

feature is high due to the listed status of the Library building and its civic provision as well as the relatively rare provision of green, open space in this area. Proposed changes to this townscape feature – both the listed building and green space combined – are moderate, with the open green space retaining its existing land use through the delivery of an improved public park in this area and the listed Library building remaining a civic building, with some modification. The susceptibility of this feature is therefore assessed as medium, giving an overall sensitivity assessment of medium.

6.80 The Library building accommodates a moderate amount of change with the addition of an extension to its northern elevation which fills in an existing gap where historical buildings used to sit. The proposed extension to the Library building here ‘completes’ and strengthens this elevation and blends well with the rest of the building due to the considered application of architectural design and sensitive choice of materials (predominantly local or reclaimed stone with some metal cladding). Proposals relating to the green space in this area further enhances the open space’s connection to the Library building, with the park potentially being used as an area for outdoor art and sculpture exhibits. For these reasons, the overall level of effect is assessed as moderate and beneficial.

Zone 3

6.81 Land use in this area is predominantly that of retail / commerce, with the listed Queensgate Market and associated shopping arcades taking up the majority of the area in this zone; the distinctive design of part of the Queensgate Market also represents a building of key architectural and heritage interest. The value of this townscape feature is therefore assessed as high.

6.82 Proposals would change the use and appearance of this area in a number of ways, with the shopping arcades in the northwest demolished and replaced with a public square; the western part of the remaining Queensgate Market retained and used as a Food Hall and the eastern side of the retained Queensgate Market building forming part of the new, proposed library building which runs along the site’s eastern edge. The susceptibility of this townscape feature to these changes is high as a result, giving a sensitivity assessment of high.

6.83 Due to the extensive changes proposed in this area, including the loss of much existing built form to be replaced by public open space, and the conversion of some existing commercial built form into civic buildings, the magnitude of change is assessed as high. This results in an overall level of major effect.

6.84 The demolition of the shopping arcades in the northwest of this zone and subsequent conversion into a public square (including associated hard and soft landscaping) constitutes a positive change in terms of the relationship with surrounding built form, creating stronger connections between the Queensgate Market building to the south, the Town Hall to the west, the listed Library building to the north and the proposed library building to the east. In this sense, a new civic square is created at the heart of the site. Proposals also better highlight the distinctive architecture of the Queensgate Market by exposing this building’s distinctive ‘mushroom’ columns. Furthermore, the proposed library building sits sensitively alongside Queensgate Market, reflecting this listed building’s architectural style and materials. For these reasons, a further assessment of beneficial effect has been made.

Zone 4

6.85 This area is currently devoid of any built form and currently has no specific land use to speak of. The sensitivity of this townscape feature in this zone is therefore assessed as low as both its value and susceptibility are low. It should be noted that, until recently, a multi-storey car park sat within this area of the site.

6.86 Due to the fact that proposals would constitute the transformation of an empty demolition site into a multi-storey venue building with car parking levels below, the magnitude of change is assessed to be very high. This results in an overall moderate level of effect.

6.87 The large, existing gap in built form within this part of the site seems incongruous and represents a conspicuous tear in the urban fabric in this part of the townscape, emphasised by this zone’s proximity to the busy A62. Although the proposed venue and car park building constitutes a very high magnitude of change when compared to existing conditions, it should be noted that, until recently, a substantial multi-storey car park building was located in this area, forming a strong edge to the north of the A62. Proposed built form would mend the void in built form in this area and reflects previous built form here in terms of scale and, to some extent, use. Furthermore, the proposed venue building and car park is of high-quality design with material choices which reflect surrounding built form and a layout which respects the listed Queensgate Market to the north. For these reasons, a further assessment of beneficial effect has been made.

Vegetation

Zone 1

6.88 Vegetation in this zone is limited and comprises seven trees which stand to the east of the Murrabyfield Phase 4 building within a narrow area of mown grass. These trees are of varying quality, with most of them being rated as Category C. The value of existing vegetation in this zone is assessed as medium, and its susceptibility to proposed changes is assessed as high due to the complete removal of most of these trees, with an overall sensitivity rating of medium.

6.89 Proposals will result in the removal of most of these existing trees but also constitute the extensive implementation of a wide range of soft landscaping (including tree, shrub and ornamental planting) across the new public park which is set to replace all built form within this zone. This considerable increase in vegetation in this zone constitutes a very high magnitude of change compared to existing conditions, due to the fact that a sizable area of existing, dense built form is being replaced by a large amount of soft landscaping.

6.90 The overall level of effect is therefore major / moderate with a firm anticipation of beneficial effect due to the considerable increase in soft landscaping and vegetation in this part of the site.

Zone 2

6.91 Vegetation in this area comprises groups of trees to the north, west and east of the Huddersfield Library building as well as a row of trees set within a mown lawn to the east. All trees in this area are rated from Category C to Category U (most rated as Category C) with their value therefore assessed as medium.

6.92 The susceptibility of change of existing vegetation in this area is assessed as medium, due to the fact that a number of existing trees to the west of the Library building will be retained. The sensitivity level is therefore assessed as medium.

6.93 The magnitude of change of vegetation in this zone is also assessed as medium, with a greater number of trees proposed than those which are to be removed and a further range of soft landscaping interventions proposed in this area. The overall level of effect is therefore assessed as moderate, with the additional soft landscaping proposed in this area resulting in a further beneficial effect.

Zone 3

6.94 Within zone 3, vegetation is limited to tree planting and a

stretch of mown grass which extends along Queensgate Market's eastern boundary with the A62. In this area stand eleven trees which range in quality from category B to category C, with the majority of these trees rated as Category C. The value of this vegetation is therefore assessed as medium with a susceptibility to change assessed as medium due to the fact that a portion of this vegetation is to be retained. Sensitivity of this receptor is therefore assessed as medium.

- 6.95 Proposals include the removal of some of this existing vegetation as well as the addition of tree planting and soft landscaping to the west of this zone along Peel Street as well as to the north of Zone 3 adjacent with Zone 2. These interventions constitute a medium magnitude of change to vegetation in this zone, resulting in an overall moderate level of effect. A further judgement of beneficial has been made due to the fact that proposals improve upon the existing quality and quantity of vegetation in this area.

Zone 4

- 6.96 Within Zone 4, there is very little existing vegetation apart from a single, category C tree which stands on the western boundary of this zone. Due to its sparsity and quality, the value of the vegetation in this zone is low, and its susceptibility to change is medium, due to the fact that proposals are in character with existing periphery tree planting but do increase the number of trees in this zone quite substantially. An overall sensitivity level of medium is given, therefore.
- 6.97 Proposals include the removal of this single tree and the planting of ten additional trees around the periphery of this area, giving rise to a medium magnitude of change to vegetation in this zone. The overall level of effect is assessed as moderate and also beneficial, due to the moderate gain in tree planting in this zone.
- 6.98 Overall, at time of writing (26.09.22), proposals include the removal of c.29 trees, the retention of c.9 trees and the planting of c.134 trees overall.

Townscape Character

Zone 1

- 6.99 Townscape character within this part of the site is defined by built form comprising Phases 3 and 4 of the Murrayfield Development. The value of this townscape feature is low, due to the generally poor condition and dated style of the buildings as well as their generally poor relationship to surrounding historical built form and townscape character.

The susceptibility to change of existing townscape character is high due to the dramatic changes to height, scale, massing; style; legibility and public realm associated with the proposals. The sensitivity of this townscape feature is therefore medium.

- 6.100 Minor existing elements that are referenced in the proposals include the location of the proposed gallery building which sits on the western edge of Queen Street, covering part of the Phase 4 building footprint, and the avenues of trees within the proposed park which create some sense of street enclosure along Victoria Lane and Queen Street following the removal of built form here. The magnitude of change to this townscape feature is very high, however, due to proposals constituting an almost complete change in townscape character overall in this zone. The overall level of effect is major / moderate, therefore.
- 6.101 The removal of a built-form edge along Victoria Lane, King Street and Queen Street is not necessarily in keeping with historical urban grain and the addition of a stronger edge at the intersection of King Street and Queen Street in particular may be more characteristic of urban grain in this area. However, proposals also result in a number of positive effects for townscape character in this zone including strengthening the legibility of – and visual relationship between – notable historical buildings through the removal of the large Phase 4 building and delivering greater connectivity across this zone from east to west, in reference to former historical routes that existing built form replaced. The material choices associated with the proposed gallery building within this zone are sensitive and responsive to surrounding historical built form, and the scale of this proposed gallery building is appropriate and does not dominate the streetscape. Furthermore, proposed public realm design and materials are high quality and appropriate for this location, contributing to the overall positive impact of proposals. For these reasons, a further assessment of beneficial effect has been made.

Zone 2

- 6.102 Townscape character within this part of the site is largely defined by the Huddersfield Library building. The value of this townscape feature is high, predominantly due to the presence of the listed, distinctive Library building and its immediate setting within open green space. Proposals are relatively moderate in this zone; they primarily comprise the extension of the Library building on its northern elevation as well as the retention and improvement of the surrounding green space. The susceptibility of the character in this area to change is assessed as medium, therefore, due to the fact that proposals do not constitute a major change in townscape character. The

overall sensitivity is assessed as medium, on balance, with no dramatic changes proposed to height, scale and legibility in this area.

- 6.103 Proposals retain much of the existing townscape character in this zone, with the most noticeable change being the extension to the listed Library building. This extension is sensitive in design and material choice in relation to the Library building and is also situated in a location upon which built form used to exist – in this way, the extension references historical urban grain and townscape character in this area. Furthermore, the original design of the Library building accounted for the potential of an extension to the rear, therefore proposals are not out of step with this building's original design ambitions.
- 6.104 Improvements to the surrounding space strengthen and enhance this area as a feature of high-quality publicly accessible green space; this is done in a way which better relates to the style and purpose of the Library building, with improvements made to the material choices and design quality of the public realm. The magnitude of change for this townscape receptor is assessed as medium, with an overall level of effect assessed as moderate. A further assessment of beneficial effect has been made due to the improvement in quality of the public open space in particular and its improved relationship to the Library building, which enhances the townscape character within this zone.
- 6.105 In this area, the removal of the Phase 3 and Phase 4 development opens up positive views towards St. Peter's Church along Victoria Lane and the view of the spire of St. Paul's Hall, which are key townscape legibility features in this area. The removal of the shopping arcades to the south also improves the visual connection to the northeastern corner of the Town Hall.

Zone 3

- 6.106 Townscape character within this part of the site is largely defined by the Queensgate Market building and the adjacent shopping arcades in the north-western corner of this zone. The value of this townscape feature is high due to the listed status of the distinctive Queensgate Market. Proposals in this zone comprise quite substantial changes, including the removal of the shopping arcades to the northwest, creation of a public square and modification of part of the Market to accommodate a new library building along the site's eastern edge in this zone. These changes comprise considerable alterations to existing height, scale and massing, style and distinctiveness and legibility, resulting in this townscape feature's high susceptibility as well as a high magnitude of

change to the character of this zone. This results in an overall major level of effect.

- 6.107 The demolition of the shopping arcades to the northwest changes the density, massing and height of built form within this zone, while the new, elevated storey on the east side of the proposed library building slightly alters the height of built form. Style and distinctiveness is altered partly through the renewed emphasis on the retained Queensgate Market building's mushroom columns, which will become exposed and prominent along the western and northern edges, following the removal of the shopping arcades to the northwest. These exposed columns are further complemented by the sensitive design and material choices associated with the proposed public square and the western elevation of the proposed library building, all of which enhance the setting of Queensgate Market as well as that of the listed Library building and Town Hall.
- 6.108 Townscape legibility is improved as a result of proposals in this zone, with views to historical assets such as St. Paul's Hall, the Queensgate Market, the Town hall and the listed Library greatly enhanced. The creation of a high-quality, sizable public square in this location greatly strengthens the relationships between the surrounding civic buildings, creating a new civic square which confers definitively positive townscape character to this area. The improvement of public realm design and associated materials in this zone also constitutes a definitive improvement to townscape character. For these reasons, a further assessment of beneficial effect has been made.

Zone 4

- 6.109 Distinguishable townscape character within this zone of the site is largely absent at this point following the demolition of the former multi-storey car park. For this reason, both the value and susceptibility of townscape character in this zone is low, resulting in a low sensitivity.
- 6.110 Proposals constitute the replacement of an empty site with a multi-storey venue and car park building which almost entirely covers this zone. Proposals would result in a high level of change in terms of height, scale and massing; style and distinctiveness; legibility and public realm, leading to a very high magnitude of change and an overall moderate level of effect. It should be noted that, before demolition, the former four-storey car park's footprint took up the majority of this site area, with some scattered tree planting around the periphery of the site. Proposals therefore constitute a notable change against the existing condition of this zone, but are largely in

line with the previous townscape character / use of this area.

- 6.111 The design of the proposed venue and car park building enhances the townscape character of this zone when compared to this area both pre- and post-demolition. The post-demolition void left in this area is conspicuous and not characteristic of this urban, town-centre setting, and the former car park building did not complement surrounding built form nor townscape character.
- 6.112 The proposed building, however, is sensitive to the character of nearby built form in terms of its layout, massing and material choice. The massing of the proposed building is stepped back on the eastern edge, thus lessening the impact on the nearby Queensgate Market's eastern frontage and distinctive roof features. Material choice for the proposed building reflects other proposed built form within the site, with an emphasis on natural local stone, metal and glass which form the principal cladding elements. The mending of this void in the urban fabric here also constitutes the improvement and restoration of townscape character in this part of the site, with the proposed building providing an attractive and strong edge to the A62 and improving the relationship between townscape legibility features in this area. Public realm is also improved through the deliberate creation of high-quality break-out and gathering spaces - as well as improved access routes - accompanied by high-quality design and appropriate material specification. For all of these reasons, a further assessment of beneficial effect has been made.

Huddersfield Town Centre Conservation Area

- 6.113 Townscape character immediately to the north, east and west of the site is largely defined by the grid work of stone Victorian and Georgian buildings which form part of the Huddersfield Town Centre Conservation Area. The value of this townscape feature is high due to its status as a conservation area. Indirect effects on this townscape character are unavoidable as a result of the assessed proposals. However, when considered across the site area as a whole, interventions are designed in such a way as to be sensitive to the character and setting of the surrounding conservation area's townscape character.
- 6.114 Indirect effects associated with height, scale and massing as a result of proposals across the site are varied. In the northern part of the site, the removal of built form across much of this area is not necessarily in keeping with historical urban grain within the wider conservation area. However, further south, the height, scale and massing of both retained and proposed buildings are more complementary to the character of the surrounding

conservation area and serve to highlight the setting of (and connection to) a number of key listed buildings, including - but not limited to - St. Paul's Hall, the Lawrence Batley Theatre and the Town Hall. The scale of proposed buildings is not out of proportion with historical buildings within the surrounding conservation area, these mainly being of two to three storeys. The relatively diminutive scale of the proposed buildings helps to emphasise the grandeur of notable, surrounding historical built form.

- 6.115 The use of carefully-chosen materials and the responsive architectural styles associated with proposed buildings across the site mitigate the potential of any negative impacts on surrounding townscape character, with proposed buildings in all cases relating more positively to surrounding, historical built form than does existing built form on-site.
- 6.116 The proposed patterns of the specification and removal of built form throughout the site are responsive to surrounding townscape character associated with the conservation area, with existing, key legibility features within the surrounding townscape - such as St. Peter's Church, St. Paul's Hall and the Lawrence Batley Theatre - enhanced as a result of the proposals. Alterations to built form throughout the site also re-establish historical routes through the site, restoring the previous strong connections between the conservation area to the west and the east of the site.
- 6.117 Proposed areas of public realm within and around the site also enable a more fluent stylistic and spatial connection between the site itself and the surrounding conservation area. Due to these careful considerations, the susceptibility of the conservation area's townscape character to proposed changes is assessed as medium.
- 6.118 Due to the extent of the proposals and the fact that the site abuts the conservation area on its western, northern and eastern edges, the magnitude of change on this particular part of the conservation area's character is high. This leads to an overall moderate level of effect, with a further assessment of beneficial effect due to the superior quality and sensitivity of proposed built form in relation to surrounding townscape character.

A62 south and east of site

- 6.119 Townscape character to the south and east of the site is largely defined by the busy A62 and associated traffic and road infrastructure. In contrast to the historical, tranquil character of the conservation area to the north, east and west of the site, much of the area surrounding the A62 (particularly to the

west and south of the site) conveys a rather unremarkable, urban-edge, industrial character. The value of this townscape character is therefore assessed as low and its susceptibility to change is also assessed as low, with an overall sensitivity level of low.

6.120 The A62 in proximity to the site comprises a mixed profile of density, scale and massing of built form, ranging from empty parking lots in the west and south to large, distinctive, contemporary buildings associated with the University of Huddersfield to the east.

6.121 Due to the location of the A62 in relation to the site, only the height, scale and massing of proposals related to Zones 3 and 4 are of particular relevance here. Much of the scale, height and massing of Zone 3 proposals are retained as-is, with the eastern elevation of the listed Queensgate Market retained and enhanced. The height of built form in this area is altered by the elevated, proposed 'lantern' structure as part of the new library building which rises approximately two storeys above the main Queensgate elevation, framing the proposed, wide steps to the north and reflecting the scale and design of the proposed gallery building to the north. Massing is reduced in this area somewhat due to the opening up of built form to accommodate the wide steps between the library building and the gallery building.

6.122 In Zone 4, proposed height, scale and massing constitutes a notable change in comparison to the existing empty lot, with the upper parts of the proposed venue building constituting three storeys plus a roof level and parking provision provided by three levels below that, with visibility of these levels variable depending on level changes across this area. This proposed building almost entirely covers the area in this zone; however, open spaces around this building are protected and enhanced, providing substantial areas of public access and public open space between built form in this area. Notably, this represents a reduced density of built form in comparison to where the former multi-storey car park building sat in relation to the Queensgate Market, with a strong, open access route proposed to the north of the venue building. It should also be noted that the massing of the proposed building is stepped back on its eastern edge in order to better relate to the Queensgate Market building. Overall, the proposals in both Zone 3 and Zone 4 are appropriate in terms of height, scale and massing in relation to existing built form along the A62; the medium scale of the proposed buildings act as a harmonious moderator between low and high density built form in this area, mend an uncharacteristic void in the urban fabric and help to bridge the gap between large- and small-scale built form along the A62.

6.123 The style of proposed built form in Zones 3 and 4 is sensitive, responsive and appropriate and elevates the setting of all surrounding built form in proximity to the A62 – regardless of value – while especially relating well to the higher value, historical and contemporary buildings in this area (including those contemporary buildings within the University of Huddersfield campus to the east). The unified material palette (natural stone, glazing, contemporary cladding) associated with the proposals helps to harmonise the otherwise mixed material palette of existing buildings along the A62.

6.124 The sensitive design, scale and placement of proposed buildings enhance the setting of key townscape legibility elements along the A62 – such as St. Paul's Hall and the Queensgate Market roof – in ways which existing built form does not due to awkward placement, incongruous material choices and distracting, insensitive design. Proposed built form complements, but does not overpower nor compete with, key legibility features; the proposed lantern of the new library building mirrors but does not overpower the key vertical element of St. Paul's Hall spire, for example.

6.125 Existing, high-quality public realm along the A62 – primarily associated with the entrance to the University of Huddersfield – is enhanced and continued as the A62 moves westward past the site. Site proposals associated with Zones 3 and 4 ensure that high-quality public realm design wraps around the whole southern edge of the site, ensuring an attractive and sensitive edge to the development while notably improving the streetscape along this length of the A62.

6.126 With all of the above considered, the magnitude of change to the townscape character of the A62 is assessed as medium, with an overall level of effect assessed as moderate / minor with further assessment of beneficial due to positive impacts as described above.

Townscape Receptor	Overall sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
Townscape features (site specific)			
Landform & Topography: Zone 1	Low	Medium	Moderate / Minor; beneficial
Landform & Topography: Zone 2	Low	Medium	Moderate / Minor; beneficial
Landform & Topography: Zone 3	Low	Medium	Moderate / Minor; beneficial
Landform & Topography: Zone 4	Low	Low	Minor; beneficial
Land Use & Buildings: Zone 1	Medium	Very high	Major / moderate; beneficial
Land Use & Buildings: Zone 2	Medium	Medium	Moderate; beneficial
Land Use & Buildings: Zone 3	High	High	Major; beneficial
Land Use & Buildings: Zone 4	Low	Very high	Moderate; beneficial
Vegetation: Zone 1	Medium	Very high	Major / moderate; beneficial
Vegetation: Zone 2	Medium	Medium	Moderate; beneficial
Vegetation: Zone 3	Medium	Medium	Moderate; beneficial
Vegetation: Zone 4	Medium	Medium	Moderate; beneficial
Townscape character			
Townscape Character: Zone 1	Medium	Very high	Major / moderate; beneficial
Townscape Character: Zone 2	Medium	Medium	Moderate; beneficial
Townscape Character: Zone 3	High	High	Major; beneficial
Townscape Character: Zone 4	Low	Very high	Moderate; beneficial
Townscape Character: Conservation Area	Medium	High	Moderate; beneficial
Townscape Character: A62	Low	Medium	Moderate / minor; beneficial






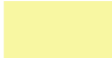
Table 1: Summary of Townscape Effects

7. VISUAL BASELINE AND EFFECTS

Zone of Theoretical Visibility

- 7.1 The Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility identifies the potential locations from which the development may be visible. The Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility (SZTV) has been produced using EA LIDAR Data combined with Digital Terrain Modelling (DTM) data to derive screening features. This method of SZTV takes account of varied heights of screening features as derived by the LiDAR surveys and is representative at the time of survey, this being 2021. Any changes to built form, vegetation or other structures after 2021 will not have been taken into account.
- 7.2 The SZTV has been run at varying heights to reflect the worst-case building heights of both the existing development and the proposed development [final building heights TBC by architect] in order to try and determine the differences in visibility between the two.
- 7.3 Note that the site boundary within the SZTV represents the site ownership boundary.

KEY

-  Site Boundary
-  2.5km Buffer
-  Feature >3m extracted from Lidar
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility**
-  Existing Development Visible Only
-  Proposed Development Visible Only
-  Both Existing and Proposed Developments Visible

EA LiDAR Screened ZTV Production Information-
 - EA LiDAR Data (Environment Agency Open Data Release) has been utilised; combining the Digital Terrain Model (DTM) and Digital Surface Model (DSM) to derive screening features.

This method of ZTV takes into account the varied heights of screening features as derived from historic LiDAR surveys, and is therefore representative of the time of survey for that area. Any changes in vegetation cover or building addition/removal will not be taken into account after this date.

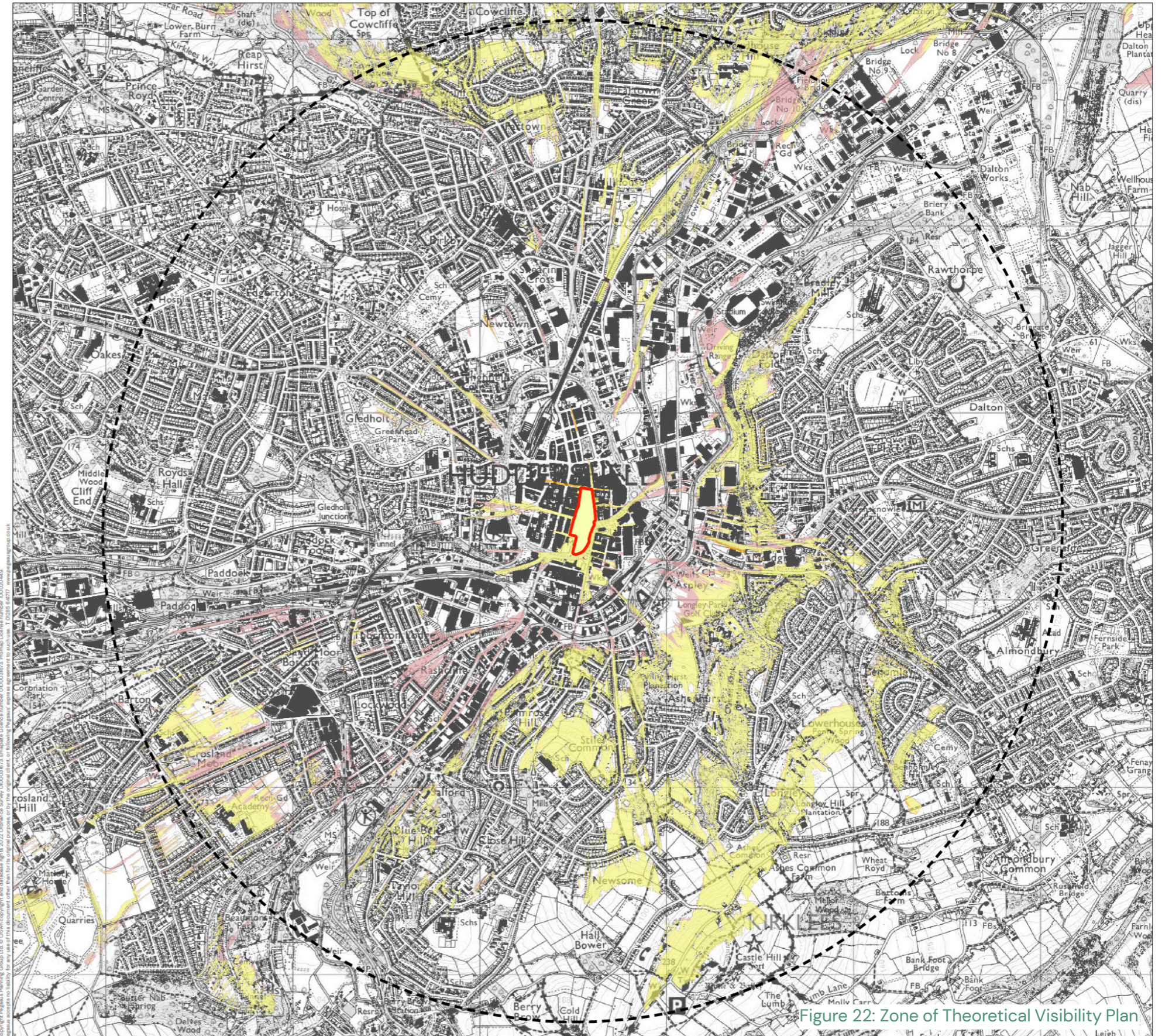
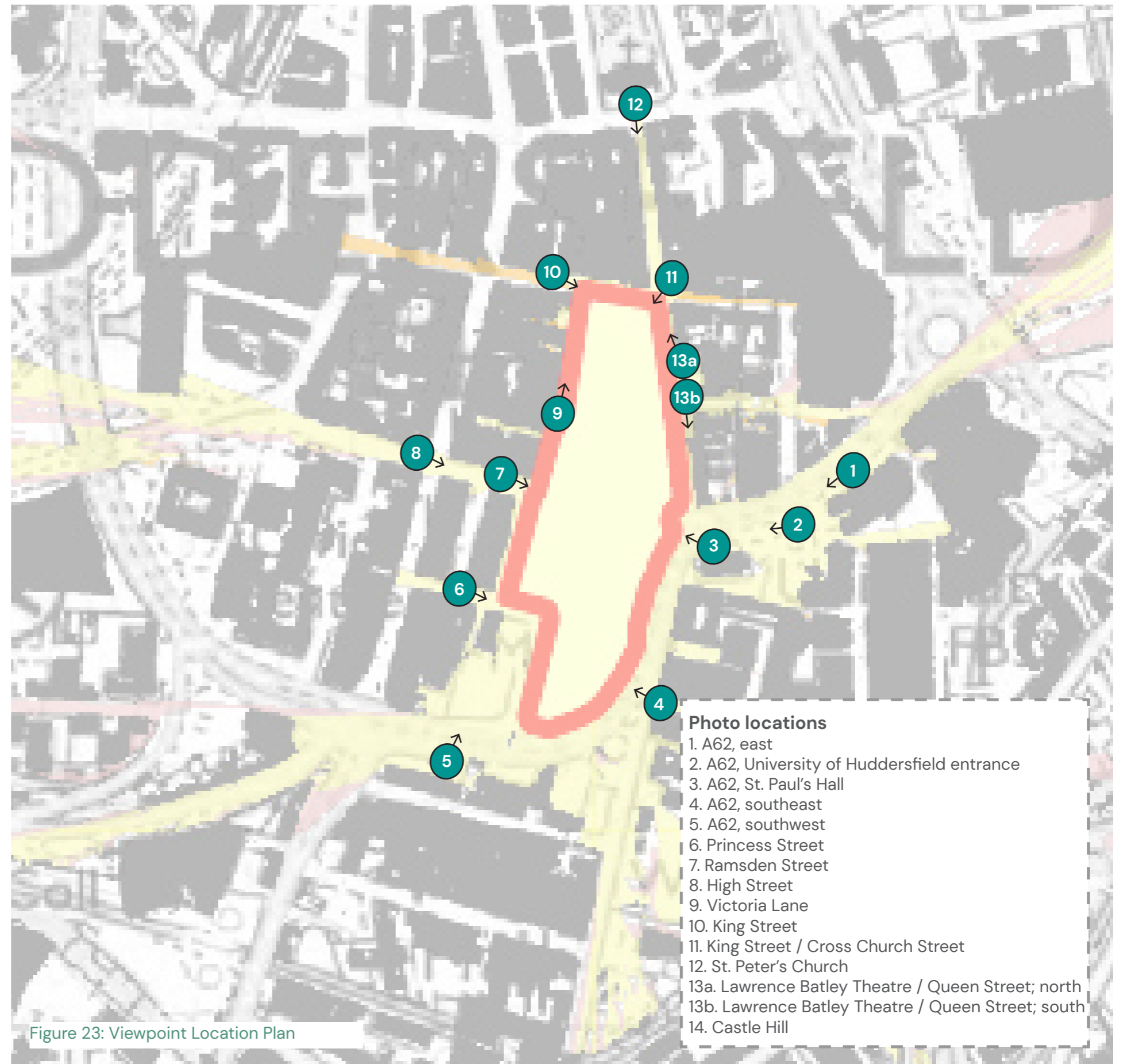


Figure 22: Zone of Theoretical Visibility Plan

Viewpoint Location Plan

- 7.4 Photography undertaken during site visits seeks to representatively illustrate the range of views that are available towards the site. Locations of photographs taken are illustrated in Figures 23 and 24. Other photographs are included within the body of the text for illustrative purposes.
- 7.5 Potential visual receptor groups have been identified for each indicated viewpoint and then assessed as a group to determine a range of visual effect levels for each viewpoint location. A summary of visual effects is included at Table 2.
- 7.6 In accordance with GLVIA3, the assessment of visual effects begins with an assessment of the sensitivity of each visual receptor in terms of their susceptibility to change in their views and the value of the existing view. An assessment is then made as to the magnitude of the change in terms of its scale or size.
- 7.7 The assessments of receptor sensitivity and magnitude of change are then combined with the duration and reversibility of the effect, to assist in determining the relative level of effect on each visual receptor. The duration and reversibility are considered to be long-term and permanent.
- 7.8 The visual effects of the proposed development on visual receptors in each viewpoint location are assessed below.
- 7.9 Effects are considered upon completion of building proposals. Across all viewpoints, it should be assumed that any views of construction work will have a greater visual effect than the final built form due to the perceivable contrast from the existing context.
- 7.10 A precautionary approach to the assessment has been adopted whereby visual effects are considered adverse (unless stated otherwise).



Visibility & Scoping Out

- 7.11 As noted in Section 3 and Section 6, the site is immediately surrounded by extensive urban built form which largely encloses the site and limits views and visibility.
- 7.12 During site visits, the principal areas of visibility in relation to assessed proposals were identified as follows:
- areas immediately surrounding the site, including adjacent streets to the north, east, south and west;
 - areas along the A62 to the south and east of the site;
 - area surrounding the Castle Hill Scheduled Monument c. 2km to the southeast.
- 7.13 The Zone of Theoretical Visibility plan indicated that there could be views of proposals from more expansive areas than those outlined above.
- 7.14 However, site visits revealed that visibility of proposals from other areas would be very unlikely due to mature vegetation; angle of view; intervening built form and distance. Therefore, no further assessment is made of these potential visual receptors.
- 7.15 Due to the dense urban context of the study area, it has been necessary to make assumptions about potential visual receptors who may have views to the proposed development. Potential receptor groups have been listed for each viewpoint, and the range of levels of effect experienced by potential visual receptors has been identified for each viewpoint.

Sensitivity

- 7.16 In the methodology, residential and recreational / leisure receptors are judged to be of high visual sensitivity. People using hotels / hospitality premises are judged to be of medium sensitivity. Users of the local minor road network are of medium sensitivity. People at work, commuters and people shopping are generally of low visual sensitivity, although this judgement is to be applied on a discretionary basis depending upon the context of the area in which these activities are taking place; i.e. shoppers within a conservation area may be thought of as having a medium sensitivity. People using larger A-roads are of low sensitivity. The general approach to sensitivity of visual receptors is set out in Appendix A.

Viewpoint 1: A62, east – indicative view



Viewpoint 1: A62, east

- 7.17 At this location in close proximity to the site, potential visual receptors include:
- users of the A62;
 - users of hospitality venues;
 - people at work & study
- 7.18 Users of the A62 would have limited views of proposals at this point, with the change in view against the baseline predominantly being the addition of the 'lantern' to the new library building which would be visible above the retained tree at the end of the street and to the left of the visible roof of the Town Hall. A new line of sight into the site area may also be possible with the demolition of some existing built form and addition of wide, terraced steps and a new access route into the site from the east. These changes to the view are slight, with proposals sitting sensitively against surrounding historical built form and leaving the view to the Town Hall roof mainly unobstructed. The opening up of views into the site as a result of the proposed steps on the eastern side of the new library building also constitutes a slight, and beneficial, change. As a result, the magnitude of change is low here. This results in an overall minor level of effect with a further assessment of beneficial effect due to the sensitivity

and quality of the proposals.

- 7.19 Nearby users of hospitality premises would experience similar views to those described in the previous paragraph with an anticipated low magnitude of change, overall moderate / minor level of effect (due to their increased sensitivity) and a further assessment of beneficial effect.
- 7.20 People at work and study within the University of Huddersfield buildings nearby (as well as other potential premises) may well have different views of proposals due to the potential of views from higher levels of surrounding medium- to large-scale buildings. Views from higher up in this location may reveal more of the proposals, including areas of high-quality public realm design within the site, as well as clearer views to historical built form behind and surrounding the site. These views may constitute a medium level of change. Due to the appropriate scale, design and materiality of proposed built form, it is anticipated that such views would also be positive and would enhance views of surrounding historical built form. For these reasons, an overall moderate / minor level of effect is anticipated, with a further assessment of beneficial effect.
- 7.21 For this viewpoint location, the sensitivity of potential visual receptor groups ranges from low to medium. The range of effect level spans minor to moderate / minor, with a further anticipation of beneficial effect conferred to all receptor groups as a result of the proposals.

Viewpoint 2: A62, University of Huddersfield entrance – indicative view



Viewpoint 2: A62, University of Huddersfield entrance

7.22 At this location, potential visual receptors include:

- users of the A62;
- users of hospitality venues;
- people at work & study

7.23 Users of the A62 would continue to have limited views of proposals at this point, with the change in view against the baseline predominantly being the addition of the 'lantern' to the new library building which would be visible above and behind the retained tree at the end of the street and would obscure more of the Town Hall building from this location. However, the new line of sight opening into the site area to the north of this new building may actually open views to the north-eastern edge of the Town Hall and nearby Ramsden Street. In any case, these changes to the view are still slight – assisted by the softening provided by retained trees – with proposals sitting sensitively against surrounding historical built form. The opening up of views into the site as a result of the proposed steps on the eastern side of the new library building also constitutes a slight, and beneficial, change. As a result, the magnitude of change is low here. This results in an

overall minor level of effect.

7.24 Nearby users of hospitality premises would experience similar views to those described in the previous paragraph with an anticipated low magnitude of change and overall moderate / minor level of effect (due to their increased sensitivity).

7.25 People at work and study within the University of Huddersfield buildings nearby (as well as other potential premises) may well have different views of proposals due to the potential of views from higher levels of surrounding medium- to large-scale buildings. Views from higher up in this location may reveal more of the proposals, including areas of high-quality public realm design within the site, as well as clearer views to historical built form behind and surrounding the site. These views may constitute a medium level of change. Due to the appropriate scale, design and materiality of proposed built form, it is anticipated that such views would also be positive and would enhance views of surrounding historical built form. For these reasons, an overall moderate / minor level of effect is anticipated, with a further assessment of beneficial effect.

7.26 For this viewpoint location, the sensitivity of potential visual receptor groups ranges from low to medium. The range of effect level spans minor to moderate / minor, with a further anticipation of beneficial effect conferred to one receptor group as a result of the proposals.

Viewpoint 3: A62, St. Paul's Hall – indicative view



Viewpoint 3: A62, St. Paul's Hall

7.27 At this location, potential visual receptors include:

- users of the A62;
- people at work;
- users of the St. Paul's Hall concert building

7.28 Users of the A62 would have clear views onto part of the development in this area, with the 'lantern' structure on the northern end of the new library building projecting above existing built form associated with Queensgate Market and the proposed venue building being visible on the left side of this viewpoint, appearing above and to the left of the retained Queensgate Market building. The removal of several of the existing trees along the eastern elevation of the Queensgate Market will reveal and emphasise the large ceramic artwork panels that face onto the A62, which are currently mainly obscured by vegetation. To the right, the proposed creation of wide, terraced steps will open up positive views into the site and the Town Hall beyond and will replace the existing service tunnel and associated built form in this area. The creation of positive areas of public open space in proximity to these steps and the Queensgate Market building will help to enhance the setting of the A62 and the eastern edge of the site in this area.

7.29 The magnitude of change for this receptor is assessed as medium; changes in built form do constitute a noticeable change in view, but much of the existing built form and street frontage is retained, with proposals complementing and enhancing existing elements in their scale and design. An overall level of effect of moderate / minor is therefore arrived at, with a further anticipation of beneficial effect due to the sensitive and responsive nature of proposals.

7.30 People at work within nearby buildings may have different views of proposals due to the potential of views from higher levels of surrounding built form. Views from higher up in this location may reveal more of the proposals, including areas of high-quality public realm design within the site, as well as clearer views to historical built form behind and surrounding the site. These views would likely constitute a medium level of change. Due to the appropriate scale, design and materiality of proposed built form, it is anticipated that such views would also be positive and would enhance views of surrounding historical built form. For these reasons, an overall moderate / minor level of effect is anticipated, with a further assessment of beneficial effect.

7.31 Users of the St. Paul's Hall concert building would have similar views to those already described for other receptors in this location, with (positive) views likely to be received at ground floor or street level. The sensitivity of this visual receptor group is considered to be high, and the magnitude of change

in their view assessed as medium and positive, resulting in an overall moderate level of effect and a further anticipation of beneficial visual effect as a result of the proposals.

7.32 For this viewpoint location, the sensitivity of potential visual receptor groups ranges from high to low. The range of effect level spans moderate / minor to moderate, with a further anticipation of beneficial effect conferred to all receptor groups as a result of the proposals.

Viewpoint 4: A62, southeast – indicative view



Viewpoint 4: A62, southeast

7.33 At this location, potential visual receptors include:

- users of the A62;
- people at work & study;
- users of the Sir Patrick Stewart Theatre (formerly Milton Congregational Church)

7.34 Users of the A62 at this location would experience a notable change in views, with the proposed venue building replacing the currently vacant plot on the northern edge of the A62 and almost covering this area of the site. Views of this proposed building would comprise its eastern elevation, (including two partial levels of the sunken multi-storey car park, and four levels of the venue building) with massing of the upper levels set back where this building sits in proximity to the Queensgate Market. Proposed materials include a combination of natural stone, glazing and sensitive contemporary cladding which helps to visually assimilate this building in the context of surrounding, high-quality built form. This frontage of the proposed venue and car park building is to be accompanied by areas of public open space and soft landscaping which face onto the A62. The proposed building will screen existing views of much of the Town Hall, and built form to the south of the Town Hall as well as most of the southern elevation of the

retained Queensgate Market. However, views of the top of the Town Hall roof may still be visible from this location. It should be noted that views of the Town Hall from this location were previously neither planned nor possible due to the historical presence of built form in this area, a precedent against which the existing void in urban fabric is incongruous. Exposed views of the southern elevation of Queensgate Market and the eastern elevations of built form to the south of the Town Hall are likewise not characteristic of the historical density of built form in this area and the loss of these views would not constitute an inordinately negative visual effect.

7.35 The magnitude of change for users of the A62 is assessed as very high, giving an overall level of effect of major / moderate, on balance. Although views to the Town Hall will be screened as a result of proposals, the mending of the urban fabric in this area with sensitive and responsive design confers beneficial visual effects overall.

7.36 People at work and study within the University of Huddersfield buildings nearby may well have different views of proposals due to the potential of views from higher levels of surrounding medium- to large-scale buildings. Views from higher up in this location may reveal more of the proposals as well as clearer views to built form behind and surrounding the site. These views would likely constitute a high magnitude of change, lessened by the increased visibility of surrounding urban context. Due to the appropriate scale, design and materiality

of proposed built form, it is anticipated that such views would also be positive when compared to existing conditions of an empty demolition site. For these reasons, an overall major / moderate level of effect is anticipated for this receptor, with a further assessment of beneficial effect.

7.37 Recreational users of the Sir Patrick Stewart Theatre would have similar views to those already described for other receptors in this location. The sensitivity of this visual receptor group is considered to be high, and the magnitude of change in their view assessed as very high, giving an overall major level of effect. As previously discussed, the mending of urban fabric in this area with sensitive and responsive design confers beneficial visual effects overall, with proposals improving upon views of the existing demolition site as well as previous views of the former multi-storey car park that used to stand on this part of the site.

7.38 For this viewpoint location, the sensitivity of potential visual receptor groups ranges from high to low. The range of effect level spans major / moderate to major, with a further anticipation of beneficial effect conferred to all receptor groups as a result of the proposals.

Viewpoint 5: A62, southwest – indicative view



Viewpoint 5: A62, southwest

7.39 At this location, potential visual receptors include:

- users of the A62;
- people at work

7.40 Users of the A62 at this location would experience a noticeable change in views, with the western and southern elevations of the proposed venue building being visible on the northern side of the A62, screening views towards the southern elevation of the Queensgate Market; lower portions of St. Paul's Hall tower and spire; Huddersfield University's Science Building and much of the Ramsden Building. These buildings connect visually with the southern elevation of the Town Hall to the west, creating a pleasant sweep across the southern edge of the Huddersfield Town Centre Conservation Area. The proposed building would truncate and screen these views of buildings to the east, which would interrupt this visual arrangement.

7.41 However, the proposed venue building is sensitive and responsive in its materiality, this being natural local stone, glazing and contemporary cladding which is designed in such a way as to reduce the perceived mass of this building. Proposed soft landscaping surrounding the venue building on its western and southern edges also helps to soften and

assimilate proposals. These design elements would reduce the visual impact of the proposed building when set against existing, historical built form. Furthermore, key townscape legibility elements such as the top of St. Paul's Hall spire, the southern edge of the Ramsden Building and the western frontage of the Sir Patrick Stewart Building would still be visible, ensuring that historical built form was still legible from this viewpoint.

7.42 The magnitude of change for users of the A62 is assessed as medium, giving an overall moderate / minor level of effect.

7.43 People at work within nearby medium- to large-scale buildings may have different views of proposals due to their elevated height. Views from higher up in this location may reveal more of the proposals as well as clearer views to built form behind and surrounding the site. These views would likewise constitute a medium magnitude of change, giving an overall moderate / minor level of effect.

7.44 For this viewpoint location, the sensitivity of potential visual receptor groups ranges is low. Effect level is considered to be moderate / minor across all receptor groups.

Viewpoint 6: Princess Street – indicative view



Viewpoint 6: Princess Street

7.45 At this location, potential visual receptors include:

- users of Princess Street;
- users of hospitality venues;
- people at work;
- users of the Huddersfield Town Hall;
- residential receptors

7.46 Users of Princess Street at this location would experience a notable change in views, with visible proposals including:

- the removal of shopping arcades, opening views to the frontage of the listed Huddersfield Library and new public square;
- the stepping back of the western frontage of the retained Queensgate Market building and restoration / enhancement / exposure of distinctive ‘mushroom’ columns;
- the planting of a strong tree avenue along the western edge of the site;
- potential views of the top of the new library building’s

‘lantern’ feature on the site’s eastern side;

- the opening of views to the south of the retained Queensgate Market, down the wide access route between the Market and the northern elevation of the proposed venue building, and
- the north-western corner of the proposed venue building.

7.47 The above alterations constitute a medium magnitude of change from this viewpoint, due to the fact that scale and location of built form is not dramatically altered from this perspective. The opening up of views towards the listed Library building; the enhancement of Queensgate Market; the addition of soft landscaping and the opening of views to the east all constitute decidedly positive visual effects, which enhance the setting of the nearby Town Hall and other nearby listed buildings. This anticipation of positive visual effects is strengthened by the sensitive and responsive nature of the design proposals. This gives rise to an overall moderate level of effect for this receptor, with a further expectation of beneficial visual effect.

7.48 Nearby users of hospitality premises would experience similar views to those described in the previous paragraphs, with their magnitude of change likewise assessed as medium and their overall level of effect assessed as moderate, with a further expectation of beneficial visual effect.

7.49 People at work would experience similar views to those previously described – depending on their elevation and angle of view – with the magnitude of change for this receptor assessed as medium, giving rise to an overall moderate / minor level of effect, with a further expectation of beneficial visual effect.

7.50 Users of the Town Hall would experience similar views to those previously described, with their magnitude of change likewise assessed as medium and their overall level of effect assessed as major / moderate due to their enhanced sensitivity and proximity to the site, with a further expectation of beneficial visual effect.

7.51 Residential receptors would experience similar views to those previously described, but their views are likely to be received from oblique angles and elevated viewpoints within higher levels of surrounding buildings. While this would likely reveal further changes across the site for this receptor group, these changes will be received within a broader urban context, with greater contextualising views possible at higher levels. For this reason, the magnitude of change for this receptor group is likewise assessed as medium giving rise to an overall moderate level of effect, with a further expectation of beneficial visual effect.

7.52 For this viewpoint location, the sensitivity of potential visual receptor groups ranges from high to low. The range of effect level spans major / moderate to moderate / minor, with a further anticipation of beneficial effect conferred to all receptor groups as a result of the proposals.

Viewpoint 7: Ramsden Street – indicative view

Approximate extent of site



Viewpoint 7: Ramsden Street

7.53 At this location, potential visual receptors include:

- users of Ramsden Street;
- users of hospitality venues;
- shoppers;
- people at work;
- users of the Huddersfield Town Hall;
- residential receptors

7.54 Users of Ramsden Street at this location would experience a notable change in views, with visible proposals including:

- the demolition of shopping arcades and the replacement of built form in this location with an open public square, associated hard and soft landscaping and water feature;
- the western elevation and ‘lantern’ feature of the new library building on the site’s eastern side;
- open views to the east along a new, wide access route to the north of the new library building;

- the exposure and restoration / enhancement of the retained Queensgate Market’s distinctive ‘mushroom’ columns on this building’s northern elevation, and

- the rationalisation of levels to the north of the new public square.

7.55 Although these proposals are likely to screen part of St. Paul’s Hall spire from this specific location, there is a strong anticipation of positive visual effect overall. The rationalisation of levels, creation of a strong visual and physical link from the west to the east of the site and the high-quality space provided by the proposed public realm will result in a pleasant, welcoming space. This new open space will enhance the setting of surrounding historical built form – including the Town Hall, the Queensgate Market and St. Paul’s Hall – creating a new, attractive ‘civic square’ at the heart of the site.

7.56 The magnitude of change arising from these proposals for this receptor is high, leading to an overall major / moderate level of effect due to the prominence and extent of townscape changes viewed from this location, along with an expectation of further beneficial visual effect.

7.57 Nearby users of hospitality premises would experience similar views to those described in the previous paragraphs with their magnitude of change likewise assessed as high and their overall level of effect assessed as major / moderate,

with a further expectation of beneficial visual effect. This assessment is also applicable to shoppers in this location.

7.58 People at work would experience similar views to those previously described – depending on their elevation and angle of view – with the magnitude of change for this receptor assessed as high, giving rise to an overall moderate level of effect, with a further expectation of beneficial visual effect.

7.59 Users of the Town Hall would experience similar views to those previously described, with their magnitude of change likewise assessed as high and their overall level of effect assessed as major due to their enhanced sensitivity and proximity to the site, with a further expectation of beneficial visual effect.

7.60 Residential receptors would experience similar views to those previously described, but their views are likely to be received from oblique angles and elevated viewpoints within higher levels of surrounding buildings. The magnitude of change for this receptor group is likewise assessed as high giving rise to an overall major level of effect, with a further expectation of beneficial visual effect.

7.61 For this viewpoint location, the sensitivity of potential visual receptor groups ranges from high to low. The range of effect level spans major to moderate, with a further anticipation of beneficial effect conferred to all receptor groups as a result of the proposals.

Viewpoint 8: High Street – indicative view



Viewpoint 8: High Street

7.62 At this location, potential visual receptors include:

- users of the High Street;
- users of hospitality venues;
- shoppers;
- people at work;
- residential receptors

7.63 Users of the High Street at this location would experience a noticeable change in views, with visible proposals including:

- the demolition of shopping arcades and the replacement of built form in this location with an open public square, associated hard and soft landscaping and water feature;
- the western elevation and 'lantern' feature of the new library building on the site's eastern side;
- open views to the east along a new, wide access route to the north of the new library building, and
- the rationalisation of levels to the north of the new public square.

7.64 From this location, the spire of St. Paul's Hall is likely to be more visible above the 'lantern' structure of the new library building. Proposals would constitute a positive change in view from this busy street, with the demolition of the shopping arcades and installation of the new public square serving to enhance the setting of surrounding historical built form – such as St. Paul's Hall and the Town Hall – while also emphasising the pleasant views over the wooded hills to the east. Sensitive and responsive choices relating to the design, scale and materiality of the new library building reinforces the anticipation of positive visual effects.

7.65 The above alterations constitute a medium magnitude of change from this viewpoint, which gives rise to an overall moderate level of effect for this receptor, with a further expectation of beneficial visual effect.

7.66 Nearby users of hospitality premises and shoppers would experience similar views to those described in the previous paragraphs, with their magnitude of change likewise assessed as medium and their overall level of effect assessed as moderate, with a further expectation of beneficial visual effect for both receptors.

7.67 People at work would experience similar views to those previously described – depending on their elevation and angle of view – with the magnitude of change for this receptor assessed as medium, giving rise to an overall moderate /

minor level of effect, with a further expectation of beneficial visual effect.

7.68 Residential receptors would experience similar views to those previously described, but their views are likely to be received from oblique angles and elevated viewpoints within higher levels of surrounding buildings. The magnitude of change for this receptor group is likewise assessed as medium giving rise to an overall moderate level of effect, with a further expectation of beneficial visual effect.

7.69 For this viewpoint location, the sensitivity of potential visual receptor groups ranges from high to low. The range of effect level spans moderate to moderate / minor, with a further anticipation of beneficial effect conferred to all receptor groups as a result of the proposals.