character and relevant planning policy, combined with an assessment of landscape and visual sensitivities. The field assessment was carried out by a Landscape Architect CMLI, on the 27th & 28th June 2022, in dry and slightly overcast weather conditions. The LVA, which is designed to be read in conjunction with other material considerations, provides a proportionate overview of the current landscape and visual baseline for the application site, however it is not a full landscape and visual impact assessment.

1.2 LOCATION

1.2.1 The application site is located to the east of the village of Shelley and approximately 7 miles to the south east of Huddersfield, within the administrative boundary of Kirklees Council. See *Figure 1: Application Site Location.*

1.3 THE PROPOSAL

1.3.1 The application site occupies c2.3ha of agricultural grassland and forms a part of a large-scale grass field.

1.3.2 The proposal is to extend the existing working area of Peace Wood Quarry, working from west to east and once the extraction operations are complete, both the existing working area and the proposed working area at the application site will be restored back to an agricultural land use, according with the current character of the study area. The existing working area at Peace Wood Quarry is still under operation, with the eastern phases worked out and in-filled with engineering material. The western phases are still operational and extracting clay. Restoration, which is in accordance with the planning permission, has been undertaken to the east and the site has been restored back to an agricultural land use. The application site will be progressively stripped of soil and 3m high screening mounds will be created, initially to the south west and then the south east, prior to extraction operations. The screening mounds will be grass seeded to reduce likely effects upon landscape and visual amenity. The proposal will see the excavation of a working area, with excavation working from west to east, followed by infilling with engineering material and a restoration back to agricultural land use. The existing access track will be retained.

1.3.3 See Drawing No.320/1 Extraction Plan - 1 (MPG) for further details on site layout.

2.0 LANDSCAPE BASELINE

2.1 WHAT IS LANDSCAPE?

2.1.1 The landscape is a resource in its own right. The European Landscape Convention (ELC), designed to achieve improved approaches to the planning, management and protection of landscapes throughout Europe, defines landscape as:

> *'an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors'. (Counc*il of Europe, 2000).

2.1.2 This definition was expanded in 2002 to illustrate how all landscapes are special and valuable, even if they are not recognised with a statutory designation.

> *"Landscape is about the relationship between people and place. It provides the setting for our day-to-day lives. The term does not mean just special or designated landscapes and it does not only apply to the countryside. Landscape can mean a small patch of urban wasteland as much as a mountain range, and an urban park as much as an expanse of lowland plain. It results from the way that different components of our environment – both natural (the influences of geology, soils, climate, flora and fauna) and cultural (the historic and current impact of land use, settlement, enclosure and other human interventions) – interact together and perceived by us. People's perceptions turn land into the concept of landscape."(Swanwick,C and Land Use Consultants (2002) Landscape Character Assessment Guidance*. Countryside Agency & Scottish Natural Heritage).

2.2 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

2.2.1 Landscape Character is assessed at different scales, from the national and regional, down to the county, district and site specific.

2.2.2 NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER - The region is classified in the 'Character of England Map', as defined by Natural England, as located within National Character Area (NCA) **38. Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield**. The Key characteristics typical of this NCA 38 include:

- *A low-lying landscape of rolling ridges with rounded sandstone escarpments and large rivers running through broad valleys, underlain by Pennine Coal Measures.*
- *Local variations in landscape character reflecting variations in underlying geology.*
- *Several major rivers flow through the rural and urban areas of the NCA, generally from west to east in broad valleys.*
- *A mixed pattern of built-up areas, industrial land, pockets of dereliction and farmed open country.*
- *Small, fragmented remnants of pre-industrial landscapes and more recent creation of semi-natural vegetation, including woodlands, river valley habitats and subsidence flashes, with field boundaries of clipped hedges or fences.*
- *Many areas affected by urban fringe pressures creating fragmented landscapes, some with a dilapidated character, separated by substantial stretches of intact agricultural land in both arable and pastoral use.*
- *A strong cultural identity arising from a history of coal mining, steel making and other heavy industry which resulted from the close relationship between underlying geology and resource availability, notably water power, iron ore and coal.*
- *Features of industrial heritage such as mills, goits, tips, old railway lines, canals and bridges are evident, along with former mining villages.*
- *Many large country houses and estates established by wealthy industrialists in the 18th and 19th centuries and ancient monuments create focal points and important recreational opportunities within the landscape, such as Bretton Hall, Wentworth, Woodhouse, Temple Newsam, Nostell Priory, Bolsover Castle and the ruins of Codnor Castle.*

- *Extensive urbanisation, such as in the major cities of Leeds and Sheffield, with terraced and back-to-back housing and grand 19th-century municipal buildings and churches at their centres, now surrounded by extensive housing and industrial development.*
- *Widespread influence of transport routes, including canals, roads and railways, with ribbon developments emphasising the urban influence in the landscape.*
- *An extensive network of multi-user trails on former railway lines and canal towpaths, such as the Trans Pennine Trail and the Ebor Way.*
- *Continuing development pressure including land renewal and regeneration projects, especially along river corridors and around towns.*

2.2.3 The NCA 38 profile suggests 'Statements of Environmental Opportunity' (SEOs) which offer guidance on the issues faced by the landscape and aim to achieve sustainable growth and a more secure environmental future. Those relevant to this assessment include:

- SEO 1: *Restore and enhance existing areas and create new landscapes through the inclusion of woodland and networks of green infrastructure to raise the overall quality of design and location of new developments. Regeneration and restoration of industrial sites should seek to create green infrastructure that links fragments of the natural environment, leading to a functioning network for wildlife and access and recreational amenities for people;*
- SEO 2: *Protect and manage the archaeological and historical environment to safeguard a strong sense of cultural identity and heritage, particularly mining heritage, and use the area's distinctive sense of place to inspire interpretation and new development. Engage local communities with their past by enhancing the early, industrial and mining landscapes through restoration of key features of sites and improving access and interpretation;*
- SEO 3: *Conserve, enhance and expand areas and corridors of semi-natural habitat such as grasslands and woodlands to create a functioning ecological network that links the fragmented patches of habitats through urban and sustainably farmed environments, thus assisting species and habitat adaptation to climate change, reducing soil erosion and diffuse pollution; &*
- SEO 4: *Manage, enhance and extend wetland habitats associated with the rivers Aire, Calder, Dearne, Don, Rother and Erewash and their tributaries to increase the landscape's ability to naturally and sustainably manage flooding, improve water quality, and increase the resilience of these habitats, the riverine landscape and associated species to climate change.*

2.2.4 KIRKLEES DISTRICT LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - commissioned in 2015 and building upon previous landscape character studies, the Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) for the Kirklees District was written by Land Use Consultants and provides the evidence base for consideration of landscape matters in new development or land use. Building upon the *South Pennines Landscape Character Assessment, report to Standing Conference of South Pennine Authorities* (SCOSPA), LUC (1999), the LCA provides more detailed and up to date information on the eight landscape character types (LCTs) within Kirklees, and a total of 19 landscape character areas (LCAs) which lie wholly or partially within the district. The 1999 LCA is now archived however information on the character of the landscape types can be found in the Julie Martin Associates (2010) *Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Energy Developments in the South Pennines*. The application site lies to the north western edge of the **G: Wooded Rural Valleys** landscape type. The key characteristics of this landscape are:

- *A secluded, 'hidden' intimate and tranquil character created by the incised landform, densely wooded slopes and absence of modern development;*
- *Distinctive incised landform with stepped terraces and a narrow valley floor;*
- *Fast flowing, moss and fern edged steams cut down into the bedrock;*
- *Waterfalls are a characteristic feature where the streams cut alternating hard and soft layers of the*

underlying Millstone Grit geology;

- *A mosaic of wetland habitats including freshwater streams, damp pastures and meadows, marsh and millponds on the valley floor;*
- *Thick broadleaved woodland including ancient woodland of high nature conservation value, clothes the valley sides;*
- *Patchwork of light and shade created by the juxtaposition of woodland and pastures;*
- *Local areas of landslip on the steep valley sides expose important geological sites and create a distinctive landscape feature;*
- *Strings of now derelict water powered mills with associated features including mill ponds and races occur along the valley floor and reflect the emergence of early industrialisation; and*
- *Archaeological features related to woodland management, such as charcoal hearths, are common.*

2.2.5 The application site lies within the **G10: River Dearne Valley** LCA, which has the key characteristics of:

- *Relatively broad valleys associated with the upper parts of the River Dearne and its tributaries;*
- *Underlying bedrock of Millstone Grit dating from the Upper Carboniferous period, overlain by the Pennine Lower Coal Formation which is characteristic of much of the wider area;*
- *The River Dearne is joined by smaller tributaries including Baildon Dike, Nine Clogs Dike and Park Gate Dike join the River Dearne;*
- *A high level of broadleaved woodland cover, particularly on the slopes adjacent to watercourses and to the west of Denby Dale (where it is the dominant land cover);*
- *Mature in-field trees are a common feature on agricultural land, adding to the wooded character;*
- *Fields are mostly small scale, forming a variety of regular and irregular patterns;*
- *Land use also varies; the mix of arable and pastoral fields creating a mosaic of colours and textures which change with the season;*
- *An assortment of field boundaries is also evident, with a mixture of hedges, fencing and traditional stone walls;*
- *The area's extensive woodlands are of important nature conservation interest;*
- *The semi-natural riparian woodland and wetland habitats associated with the watercourses are also of nature conservation value;*
- *Strong industrial heritage, mostly relating to coal and the textile industry including the production of wool and silk;*
- *The Kirklees Light Railway runs from Clayton West, and is restored from a section of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway which was opened in 1879;*
- *Listed Buildings are found throughout the LCA, and include mills, churches and halls;*
- *The eastern part of the LCA contains part of the Bretton Hall Registered Park and Garden which continues into Wakefield and Barnsley districts;*
- *The primary settlements in this LCA are Clayton West and Denby Dale, which both grew as a result of the 18th and 19th century coal and textile industries;*
- *The main road servicing this area is the A636, which runs along the valley floor. This road meets the main A635 west of Denby Dale;*
- *The main valley floor is densely settled and has a peri-urban feel;*
- *The tributary sections of the LCA are generally more tranquil and rural and are only crossed by minor roads;*
- *Most of the valley is visually enclosed by the sloping valley sides and the significant woodland cover, although there are some more extensive views to the south over Barnsley District from higher slopes.*

2.2.6 Forming the northern and western landscape setting of the study area is the Rolling Wooded Farmland LCT, with the Emley Moor LCA. The key characteristics of this landscape type are:

- *Elevated, undulating farmland plateau, which reaches heights of up to 265m AOD;*
- *Crossed by small dykes and becks, some of which originate on the higher ground within the LCA;*

- *This area is part of the South Yorkshire Coalfield, with Millstone Grit overlain by the mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Pennine Coal Measures, with seams rich in coal and iron;*
- *Frequent woodland cover, with a mixture of broadleaved copses and plantation, although this is generally scattered across the moor and large blocks of woodland are not a common occurrence;*
- *Woodland is generally found in blocks with straight edges which are coincident with field boundaries. In-field trees are uncommon;*
- *Mixed field pattern, with the scale of the fields dictated by the topography of the land. Hedges, post and wire fencing and gritstone walls enclose the fields;*
- *Fields are generally improved pasture with some limited arable coverage;*
- *There are patches of acidic grassland amongst farmland, along with areas of bracken and gorse;*
- *Woodlands are locally valued for wildlife, including Kirkby Wood Local Wildlife Site;*
- *Provides a setting to the Thornhill and Hope Pit Conservation Areas. Part of the Bretton Hall Registered Park and Garden is located in the east of the LCA;*
- *Many of the LCA's buildings are of a traditional gritstone built vernacular;*
- *Several Scheduled Monuments including the remnants of Thornhill Hall and its moat and grounds, which were ruined during the English Civil War. Village of Emley dates from Anglo-Saxon times and is recorded in the Domesday Book. The church of St. Michael is a Grade I listed building and its earliest parts date from Norman times;*
- *Rich coal mining heritage, with prehistoric iron ore mining also being evident in the landscape. There are designated remains of day holes (adits); medieval mines;*
- *Small rural villages occupy the area, namely Flockton, Emley and Grange Moor. The area is mainly serviced by minor roads;*
- *The larger A642 and A637 cross the area near Grange Moor;*
- *Emley Moor transmitting station is located one mile west of Emley, which at 330m tall is the tallest free standing structure in the UK and is a prominent feature from across the district. At night the tower is lit by red lights;*
- *Predominant traditional rural character. The medieval tower of St Michael's Church in Emley is also a valued local landmark;*
- *Long views north and east towards Huddersfield and Wakefield are afforded by height of the land, but are sometimes interrupted by trees and undulation of the ground; and*
- *The Peak District National Park is visible from Flockton Moor, which also overlooks the Fenay Beck Valley to the west (LCA G9).*

2.2.7 To the south and far west of the study area is the Fenay Beck Valley Rural Fringes LCT, which is centred upon the Fenay Beck Valley. The key characteristics of this landscape type are:

- *Gently undulating plateau ranging from between approximately 150 and 280 metres altitude;*
- *The LCA is located above the Holme and Fenay Beck River Valleys, rising up in the east towards Emley Moor;*
- *Local variations in topography create some areas of more complex landform including deeply incised valleys with small tributaries and watercourses which flow towards Fenay Beck;*
- *Large blocks of tree and woodland cover found on slopes, particularly in the north east of the LCA. Most are broadleaved woodlands, although there are occasional mixed woodlands with small scale coniferous plantations;*
- *Shelterbelts and mature in-field and boundary trees contribute to a well-wooded character;*
- *Land cover patterns are small scale and relatively complex, and vegetation cover is varied;*
- *Small grassland pastures are enclosed by gritstone walls as well as some hedgerow boundaries;*
- *There are areas of acid grassland, scrub, hay meadow and wet pasture found amongst the improved grassland;*
- *Numerous areas of locally important woodland contribute to naturalistic character, including Upper Park Wood and Wither Wood;*

- *A strong historic landscape character with traditional stone-built cottages, farm buildings and historic villages.;*
- *The nationally important Castle Hill Fort, to the north-west of the LCA, occupies a prominent position to the south of Huddersfield. In the same location, the Victoria Tower Monument is a widely visible landmark in views from across the District;*
- *Dense network of minor roads and narrow winding lanes, which radiate out from the A629 which traverses the Fenay Beck Valley;*
- *Larger settlements in the south and east, expanding from a historic core (Highburton, Shepley and Skelmanthorpe);*
- *Elsewhere groups of dwellings are clustered into small villages and the landscape includes numerous scattered farms/individual rural houses;*
- *Mostly a settled and rural landscape, often with long views north across the district and beyond, as a result of elevation;*
- *There are high levels of intervisibility with Emley Moor (LCA N1). There are also distant views to the Peak District National Park from higher ground near Shelley.*

2.3 THE APPLICATION SITE & LOCAL LANDSCAPE SETTING

2.3.1 Located to the east of the village of Shelley, the application site occupies a rural and agricultural landscape which connects villages and small towns to the south east of Huddersfield. To the north west is the working area of Peace Wood Quarry, with a quarry void and a series of screening mounds set within agricultural fields, with abundant hedgerow trees. The existing clay quarry has been operational for some 40 years, with the eastern extents of the quarry now restored back to an agricultural land use. The western extent of the quarry is currently active. The existing, informally surfaced, quarry access track dissects the application site, enabling access off the B6116, Huddersfield Road.

2.3.2 The application site is currently under an agrarian land use, with two medium sized fields to either side of the quarry access track. The southernmost extents of each field will remain extant, with the application site only occupying the northernmost areas. Both fields are open and have no in-field trees or other landscape features. Defined by drystone walls adjacent to the existing quarry track and south and post and wire fencing to the remaining boundaries, with grown out and gappy mature hedgerow species to the north. There is a small broadleaved woodland copse to the east, with a row of terrace houses standing alongside Huddersfield Road.

2.3.3 Beyond the application site, land use is predominantly agrarian in character, however fields are often interspersed with pasture. This is a gently rolling, valley landscape and to the north and on rising ground towards the grade II Arqiva Tower, or Emley Moor transmitting station as it is locally referred to, which stands on Emley Moor, there are larger-scale arable fields, with broadleaved woodland copses and mature broadleaved in-field trees. Species-rich hedgerows are a characteristic feature of this landscape and often follow the contours of the land, creating an enclosed and often intimate character. There is an extensive area of broadleaved woodland to the north of the existing quarry area, extending east to west along the Baildon Dike. Scattered farmsteads across the valley sides comprise a mixture of vernacular farmhouses and agricultural barns which have been supplemented by larger-scale modern agricultural buildings. To the south of the application site there is a similar rural and agricultural character of scattered farmsteads and isolated properties set within larger-scale fields, which are defined by hedgerows and hedgerow trees. There are a number of equestrian facilities across the valley landscape, with pony paddocks defined by post and rail fencing.

2.3.4 The southern half of the study area is generally more settled than the north, with small villages scattered across the landscape. Vernacular hamlets and scattered, isolated residential properties are found within the agrarian landscape to the north, often associated with small broadleaved woodland copses. Where new residential properties have been constructed, materials respect the local vernacular materials, style and character. Larger scale settlements such as Shelley have developed on the steeply sloping valley sides and are serviced by narrow, steep and winding roads.

2.3.5 There are no footpaths which cross the application site however there is a good network of public rights of way throughout the study area. The B6116, Huddersfield Road is a relatively busy road, however local roads within the study area are predominantly narrow and winding, often defined by high native hedgerows with hedgerow trees, which restrict intervisibility across the landscape.

2.4 LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS

2.4.1 The designations relevant to the landscape surrounding the application site are illustrated at *Figure 2*.

2.4.2 CONSERVATION AREAS - Local authorities have a statutory duty to identify, designate, preserve and enhance conservation areas within their administrative areas. The aim in a conservation area is to preserve or enhance not merely individual buildings but all those elements, which may include minor buildings, trees, open spaces, walls, paving materials etc, which together make up a familiar and cherished local scene. Once adopted, conservation area appraisals become a material planning consideration in any planning decisions. There are several conservation areas within the study area, however the site assessment verified that there is no intervisibility between the conservation areas or the landscape settings of the conservation areas and the application site, due to distance, intervening vegetation and built form. There is however some distant intervisibility between the northern most edge of the Upper Cumberworth conservation area and the application site. This is assessed as being of a low significance however due to the distance from the application site and the scale of the site when seen within the large-scale and panoramic landscape to the north of the village.

2.4.3 LISTED BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES - Listed buildings of all grades I, II* and II are defined as being of national importance. Key listed buildings within 2km of the application site are illustrated at *Figure 2 (inset map)*. There are four listed buildings within 1km of the application site:

- *Shelley Hall* (Grade II*)
- *Church Of Emmanuel* (Grade II)
- *Barn 20 Yards To East Of Manor House* (Grade II)
- *Pinfold At Junction With Huddersfield Road* (Grade II)

2.4.4 The site assessment found that there is no intervisibility between the listed buildings and/or the landscape settings of the sites and the application site, due to distance and intervening vegetation and built form.

2.4.5 ANCIENT SEMI-NATURAL WOODLAND (ASNW)/ ANCIENT REPLANTED WOODLAND (ARW) - are woods that have developed naturally and may have existed since woodland first colonised the British Isles after the last glaciation, but in many cases they have grown up on land that was previously cleared, but many hundreds of years ago. Most ancient woods may have been managed for timber and other products over centuries – but they have always had woodland cover. Following a revision to the NPPF in July 2018, ancient trees and woodlands are now afforded protection from development.

2.4.6 *When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:*
c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; ..... (paragraph 180);

2.4.7 There are areas of ASNW and ARW within the study area, with Springs Wood (ASNW) and Rough Piece and Lightcliff Wood (ARW) to the north east within 1km of the application site.

2.4.8 GREEN BELT - The fundamental aim of green belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of green belts are their openness and their permanence. The Green Belt has five purposes:

- *to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;*
- *to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;*
- *to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;*
- *to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and*
- *to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict & other urban land.*

2.4.9 The green belt in Kirklees represents c70% of the total land in the district, amounting to c25,450 hectares (excluding the Peak District National Park). The green belt designation washes over the landscape of the application site.

2.4.10 COUNTRYSIDE AND RIGHTS OF WAY (CROW) ACT 2000/REGISTERED COMMON LAND - Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW), the public can walk freely on mapped areas of mountain, moor, heath, downland and registered common land, without having to stick to paths. Common Land is land owned collectively by a number of persons, or by one person, but over which other people have certain traditional rights, such as to allow their livestock to graze upon it, to collect wood, or to cut turf for fuel.

2.4.11 The desktop survey concluded that there is one designated areas of CROW/Registered Common Land within the 1km study area, located to the south east of the application site. The site assessment verified that there is limited intervisibility with the application site, predominantly due to intervening vegetation.

2.4.12 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (PRoW) - PRoW are highways that allow the public a legal right of passage. The highway authorities keep definitive maps of PRoW. They provide conclusive evidence of the existence of a public right of way. PRoW within 3km of the site are shown at *Figure 5: Viewpoint Locations, Public Rights of Way and Access*.

2.4.13 Footpaths and highways within the study area, which have the potential for visibility of the application site, were walked. The potential for intervisibility with the site was verified. Viewpoints 1 to 6 (page 37 to 39) illustrate the potential visibility of the application site from PRoW. Where there was no view, a photograph was not taken.

3.0 PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

3.0.1 The following section provides a brief overview of planning policy which is considered to be relevant to this LVA.

3.1 NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

3.1.1 The revised National Planning Policy Framework was updated in July 2021 and sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. The NPPF sets out the Government's economic, social and environmental planning policy. The main theme of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development which should be viewed as "*a golden thread running through both plan making and decision-taking*". The NPPF is a material consideration in planning decisions. The NPPF sets out the three dimensions for underpinning sustainable development: economic, social and environmental considerations, which "*contributes to the protection and enhancement of our natural, built and historic environment...*" , with the requirement for high quality design, which respects and enhances local character, reappearing throughout the core planning principles. Key considerations of relevance to landscape and visual matters include:

3.1.2 PROTECTING THE GREEN BELT

The Government attaches great importance to Green Belts. The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence (Paragraph 137).

3.1.3 *Green Belt serves five purposes:*

a) to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;

b) to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;

c) to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;

d) to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and

e) to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land (Paragraph 138).

3.1.4 CONSERVING AND ENHANCING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);

b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;

c) .....

d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;

e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans;

f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.(Paragraph 174).

3.1.5 HABITATS AND BIODIVERSITY

To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

a) Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation;

b) promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity (Paragraph 179).

3.1.6 *When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:*
d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to incorporate biodiversity improvements in and around developments should be encouraged, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity (Paragraph 180).

3.1.7 FACILITATING THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF MINERALS
It is essential that there is a sufficient supply of minerals to provide the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods that the country needs. Since minerals are a finite natural resource, and can only be worked where they are found, best use needs to be made of them to secure their long-term conservation (Paragraph 209).

3.1.8 *Planning policies should:*
a) provide for the extraction of mineral resources of local and national importance, but not identify new sites or extensions to existing sites for peat extraction;
b) so far as practicable, take account of the contribution that substitute or secondary and recycled materials and minerals waste would make to the supply of materials, before considering extraction of primary materials, whilst aiming to source minerals supplies indigenously;
c) safeguard mineral resources by defining Mineral Safeguarding Areas and Mineral Consultation Areas; and adopt appropriate policies so that known locations of specific minerals resources of local and national importance are not sterilised by non-mineral development where this should be avoided (whilst not creating a presumption that the resources defined will be worked);
d) set out policies to encourage the prior extraction of minerals, where practical and environmentally feasible, if it is necessary for non-mineral development to take place;
e) safeguard existing, planned and potential sites for: the bulk transport, handling and processing of minerals; the manufacture of concrete and concrete products; and the handling, processing and distribution of substitute, recycled and secondary aggregate material;
f) set out criteria or requirements to ensure that permitted and proposed operations do not have unacceptable adverse impacts on the natural and historic environment or human health, taking into account the cumulative effects of multiple impacts from individual sites and/or a number of sites in a locality;
g) when developing noise limits, recognise that some noisy short-term activities, which may otherwise be regarded as unacceptable, are unavoidable to facilitate minerals extraction; and
h) ensure that worked land is reclaimed at the earliest opportunity, taking account of aviation safety, and that high quality restoration and aftercare of mineral sites takes place (Paragraph 210).

3.1.9 *When determining planning applications, great weight should be given to the benefits of mineral extraction, including to the economy. In considering proposals for mineral extraction, minerals planning authorities should:*
a) ....
b) ensure that there are no unacceptable adverse impacts on the natural and historic environment, human health or aviation safety, and take into account the cumulative effect of multiple impacts from individual sites and/or from a number of sites in a locality;
c) ensure that any unavoidable noise, dust and particle emissions and any blasting vibrations are controlled, mitigated or removed at source, and establish appropriate noise limits for extraction in proximity to noise sensitive properties;
d) ...
e) provide for restoration and aftercare at the earliest opportunity, to be carried out to high environmental

standards, through the application of appropriate conditions. Bonds or other financial guarantees to underpin planning conditions should only be sought in exceptional circumstances;... (Paragraph 211).

3.2 LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

3.2.1 Kirklees Council Local Plan, which was formally adopted in February 2019, is the statutory development plan for the administrative area of Kirklees Council, apart from the area within the Peak District National Park. The Local Plan, which sets out the policies necessary to achieve the strategy and how much new development there should be in the district, forms the strategy and policies document, allocations and designations document and associated policies map. The key considerations of relevance to landscape and visual matters within the Local Plan, which covers the period 2013 – 2031, include:

3.2.2 POLICY LP30: BIODIVERSITY & GEODIVERSITY

The council will seek to protect and enhance the biodiversity and geodiversity of Kirklees, including the range of international, national and locally designated wildlife and geological sites, Habitats and Species of Principal Importance and the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network.

Local Designated Sites & Important Local Ecological Features
Proposals having a direct or indirect adverse effect on a Local Wildlife Site or Local Geological Site, Ancient Woodland, Veteran Tree or other important tree, will not be permitted unless the benefits of the development can be clearly shown to outweigh the need to safeguard the local conservation value of the site or feature and there is no alternative means to deliver the proposal. In all cases, full compensatory measures would be required and secured in the long term.

Biodiversity and Development
Development proposals will be required to:-
(i) result in no significant loss or harm to biodiversity in Kirklees through avoidance, adequate mitigation or, as a last resort, compensatory measures secured through the establishment of a legally binding agreement;
(ii) minimise impact on biodiversity and provide net biodiversity gains through good design by incorporating biodiversity enhancements and habitat creation where opportunities exist;
(iii) safeguard and enhance the function and connectivity of the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network at a local and wider landscape-scale unless the loss of the site and its functional role within the network can be fully maintained or compensated for in the long term;
(iv) establish additional ecological links to the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network where opportunities exist; and
(iv) incorporate biodiversity enhancement measures to reflect the priority habitats and species identified for the relevant Kirklees Biodiversity Opportunity Zone (Page 129-130).

3.2.3 POLICY LP32: LANDSCAPE

Proposals should be designed to take into account and seek to enhance the landscape character of the area considering in particular:
a. .....
b. the setting of settlements and buildings within the landscape;
c. the patterns of woodland, trees and field boundaries;
d. the appearance of rivers, canals, reservoirs and other water features within the landscape (Page 135).

3.2.4 POLICY LP33: TREES *The Council will not grant planning permission for developments which directly or indirectly threaten trees or woodlands of significant amenity.*

Proposals should normally retain any valuable or important trees where they make a contribution to public amenity, the distinctiveness of a specific location or contribute to the environment, including the Wildlife

Habitat Network and green infrastructure networks.

Proposals will need to comply with relevant national standards regarding the protection of trees in relation to design, demolition and construction. Where tree loss is deemed to be acceptable, developers will be required to submit a detailed mitigation scheme (Page 136).

3.2.5 Policy LP35: Historic Environment

1. Development proposals affecting a designated heritage asset (or an archaeological site of national importance) should preserve or enhance the significance of the asset. In cases likely to result in substantial harm or loss, development will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposals would bring substantial public benefits that clearly outweigh the harm.....
Proposals which would remove, harm or undermine the significance of a non-designated heritage asset, or its contribution to the character of a place will be permitted only where benefits of the development outweigh the harm having regard to the scale of the harm and the significance of the heritage asset... (Page 141-142).

3.2.6 POLICY LP36: PROPOSALS FOR MINERAL EXTRACTION

Part 1
Proposals for mineral extraction will be considered having regard to:
a. the impact on the environment including water resources and the best and the most versatile agricultural land;
b. the impact on residential amenity, highway safety and local heritage assets;
c. the impact on human health;
d. any cumulative effects arising from multiple impacts from individual sites and/or a number of sites in a locality.
Part 2
Proposals to explore for, or extract minerals, including from former waste deposits will be permitted provided that they will not:
a. cause unacceptable detriment to the landscape including its character or local visual amenity during or subsequent to extraction;
b. be materially detrimental to interests of nature conservation, cultural heritage, geological or archaeological importance;
c. cause nuisance or materially significant disturbance to local residents as a consequence of the generation of dust, noise or vibration by site operations or associated transport;
d. prejudice highway safety through the volume or nature of vehicle movements generated;
e. result in pollution of water resources or soils or the interruption of land drainage;
f. cause materially significant permanent change to local rights of way networks; or
g. result in permanent loss of best and most versatile agricultural land.

Proposals to extract minerals should be accompanied by sufficient information to demonstrate that such unacceptable impacts would not occur, or could be satisfactorily controlled, and to demonstrate the presence of and need for the mineral.....

The council, in conjunction with the other West Yorkshire councils, will seek to maintain a landbank of permitted reserves of aggregates, and also seek to maintain its contribution to meeting its share of the aggregates demand in the region on the advice of the Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Aggregates Working party, unless exceptional circumstances prevail (Page 148).

3.2.7 POLICY LP37: SITE RESTORATION AND AFTERCARE

Part 1
Mineral working will be permitted only where the council is satisfied that the site can be restored and

managed to a high standard, the proposed restoration is sympathetic to the character and setting of the wider area and is capable of sustaining an appropriate after-use. Restoration proposals for mineral workings should be designed to:

a. clearly indicate how the site will be restored and managed, before, during and after working;

b. ensure that restoration is completed at the earliest opportunity including the use of progressive restoration techniques where appropriate;

c. ensure that restoration and aftercare is appropriate with regard to the characteristics of the site's surroundings, including landscape character;

d. demonstrate that adequate financial provision has been made to fulfil the proposed restoration and aftercare requirements; and

e. include, where appropriate, provision for the extended management of a site beyond any aftercare period required by planning condition.

Part 2

Mineral working will be permitted only where the proposed site restoration delivers benefits such as enhancement of biodiversity interests, improved public access and the provision of climate change mitigation. Restoration proposals should therefore include:

a. measures to assist or achieve priority habitat or species targets and/or biodiversity Action Plan targets;

b. where appropriate, measures to protect and/or improve geodiversity and provide educational opportunities to visit such sites;

c. provision for increased flood storage capacity for sites which fall within high flood risk areas;

d. where appropriate, opportunities to provide for local amenity uses, including appropriate sport and recreational uses; and

e. measures to restore land back to agriculture for sites involving the best and most versatile agricultural land (Page 150).

4.0 VISUAL BASELINE

4.1 ASSESSMENT CONTEXT

4.1.1 The visual assessment considers the potential for visibility of the application site from the surrounding public visual receptors and considers any potential for landscape and visual effects arising from the proposal. This section provides an overview of general visibility of the application site, as well as identifying the potential key public visual receptors to whom the proposal would most notably affect.

4.1.2 **Sensitivity of Visual Receptors**

The sensitivity of the landscape to change is the degree to which a particular landscape can accommodate changes, or new features, without significant detrimental effects to its essential characteristics. The sensitivity of landscape character or a visual receptor is defined as being high/medium/low, where high is the most sensitive. The sensitivity of visual receptors will depend on three key factors:

- The receptor's activity whilst exposed to the view (work, recreational activities, resident);
- Degree of exposure to view; and,
- Period of exposure to view.

4.2 VISUAL ASSESSMENT

"An assessment of visual effects deals with the effects of change on views available to people and their visual amenity. The concern here is with assessing how the surroundings of individuals or groups of people may be ***specifically affected*** *by* ***changes*** *in the* ***content*** *and* ***character*** *of views as a result of the* ***change*** *or* ***loss*** *of* ***existing elements of the landscape*** *and/or* ***introduction of new elements****."* (*'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*', Landscape Institute (LI) & Institute of Environmental Management and Awareness (IEMA), Third Edition, 2013) (GLVIA3).

4.2.1 A visual assessment has been carried out according to guidance set out in *Appendix A*. All viewpoints are restricted to publicly accessible locations. Views from privately owned properties, where there is a likelihood of a view, have been considered within the scope of this report. *Figure 4: Public Rights of Way & Viewpoint Locations* illustrates the viewpoint locations illustrated and described in this section. It should be noted that within the scope of this landscape and visual appraisal, a full assessment of visual impacts arising from the proposal has not been carried out.

4.2.2 Photograph/s have been taken using a DSLR with a 50mm focal length standard lens. These viewpoints are representative of views afforded towards the application site. It should be noted that the site assessment was carried out in June 2022, when the broadleaved trees were in leaf. In accordance with guidance, it is good practice to undertake visual assessments during the winter months, when the trees are predominantly bare. This is because leaves and vegetation filter views, and winter views therefore present a 'worst case scenario' for visual effects.

4.3 VISUAL ENVELOPE

4.3.1 The visual envelope for the application site was established using topography information and Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) maps were produced, which set out all locations that may afford a view of the application site. ZTV maps can be useful in suggesting areas where there may be visibility of the site and enable field assessment to concentrate on areas within the study zone where views are most likely. The ZTV map illustrates a theoretical visual impact assessment, using 2021 National LIDAR Programme DSM data at 1m resolution.

4.3.2 LIDAR is an airborne mapping technique which accurately measures the height of the terrain and surface objects on the ground, through the use of a scanning laser that measures the distance between the aircraft and the ground. Digital Surface Model(s) (DSM) are created from the last or only LIDAR pulse returned to the sensor and contains all ground and surface objects. The ZTV (*Figure 3: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)*) includes the screening effects of buildings and vegetation in the study area, however it is important to note that such a tool gives a 'worst case scenario' and that the ZTV is likely to encompass visual receptors from where the site would be screened from view by localised features. These assessments of potential visibility assist in establishing the potential visual envelope of an application site, with the actual visibility verified on the ground during the site assessment.

4.4 VISUAL CONTEXT

4.4.1 Key views, which have been selected to best represent the visual context for the application site are illustrated at Viewpoints No 1 to 6. This LVA acknowledges that there are other viewpoints, within proximity to the selected viewpoints, which have a view of the application site, however this visual study considered that viewpoints No.1 to 6 are representative of the overall visual context and often represent locations where footpath users stop to take in the view, such as the position of a stile, a junction between footpaths or where a footpath adjoins a highway.

4.4.2 The application site is located within a rural valley landscape, where mature trees and hedgerows, in combination with the gently undulating valley slopes, create localised visual enclosure. From rising ground to the north and south of the application site, wide-scale and panoramic views across the valley are afforded, however field sized detail within the valley and on the valley slopes is often concealed by mature trees and woodland. The site assessment found that open and direct views of the entire application site are afforded from close range locations only (Viewpoints No.1 & 2). For users of Huddersfield Road, travelling either east or west, there are views of the application site afforded across the intervening open field. Users of public transport will also have a view across the application site and there are two bus stops located to the east and west of the application site.

4.4.3 Bark House Lane, which becomes Green House Hill and Wood Row Lane to Roydhouse, then Drinker Lane, Titus Lane and Jagger Lane up to Emley, ascending the valley slopes to the west of the application site. This minor road is narrow and winding and has a number of minor tracks leading off to scattered farmsteads. Views for road users, descending the valley slopes south towards Shelley are restricted to glimpsed and partial views of the rural landscape, seen beyond the drystone walls which define the agrarian fields. The application site and adjacent existing working area, can be seen in a series of transitional and sequential views, where roadside vegetation and built form enables a quick glimpse to the south east There are no open and direct views of the entire application site afforded from this minor road.

4.4.4 There are a number of residential properties and scattered vernacular farmsteads which are located along the northern slopes of the valley. There may be glimpsed and partial views afforded from these properties, or from garden curtilages, towards the application site, especially from the hamlet of Roydhouse, however this study predominantly found that views were restricted by intervening vegetation and especially by the mature woodland to the north of the application site.

4.4.5 Where footpaths dissect the northern slopes of the valley, there are views across the valley to the south, with the partial views of the application site seen within the wider landscape context of the rural valley (Viewpoint No.3). A number of wind turbines and telegraph poles are scattered across the valley slopes, adding vertical features into the undulating landscape. A number of large-scale, new agricultural buildings are located within or closely adjoining farm curtilages, creating strong horizontal features within an otherwise gently rolling landscape. The mature woodland vegetation creates a strong sense of enclose within the lower valley slopes, with views across the agrarian landscape often truncated by mature trees (Viewpoint No.4). The application site can be seen on rising ground to the rear of the view.

4.4.6 To the east of the application site, Park Lane descends the valley slopes from Emley to Skelmanthorpe, becoming Station Road as it approaches the settlement. This minor road is largely defined by mature native hedgerows, with abundant hedgerow trees. Where gaps in the hedgerows occur, fields are defined by dry stone walls, which enable glimpsed and transitional views across the agrarian landscape towards Skelmanthorpe. Public footpaths cross Park Lane at various points, however views of the application site are largely limited by vegetation. Footpath DEN/24/4 adjoins Park Lane on rising ground at Taylor Hill Farm, with a longer distance view looking south west towards the application site and existing working area seen beyond the rolling pastoral and within a well wooded landscape (Viewpoint No.5).

4.4.7 The application site is largely well concealed in views from the southern slopes of the valley, due to the rolling topography and mature wooded vegetation, combined with intervening built form from the vernacular settlements and scattered farmsteads. Large scale agricultural buildings and equestrian facilities are a common feature across the landscape. Narrow and winding lanes ascend the southern slopes, connecting the settlements of Lower Cumberworth, Upper Cumberworth, Shepley and Denby Dale. Views across the valley from these minor roads are glimpsed and transitional in nature, however for pedestrian users, the views are of a panoramic and wide scale rural landscape, with the telecommunications mast at Emley Moor highly dominant in all views. Where footpaths traverse the landscape, there are wide-scale, panoramic views across the valley, however the location of the application site, on slightly north sloping land, is predominantly screened from view beyond mature wooded vegetation (Viewpoint No.6).

4.4.8 The following views have been chosen which best represent the visual context of the application site within the study area.

- Viewpoint No.1: Looking north east from Huddersfield Road. This is a close range view afforded from adjacent to the field within which the application site lies and there is an open and direct view across the site.

- Viewpoint No.2: Looking north west from Huddersfield Road. This is a close range view afforded from adjacent to the field within which the application site lies and there is an open and direct view across the site. This view is also representative of views from the domestic curtilage of residential properties standing to the east of the application site, on Huddersfield Road, and users of public transport, waiting at the bus stop.

- Viewpoint No.3: Looking south east from Footpath KIR/130/30. This is a long distance, panoramic view of the landscape within which the application site is located, seen beyond intervening built form and mature woodland. There is a partial view of the application site and the existing working area can been seen to the right of view in the middle distance, although it is not easily discernible.

- Viewpoint No.4: Looking south west from Footpath DEN/23/20. A long-distance view looking towards the application site, which is set within a well wooded context. There is a partial view of the application site and the existing working area can been seen to the right of view in the middle distance, although it is not easily discernible.

- Viewpoint No.5: Looking south west from Footpath DEN/24/4. A long-distance view across the agricultural landscape. There is a partial view of the application site and the existing working area can been seen to the right of view in the middle distance, although it is not easily discernible.

- Viewpoint No.6: Looking north from Footpath DEN/82/60. There is a long-distance view across the valley towards the application site, which is seen partially beyond intervening vegetation.

5.0 LANDSCAPE & VISUAL EFFECTS

5.1 PREDICTED IMPACTS

5.1.1 This section describes the predicted effects of the proposal upon landscape character and visual amenity.

5.1.2 **Potential Landscape Effects**

The potential extent to which the proposal is likely to affect the sensitivity of the existing landscape character on both a site-specific and wider landscape scale, depends on the capacity of the existing landscape to accommodate the footprint, potential massing and character of the proposal, whilst the physical effects of the proposal on the landscape fabric, will largely be restricted to the application site itself. Professional judgement is used to provide a balanced assessment of landscape value and susceptibility, to establish landscape sensitivity.

5.1.3 Potential landscape effects include:

- The extent to which the proposal may change, enhance or detract from the existing local landscape context, including any cumulative effects of the proposal in addition to other existing, consented or planned development within the immediate study area;
- The extent to which the proposal will reduce the open landscape and change the character of the agricultural landscape of the application site;
- The extent to which the proposal will complement, enhance or detract from the existing vernacular of the study area; and
- The extent to which the proposal, will contrast with the existing appearance of the application site and establish a new landscape character.

5.1.4 **Potential Visual Effects**

The sensitivity of the landscape to change is the degree to which a particular landscape can accommodate changes, or new features, without significant detrimental effects to its essential characteristics. The sensitivity of landscape character or a visual receptor is defined as being high/medium/low, where high is the most sensitive.

5.1.5 The sensitivity of visual receptors will depend on three key factors:

- The receptor's activity whilst exposed to the view (work, recreational activities, resident);
- Degree of exposure to view; and,
- Period of exposure to view.

5.1.6 "*An assessment of visual effects deals with the effects of change on views available to people and their visual amenity. The concern here is with assessing how the surroundings of individuals or groups of people may be specifically affected by changes in the content and character of views as a result of the change or loss of existing elements of the landscape and/or introduction of new elements." ('Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*", Landscape Institute (LI) & Institute of Environmental Management and Awareness (IEMA), Third Edition, 2013) (GLVIA3).

5.1.7 Potential visual effects are the extent to which the proposal may change the perceptual qualities and visual amenity of views, including changes to the skyline, from within the study area.

5.1.8 Change to landscape & visual amenity can be positive or negative and can be temporary in nature i.e. experienced throughout the construction phase of development or a permanent change as a direct result of the completed proposal.

5.1.9 **Temporary Effects during the Construction and Operational Phase**
Site set up effects are generally short-term and temporary in nature. Potential effects on the landscape resource during this phase may arise from:

- Site set up traffic and plant, equipment and workers;
- The location and effects of movement of construction vehicles and plant;
- Stockpiling of materials, earthworks and the formations of screening mounds and SUDs features as necessary;
- Site set up compound, security fencing & activities associated with this construction phase;
- New temporary infrastructure across the application site;
- Temporary land take, partial or total loss of landscape features in preparation for soil stripping;
- Movement of stripped soil to form storage mounds which change the local landform; and
- Soft landscape screening establishment;

5.1.10 Operational effects are typically longer-term and can be permanent in nature. Potential effects on the landscape resource during operation may arise from:

- HGV traffic entering and leaving the application site;
- Elevated noise levels associated with operations and traffic movement throughout the site;
- A progressive change in the character of the landscape;
- Quarrying activities; and
- A progressive change to the nature and extent of views across the wider landscape of the study area.

5.1.11 **Effects 15 years after Completion of Construction**
Permanent changes anticipated 15 years following completion of the proposal include:

- A functional working landscape; and
- Continued maturing of soft landscape screening;

5.2 EFFECTS ON LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

5.2.1 Effects on existing landscape character, at various scales, can be defined as:

5.2.2 NCA 38: Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield – Due to the scale of the NCA 38 landscape and the size of the application site within that area, it is considered that the proposal will have no change to the overall character and composition of the NCA wide landscape, would not affect the scale, landform or pattern of the landscape within NCA 38 and would maintain the existing character and quality.

5.2.3 NCA 38 is the largely low-lying landscape "*which embraces major industrial towns and cities as well as villages and wider tracts of countryside. The landscape is underpinned by generally low and variable hills, escarpments and broad valleys. It is dominated in the north and central part, and less so in the south, by extensive urban influences and industry. There has been constant change and development since the Industrial Revolution, when there was rapid expansion of housing, workshops, large factories and transport networks. The result is a complex intermingling of rural and urban, of modern commerce with occasional industrial dereliction, the whole creating a mosaic of disparate land uses with fragmented semi-natural habitats dispersed throughout.*".

5.2.4 NCA 38 is considered to have a low susceptibility to change, as there is a greater ability within this broad and varied character area to accommodate the anticipated change in landscape character arising from the proposal at the application site, without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation within the wider NCA.

5.2.5 In terms of landscape value, NCA 38 is considered to have a high value. The NCA 38 profiles notes that the "*Semi-natural habitats, including woodland, grassland, important remnant lowland heaths, open water and river valley wetland habitats, tend to be fragmented and scattered, their scarcity giving them greater significance. The coal mining history of the area has resulted in areas of subsidence where low-lying fields become inundated with water; ings are common and often support important species owing to their unusual water chemistry.*"..... There is a rich heritage value across the character area, with significant buildings such as castles, churches and country houses remaining extant in the landscape, indicating a rich time depth. The NCA 38 profiles also notes that the "*There are 34 Registered Parks and Gardens in the NCA including Victorian cemeteries but mainly parks associated with country houses built by wealthy industrialists.* ".

5.2.6 Public access across the NCA is abundant, with over a 1,000 ha of accessible land provided by country parks alone and 5,849 ha within the NCA is classified as being publicly accessible. The region supports 2,919 km of public rights of way, providing an excellent network of well used routes.

5.2.7 With a low susceptibility to change and a high value, the overall assessment of the sensitivity of the NCA 38 landscape to change from the proposal is medium.

5.2.8 The proposal will not result in the loss of landscape elements at the NCA scale. There will be no reduction in the character or quality of NCA 38 as a whole, as the proposal to extend the working area of the existing quarry, at the application site, would be seen as a minor component in the overall character of the NCA and will not have an effect upon the scale, landform or pattern of the landscape and will therefore have a negligible magnitude of landscape effect upon national landscape character. The resultant landscape impact would be neutral.

5.2.9 KIRKLEES DISTRICT LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - At the county scale the landscape the application site lies within the G: Wooded Rural Valleys landscape type and the G10: River Dearne Valley LCA. The landscape is characteristic of and consistent with the key qualities of the county character, with a "*secluded, 'hidden' intimate and tranquil character created by the incised landform, densely wooded slopes and absence of modern development*" and a "*high level of broadleaved woodland cover, particularly on the slopes adjacent to watercourses and to the west of Denby Dale (where it is the dominant land cover)*".

5.2.10 The Wooded Rural Valleys and G10: River Dearne Valley LCA is considered to have a medium susceptibility to change, as there is an ability within this character area to accommodate the anticipated minor change in landscape character at the application site, without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation within the wider landscape.

5.2.11 In terms of landscape value, the Wooded Rural Valleys, which dissect the South Pennine moorland with the steep-sided wooded valleys, which are considered to be a special feature within the landscape and due to the proximity to major urban areas, have a tranquil and secluded character, are considered to have a high value. The G10: River Dearne Valley forms the wooded and predominantly agricultural setting for villages and small towns across the study area, with only very minor roads crossing the landscape. There is an excellent network of footpaths and bridleways, ensuring abundant access into the landscape. Cultural and heritage values are high, with extant remains of many early industrial sites visible in the landscape, together with significant vernacular buildings. In terms of biodiversity value, there are a rich mosaic of habitats across the landscape, with streams, damp grasslands and meadow pastures defined and dissected by mature broadleaved woodland, including ancient woodland.

5.2.12 With a medium susceptibility to change and a high value, the overall assessment of the sensitivity of the Wooded Rural Valleys and G10: River Dearne Valley LCA landscape to change from the proposed development is high.

5.2.13 Due to the scale of the country/district landscape and the scale and nature of the proposal to extend the existing working area of Peace Wood Quarry, within that area, it is considered that the proposal will have a low to negligible magnitude of effect on the overall character of the county & district landscape and would not affect the scale, landform or pattern of the wider landscape character. The character and quality of the surrounding landscape, as set out in the published LCA will be maintained, with a minor change in land-use, with the temporary loss of open grassland at the application site level. The resultant landscape impact, at the country/ district landscape scale is assessed as being neutral. Once the extraction operations have been completed, the application site will be restored back to an agricultural land-use.

5.2.14 THE IMMEDIATE STUDY AREA (1km radius from the application site) – The proposal to extend the existing working area of Peace Wood Quarry would bring about changes to the application site, resulting in a change to the land use of the immediate study area. The change in land use will result in the temporary loss of approximately 2.1ha of agricultural land, changing the character of the immediate study area as a part of the field is stripped of soil, screening mounds created and extraction operations are carried out. Once the extraction operations are complete, both the existing working area and the proposed working area at the application site will be restored back to an agricultural land use, according with the current character of the study area. The immediate study area is therefore considered to have a medium susceptibility to change, where the landscape receptor has some capacity to accommodate the proposal, albeit it temporary in nature, without effecting its overall integrity.

5.2.15 In terms of landscape value, a green belt designation washes across the application site and whilst there are few natural heritage designations associated with the immediate study area, the presence of mature broadleaved woodland and in field trees, together with the mosaic of arable and pasture land uses across the often enclosed and intimate, tranquil landscape makes this a highly valued landscape. There is a limited network of footpaths within 1km of the application site however connectivity with the minor rural roads is good, enabling access across this tranquil, farmed landscape.

5.2.16 With a medium susceptibility to change and a high value, the overall assessment of the sensitivity of the immediate study area to change from the proposed development is high.

5.2.17 At the immediate study area scale, the proposal would result in a medium to high degree of alteration to one or more key elements, features or characteristics of the landscape character, i.e. a loss of 2.1ha of agricultural land as the application site is progressively stripped of soil and 3m high screening mounds are created to the south prior to extraction operations. This would however be a temporary change in landscape character, as once operations are completed, the application site, together with the existing extraction area, will be restored back to an agricultural land use. The proposal will have a medium to high magnitude of effect upon the immediate study area. The change in land use may be prominent whilst the proposed extraction area is being prepared and stripped of soil to create the screening mounds. Once grass has established to cover the screening mounds, the introduction of new elements and land use may not be uncharacteristic when set within the attributes of the adjacent established extraction area and receiving agricultural landscape, with its well wooded and enclosed character. The resultant landscape impact would be moderate to major adverse throughout the construction phases of the proposal, which is anticipated to reduce to moderate to minor neutral throughout operations and neutral 15 years post restoration, as the landscape is restored and returned to an agricultural land use which assimilate with the immediate landscape setting.

5.2.18 THE APPLICATION SITE - The proposal to extend the existing working area of Peace Wood Quarry will result in the temporary loss of approximately 2.1ha of agricultural land, changing the character of the application site as a part of the field is stripped of soil, screening mounds created and extraction operations are carried out. The existing access track will be retained and there will therefore be no loss of boundary trees or hedgerows. There are no designations associated with the site and no PRoW cross or bound the site.

5.2.19 The application site is considered to have a high susceptibility to change as there will be a significant change of land use, albeit temporary in nature, whilst construction and extraction operations are carried out. The remainder of the agricultural field, to the south will remain extant.

5.2.20 In terms of landscape value, the application site is considered to have a low value. Whilst a green belt designation washes across the site, there are no significant landscape elements and no biological designations associated with the landscape. There are no public rights of way which cross the site, nor are there any adjacent rights of way in close proximity.

5.2.21 With a high susceptibility to change and a low value, the overall assessment of the sensitivity of the application site to change from the proposed development is medium.

5.2.22 The proposal would result in high degree of loss and major alteration in character to the existing land use within the application site, which is characteristic of the published landscape character. The existing working area at Peace Wood Quarry is still under operation, with the eastern phases worked out and in-filled with engineering material. Restoration, which is in accordance with the planning permission, has been undertaken and the site has been restored back to an agricultural land use. The western phases are still operational and extracting clay. The proposal will see the excavation of a working area, working from north to south, followed by infilling with engineering material and a restoration back to agricultural land use. The extraction and infilling operations are considered to be relatively temporary, in landscape terms, however throughout the duration of operations the proposal will have a high magnitude of effect. There is limited capacity within the application site to accommodate the anticipated change in landscape character, without significantly affecting its overall integrity. The resultant landscape impact would be major adverse throughout the operational phases of the proposal, which is anticipated to reduce to moderate adverse upon completion of the restoration phase and minor neutral 15 years post completion of the restoration, as the restored agricultural grassland and soft landscape planting matures.

5.3 ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS ON VISUAL AMENITY

5.3.1 The following section describes the potential visual effects of the proposal upon the landscape resource for visual receptors. A visual assessment has been carried out according to the methodology set out at *Appendix A*. Following the desktop research and ZTV analysis together with the site assessment, representative viewpoints, where receptors may have a view towards the application site, were identified. The following views are considered to best represent the visual context.

- Viewpoint No.1: Looking north east from Huddersfield Road.
- Viewpoint No.2: Looking north west from Huddersfield Road.
- Viewpoint No.3: Looking south east from Footpath KIR/130/30.
- Viewpoint No.4: Looking south west from Footpath DEN/23/20.
- Viewpoint No.5: Looking south west from Footpath DEN/24/4.
- Viewpoint No.6: Looking north from Footpath DEN/82/60.

5.3.2 The table below considers the sensitivity of the identified visual receptors to the type of change resulting from the proposal and considers the magnitude of effect and significance of effect upon visual amenity during the construction and operational phases and 15 years post completion of construction.

VIEWPOINT NO. 1	Grid Ref: SE 21576 11129	Looking north east from Huddersfield Road.

Receptor - Motorised, leisure or pedestrian road users of Huddersfield Road. Also representative of Pedestrians waiting at the bus stop, who may also experience a similar view.

DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEW - There is a close range, partial view of the western edge of the application site, seen from this location on Huddersfield Road. The application site lies to the rear of the agricultural field, the foreground extent of this field will remain under an agricultural land use, with screening mounds positioned to the middle distance. Beyond the application site, the existing working area is screened beyond mature vegetation along the application site's northern boundary. There is no open or clear view of the entire application site from this viewpoint. The rolling, agrarian landscape to the north of the application site can be seen rising in the far distance.

SENSITIVITY OF VISUAL RECEPTOR - **Low**. Users of main roads or passengers on public transport on main routes are considered to be of low sensitivity.

Throughout the construction and operations phase, a screening mound will be created between the viewpoint and the extraction area, to the middle of the agricultural field, which will limit views into the proposed extraction area. The screening mound will change the current composition and character of the view, replacing the open panorama with a mid range, grassed mound which will be visible as a dominant feature within the field. Additional HGV movements into and out of the application site will animate the scene. This will be a relatively short term adverse effect upon the view as the extraction area is worked and progressively restored. Upon completion of extraction operations, the screening mound will be removed and the landscape restored back to an agricultural land use. 15 years post restoration the visual effects of the proposal are anticipated to be neutral to minor beneficial, where the is an improvement in the quality and character of the landscape scene.

	Construction & Operations	15 years post restoration
MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	**High**	**Low**
SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS	**Major Adverse**	**Neutral to Minor Beneficial**

VIEWPOINT NO. 2	Grid Ref: SE 21760 11035	Looking north west from Huddersfield Road.

Receptor - Motorised, leisure or pedestrian road users of Huddersfield Road. Also representative of residential receptors from properties on Huddersfield Road and pedestrians waiting at the bus stop, who may also experience a similar view.

DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEW - There is an open and close range view across the application site from an elevated viewpoint on Huddersfield Road. The eastern edge of the application site is clearly visible, with mounds associated with the existing working area seen beyond mature vegetation to the north of the application site. These existing mounds assimilate with the mature vegetation and largely blend into the landscape scene. Beyond the application site, to the north, is a rising agrarian landscape. Large-scale agricultural buildings are visible on the hillside, accompanied by domestic wind turbines. The grade II, Arqiva Tower, or Emley Moor transmitting station as it is locally referred to, which stands on Emley Moor is visible to the right of the view as a dominant feature on the hillside.

SENSITIVITY OF VISUAL RECEPTOR - **Low**. Users of main roads or passengers on public transport on main routes are considered to be of low sensitivity. **High**. Residential properties with predominantly open views from windows, garden or curtilage Views will normally be from principal living rooms or from windows of rooms in use during the day.

Throughout the construction and operations phase, a screening mound will be created between the viewpoint and the extraction area, to the middle of the agricultural field, which will limit views into the proposed extraction area. A similar screening mound will be visible to the left of the view, to the south of the western extraction area. The screening mounds will change the current composition and character of the view, replacing the open panorama with mid range, highly visible grassed mounds. This will, however, be a relatively short term adverse effect upon the view as the extraction area is worked and progressively restored. Upon completion of extraction operations, the screening mounds will be removed in a phased operation and the landscape restored back to an agricultural land use. 15 years post restoration the visual effects of the proposal are anticipated to be neutral to minor beneficial, where the is an improvement in the quality and character of the landscape scene.

	Construction & Operations	15 years post restoration
MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	**High**	**Low**
SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS	**Major Adverse**	**Neutral to Minor Beneficial**

VIEWPOINT NO. 3	Grid Ref: SE 21621 12403	Looking south east from Footpath KIR/130/30

Receptor - Pedestrian or leisure user of a public right of way with a restricted view and distant view.

DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEW - There is wide scale, panoramic view looking south across a largely agricultural landscape. In the near distance a vernacular farmhouse with associated buildings and larger scale, modern agricultural buildings dominates the view. The farmstead is set within mature vegetation, which softens the visual effects on the buildings. A domestic wind turbine is visible to the middle right of the view. The application site is partially visible beyond the farmstead, beyond the existing working area. Whilst the existing working area is visible, the mounds and stock piles associated with operations assimilate with the character of the surrounding landscape and are not easily visible when seen within the context of the wider landscape. There are similar sequential views afforded for users of this footpath, looking south across the landscape, however views are restricted largely by intervening vegetation, the rolling landform and built form.

SENSITIVITY OF VISUAL RECEPTOR - **Medium**. Users of the public right of way with a restricted and distant view of the application site are considered to be of medium sensitivity.

Construction and operational activity will be largely indiscernible from this viewpoint, when seen within the context of the wider scale, panoramic landscape scene and constitute a minor component of the overall scene. Whilst there may be some movement of plant and HGV traffic, once the grass and soil are stripped from the application site, extraction operations will be less visible. The screening mounds constructed to the south of the application site, mid way within the agricultural fields, will be visible initially until the grass seeding has taken place and vegetation has established. Any adverse visual effects will be relatively short term, upon this panoramic view as the extraction area is worked and progressively restored. Upon completion of extraction operations, the screening mounds will be removed and the landscape restored back to an agricultural land use. 15 years post restoration the visual effects of the proposal are anticipated to be neutral from this viewpoint

	Construction & Operations	15 years post restoration
MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	**Low**	**Low**
SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS	**Minor Adverse**	**Neutral**

VIEWPOINT NO. 4	Grid Ref: SE 22808 12129	Looking south west from Footpath DEN/23/20.

Receptor - Pedestrian or leisure user of a public right of way with a restricted view and distant view.

DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEW - There is a partial view of the eastern edge of the application site seen at a higher elevation from this location on a footpath to the north east. From this viewpoint, the panoramic landscape is seen as heavily wooded, with mature trees occupying the edges of the arable fields and a number of mature in field trees are also visible. The existing extraction area is barely visible to the right centre of the view, with the mounds and stockpiles blending into the landscape scene. There are similar sequential views afforded for users of this footpath, looking across the agricultural landscape, however views are restricted largely by intervening vegetation and the rolling landform.

SENSITIVITY OF VISUAL RECEPTOR - **Medium**. Users of the public right of way with a restricted and distant view of the application site are considered to be of medium sensitivity.

Construction and operational activity will be seen at a distance and will be largely indiscernible, when seen within the context of the wider scale, panoramic landscape scene. Whilst there may be some movement of plant and HGV traffic, once the grass and soil are stripped from the application site, extraction operations are anticipated to be less visible.

The screening mounds constructed to the south of the application site, will be largely indiscernible at this distance, once the grass has established. Awareness of the proposal may not have a marked effect upon the overall quality of the view.

Any adverse visual effects will be relatively short term as the extraction area is worked and progressively restored. Upon completion of extraction operations, the screening mounds will be removed and the landscape restored back to an agricultural land use. 15 years post restoration the visual effects of the proposal are anticipated to be neutral from this viewpoint.

	Construction & Operations	15 years post restoration
MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	**Low**	**Low - Negligible**
SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS	**Minor Adverse**	**Neutral**

VIEWPOINT NO. 5	Grid Ref: SE 23442 12222	Looking south west from Footpath DEN/24/4.

Receptor - Pedestrian or leisure user of a public right of way with a restricted view and distant view.

DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEW - There is a wide scale and panoramic, long distance view afforded from this elevated viewpoint to the north east of the application site, looking south west across an agricultural landscape. The application site is partially seen as a small part of a wider view, surrounded by mature vegetation. Large scale grassland fields occupy the foreground of the view, with drystone walls providing field boundaries. There are similar sequential views afforded for users of this footpath, looking south across the landscape, however views are restricted largely by intervening vegetation and the rolling landform.

SENSITIVITY OF VISUAL RECEPTOR - **Medium**. Users of the public right of way with a restricted view and distant view of the application site are considered to be of medium sensitivity.

Long distance views of the construction and operations phase seen from this viewpoint will be seen within the context of a wider scale and panoramic view seen within a predominantly agricultural landscape. Screening mounds, constructed to the south of the application site, will be largely indiscernible at this distance, once the grass has established. Plant and HGV may be visible working within the application site and as the existing grass and soil is stripped and the site begins to be worked, views will change as the land use moves through the operational and restoration phases. The working of the landscape at the application site may not be immediately apparent within this view. Any adverse visual effects will be relatively short term, as the extraction area is worked and progressively restored. 15 years post restoration the visual effects of the proposal are anticipated to be neutral as the land use is returned to agriculture.

	Construction & Operations	15 years post restoration
MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	**Medium**	**Low**
SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS	**Moderate Adverse**	**Neutral**

VIEWPOINT NO. 6	Grid Ref: SE 21075 08925	Looking north from Footpath DEN/82/60.

Receptor - Pedestrian or leisure user of a public right of way with a restricted view and distant view.

DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEW - There is a distant view, seen at a long range, of the southern part of the existing extraction area and the application site, seen from a public footpath to the north of the village of Upper Cumberworth. The view of a rolling agrarian landscape, with the grade II, Arqiva Tower, or Emley Moor transmitting station dominant upon the hillside to the north. A mosaic of field sizes and shapes are defined by and sit within mature wooded vegetation. Vernacular farmsteads are scattered across the hillside, many with adjacent larger scale, modern agricultural buildings. The application site is barely seen within this large scale, panoramic landscape view.

SENSITIVITY OF VISUAL RECEPTOR - **Medium**. Users of the public right of way with a restricted view and distant view of the application site are considered to be of medium sensitivity.

The construction and operational phases of the proposal will be largely indiscernible from this viewpoint as they are at such a distance to they will be scarcely appreciated.

HGV movements into and out of the application site may be visible however they would be seen within the context of the larger scale, working agricultural landscape where agricultural machinery is a regular feature.		
	Construction & Operations	15 years post restoration
MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	**Negligible**	**Negligible**
SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS	**Neutral**	**Neutral**

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 INTRODUCTION

6.1.1 This LVA has been prepared to support an application to Kirklees Council, for an extension to Peace Wood Quarry, Shelley, Huddersfield. A representative number of receptors have been selected, which best describe the potential for visual sensitivities, however this study acknowledges that there may be other views afforded of the application site, within proximity to these receptors. For the purpose of this LVA, viewpoints no.1 to 6 are considered to best represent the visual context. This report has considered existing landscape character and designations and has considered the potential causes of effect, resulting from the proposal, upon landscape character and visual amenity and concludes the following:

6.2 CONCLUSIONS OF THE LANDSCAPE BASELINE

6.2.1 This report has found that the landscape surrounding application site is consistent with and characteristic of the published National, County and District landscape character, which washes over the application site, with NCA 38 being described as being a largely low-lying landscape "*which embraces major industrial towns and cities as well as villages and wider tracts of countryside.....*".

6.2.2 The sensitivity of the NCA character to change from certain types of development is medium and this LVA concludes that will be no reduction in the character or quality of NCA 38 as a whole, as the proposal to extend the working area of the existing quarry, at the application site, would be seen as a minor component in the overall character of the NCA and will not have an effect upon the scale, landform or pattern of the landscape and will therefore have a negligible magnitude of landscape effect upon national landscape character. The resultant landscape impact would be neutral.

6.2.3 The Wooded Rural Valleys and G10: River Dearne Valley LCA is considered to have a medium susceptibility to change and a high value. The Wooded Rural Valleys are considered to be a special feature within the landscape and due to the proximity to major urban areas, have a tranquil and secluded character. The excellent network of footpaths and bridleways, ensure abundant access into the landscape and the remains of many early industrial sites visible within the landscape give rise to a rich and varied cultural history. Due to the size and scale of the proposal within the wider landscape of the Wooded Rural Valleys and G10: River Dearne Valley LCA, this LVA finds that the proposal will have a low to negligible magnitude of effect on the overall character of the county & district landscape and would not affect the scale, landform or pattern of the wider landscape character. The resultant landscape impact, at the country/district landscape scale is assessed as being neutral and the character and quality of the surrounding landscape, as set out in the published LCA will be maintained, with a minor change in land-use.

6.2.4 In relation to the immediate study area scale, the proposal would result in medium to high degree of alteration to one or more key elements, features or characteristics of the landscape character, resulting in a medium to high magnitude of effect, albeit it relatively temporary in landscape terms, upon the immediate study area. The resultant landscape impact would be moderate to major adverse throughout the construction phases of the proposal, which is anticipated to reduce to moderate to minor neutral throughout operations and neutral 15 years post restoration, as the landscape is restored and returned to an agricultural land use which assimilate with the immediate landscape setting.

6.2.5 There is limited capacity within the application site to accommodate the anticipated change in landscape character, which is characteristic of the published landscape character, without significantly affecting its overall integrity and the proposal is assessed as having a high magnitude of effect at the application site scale. The resultant landscape impact, considered to be relatively temporary in landscape terms, would be major adverse throughout the operational phases of the proposal, which is anticipated to reduce to moderate adverse upon completion of the restoration phase and minor neutral 15 years post completion of the restoration, as the restored agricultural grassland and soft landscape planting matures.

6.2.6 Whilst the scale of the proposal will have a major adverse effect upon the application site, the scale of the proposal, when seen within the wider agricultural landscape, will be reduced and the wider landscape has the capacity to accommodate the type of temporary change in landscape character without significantly effecting its overall integrity.

6.3 CONCLUSIONS OF THE VISUAL BASELINE

6.3.1 Viewpoints no.1 to 6 (page 37 to 36) illustrate the potential for visibility of the application site and are considered to best represent the baseline visual context.

6.3.2 The site assessment found that open and direct views of the entire application site are afforded from close range locations only (Viewpoints No.1 & 2). Views for the minor road users are restricted to glimpsed and partial views of the rural landscape, seen beyond the drystone walls which line the roads. The application site and adjacent existing working area, can be seen in a series of transitional and sequential views, where roadside vegetation and built form enables a quick glimpse, however there are no open and direct views of the entire application site afforded from minor roads within the study area. There are a number of residential properties and scattered vernacular farmsteads which may be afforded glimpsed and partial views towards the application site, especially from the hamlet of Roydhouse to the north, however this LVA predominantly found that views were restricted by intervening vegetation and especially by the mature woodland to the north of the application site.

6.3.3 Views from the north of the application site, from public footpaths, are often sequential in nature and limited by the rolling landform and mature, intervening wooded vegetation (Viewpoints No.3, 4, 5 & 6). Where longer distance views exist, they are seen within the context of the wide scale, agricultural landscape and the application site is seen as a minor component within a larger view.

6.3.4 The potential for visual effects created during the construction and operational phases were considered for receptors and the magnitude of change in the visual amenity for receptors, which have a close range view, is assessed as being high (View No.1 & 2), with the significance of effects experienced throughout the construction and operational phases being assessed as being major adverse. For receptors with a longer range view, the magnitude of change in the visual amenity is assessed as being low (View No.3 & 4), with the significance of effects experienced throughout the construction and operational phases being assessed as being minor adverse. For elevated views from the north east, where the application site has more visibility (View No. 5) the magnitude of change is assessed as being medium with a moderate adverse significance of effect. Views from the south are largely indiscernible within the panoramic landscape (View No.6). The magnitude of change is assessed as being negligible, with a neutral significance of effects.

6.3.5 15 years post completion of restoration operations, the application site will be returned to an agricultural land use. It is anticipated that the magnitude of change in the visual amenity for receptors will reduce to low in all views, with a neutral significance of effect, where the restored landscape once again assimilates with the wider agricultural context of the study area. Whilst major and moderate adverse significance of effects are predicated, these are anticipated to be experienced for receptors within close proximity of the application site. Receptors within the wider study area, as a result of the well wooded and rolling landscape, are likely to experience reduced effects.

6.4 CONCLUSIONS

6.4.1 Following a review of baseline information, together with consideration of the potential landscape and visual effects arising from the proposal, it is considered that the application site is able to successfully accommodate the temporary change in land use, in landscape and visual terms, without having an unacceptable effect or loss of landscape character or visual amenity upon the wider study area.

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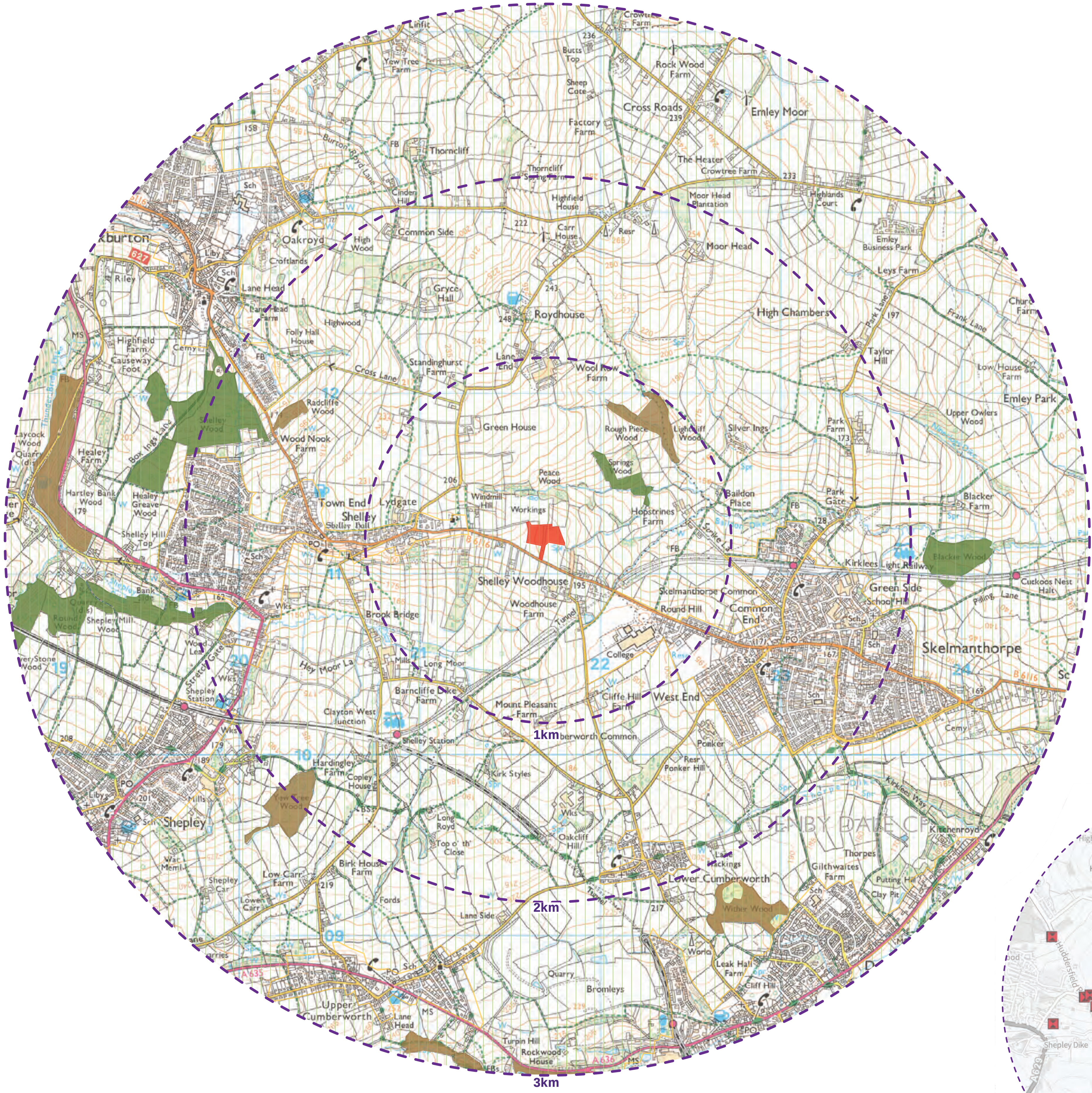
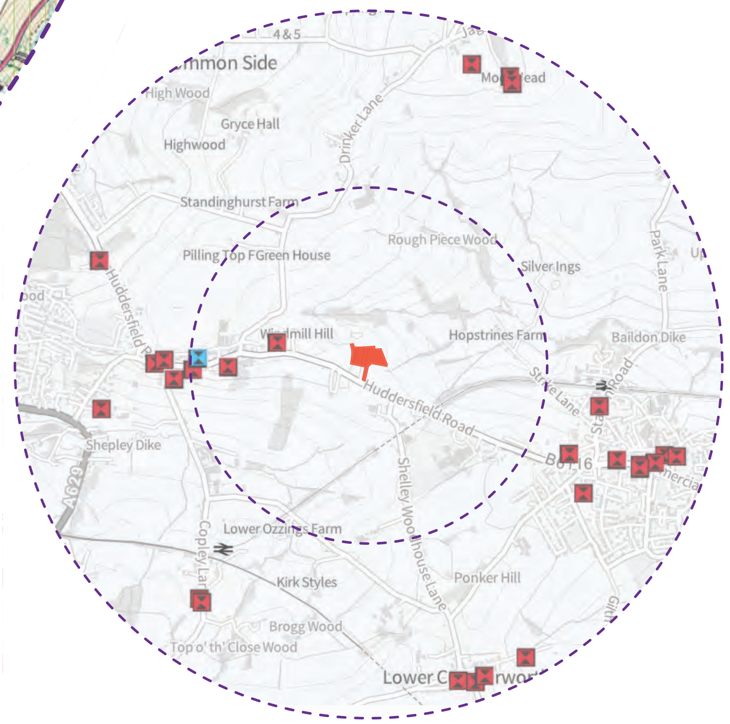
ILLUSTRATIVE MAPS





N

Application Site

Zone of Visibility

Conservation Area

Ancient & Semi-natural Woodland

Ancient Replanted Woodland

Green Belt

Inset Map:

Listed Buildings within 2km of the application site (https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap)

Listed Building - grade II*

Listed Building - grade II

Project:

Peace Wood Quarry, Shelley

Client:

Naylor Industries PLC

Drawing Title:

Landscape Designations

Drawing No: *Figure 2* Rev:

Date: August 2022

Scale:

Drawn: JW

Checked: OC

Collington winter environmental

A theoretical visual impact assessment using 2021 National LIDAR DSM at 1m resolution. Viewer height used 1.65m above ground level. Calculations have been adjusted to account for earth's curvature and the effects of light refraction. The calculation has been made with QGIS 3.14 GRASS software that does not use mathematically approximate methods.

This ZTV includes the screening effects of buildings or vegetation in the study area.

LIDAR is an airborne mapping technique which accurately measures the height of the terrain and surface objects on the ground, through the use of a scanning laser that measures the distance between the aircraft and the ground. Digital Surface Model(s) (DSM) are created from the last or only LIDAR pulse returned to the sensor and contains all ground and surface objects.

N

Application Site

Zone of Visibility

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

Project:

Peace Wood Quarry, Shelley

Client:

Naylor Industries PLC

Drawing Title:

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

Drawing No: *Figure 3*

Rev:

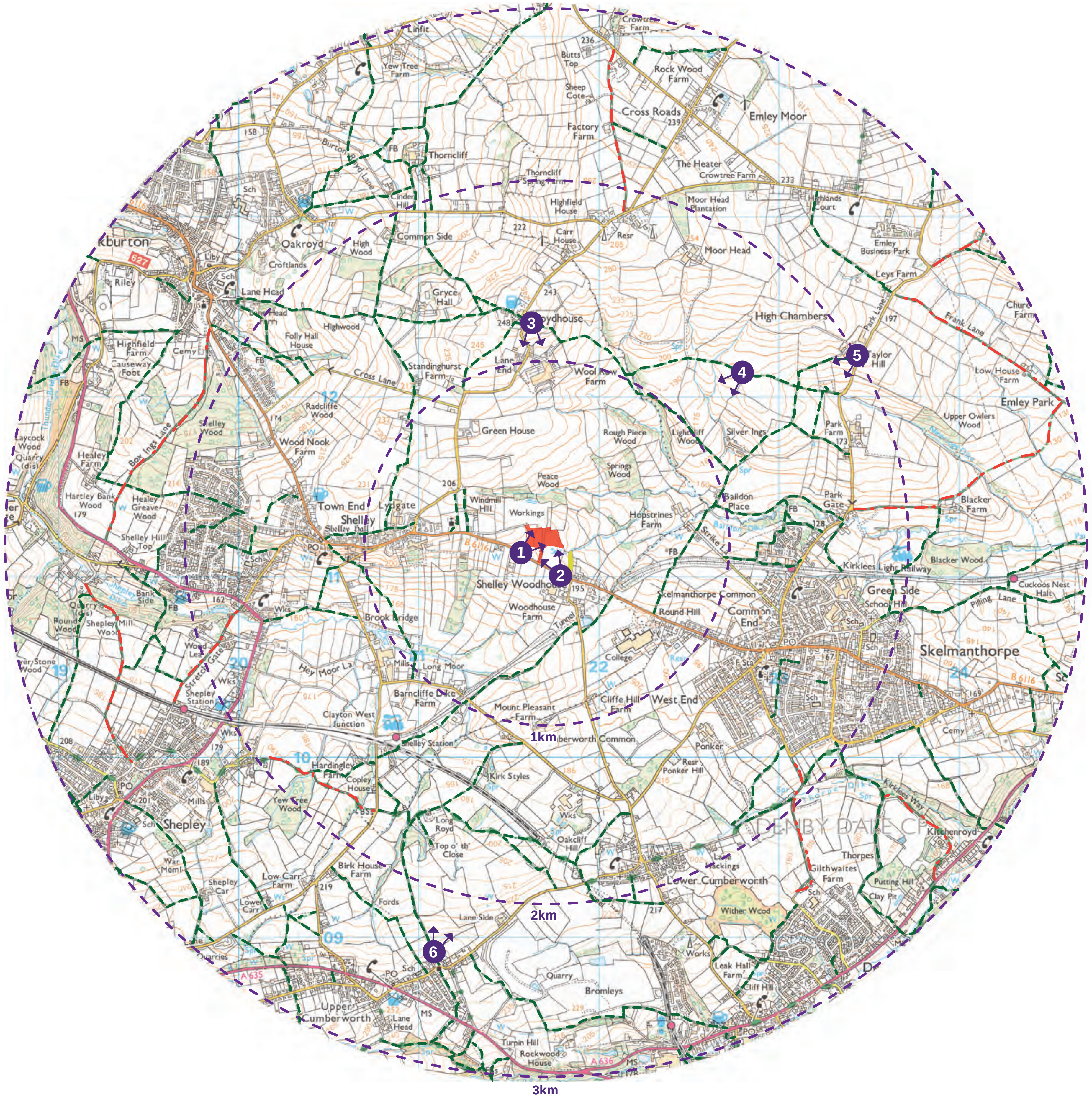
Date: August 2022

Scale:

Drawn: JW

Checked: OC

Collington winter environmental



Application Site

Zone of Visibility

Public Footpath

Public Bridleway

Viewpoint Location

Project:

Peace Wood Quarry, Shelley

Client:

Naylor Industries PLC

Drawing Title:

Public Rights of Way & Viewpoint Locations

Drawing No: *Figure 4* Rev:

Date: August 2022

Scale:

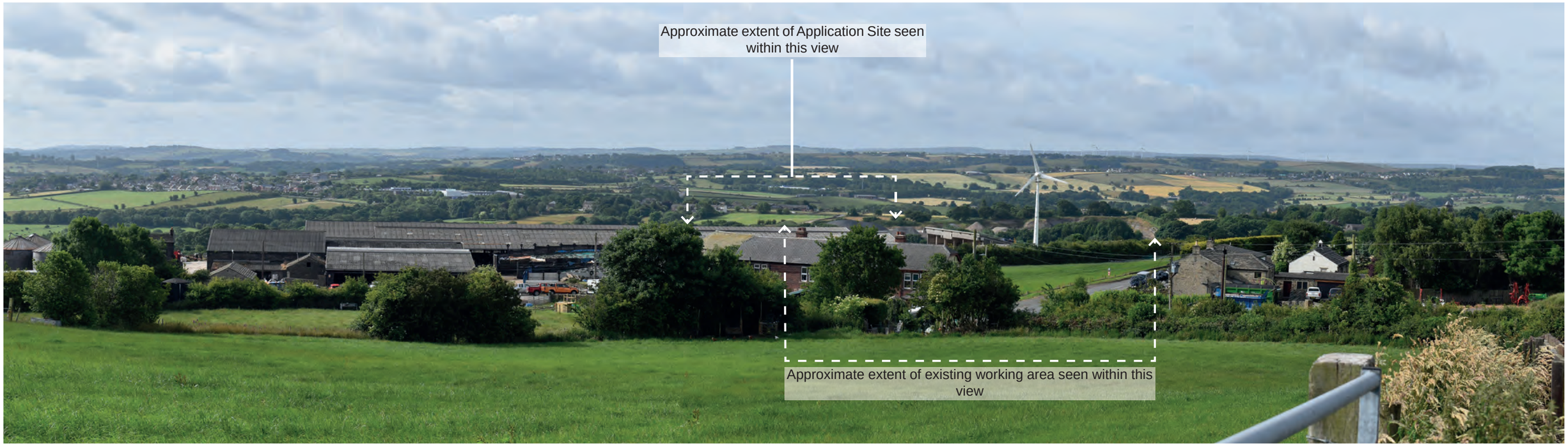
Drawn: JW

Checked: OC

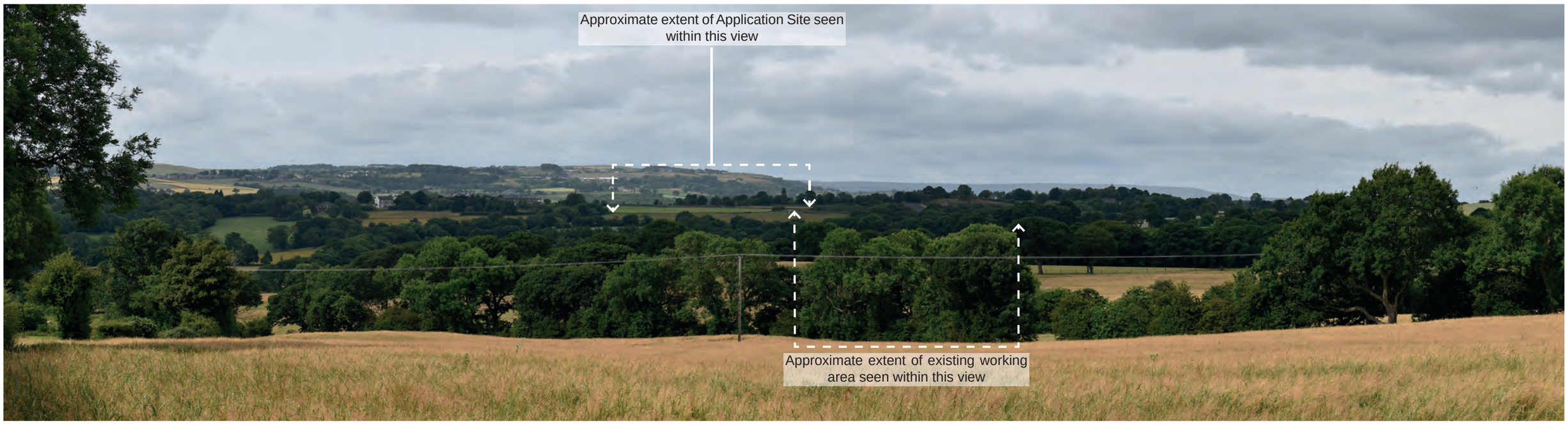
Collington winter environmental

Viewpoint - No.1 Looking north east from Huddersfield Road.	Grid Reference - SE 21576 11129	Image - Stitched panorama of multiple photographs

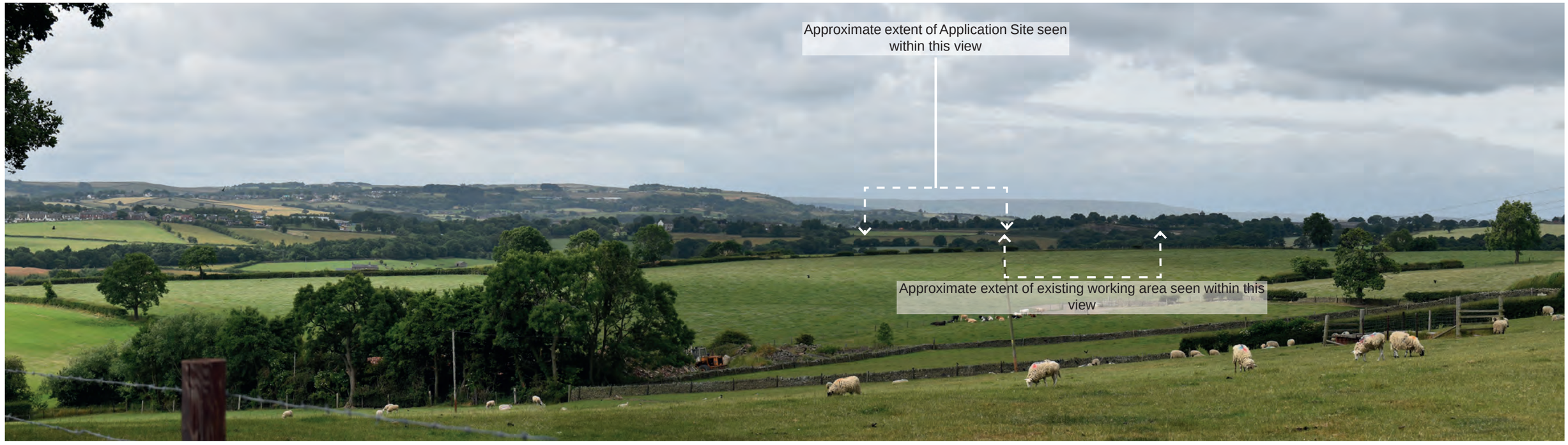
Viewpoint - No.2 Looking north west from Huddersfield Road.	Grid Reference - SE 21760 11035	Image - Stitched panorama of multiple photographs



Viewpoint - No.3 Looking south east from Footpath KIR/130/30.	Grid Reference - SE 21621 12403	Image - Stitched panorama of multiple photographs



Viewpoint - No.4 Looking south west from Footpath DEN/23/20.	Grid Reference - SE 22808 12129	Image - Stitched panorama of multiple photographs



Viewpoint - No.5 Looking south west from Footpath DEN/24/4.	Grid Reference - SE 23442 12222	Image - Stitched panorama of multiple photographs

Viewpoint - No.6 Looking north from Footpath DEN/82/60.	Grid Reference - SE 21075 08925	Image - Stitched panorama of multiple photographs

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A.0 LANDSCAPE & VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

A.0 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

A.1 INTRODUCTION

A.1.1 This assessment has been conducted in accordance with the principles set out in:

- '*Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*', Landscape Institute (LI) & Institute of Environmental Management and Awareness (IEMA), Third Edition, 2013; and
- '*An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment*', Natural England, 2014; and

A.2 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

A.2.1 To determine whether or not the landscape will be able to successfully accommodate the development this LVA will:

- Establish the scope of the assessment;
- Establish the nature of the potential change anticipated through an understanding of the nature and form of the proposal. The likely impacts of the Proposed Development are described, enabling specific judgements to be made regarding landscape and visual receptor sensitivity;
- Establish the landscape baseline, in terms of its character, condition, designations and current land use;
- Established a visual baseline, considering likely public receptors;
- Establish the sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors through a balancing of judgments made regarding susceptibility and value;
- Determine the magnitude of impacts through a balancing of judgments made regarding the size / scale, duration and reversibility of the proposal;
- Assess the impacts and likely significance of the effects of the potential changes against the sensitivity of the landscape, through a balanced approach and a description of judgments made regarding sensitivity and magnitude; and
- Assess the impacts of the proposal in combination with other development, during construction, on completion and 15 years after completion.

A.2.2 **Landscape Character** - Landscape character It is defined as:

*"a **distinct**, recognisable and consistent **pattern** of elements, be it **natural** (soil, landform) and/or **human** (for example settlement and development) in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse"*.

A.2.3 Landscapes are not static, they are in a constant state of change, altering in line with management, land use and climate change. Climate change is one of the largest factors that is likely to bring about changes in landscape character. Landscape character should not be seen as the physical elements of the landscape in isolation, but the combination of those elements with perceptual, aesthetic and experiential aspects of the landscape, which makes one place different to another.

A.2.4 Landscape Character is assessed at different scales, from the national and regional, down to the county, district and site specific. Assessment of the landscape can help in:

- Understanding how and why landscapes are important;
- Promoting an appreciation of landscape issues;
- Successfully accommodating new development within the landscape; and
- Guiding and directing landscape change.

A.2.5 **Assessment of Landscape Effects** - Once the baseline information has been collected, the sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors can be determined. This is achieved through a review of the specific nature, scale and type of Proposed Development located within a Site. The potential magnitude of impact upon the landscape, the character of the landscape and upon visual receptors is established and professional judgments are then applied using the sensitivity of the receptor and magnitude of the change, to establish a clear and transparent judgment of significance. The overall professional judgment upon significance is based on the combination of each of the criteria with the rationale and justification for each judgement set out in the detailed analysis.

A.2.6 **Landscape Sensitivity -** The sensitivity of a landscape to a particular type of change, is defined in terms of the interactions between the landscape in its own right, the perceptions of that landscape, in the eyes of people who see it on a regular basis and the nature of the proposal. Landscape sensitivity is defined as relating:

> *"to the **stability of character**; the degree to which that character is **robust** enough to continue and to be able to **recuperate** from loss or damage. A landscape with a character of high sensitivity is one that, once lost, would be **difficult to restore**; a character that, if **valued**, must be afforded particular **care** and **consideration** in order for it to survive".* Bray C (2003) *Unpublished paper on a County Wide Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity.* Worcestershire County Council.

A.2.7 Landscape sensitivity can be seen as a combination of the susceptibility of the landscape to the type of proposed change, the value that is attributed to that particular landscape. It is important to understand that judgements about the potential for landscapes to accept and accommodate change can alter over time, not only in terms of people's perception to a particular landscape, but also in terms of people's attitudes towards the type and extent of that change. Sensitivity has been defined as being high, medium or low, as set out in Table A3, which provides a structure for judgement decisions which are clear and objective. The sensitivity of landscape receptors will depend on three key factors:

- The nature and extent of the change which is proposed;
- The ability of the components that combine to create a particular landscape, and which will be affected by the Proposed Development, to accommodate the nature and extent of the change; and
- The ability of the wider landscape character to accept the proposed change.

A.2.8 Landscapes are complex and are formed through a combination of elements and the interactions of those elements, often subtle and unique. There is always an element of subjectivity in assessing landscapes and no landscape will fit wholly into any one definition or criteria. Therefore, professional judgements are made and described in the assessment.

A.2.9 **Landscape Susceptibility** - The susceptibility to change is the ability of a landscape to accommodate change due to a Proposed Development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. Susceptibility can be assessed for landscape receptors such as the overall character or condition, or a particular landscape elements or feature. Landscape susceptibility will vary in response to the specific landscape that is being considered, the Proposed Development and to the nature or type of change that may occur. The criteria used to define landscape susceptibility are set out in *Table A.1*.

A.2.10 **Landscape Value** - The value (or quality) of the landscape, as a resource in its own right, can be assessed at a variety of scales and is defined as being of exceptional, high, moderate, poor or very poor value. Landscape value is described as "*the relative value that is attached to different landscapes by society*" ('Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment', Landscape Institute (LI) & Institute of Environmental Management

SUSCEPTIBILITY	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER
HIGH	• The landscape receptor is a highly distinctive and cohesive landscape. • The receptor demonstrates high value characteristics or features. • The receptor is essentially intact and in a very good condition. • Demonstrates very few detracting intrusive elements. • Is likely to have a strong landscape pattern and or texture. • The landscape receptor has a limited capacity to accommodate the type of change or Proposed Development without significantly effecting its overall integrity.
MEDIUM	• The landscape receptor is distinctive. • The receptor demonstrates common landscape characteristics. • Is in very reasonable condition with some detracting or visually intrusive elements. • Is likely to have a landscape pattern which is mostly intact. • The landscape receptor has some capacity to accommodate the type of change or Proposed Development without effecting its overall integrity.
LOW	• The landscape receptor is likely to be simple, possibly with a mixed character and or monotonous with indistinct features. • Landscape which is generally limited in value. • Landscape receptor lacking coherence and includes detracting or visually intrusive elements, with landscape features which may be in poor or improving condition and few which could not be replaced. • Illustrates areas of significant alteration, degradation or the erosion of landscape features. • Has a minimal variation in landscape pattern. • Is robust and has a greater capacity to accommodate the Proposed Development without effecting its overall integrity.

Table A.1: The General Criteria for Defining Landscape Susceptibility.

VALUE	TYPICAL EXAMPLE
HIGH Importance (or Quality) and Rarity. No or extremely limited potential for substitution	• Designated landscapes (but not limited to) such as World Heritage Site, National Park or AONB. • Landscape condition is good, maintained to a high standard and largely intact. • The elements which combine to create the landscape are rare or distinctive and features are a key component that contribute to the character of the area. • The landscape has an elevated level of scenic quality and tranquillity. • Extensive opportunities are available and valued for recreation.
MEDIUM Importance (or Quality) and Rarity. Limited potential for substitution	• Regional or locally designated landscapes or undesignated (value perhaps expressed through non-official publications or demonstrable use) such as green belt, conservation area or designated open space. • Reasonable landscape condition, which is relatively well maintained. • The elements which combine to create the landscape are a notable component that contribute to the character of the area. • Moderate levels of scenic quality and tranquillity. • Opportunities are available and valued for recreation.
LOW Importance (or Quality) and Rarity. Potential for substitution	• No formal landscape designations, the landscape may be locally relevant and valued. • Areas identified as having some redeeming feature or features and possibly identified for improvement. • Landscape condition is poor and poorly maintained. • The elements which combine to create the landscape are not a notable component that contributes to the character of the area. • Limited levels of scenic quality and tranquillity. • Few or no opportunities are available and valued for recreation.

Table A.2: The General Criteria for Defining Landscape Value

and Awareness (IEMA), Third Edition, 2013) (GLVIA3). The criteria used to define landscape value are set out in *Table A.2*.

A.2.11 **Defining Overall landscape Sensitivity** - By combining the susceptibility of a landscape receptor to change together with landscape value, an overall assessment of the landscape receptor's sensitivity can be demonstrated. For example, a combination of 'high' landscape susceptibility and 'high' landscape value is likely to demonstrate the highest landscape sensitivity, whereas a 'low' landscape susceptibility and a 'low' landscape value is likely to demonstrate the lowest level of landscape sensitivity. *Table A.3* identifies how susceptibility and value of view can be combined to demonstrate the sensitivity of a landscape receptor.

	HIGH SUSCEPTIBILITY	MEDIUM SUSCEPTIBILITY	LOW SUSCEPTIBILITY
HIGH VALUE	High Sensitivity	High Sensitivity	Medium Sensitivity
MEDIUM VALUE	High Sensitivity	Medium Sensitivity	Low Sensitivity
LOW VALUE	Medium Sensitivity	Low Sensitivity	Low Sensitivity

Table A.3: Matrix for Establishing Landscape Sensitivity

A.2.12 Using the matrix as identified within *Table A.3*, a summary of the defining criteria relating to the different levels of sensitivity associated with a landscape receptor are illustrated in *Table A.4.*

SENSITIVITY	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER
HIGH	• Strong landscape structure. • A combination of elements that are not easily replaced or substituted, such as ancient woodland. • Strong positive character and a strong sense of place. • Good condition. • Visually distinctive and aesthetically pleasing. • Detracting features or major infrastructure is limited or not present. • Distinct features worthy of conservation. • A low capacity to accommodate the type of development proposed due to the interactions of landscape elements.
MEDIUM	• Recognisable landscape structure. • Positive character and a reasonable sense of place. • Moderate condition. • Visually notable. • Aesthetically satisfactory or uninspiring. • Detracting features or major infrastructure is present and noticeable. • Some features of worthy conservation. • A medium capacity to accommodate the type of development proposed due to the interactions of landscape elements.
LOW	• Weak or degraded landscape structure. • Weak or negative character. • A combination of elements that are easily replaced or substituted, such as brownfield sites. • Poor condition and sense of place. • Visually notable. • Aesthetically unsatisfactory or unpleasant with few or no features of worthy conservation. • Scope for positive enhancement. • A high capacity to accommodate the type of development proposed due to the interactions of landscape elements.

Table A.4: The General Criteria for Establishing Landscape Sensitivity.

A.2.13 **Magnitude of Landscape Effects** - Each effect on landscape receptors is assessed in relation to the size or scale, the geographical extent of the likely change and the duration and the reversibility. The magnitude of landscape effects has been assessed in accordance with the criteria set out in *Table A.5.*

MAGNITUDE	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER
VERY HIGH	• The size and scale of change is considered very large due to the extent and proportion of loss of existing landscape elements or the degree of alteration to aesthetic or perceptual aspects. • The nature and scale of change to key characteristics which are critical to character are considered to be very large. • Where the geographical extent would have a very substantial influence on the landscape at a scale across several landscape character areas/types. • Duration of impacts would be considered very long term and where the potential reversal of the impact is not likely and in practical terms would be very difficult to achieve.
HIGH	• The size and scale of change will result in a high degree of loss or major alteration to one or more key elements, features or characteristics of the landscape character. • Introduction of elements considered to be uncharacteristic when set within the attributes of the receiving landscape. • Where the geographical extent would have a substantial influence on the landscape at a scale across several landscape character areas/types. • Duration of impacts would be considered long term and where the potential reversal of the impact is not likely and in practical terms would be very difficult to achieve.
MEDIUM	• The size and scale of change will result in a partial loss or alteration to one or more key elements or features or characteristics of the landscape character. • Introduction of elements that may be prominent but not necessarily be considered to be substantially uncharacteristic when set within the attributes of the receiving landscape. • Where the geographical extent would influence the landscape at a local scale. • Duration of impacts would be considered midterm and where the potential reversal of the impact is likely and in practical terms would be difficult to achieve.
LOW	• The size and scale of change will result in a minor loss or alteration to one or more key elements or features or characteristics of the landscape character. • Introduction of elements may not be uncharacteristic when set within the attributes of the receiving landscape. • Where the geographical extent would influence the landscape in the immediate setting of the site. • Duration of impacts would be considered short term and where the potential reversal of the impact is more likely and in practical terms would easily be achieved
NEGLIGIBLE	• The size and scale of change will result in a very minor loss or alteration to one or more key elements or features or characteristics of the landscape character. • Introduction of elements are not uncharacteristic with the surrounding landscape. • Where the geographical extent would substantially influence the landscape of the site only. • Duration of impacts would be considered very short term and where the potential reversal of the impact is very likely or committed and in practical terms would very easily be achieved

Table A.5: The Criteria Used to Define Magnitude of Landscape Effects

A.2.14 **Judging the Overall Significance of Landscape Effects** - In drawing a final conclusion regarding the significance, the judgements about landscape susceptibility and the magnitude of landscape effects are combined to determine a final judgement to be made about how significant the effect of the Proposed Development upon the specific location will be.

A.2.15 **Assessment of Visual Effects** - Visual receptors include a particular person or groups of people likely to be affected at a specific viewpoint or series of viewpoints.

> "*An assessment of visual effects deals with the effects of change on views available to people and their visual amenity. The concern here is with assessing how the surroundings of individuals or groups of people may be specifically affected by changes in the content and character of views as a result of the change or loss of existing elements of the landscape and/or introduction of new elements*." ('Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment', Landscape Institute (LI) & Institute of Environmental Management and Awareness (IEMA), Third Edition, 2013) (GLVIA3).

A.2.16 **Visual Sensitivity** - The sensitivity of visual receptors is determined through balancing judgements on the value attached to a particular view against the receptors susceptibility to change in a view or visual amenity and depends on three key factors:

- The receptor's activity whilst exposed to the view (work, recreational activities, resident);
- Degree of exposure to view; and
- Period of exposure to view.
-

The criteria used to define visual susceptibility are set out in *Table A.9.*

A.2.17 **Visual Susceptibility** - The susceptibility of a visual receptor is dependant on the following:

- Their susceptibility to changes in the view and visual amenity;
- Their perceived value attached to the view;
- It's relationship to an activity they are engaged in; and
- The extent to which their attention is focussed on the views and visual amenity at that location.

A.2.18 As such those visual receptors most sensitive to change are likely to include people engaged in outdoor activities where an appreciation of the landscape is the focus or residents in areas where the landscape setting contributes to the setting of the properties. Conversely, those considered least sensitive to change include (but are not restricted to) people engaged in outdoor sports or recreation where there is no focus on the surrounding landscape / views and people at their place of work where their focus is on their work activity. The criteria used to define visual susceptibility are set out in *Table A.6*.

A.2.19 **Value of the View** - In assessing the value of a view, consideration should be made of the following:

- Recognition attached to the value of a particular view experienced by a visual receptor, e.g. in relation to heritage assets or planning designations; and
- Indicators of the value attached to views by others, e.g., in guidebooks, defined viewpoints tourist maps, literary references, art work etc.

A.2.20 An assessment will be made on the value of a view experienced by a receptor and will be informed by the following defining criteria as illustrated in *Table A.7.*

A.2.21 **Defining Overall Visual Sensitivity** - By combining the susceptibility of a landscape receptor to change together with landscape value, an overall assessment of the landscape receptor's sensitivity can be demonstrated. For example, a combination of 'high' landscape susceptibility and 'high' landscape value is likely to demonstrate

SUSCEPTIBILITY	VISUAL DESCRIPTION
HIGH	• Residents at home with primary views from ground floor, garden and upper floors. • Users of public rights of way and footpaths (either strategic or popular routes) where people are engaged in outdoor recreation and whose attention/interest is likely to be focused on the landscape or particular views. • Visitors to heritage assets or 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. • Travellers on recognised scenic routes.
MEDIUM	• Residents with secondary views, primarily from first floor level; Travellers on road, rail, or other transport routes where landscape is a focus of the view. • Users of local, and less used Public Rights of Way or where the attention is not focused on the landscape. • Schools and other institutional buildings and their outdoor areas. • Play areas.
LOW	• Users of outdoor sport/recreation facilities which does not involve / depend upon appreciation of views of the landscape. • Travellers on road, rail or other transport routes not focused on the landscape / particular views e.g. on motorways and “A” road or commuter routes. • People at their place of work whose attention may be focused on their work / activity and not their surroundings.

Table A.6: The General Criteria for Defining Visual Susceptibility.

VALUE	TYPICAL EXAMPLE
HIGH Importance (or Quality) and Rarity. No or extremely limited potential for substitution	• Designated landscapes (but not limited to) such as World Heritage Site, National Park or AONB. • Landscape condition is good, maintained to a high standard and largely intact. • The elements which combine to create the landscape are rare or distinctive and features are a key component that contribute to the character of the area. • The landscape has an elevated level of scenic quality and tranquillity. • Extensive opportunities are available and valued for recreation.
MEDIUM Importance (or Quality) and Rarity. Limited potential for substitution	• Regional or locally designated landscapes or undesignated (value perhaps expressed through non-official publications or demonstrable use) such as green belt, conservation area or designated open space. • Reasonable landscape condition, which is relatively well maintained. • The elements which combine to create the landscape are a notable component that contribute to the character of the area. • Moderate levels of scenic quality and tranquillity. • Opportunities are available and valued for recreation.
LOW Importance (or Quality) and Rarity. Potential for substitution	• No formal landscape designations, the landscape may be locally relevant and valued. • Areas identified as having some redeeming feature or features and possibly identified for improvement. • Landscape condition is poor and poorly maintained. • The elements which combine to create the landscape are not a notable component that contributes to the character of the area. • Limited levels of scenic quality and tranquillity. • Few or no opportunities are available and valued for recreation.

Table A.7: The General Criteria for Defining Landscape Value

the highest landscape sensitivity, whereas a 'low' landscape susceptibility and a 'low' landscape value is likely to demonstrate the lowest level of landscape sensitivity. *Table A.8* identifies how susceptibility and value of view can be combined to demonstrate the sensitivity of a visual receptor.

	HIGH SUSCEPTIBILITY	MEDIUM SUSCEPTIBILITY	LOW SUSCEPTIBILITY
HIGH VALUE	High Sensitivity	High Sensitivity	Medium Sensitivity
MEDIUM VALUE	High Sensitivity	Medium Sensitivity	Low Sensitivity
LOW VALUE	Medium Sensitivity	Low Sensitivity	Low Sensitivity

Table A.8: Matrix for Establishing Visual Sensitivity

A.2.22 Using the matrix as identified within *Table A.8*, a summary of the defining criteria relating to the different levels of sensitivity associated with a landscape receptor are illustrated in *Table A.9*.

SENSITIVITY	VISUAL RECEPTORS
HIGH	• Designated or protected views or views from publicly accessible locations in protected or designated landscapes. • Residential properties with predominantly open views from windows, garden or curtilage. Views will normally be from principal living rooms and from windows of rooms in use during the day. • Users of Public Rights of Way with predominantly open views and of recreational use. • Tourists and visitors to heritage assets, or other attractions, where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience and visit. • Non-motorised users of minor or unclassified roads in the countryside. • Visitors to recognised viewpoints or beauty spots. • Users of outdoor recreational facilities with predominantly open views where the purpose of that recreation is enjoyment of the countryside - e.g. Country Parks, National Trust sites etc.
MEDIUM	• Residential properties with views from windows, garden or curtilage. Views from ground floor windows will be oblique or partially obscured by garden and/or other intervening vegetation. • Users of Public Rights of Way with restricted views, in less sensitive areas or where there are significant existing intrusive features. • Schools, hotels and institutional buildings, and their outdoor areas. • People at work or in educational institutions, where visual amenity is an important contributor to the setting and quality of working life. • Motorised users of minor or unclassified roads in the countryside. Where attention is focussed upon often narrow and winding routes.
LOW	• People in their place of work where the visual setting is not important to the quality of working life. • Users of main roads or passengers on public transport on main routes. • Users of engaged in formal and informal sporting activities at outdoor recreational facilities, with restricted views and where the activity is focussed within the area. • Occupants of industrial premises. • Views from publicly accessible locations in degraded landscapes

Table A.9: The General Criteria for Establishing Visual Sensitivity.

A.2.23 **Magnitude of Visual Impacts** - The magnitude of visual impact is defined as the 'combination of the scale, extent and duration' of the Proposed Development and its impact upon visual receptors. For visual impact this relates to:

- The geographical degree of change to existing views;
- Distance of the receptor from the application site; and
- Whether the impact is permanent or temporary.

A.2.24 The criteria for assessing the magnitude of visual impact is set out in *Table A.10.*

MAGNITUDE	VISUAL AMENITY
HIGH	• The size and scale of change is considered substantial, due to the extent of change, the addition or alteration of features, the changes to the composition of the view, including the proportion of the view occupied by the proposal, the degree of contrast and the nature of the experience. • Where the proposals become the only dominant feature in the scene or would form a significant and immediately apparent element which would affect the overall impression of the view. • The duration of likely impacts is considered to be long term and where the potential reversal of the impact is not likely. • Alteration of the view in close proximity. • The geographical extent in relation to the angle, distance and proportion of visibility is considered as extensive.
MEDIUM	• The size and scale of change is considered fair, due to the extent of change, the addition or alteration of features, the changes to the composition of the view, including the proportion of the view occupied by the proposal, the degree of contrast and the nature of the experience. • Where the proposals form a visible and recognisable new feature in the scene but may not be immediately apparent or become a dominant feature in the view. • The duration of likely impacts is considered to be medium term and where the potential reversal of the impact is likely.
LOW	• The size and scale of change is considered small, due to the extent of change, the addition or alteration of features, the changes to the composition of the view, including the proportion of the view occupied by the proposal, the degree of contrast and the nature of the experience. • Where the proposals constitute only a minor component of the wider view and may not be immediately apparent to the casual observer. Awareness of the proposals would not have a marked effect on the overall quality of the scene. • The duration of likely impacts is considered to be short term and where the potential reversal of the impact is easily achieved. • The geographical extent in relation to the angle, distance and proportion of visibility is considered as limited.
NEGLIGIBLE	• The size and scale of change is considered very small, due to the extent of change, the addition or alteration of features, the changes to the composition of the view, including the proportion of the view occupied by the proposal, the degree of contrast and the nature of the experience. • The proposals are largely indiscernible and/or they are at such a distance that they are scarcely appreciated. Consequently, they have little effect on the scene. • The duration of likely impacts is considered to be very short term and where the potential reversal of the impact is easily achieved. • The geographical extent in relation to the angle, distance and proportion of visibility is considered as very limited.
NIL	• There is no view of the proposed development in the view.

Table A.10: The Criteria Used to Define Magnitude of Landscape Effects

A.2.25 **Judging the Overall Significance of Visual Effects** - In drawing a final conclusion regarding the significance of visual effects, the judgements about visual effects and the magnitude of visual impact are combined to determine a final judgement to be made about how significant the effect of the Proposed Development upon the specific location will be.

A.2.26 For both landscape and visual effects, the final conclusion on the significance of an effect is based on the combination of sensitivity of receptor and magnitude of impact. The rationale for the overall judgement on significance is based on the combination of each of the criteria individually leading to the balance and justification of these.

A.2.27 **Significance of Effect** - Effects result from interaction between the magnitude of impact and the susceptibility of the landscape or visual receptor.

> '*A higher level of significance is generally attached to large-scale effects and effects on sensitive or high-value receptors; thus small effects on highly sensitive sites can be more important than large effects on less sensitive sites. It is therefore important that a balanced and well-reasoned judgment of these two criteria is achieved*'. (GLVIA, Landscape Institute (LI) & Institute of Environmental Management and Awareness (IEMA), Third Edition, 2013).

A.2.28 The matrix used for determining significance of effects is presented as *Table A.11.*

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	NEGLIGIBLE	NO CHANGE
HIGH	Major	Major	Moderate	Neutral	Neutral
MEDIUM	Major	Moderate	Minor	Neutral	Neutral
LOW	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Neutral	Neutral

Table A.11: Matrix for Defining Significance of Effects

A.2.29 **Nature of Effects** - The determination of the nature of an effect requires a judgment as to whether the introduction of a Proposed Development would be of benefit or detriment to the existing landscape character or view. The impact of a Proposed Development can be adverse, beneficial or neutral, as defined in *Table A.12*

	NATURE OF IMPACT
ADVERSE	The key characteristics of the existing landscape or view would be weakened by the introduction of the proposed development.
NEUTRAL	The key characteristics would neither be weakened or strengthened by the proposed development.
BENEFICIAL	The key characteristics of the existing landscape or view would be strengthened by the introduction of the proposed development.

Table A.1: The Nature of the Impact

A.2.30 **Assessment of Effects** - The effects arising from any given development has been categorised using the terms neutral, minor, moderate or major, with both moderate and major categories being considered as comprising significant effects. These effects have then been qualified according to their nature (i.e. adverse, neutral or beneficial, as set out in *Table A.13*

EFFECT SIGNIFICANCE	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	VISUAL AMENITY
MAJOR ADVERSE	The proposed scheme would result in effects that are at complete variance with the landform, scale and pattern of the landscape. It would permanently degrade, diminish or destroy the integrity of valued characteristic features, elements and/or their setting. A high quality landscape would be permanently changed and its quality diminished.	The proposals would cause a significant deterioration to an existing view.
MODERATE ADVERSE	The proposed scheme be out of scale with the landscape or at odds with the local pattern and landform and it would leave an adverse impact on the landscape to recognisable quality.	The proposals would cause a noticeable deterioration to an existing view.
MINOR ADVERSE	The proposed scheme would not entirely fit into the landform and scale of the landscape and it would have an effect on the landscape character.	The proposals would cause a barely perceptible deterioration to an existing view from a receptor.
NEUTRAL	The proposed scheme would not effect the scale, landform and pattern of the landscape and would maintain existing landscape quality.	No or negligible discernible deterioration or improvement in the existing view.
MINOR BENEFICIAL	The proposed scheme has the potential to improve the landscape character. It would fit in with the scale, landform and pattern of the landscape and enable the incorporation of the valued characteristic features.	The proposed development would cause a barely perceptible improvement in the existing view.
MODERATE BENEFICIAL	The proposed scheme would have the potential to accord with the landscape character and improve the quality of the landscape through removal of damage caused by existing land uses.	The proposed development would cause a noticeable improvement in the existing view.
MAJOR BENEFICIAL	The proposed scheme would have the potential to accord seamlessly with the landscape character and significantly improve the quality of the landscape through restoration and the removal of damage caused by existing land uses.	The proposed development would cause a significant improvement in the existing view.

Table A.13 The Effects Significance Table

A.2.31 For landscape and visual effects, interim categories of 'negligible to minor', 'minor to moderate' and 'moderate to major' are used where the judgements of an effect are determined to fit across the descriptive criteria for significance banding.

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