



Newett Homes

Stocksmoor, Kirklees

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL APPRAISAL

24 April 2024

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) has been carried out for land at Stocksmoor, Kirklees by FPCR Environment and Design Ltd (FPCR). The purpose of this LVA study is to provide an assessment of the likely landscape and visual effects of the proposed development. The landscape and visual effects have been considered in relation to the proposals detailed in the planning application and Design and Access Statement (DAS).
- 1.2 FPCR is a multi-disciplinary environmental and design consultancy established over 60 years, with expertise in architecture, landscape, ecology, arboriculture, urban design, masterplanning and environmental impact assessment. The practice is a member of the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment and is frequently called upon to provide expert evidence on landscape and visual issues at Public and Local Plan Inquiries.

Site Location

- 1.3 Figures 1 and 2 show the location and context of the site. The site comprises a single grassed field situated adjacent to the eastern edge of Stocksmoor, bordered to the west and south by residential properties and Shepley Road, to the north by the Penistone train line and east by woodland.
- 1.4 Access to the site is currently via a single agricultural field access point on Shepley Road.
- 1.5 Stocksmoor train station is immediately north of the site. The settlements of Shelley and Shepley lie approximately 1km to the east and southeast respective, connected via the A629.

Proposed Development

- 1.6 The proposal is for a residential development for 50 Dwellings with associated access, infrastructure and landscaping, which includes a LAP, SuDS and a woodland buffer. The main vehicular access is provided off Shepley Road.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

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

2.2 In summary, the GLVIA3 states:

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

2.3 There are two components of LVIA:

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

2.4 The GLVIA3 states:

"LVIA can be carried out either as part of a broader EIA, or as a standalone 'appraisal' of the likely landscape and visual effects of a proposed development..."

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

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

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

Assessment of Landscape Effects

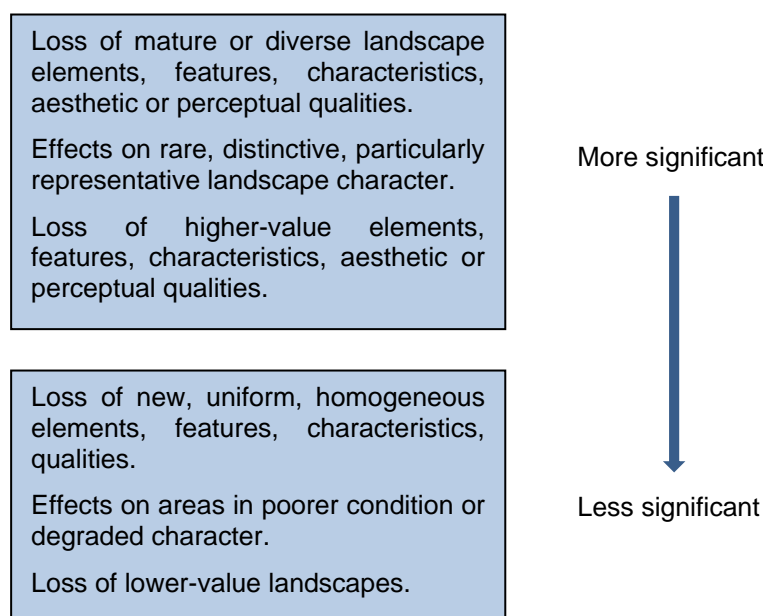
2.7 GLVIA3 states that *"An assessment of landscape effects deals with the effects of change and development on landscape as a resource"* (GLVIA3 paragraph 5.1).

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

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

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

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



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

Assessment of Visual Effects

- 2.15 An assessment of visual effects deals with the effects of change and development on the views available to people and their visual amenity. This appraisal describes the nature of the visual effects and, whether these are adverse or beneficial, at the following stages of development; construction, completion (year 1 Winter) and longer term (year 15 Summer).
- 2.16 The first stage in the assessment is to identify approximate visibility/ visibility mapping. This is done by either a computerised Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)¹, or by manual methods using map study and field evaluation. A series of viewpoints are included within the assessment that are representative of views towards the site from surrounding visual receptors. Other views of the site are included where it supports the description and understanding of the site's landscape and visual characteristics.
- 2.17 The views also typically represent what can be seen from a variety of distances from the development and different viewing experiences.
- 2.18 It is important to remember that visual receptors are all people. For each affected viewpoint, the assessment considers both the susceptibility to change in views and the value attached to views.

"The visual receptors most susceptible to change are generally likely to include:

- *Residents at home;*
 - *People, whether residents or visitors, who are engaged in outdoor recreation, including use of public rights of way, whose attention or interest is likely to be focused on the landscape and on particular views;*
 - *Visitors to heritage assets, or to other attractions, where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience;*
 - *Communities where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents in the area;*
- Travellers on road, rail or other transport routes tend to fall into an intermediate category of moderate susceptibility to change. Where travel involves recognised scenic routes awareness of views is likely to be particularly high." (GLVIA3 paragraph 6.33.)*

"Visual receptors likely to be less sensitive to change include:

- *People engaged in outdoor sport or recreation which does not involve or depend upon appreciation of views of the landscape;*
 - *People at their place of work whose attention may be focused on their work or activity, not on their surroundings, and where the setting is not important to the quality of working life (although there may on occasion be cases where views are an important contributor to the setting and to the quality of working life)." (GLVIA3 paragraph 6.34.)*
- 2.19 Each of the visual effects is evaluated in terms of its size or scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced and its duration or reversibility.
- 2.20 In terms of size or scale, the magnitude of visual effects takes account of:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Overall Landscape and Visual Effects

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

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

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

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

3.0 PLANNING POLICY

National Planning Policy

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, December 2023)

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

Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)

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

Local Planning Policy

- 3.8 The Kirklees Local Plan comprises the strategy and policies document, allocations and designations document and associated policies map.

Kirklees Local Plan – Strategy and Policies (Adopted 27 February 2019)

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

Policy LP5 Masterplanning Sites

- 3.10 This policy requires masterplans to achieve a number of points, those of most relevance to landscape matters are: -

- b. high standards of design that respect the character of the landscape, heritage, adjacent and nearby settlements and built development, reflecting the urban to rural transition with appropriate boundary treatment;*
- c. make effective use of the site through the application of appropriate densities in terms of scale, height and massing, and its relationship to adjoining buildings and landscape;*
- d. create a strong sense of place, ensuring the proposed development makes a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness;*
- l. a green infrastructure strategy, providing an integrated network of green spaces;*

Policy LP24: Design

- 3.11 The policy requires proposals to promote good design and lists a series of principles to address. Of most relevance to landscape matters are:

- h. development contributes towards enhancement of the natural environment, supports biodiversity and connects to and enhances ecological networks and green infrastructure;*
- i. the retention of valuable or important trees and where appropriate the planting of new trees and other landscaping to maximise visual amenity and environmental benefits;*

Policy LP31 Strategic Green Infrastructure Network

- 3.12 This policy is worded as follows:

Within the Strategic Green Infrastructure Network identified on the Policies Map, priority will be given to safeguarding and enhancing green infrastructure networks, green infrastructure assets and the range of functions they provide.

Development proposals within and adjacent to the Strategic Green Infrastructure Network should ensure:-

- (i) the function and connectivity of green infrastructure networks and assets are retained or replaced;*
- (ii) new or enhanced green infrastructure is designed and integrated into the development scheme where appropriate, including natural greenspace, woodland and street trees;*
- (iii) the scheme integrates into existing and proposed cycling, bridleway and walking routes, particularly the Core Walking and Cycling Network, by providing new connecting links where opportunities exist;*

(iv) the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological links, particularly within and connecting to the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network.

The council will support proposals for the creation of new or enhanced green infrastructure provided these do not conflict with other Local Plan policies.

- 3.13 The woodland immediately east of the site forms part of the Green Infrastructure Network and the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network as identified on the Policies Map. The Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network also extends along the railway embankments along the northern site boundary. This information is shown on **Figure 4 Designations**.

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. the need to protect the setting and special qualities of the Peak District National park, views in and out of the park and views from surrounding viewpoints;*
- 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.*

- 3.14 The Peak District National Park is approximately 8km southwest of the site beyond intervening high ground, therefore requirement a. is not applicable in this instance.

Kirklees Local Plan – Allocations and Designations (Adopted 27 February 2019)

- 3.15 The site is one of a number of
- “sites that are designated as safeguarded land in the Local Plan which will potentially accommodate development beyond the end of the plan period under Policy LP6”.*
- 3.16 The site therefore falls outside of the Green Belt designation that surrounds Stocksmoor. This information is shown on **Figure 4 Designations**.

Other Relevant Strategies, Guidelines or Documents

- 3.17 The Kirklees District Landscape Character Assessment, published 2015, is discussed further in Section 4.0.

Policy Summary

- 3.18 Within the adopted Local Plan Allocations and Designations document the site is designated as safeguarded land for future development (site SLS30) and falls outside of the Green Belt designation that surrounds Stocksmoor.
- 3.19 The adopted Local Plan Strategies and Policies document sets out requirements for design of developments, these include consideration of landscape character and features, and integration of green infrastructure. Particular reference is made to the Green Infrastructure Network and the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network as identified adjacent to the site on the Policies Map.

4.0 BASELINE CONDITIONS

Landscape Character

National Character

- 4.1 National Character Area (NCA) profiles have been prepared by Natural England for the 159 NCAs defined across England. These NCA profiles include a description of the natural and cultural features that shape the landscape, how the landscape has changed over time, the current key drivers for ongoing change, and a broad analysis of each area's characteristics.
- 4.2 Figure 3 illustrates the NCAs and other defined character areas within the context of the site.
- 4.3 At this very broad landscape scale, the site lies within Natural England's National Character Area (NCA) 37 'Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe'. This NCA covers a very extensive north-south band stretching from north of Bradford, past Sheffield and extending almost to Chesterfield in the south.
- 4.4 The Key Characteristics for the NCA are:
- *"A transitional landscape dissected by steep-sided valleys, dropping from the high gritstone hills in the west to lower land in the east, and thus creating an important backdrop to the many industrial towns and villages within and beyond the NCA.*
 - *Sandstones and gritstone beds of Millstone Grit (Namurian) age underlying smooth hills and plateaux in the west. These are overlain in the east by beds of sandstone, siltstone and mudstone of Coal Measures age.*
 - *Rivers creating a deeply dissected landscape, with high plateaux cut by steep-sided valleys, and fanning out in 'fingers' across valleys of the NCA.*
 - *Treeless hill tops with tracts of rough grazing and extensive areas of enclosed pasture to the west, but with broadleaved woodland on steeper valley sides, giving the impression of a well-wooded landscape, especially to the north and west of Sheffield.*
 - *Predominantly pastoral farming, especially in western areas, with a shift to more arable land in the drier eastern areas.*
 - *Boundary features that change from distinctive patterns of drystone walls on the upland hills, to hedgerows becoming the predominant field boundary in the east.*
 - *Close conjunction between rural landscapes and the rich industrial heritage of the urban areas, including settlements associated with the textile industry, with large mills and tall chimneys, and large factories and forges associated with the iron, steel and manufacturing industries.*
 - *Urban development constrained within valley floors and up side slopes, with location and layout strongly influenced by the landform.*
 - *Industrial wealth revealed in magnificent civil architecture in town centres, notably Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield and Sheffield, and several stately homes with designed parklands.*
 - *Evidence of bronze-age and Roman habitation still present on uplands, and old pack-horse routes that once joined settlements across the Pennines still in place, or now forming modern major road routes.*

- *Extensive and dramatic views from higher land out over lower-lying land to the east, even from within urban areas.*
- *Several reservoirs contained within narrow valleys contributing a distinct character as well as providing popular places to visit.*
- *Small patches of fragmented priority habitats providing important refuges locally for wildlife. Grassland mosaics are particularly important in supporting waders and the twite that breeds on adjacent moorland areas; lowland woodland is also an important feature.*
- *In places a dense network of roads and urban development, with many road, rail and canal routes crossing the NCA, and a high density of footpaths throughout”.*

4.5 Other observations include:

“The impact of development is nearly always evident, with dense networks of roads where the landform permits, as around Batley and Dewsbury, and many main road, rail and canal routes cutting across the area. The area contains a wealth of industrial archaeology which contributes significantly to the strong sense of historical character and identity, although this is breaking down in some of the more extensive urban areas”.

“There is continued pressure around existing settlements for more development for housing and employment, which may impact on the urban–rural mix found in the NCA”.

“Sense of place is provided by the strong landform of hills, ridges and broad valleys dominated by the distinct backdrop of the Pennines to the west, with extensive urban and industrial development contained within the steep-sided valleys. This creates a dramatic interplay of views between settlements and the surrounding hillsides. This is supported by a strong local vernacular of gritstone and sandstone, used extensively throughout the NCA for field boundaries and traditional buildings, bringing a sense of visual unity to the landscape”.

Although about half of the NCA is within a greenbelt, the rate of development outside urban and fringe areas has been moderately high, including a large number of barn conversions. There is continued pressure for housing and employment in areas outside of the urban city centres which has put pressure on the more rural satellite towns around Bradford and Sheffield in particular.

4.6 Within the ‘Statements of Environmental Opportunity’ section the following extracts are of most relevance in consideration of development of the site:

“SEO 1: Protect and manage the rich industrial heritage – including historical settlement patterns and local vernacular styles...

For example by:

- *Using local sandstone for new, restored and converted buildings, and restoring traditional farm buildings, incorporating local styles and building techniques.*
- *Respecting the distinct character of the historic towns and ensuring that new development respects that character and settlement form, for example the linear pattern of development within the valleys to the north, with associated mill cottages, and the more industrial settlements that grew up around Sheffield and Halifax. Retain the open countryside between settlements”.*

“SEO 3: Protect the distinctive landscape character with its contrasts between open pastures on hill tops, woodland on valley sides and the settlements nestled in the valley bottoms. Manage the arable and pastoral farmland and the areas of woodland to improve their contribution to

biodiversity, food provision and landscape character, to improve soil and water quality, and reduce soil erosion.

For example by:

- *Maintaining and restoring drystone walls, especially where they form clear historical patterns and/or are widely visible.*
- *Maintaining the character of individual settlements by managing the rural land surrounding cities and towns, to retain the wild and open sense of place and the juxtaposition between urban and rural”.*

“SEO 4: Plan to optimise opportunities for access to the natural environment for the large urban populations in the area, making the most of key landscape features to redefine sense of place in the changing landscape and encouraging implementation of well-designed and managed green infrastructure, sustainable urban drainage systems and good use of planting to screen urban edges.

For example by:

- *Ensuring that the dramatic views are retained both from hill tops into and across the urban areas, and from urban areas out into the countryside.*
- *Ensuring that existing urban areas and new residential development contains well-designed and managed green infrastructure to provide a range of access experiences, taking into account the different cultural needs, abilities and interests of the local urban populations”.*

4.7 Identified ‘Landscape Opportunities’ include:

- *Encourage any new developments to retain the distinctive character of each settlement and to incorporate green infrastructure that will contribute to biodiversity and provide opportunities for enjoyment of the natural environment.*

Kirklees District Landscape Character Assessment, July 2015

4.8 The report carries forward an earlier South Pennines Landscape Character Assessment which dated back to 1999 and provides more detailed and up to date information for the Kirklees District.

4.9 There is a total of eight Landscape Character Types within Kirklees, and a total of 19 Landscape Character Areas wholly or partially within the district. The site and surrounding wider landscape fall within the Rural Fringes Landscape Character Type and Landscape Character Area E6: Fenay Beck Valley Rural Fringes.

4.10 This LCA is described as:

“This LCA is formed of rural fringe land located to the south-west of Huddersfield and centred on the Fenay Beck Valley. The LCA is fully contained within Kirklees District”.

4.11 The Key Characteristics are:

“Topography, geology and drainage

- *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.*

Woodland cover

- *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 use and field patterns

- *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.*

Semi-natural habitats

- *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.*

Archaeology and cultural heritage

- *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.*

Settlement and road pattern

- *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.*

Views and perceptual qualities

- *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”.*

4.12 The following observations are also made for LCA E6:

- *Upper and Lower Stone Woods near Stocksmoor are noted as Local Geological Sites.*

- *Perceptual qualities: This is mostly perceived as a tranquil landscape with a traditional rural feel, although this is impacted upon by the main roads and urban development around Shepley.*
- *Role as a setting to Development: The LCA provides a direct setting to Shepley and Skelmanthorpe. It also forms an elevated backdrop to valley settlements in LCAs G8, G9 and G10, including Denby Dale, Kirkburton and Armitage Bridge.*

4.13 The landscape character assessment does not include a specific assessment of landscape sensitivity or value.

Designations

4.14 Designations are identified on **Figure 4: Designations**.

4.15 The site and its wider context are not covered by any statutory or non-statutory landscape designations at either a national level, such as National Parks or AONB's, or any locally designated Special Landscape Areas or Landscape Protection Zones.

4.16 The Peak District National Park is approximately 8km southwest of the site at its closest point and is further separated by intervening high ground.

4.17 There are no heritage designations on or within the immediate context of the site. Listed buildings are scattered within the wider landscape and some nearby settlements have conservation area designations. No intervisibility has been identified between the site and any of the conservation areas.

4.18 Several Local Plan policy designations are also indicated on **Figure 4**. As discussed within Section 3.0, the site is identified as safeguarded land for future development. The woodland immediately east of the site forms part of the Green Infrastructure Network and the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network as identified on the Policies Map. The Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network also extends along the railway embankments along the northern site boundary.

Topography

4.19 The following should be read in conjunction with **Figure 5: Topography**.

Context – Landform

4.20 The site lies within a steeply undulating and upland Pennine-fringe landscape defined within the Kirklees District Landscape Character Assessment as the 'Fenay Beck Valley Rural Fringes'. The immediate and wider site context is defined by a series of small valleys that converge at Thunder Bridge, just north of the site. Land rises steeply to the west, from around 125 metres above ordnance datum (AOD) at Thunder Bridge, to a highpoint of 296 metres just south of Thurstonland. To the south land rises to >260 metres south of Shepley, and to the north-east to a ridge of 202 – 260 metres through the northern fringes of Shelley.

Site – Landform

4.21 The site is positioned on the south-east facing slopes of the Stone Wood Dike valley, approximately 700 metres south of the valley confluence at Thunder Bridge. The site slopes gradually from north-west to southeast. The western half of the site is generally flat and defined by the 185-metre

contour. The eastern part slopes gradually at first, then steepening to around the 165m contour in the southeast corner of the site.

- 4.22 Adjacent to the northern site boundary the Penistone rail line is within cutting and there is an embankment down to the rail line from the site boundary.

Site and Immediate Context

- 4.23 An assessment of landscape character of the site and its immediate context has been carried out, providing a finer level of assessment than the published studies.
- 4.24 The site comprises a single grassed field, an area of grassland on the steeper eastern slope down to adjacent woodland is unmanaged long grassland. The western part of the site is fairly level and adjoins the Stocksmoor settlement edge which lies at a similar elevation to the site. Rear gardens of properties at the settlement edge border the western site boundaries, a range of garden boundary treatments define the site boundary including low fencing, stone walls, hedging, trees and bushes, both deciduous and evergreen.
- 4.25 A stone wall defines the northern site boundary, beyond which trees on the railway embankment, and woodland beyond provides visual containment. Masts alongside the railway line are evident.
- 4.26 The eastern site boundary adjoins Lower Stone Wood, which forms part of the Shepley Mill Wood ancient and semi-natural woodland as defined on magic.defra.gov.uk. This woodland extends northeast and southwest along the northwest facing Stone Wood Dike valley slopes.
- 4.27 The southern site boundary adjoins properties on Shepley Road and a short stretch of Shepley Road, where a stone wall and field gate are set back from the road beyond a grassed verge with ruderal vegetation and three small sycamore trees (identified as T1 – T3 within the Arboricultural Assessment report).
- 4.28 From the elevated, western part of the site there are long views north-east to the settlement of Shelley on the skyline with the Elmley Moor mast beyond. Within the immediate context, Stocksmoor extends to the south of Shepley Road and to the west of the site. To the south the settlement gives way to pastoral farmland which extends along the southeast facing slopes of the Stone Wood Dike.

Landscape Value

- 4.29 In terms of "landscape value" it is appropriate to examine the role of the site and its immediate context in terms of the range of local factors set out in LI TGN 02-21 and summarised in the methodology. This considers the landscape in terms of a range of factors as set out below. As a starting point, landscape designations have been considered.
- 4.30 Landscape Designations: The site and its immediate landscape context are not subject to any national, local, or other landscape designations. The Peak District National Park is approximately 8km southwest of the site at its closest point and no intervisibility has been identified with the site.
- 4.31 Natural Heritage: The site comprises improved grassland with an area of semi-improved grassland on the steeper slopes down to the woodland which adjoins the eastern site boundary. The site isn't subject to any ecological designations. Immediately to the east the woodland is identified as 'Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland' and is a designated Local Wildlife Site and Local Geological Site. The woodland forms part of the Green Infrastructure Network and the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat

Network as identified on the Kirklees Local Plan Policies Map. The Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network also extends along the railway embankments along the northern site boundary.

- 4.32 Cultural Heritage: There are no heritage designations within the site or its' immediate context.
- 4.33 Landscape Condition: The landscape condition of the site is moderate, the grassland appears intensively managed and peripheral stone walls generally well-maintained.
- 4.34 Associations: As far as it is known the site and the immediate landscape are not subject to any specific cultural associations in terms of artists or writers, nor known events in history.
- 4.35 Distinctiveness: The site and its immediate context do not contain and rare or unusual features. The local landscape character and urban context is typical of that described within the published landscape character assessments.
- 4.36 Recreational Value: There is a network of public rights of way within the surrounding landscape however the site has no public access and there are no rights of way across the site.
- 4.37 Perceptual (Scenic): the site is reasonably attractive, however due to the containment by woodland and limited public viewpoints surrounding the site, views in are limited. With the settlement influences on the western and southern boundaries and the influence of rail structures to the north the site takes on a settlement edge character.
- 4.38 Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity): Given the location of the site adjacent to the settlement edge and rail line, it does not feel wild or tranquil.
- 4.39 Functional aspects: The site itself provides limited biodiversity contribution in the context of the Green Infrastructure Network and the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network as identified on the Kirklees Local Plan Policies Map, and no recreational contribution.
- 4.40 In conclusion and having appraised the above factors it is judged that the site and the immediate landscape is of medium landscape value.

Visual Baseline

- 4.41 A visual appraisal has been undertaken for the site. This has explored the nature of the existing visual amenity of the area and sought to establish the approximate visibility of the site from surrounding locations and receptors. A series of photo viewpoints have been selected which support this analysis.
- 4.42 Photographs have been taken to illustrate a view from a specific vantage point, or to demonstrate a representative view for those receptors that are moving through the landscape, e.g. rights of way users. The photographs may demonstrate varying degrees of visibility and include both short and long-range views. The photographs were taken on the 8th December 2022 and seasonal differences have been taken into account when determining the visual effects on these receptors.
- 4.43 'Photo Viewpoints', as referred to in this report are 'Type 1 Visualisations' or 'Annotated Viewpoint Photographs', as referred to in the Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note on 'Visual Representation of Development Proposals' (TGN 06/19).

Photo Viewpoints

- 4.44 An assessment of the likely visual effects of the proposed development upon surrounding receptors is detailed in the subsequent section. Figure 6 details the location of the Photo Viewpoints and Figures 7-17 illustrate the photo viewpoints. They are briefly described below.

Viewpoints 1 – 3: Within the site

- 4.45 These photographs are taken from within the site and are not therefore public viewpoints. They have been taken to assist in describing the visibility of the site and the identification of the peripheral receptors. They show properties within Stocksmoor bordering the west (identified as receptor A) and south (identified as receptor D) of the site, with woodland and trees along the rail line generally providing containment to the northeast and east. There are glimpses of fields on higher ground circa 1km northwest of Stocksmoor. To the east and south woodland rising to a near skyline screens views, with the odd field visible between parcels of woodland. A long view northeast is possible to the settlement of Shelley which rises to the skyline circa 1.2km from the site.

Viewpoint 4: Northeast across the site from Shepley Road

- 4.46 This represents the view for road users (receptor E) and properties (receptor D) adjacent to the site on Shepley Road. There is an open view northeast across the site across the valley to Shelley, with Emley Moor Mast beyond on the skyline. The view includes woodland and pastoral fields.

Viewpoint 5: South from Stocksmoor Train Station Platform

- 4.47 This represents the view for railway users (receptor B), a high, steep, wooded embankment prevents views into the site.

Viewpoint 6: Southeast from Station Road, Stocksmoor (adjacent to Stocksmoor Village Hall)

- 4.48 This represents the view for road users and residents of Stocksmoor, away from the site boundary, north of the rail line (receptor C). There is a glimpse view from the street into the site, heavily filtered by intervening winter tree cover. During summer months the trees would likely screen the site from view.

Viewpoint 7: North from public footpath KIR/121/30

- 4.49 This represents the view north for footpath users on the northwest facing slopes of the Stone Wood Dike valley circa 750 metres south of the site (receptor F). Intervening woodland screens much of the site from view, properties within Stocksmoor adjacent to the site boundary are visible nestled amongst trees and there is a glimpse of the sloping eastern part of the site within this context. A tall conifer hedge wraps around properties south of Shepley Road, immediately southwest of the site and is an incongruous urbanising component within the view.

Viewpoint 8: Southwest from public footpath KIR/124/10, Shelley

- 4.50 This represents the view southwest towards the site for users of this elevated footpath and residents of Shelley (receptor G) within the vicinity of the viewpoint some 1.3km northeast of the site. From here there is an elevated panoramic view which encompasses wooded and pastoral hills with scattered properties and settlement. Stocksmoor is visible on the lower slopes of the

opposite hillside and the site can be seen in this context, views partially filtered by trees along the railway line along the northern site boundary.

Viewpoints 9 and 10: Southeast from Green Side Road

- 4.51 These viewpoints are from elevated land circa 1.5km northwest of the site and represent views for road uses, users of public footpaths KIR/115/10 and KIR/116/10 and residents of properties in the vicinity of the viewpoints (receptor H). Viewpoint 10 is taken from adjacent to an 'Old Milestone' which is Grade II* listed. This is an elevated panoramic view which encompasses wooded and pastoral hills with scattered properties and settlement. The settlements of Stocksmoor and Shelley form small, integral components of the view. In views towards Stocksmoor, the site lies beyond intervening properties within the settlement and is not readily discernible.

Summary of Visual Baseline

- 4.52 The baseline analysis results in the following reasoned conclusions:
- The site is positioned within an elevated landscape, on lower slopes and falls towards the south-east towards the Stone Wood Dike valley. Given the surrounding undulating and wooded context, it is relatively well-enclosed within the landscape.
 - The site is contained locally to the north by the wooded Penistone rail line embankment and to the east by the steeply wooded northwest facing slopes of the Stone Wood Dike valley.
 - Locally, open views are limited to those by residents of properties immediately west (receptor A) and south (receptor D) of the site and to users of a short stretch of Shepley Road (receptor E) as it passes the site.
 - There are heavily filtered winter views towards the site from Station Road (receptor C) to the west and north. Views into the site from the rail line (receptor B) are prevented by the rail embankment.
 - More distantly, views towards the site are possible from public footpaths on the hillside immediately south of Upper Stone Wood (receptor F) circa 750m to the south of the site, from higher ground to the west in the vicinity of Green Side Road and Farnley Moor End (receptor H) circa 1.3km northeast of the site, and from public rights of way adjacent to the elevated settlement of Shelley (receptor G) circa 1.5km northwest of the site. Shelley is visible in views north-east across the site with the Emley Moor mast beyond.
 - Very long-distance channelled views are possible from the site northwards along the Thunder Bridge Dike valley to Little Lepton, positioned on the distant hillside approximately 4km to the north. In views from Little Lepton however Stocksmoor is barely perceptible.

5.0 LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS

Introduction

- 5.1 The development proposals are illustrated on the Planning Layout (drawing ref. Z159.100 revision H), the Landscape Masterplan (drawing ref. H24-0004_001) and other information accompanying the planning application. The existing landscape resource and the visual receptors and amenity of the site have been considered by the planning and design process and have informed the resultant scheme. This approach has entailed collaboration between landscape, urban design, ecological and other professionals. The landscape components of the scheme are an important integral part of the proposals.

Landscape Design and GI Objectives

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

- Provide a high quality, attractive landscape setting for the proposed development that is in keeping with local landscape character.
- Provide a sensitively designed built edge and a suitable landscape buffer to the ancient woodland east of the site, to the railway line along the northern boundary and an attractive, locally characteristic gateway to the proposed development on Shepley Lane.
- Minimise landscape and visual effects of the built development on the limited number of peripheral receptors.
- Maintain existing landscape features - dry-stone wall field boundaries and boundary trees wherever possible and introduce new landscape and biodiversity features to the site, including new neutral grassland and native hedgerow, scrub and tree planting.

Landscape and Green Infrastructure (GI) Proposals

- 5.3 The landscape and GI proposals for the scheme will include:

- Retention of existing boundary trees as shown on the Tree Retention Plan (11329-T-02) provided with the Arboricultural Assessment report. Three small category C trees will be removed to facilitate the access proposals.
- The built development will be set back from Shepley Lane, with the existing drystone wall retained and new section of drystone wall proposed to the site frontage to match the existing. New tree planting and a meadow grass verge is proposed to replace the trees removed and provide an attractive frontage to the proposed development along Shepley Lane, in keeping with the local rural edge character. The proposed trees will include locally occurring, native species and species to provide seasonal interest.
- Green infrastructure wraps around the south, east and north of the proposed development providing a buffer to the existing properties located prominently to the south of the site boundary at Sun Side, a circa 30 metre buffers to the ancient woodland to the east and a buffer to the railway line along the northern boundary. The landscape proposals have been designed to provide a natural rural edge character and creation of new habitats. Suitable planting will comprise native hedgerows, scrub, meadow grassland with scattered native trees.

- A local area of play (LAP) is proposed within the green space to the development frontage.
- Grassed verges with street trees are proposed to property frontages to provide an attractive leafy, green street scene and further assimilate the built form within the local landscape as the trees mature.
- Proposed dwellings will be predominantly 2-storeys in height. Four single storey properties are proposed within the northwest corner of the site. Four 2.5 storey dwellings are also proposed set back within the northern part of the site.
- Plant species selection for the on-plot planting will reflect the seasons and include shrub and perennial planting for colour and scent, and to provide a food source for pollinators. Robust front and side boundaries are provided to most properties to help integrate car parking as well as creating new habitats, contributing to character, and providing defensible property boundaries. Native and / or flowering single species hedgerows are proposed where space and visibility splays allow.

- 5.4 The proposals have been designed to accord with the identified landscape related planning policies in the adopted local plan. These set requirements for design of developments, including consideration of landscape character and features, and integration of green infrastructure. With regards the Green Infrastructure Network and the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network identified adjacent to the site on the Policies Map the proposals will assist to deliver new green infrastructure and habitats around the site peripheries to locally support, buffer and extend this network.

Landscape Management

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

6.0 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL EFFECTS

- 6.1 The following section outlines the likely landscape and visual effects that would arise from proposed development on the site.

Landscape Effects

Construction

- 6.2 The following sets out temporary landscape effects during construction.
- 6.3 The location and design of temporary spoil mounds, site compounds, lighting, signage and perimeter screen fencing, combined with effective project management will seek to ensure that the potential landscape effects are minimised during the construction phase. It is anticipated that the construction working methods will adopt best practices and be agreed with the Local Planning Authorities and Statutory Bodies where necessary.
- 6.4 Vegetation proposed for removal is described within the Arboricultural Assessment which accompanies this planning application and is shown on the Tree Retention Plan (11329-T-02) which accompanies the report. Three small category C sycamore trees will be removed to facilitate the proposed access.
- 6.5 Retained trees and any boundary vegetation will be protected in measures in accordance with BS 5837 (Trees in relation to construction). These will be implemented prior to the commencement of construction work within the vicinity of the specific areas of vegetation. The removal of any vegetation will be undertaken outside the bird nesting season (or if unavoidable, will be inspected prior to removal by a suitably qualified ecologist and only removed following confirmation that there are no nesting birds present).
- 6.6 In overall landscape terms, the effects arising during the construction phase will not lead to any long-term harm as the construction phase is transitory in nature and over the short term. It will generally reflect the overall change to the landscape character of the site and limited loss of landscape features (as outlined above and in the subsequent Operational Effects section).
- 6.7 Overall given the settlement edge location and influences, it is judged that there would be a limited **Moderate / Major Adverse** landscape effect on the site and immediate landscape context at the peak of the construction phase due to the construction activities taking place on the site. This is a temporary effect prior to the establishment of the landscape proposals which include planting of hedgerows, scrub and trees, and meadow creation at the entrance area and within the proposed northern and eastern landscape buffers.
- 6.8 The landscape effects during construction have been considered on the national and district-wide landscape character areas in which the site is located, as described within the published landscape character assessments, and assessed effects on these areas are **Negligible / Minor Adverse** during construction and at the peak of activities as the development approaches completion. Refer to **Figure 3: Landscape Character** for location of landscape character areas.

Operation (following Completion)

- 6.9 The following sets out the assessed landscape effects on completion of the development and at year 15 following maturing of the proposed green infrastructure planting.

- 6.10 The masterplanning and design process has sought to minimise the impact of the development upon the landscape, and this includes careful design of the development layout and conservation of the landscape features of the site wherever possible. The retained features and proposed landscaping can be managed both for biodiversity and landscape benefits.
- 6.11 The site comprises a single grassed field, bordered by drystone walls, with properties at the Stocksmoor settlement edge along the western and southern boundaries, and Shepley Road bordering part of the southern boundary. The western portion of the site is relatively flat, whilst the eastern portion slopes gradually at first and then more steeply down to the Stone Wood Dike and to meet an area of ancient woodland. A steep railway embankment with trees encloses the northern site boundary. The extents of the site and immediate context are therefore confined. The site and immediate context are assessed as being of medium susceptibility to change and medium landscape value, with a medium sensitivity overall.
- 6.12 It is proposed to retain the peripheral drystone walls, including alongside Shepley Road and boundary trees, except for the three small sycamore trees to be removed for the site access. Given the adjacent settlement edge context, the proposed development would not be uncharacteristic of the receiving landscape. The development would be sited on the western parts of the site, with landscape buffers retained to the north and east, to allow for a buffer to the rail line to the north and a substantial buffer to the ancient woodland to the east. The proposed development would also be set back from Shepley Road. The buffers would be maintained as meadow grassland with trees to provide a natural setting to the proposed development and appropriate landscape buffer to the rural edge. Street tree planting will also integrate the built form further within the local landscape as it matures.
- 6.13 The assessed magnitude of landscape change to the site and its immediate context is medium / high at year 1 reducing to medium by year 15 with the maturing of the landscape proposals. The assessed effects are **Moderate / Major Adverse** at year 1 reducing to **Moderate Adverse** by year 15. This judgement is typical for greenfield settlement edge sites.
- 6.14 The published landscape character assessments discussed within Section 4.0 of this LVA identify national and district-wide landscape character areas that apply to the site and its wider context. Refer to **Figure 3: Landscape Character** for location of landscape character areas.
- 6.15 The site is within the 'Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe' NCA 37 as defined by Natural England. This NCA covers a very extensive north-south band stretching from north of Bradford, past Sheffield and extending almost to Chesterfield in the south. Continued pressure around existing settlements for more development for housing and employment is recognised for this NCA and the NCA profile descriptions include:
- "Although about half of the NCA is within a greenbelt, the rate of development outside urban and fringe areas has been moderately high, including a large number of barn conversions. There is continued pressure for housing and employment in areas outside of the urban city centres which has put pressure on the more rural satellite towns around Bradford and Sheffield in particular".*
- 6.16 Susceptibility to change, landscape value and overall landscape sensitivity for this extensive NCA will vary across the NCA from low – high.
- 6.17 Within the NCA Profile description the 'Statements of Environmental Opportunity' (SEO) section recommends use of local building materials and styles in new developments, respecting the distinct character of settlement form and buildings, maintaining and restoring drystone walls,

ensuring that new development contains well-designed and managed green infrastructure and that dramatic views are retained from both hilltops into and across the urban areas, and from urban areas out into the countryside. Identified 'Landscape Opportunities' include:

"Encourage any new developments to retain the distinctive character of each settlement and to incorporate green infrastructure that will contribute to biodiversity and provide opportunities for enjoyment of the natural environment".

6.18 The proposed development includes for this provision, it is however a small site, contained adjacent to the Stocksmoor settlement edge, by settlement edge properties, the rail line, woodland and Shepley Road, and the proposals with accompanying green infrastructure mitigation form a very minor component of this extensive NCA. As such, the magnitude of change, and landscape effects at years 1 and 15 on this NCA resulting from the proposed development are assessed as **Negligible**.

6.19 At a district-level, the site falls within Landscape Character Area E6: Fenay Beck Valley Rural Fringes, as defined within the Kirklees District Landscape Character Assessment, July 2015. This character area is described as:

"This LCA is formed of rural fringe land located to the south-west of Huddersfield and centred on the Fenay Beck Valley. The LCA is fully contained within Kirklees District".

6.20 The assessment does not include a specific assessment of landscape sensitivity or value for LCA E6. Susceptibility to change, landscape value and overall landscape sensitivity will likely vary across the LCA from low – medium/high.

6.21 In terms of perceptual quality, the assessment observes that:

"This is mostly perceived as a tranquil landscape with a traditional rural feel, although this is impacted upon by the main roads and urban development around Shepley".

6.22 The LCA is extensive and includes the settlements of Shepley and Shelley, along with Stocksmoor and a number of other smaller settlements. Against this context, the development of the site will form a minor, and contained, extension to the eastern edge of Stocksmoor and will result in a Negligible / Low magnitude of change, and **Negligible / Minor Adverse** landscape effect at year 1 and 15 to the character area overall.

6.23 The very eastern edge of the site falls within LCA G9: Fenay Beck Valley and Tributaries. This LCA applies to the steep wooded valley sides and settlement is limited although the LCA does include the A629 Penistone Road corridor. The character areas description recognises that this character area is:

"Generally visually enclosed along the bottoms of the valleys as a result of low lying topography and high woodland cover".

6.24 The assessment does not include a specific assessment of landscape sensitivity or value for LCA G9. Susceptibility to change, landscape value and overall landscape sensitivity will likely vary across the LCA from low/medium – medium/high.

6.25 With development, there will be no discernible change to this extensive LCA, and landscape mitigation proposals within the east of the site may provide some very limited landscape benefits within the southern edge of the LCA. The resultant magnitude of change would be Negligible and assessed effects would be **Negligible** on this LCA at year 1 and 15.

Visual Effects

Construction

- 6.26 The following sets out the assessed temporary visual effects during construction of the development. Refer to Figure 6: Visual Analysis for receptor locations.
- 6.27 All construction works will be carried out in accordance with best practice procedures to minimise, as far as practicable, adverse effects on visual amenity.
- 6.28 The clearest views towards the activities and plant movements etc. will be experienced by local visual receptors within and adjacent to the site peripheries, comprising residents west of the site (receptor A), residents of Shepley Road adjacent to the site (receptor D) and Shepley Road users as they pass by the site (receptor E). For this limited number of receptors comprising residents of approximately 15 properties and road users along a circa 60-metre stretch of road, the temporary construction effects are as assessed as Moderate / Major Adverse, and Major Adverse for residents of properties No 5 and 7 Shepley Road who have direct open views across the site from property windows.
- 6.29 For the remaining identified visual receptors², at increasing distance from the site, and with intervening settlement and / or landform, trees and woodland restricting views, identified temporary construction effects range from **Minor Adverse to Negligible**.

Operation (following Completion)

- 6.30 The following sets out the assessed visual effects on completion of the development and at year 15 following maturing of the proposed green infrastructure planting. Refer to **Figure 6: Visual Analysis** for receptor locations.

Residential Properties and Settlement

- 6.31 Residents at home with primary views from ground floor / garden and upper floors are considered to have a high visual susceptibility to change and residents with secondary views (primarily from first floor level), are of medium susceptibility. The value of views from all residential receptors for this assessment is judged to be medium and overall sensitivity is therefore medium/high.
- 6.32 With all settlement edge development proposals, it is usual for there to be direct views across the proposed development from adjacent properties. Close range views of the proposed development from circa 15 peripheral properties west of the site and south of the site adjacent to Shepley Road (receptor A) have been identified. These properties back or face onto the site, with a range of views in places filtered by garden boundary hedgerows and trees, some of which are evergreen. Two properties on Shepley Road, No's 5 & 7 have direct open views across the site from side and front windows respectively (receptor D). The value of the view for residents of these properties is assessed as medium and overall sensitivity as medium/high.
- 6.33 For receptor A, on completion of the proposed development these receptors will experience views from rear windows and gardens of new properties and their rear gardens in place of an open field

² Railway users (receptor B), residents within Stocksmoor beyond the site boundaries (receptor C), public right of way (PRoW) users on KIR/121/30 circa 750 metres to the south (receptor F), residents of Shelley and users of PRoW KIR/124/10 circa 1.3km to the north east (receptor G) and residents, road users and PRoW users in the vicinity of Green Lane circa 1.5km to the north west (receptor H).

and wooded backdrop beyond. The assessed magnitude of change is medium / high and visual effect **Moderate / Major Adverse** at year 1 and 15.

- 6.34 For receptor D, the magnitude of change and assessed effect is slightly higher for residents of properties 5 and 7 Shepley Road, due to the direct open views from front and side windows respectively, positioned close to the site boundary. For residents of No 7, assessed effects would be **Major Adverse** at year 1 and 15. For residents of No 5, assessed effects would be **Major Adverse** at year 1 and reduce to **Moderate / Major Adverse** by year 15 with the maturing of intervening landscape planting within a landscape buffer between the property and the built development.
- 6.35 On completion and at year 15 residents of properties further west and north of the rail line within Stocksmoor may have views towards proposed properties within the west of the site that are heavily filtered by intervening properties and / or trees (receptor C). The magnitude of change is likely to, at most, be low and assessed effects **Minor Adverse** at year 1 and 15.
- 6.36 Within the wider landscape there may be views of the proposed development for some residents of Shelley (receptor G) located on the hillside circa 1.3km to the northeast. The proposed development may be visible amongst trees as a minor component of the wider panoramic view, within the context of existing properties at this edge of Stocksmoor. The magnitude of change to the view is **Minor Adverse / Negligible** at year 1, reducing to **Negligible** by year 15 as green infrastructure planting matures to further integrate the proposed development within its context. The assessment assumes use of building materials that tone in with existing properties.
- 6.37 For properties within the vicinity of Green Side Road (receptor H) on elevated land circa 1.5km to the northeast of the site, there may be glimpses of properties at the western edge of the proposed development. However, given the distance and intervening settlement extents of Stocksmoor the proposed development will likely be an imperceptible component of the wider panoramic view. Any visible properties will be in the context of the intervening settlement area and will not be notable. The magnitude of change to the view and assessed effects at year 1 and 15 are **Negligible**.

Public Rights of Way (PROW) and Other Footpaths etc

- 6.38 Public rights of way / footways where attention is primarily focused on the landscape and on particular views are considered to have a high susceptibility to change. The value of views from all PROW receptors for this assessment is judged to be medium and overall sensitivity is therefore medium/high.
- 6.39 There are no public rights of way within or close to the site.
- 6.40 Views towards the site from PROW KIR/121/30 located on the opposite valley side circa 750 metres to the south (receptor F) have been identified. On completion some properties will be visible amongst trees as part of the wider panoramic view, seen within the context of properties at this edge of Stocksmoor. The magnitude of change to the view will be low and assessed effect **Minor Adverse**, reducing to Negligible by year 15 as green infrastructure planting matures to further integrate the proposed development within its context. The assessment assumes use of building materials that tone in with existing properties.
- 6.41 Users of PROW KIR/124/10 adjacent to Shelley, on high ground circa 1.3km to the northeast (receptor G) will experience similar views to the residential receptor as described in paragraph 6.35 above. The magnitude of change to the view is **Minor Adverse / Negligible** at year 1, reducing to

Negligible by year 15 as green infrastructure planting matures to further integrate the proposed development within its context. The assessment assumes use of building materials that tone in with existing properties.

- 6.42 Users of PRow KIR/115/10 and KIR/116/10 within the vicinity of Green Side Road (receptor H) on higher ground circa 1.5km to the northwest will experience similar views to the residential receptor as described in paragraph 6.36 above. The magnitude of change to the view and assessed effects at year 1 and 15 are **Negligible**.

Roads & Transport Users

- 6.43 Travellers on road, rail or other transport routes are generally considered to have a medium susceptibility to change and a low susceptibility where views are primarily focused on the transport route. The value of views for all road users for this assessment is judged to be medium and overall sensitivity is therefore medium. For rail users at the adjacent station / passing the site within the railway cutting, the value of the view is judged to be low and overall sensitivity as medium / low.
- 6.44 For railway users (receptor B), both at the station and on passing trains, a high embankment prevents views into the site. Whilst there may be glimpses of construction activities at the northern fringe of the proposed development (leading to a low magnitude of change and Minor Adverse effects) it is expected that the proposed built development, set back within the site, will not be visible above the embankment and assessed effects are **Negligible** at year 1 and 15.
- 6.45 For users of Shepley Road (receptor E) there is a brief view across the site along a circa 60 metre stretch of the road. The proposed development would be set back within the site, beyond a landscaped frontage comprising retained drystone wall, wide meadow grass verge and native tree planting, new properties would be seen in the context of adjacent properties at the settlement edge. On completion the magnitude of change is assessed as medium and effects **Moderate Adverse**, reducing to **Minor / Moderate Adverse** by year 15 as green infrastructure planting matures to further integrate the proposed development within its context. The assessment assumes use of building materials that tone in with existing properties.
- 6.46 Finally, users of Green Side Road (receptor H) on higher ground circa 1.5km to the northwest will experience similar views to the residential receptor as described in paragraph 6.36 above. The magnitude of change to the view and assessed effects at year 1 and 15 are **Negligible**.

7.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The LVA has assessed landscape character and visual amenity and the resulting landscape and visual effects of the proposed development on the receiving landscape and visual resource. The landscape and visual effects have been considered in relation to the proposals detailed in the Planning Layout (drawing ref. Z159.100 revision H) and the Landscape Masterplan (drawing ref. H24-0004_001).
- 7.2 Within the adopted Kirklees Local Plan Allocations and Designations document the site is designated as safeguarded land for future development (site SLS30) and falls outside of the Green Belt designation that surrounds Stocksmoor.
- 7.3 The site and its immediate landscape context are not subject to any national, local, or other landscape designations. The Peak District National Park is approximately 8km southwest of the site at its closest point and no intervisibility has been identified with the site.
- 7.4 The site comprises a single grassed field, bordered by drystone walls, with properties at the Stocksmoor settlement edge along the western and southern boundaries, and Shepley Road bordering part of the southern boundary. The western portion of the site is relatively flat, whilst the eastern portion slopes gradually at first and then more steeply down to the Stone Wood Dike and to meet an area of ancient woodland. A steep railway embankment with trees encloses the northern site boundary. The extents of the site and immediate context are therefore confined. The site and immediate context are assessed as being of medium susceptibility to change and medium landscape value, with a medium sensitivity overall.
- 7.5 The proposed development comprises a detailed application for erection of 50 dwellings with associated access, infrastructure and landscaping, which includes a LAP, SuDS and a woodland buffer. The main vehicular access is provided off Shepley Road.
- 7.6 The proposals have been designed to accord with the identified landscape related planning policies in the adopted Kirklees Local Plan. These set requirements for design of developments, including consideration of landscape character and features, and integration of green infrastructure. With regards the Green Infrastructure Network and the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network identified adjacent to the site on the Policies Map the proposals will assist to deliver new green infrastructure and habitats around the site peripheries to locally support, buffer and extend this network.
- 7.7 It is proposed to retain the peripheral drystone walls, including alongside Shepley Road (where new stone walling to match is proposed to extend along the frontage) and boundary trees, except for the three small sycamore trees to be removed for the site access, for which replacement planting with suitable frontage trees is proposed. Given the adjacent settlement edge context, the proposed development would not be uncharacteristic of the receiving landscape. The development would be sited on the western parts of the site, with landscape buffers retained to the north and east, to allow for a buffer to the rail line to the north and a substantial buffer to the ancient woodland to the east. The proposed development would also be set back from Shepley Road. The buffers would be maintained as meadow grassland with trees to provide a natural setting to the proposed development and appropriate landscape buffer to the rural edge. Street tree planting will also integrate the built form further within the local landscape as it matures.
- 7.8 The assessed landscape effects resulting from the proposed development on the site and its immediate context are **Moderate / Major Adverse** at year 1 reducing to **Moderate Adverse** by year 15. This judgement is typical for greenfield settlement edge sites.

- 7.9 The published landscape character assessments discussed within Sections 4.0 and 6.0 of this LVA identify national and district-wide landscape character areas that apply to the site and its wider context. The proposed development would result in **Negligible – Negligible / Minor Adverse** effects on these character areas at year 1 and year 15.
- 7.10 The site is positioned within an elevated landscape, on lower slopes and falls towards the south-east towards the Stone Wood Dike valley. Given the surrounding undulating and wooded context, it is relatively well-enclosed within the landscape. It is visually contained locally to the north by the wooded Penistone rail line embankment and to the east by the steeply wooded northwest facing slopes of the Stone Wood Dike valley.
- 7.11 Locally, clear, and open views are limited to those by residents of properties immediately west (receptor A) and south (receptor D) of the site and to users of a short stretch of Shepley Road (receptor E) as it passes the site. With all settlement edge development proposals, it is usual for there to be direct views across the proposed development from adjacent properties. For this limited number of receptors comprising residents of approximately 15 properties and road users along a circa 60-metre stretch of road, the effects on completion are assessed as **Moderate / Major Adverse**, and **Major Adverse** for residents of properties No 5 and 7 Shepley Road who have direct open views across the site from property windows. By year 15 as proposed green infrastructure planting approaches maturity assessed effects will reduce to **Moderate / Major Adverse** for all properties except No.7 Shepley Road for which effects on views from side windows of the property will remain **Major Adverse**.
- 7.12 Away from the site boundaries for the limited number of receptors³ identified with views towards the proposed development, at increasing distance from the site, and with intervening settlement and / or landform, trees and woodland restricting views, identified visual effects range from **Minor Adverse to Negligible** at year 1 and year 15, with assessed effects reducing slightly by year 15 as green infrastructure planting approaches maturity and further assimilates the proposed development and the Stocksmoor settlement edge within the wooded wider landscape context.
- 7.13 In conclusion, it is assessed that the site and its immediate context has the ability in which to absorb change through the introduction of the proposed development and associated landscape proposals. The proposals will be appropriate within the local landscape and settlement context, and it is judged that the effects, as a result of the proposed development, will not give rise to any unacceptable landscape and visual harm.

³ Railway users (receptor B), residents within Stocksmoor beyond the site boundaries (receptor C), public right of way (PRoW) users on KIR/121/30 circa 750 metres to the south (receptor F), residents of Shelley and users of PRoW KIR/124/10 circa 1.3km to the north east (receptor G) and residents, road users and PRoW users in the vicinity of Green Lane circa 1.5km to the north west (receptor H).

FIGURES

NOTES

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KEY



Scale: 1:12500 @ A3



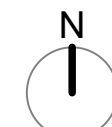
client
Newett Homes
project
Stocks Moor, Kirklees



drawing title
SITE LOCATION

scale 1:12500 @ A3 drn EMA chk SS date created 13 DECEMBER 2022


drawing/figure number
Figure 1 issue

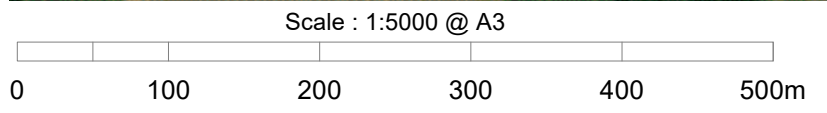





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KEY

 Site Boundary



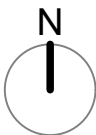
 client
Newett Homes

project
Stocksmoor, Kirkles

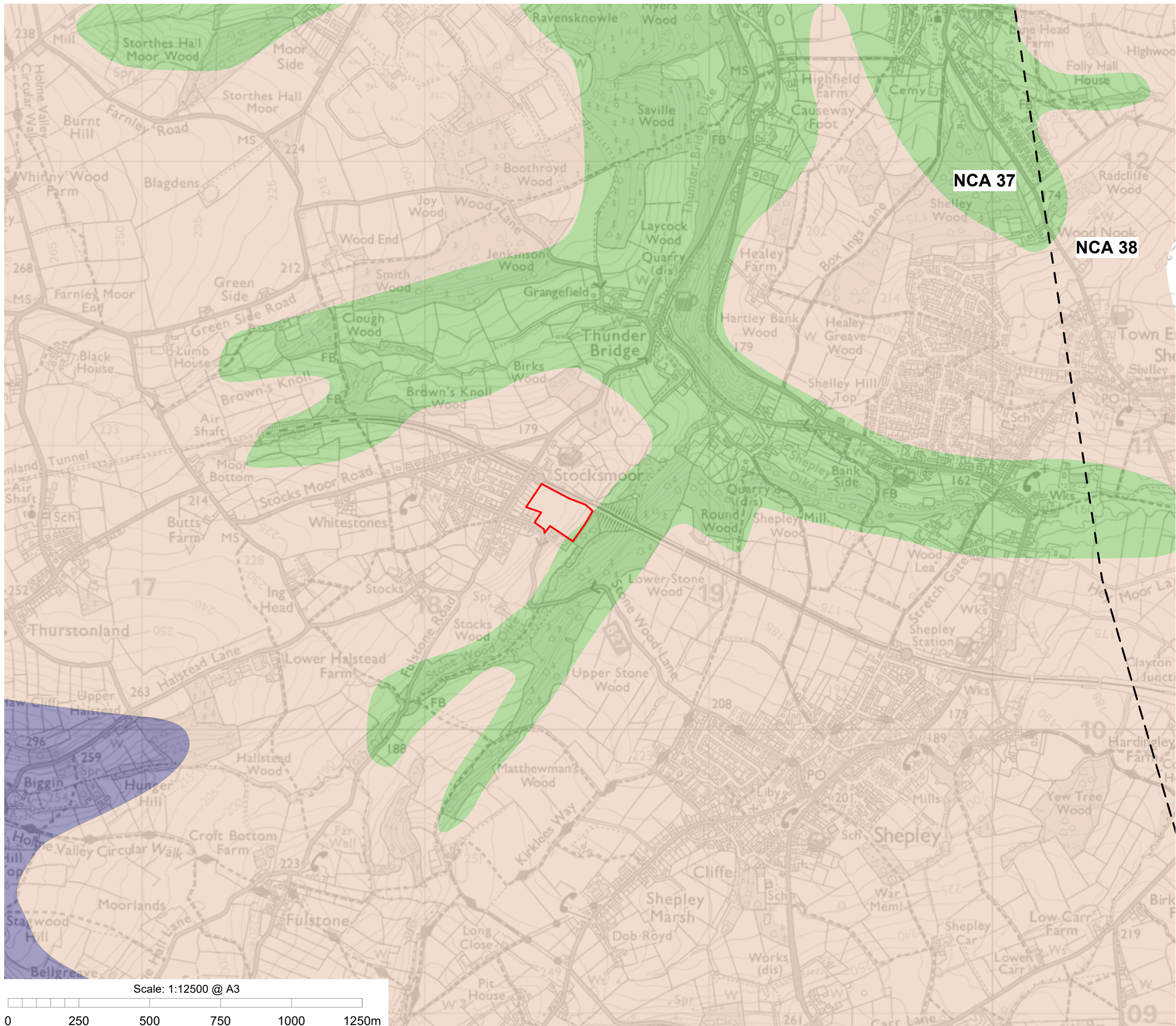
drawing title
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

scale 1:5000 @ A3 drn EMA chik SS date created 13 DECEMBER 2022

drawing/figure number
Figure 2 issue -





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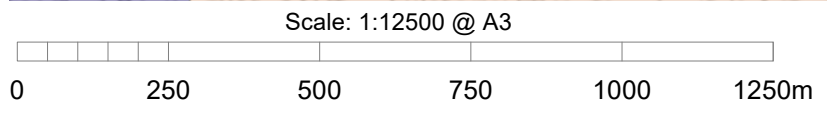
-  Site Boundary
-  National Character Area Boundary

National Character Area 37:
 Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe

National Character Area 38:
 Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield.

Kirklees District Landscape Character Assessment (2015)
 Landscape Character Areas:

-  E6 - Fenay Beck Valley Rural Fringes (Rural Fringes LCT)
-  G9 - Fenay Beck Valley and Tributaries (Wooded Rural Valleys LCT)
-  G8 - Holme River Valley (Wooded Rural Valleys LCT)




client
Newett Homes

project
Stocks Moor, Kirklees

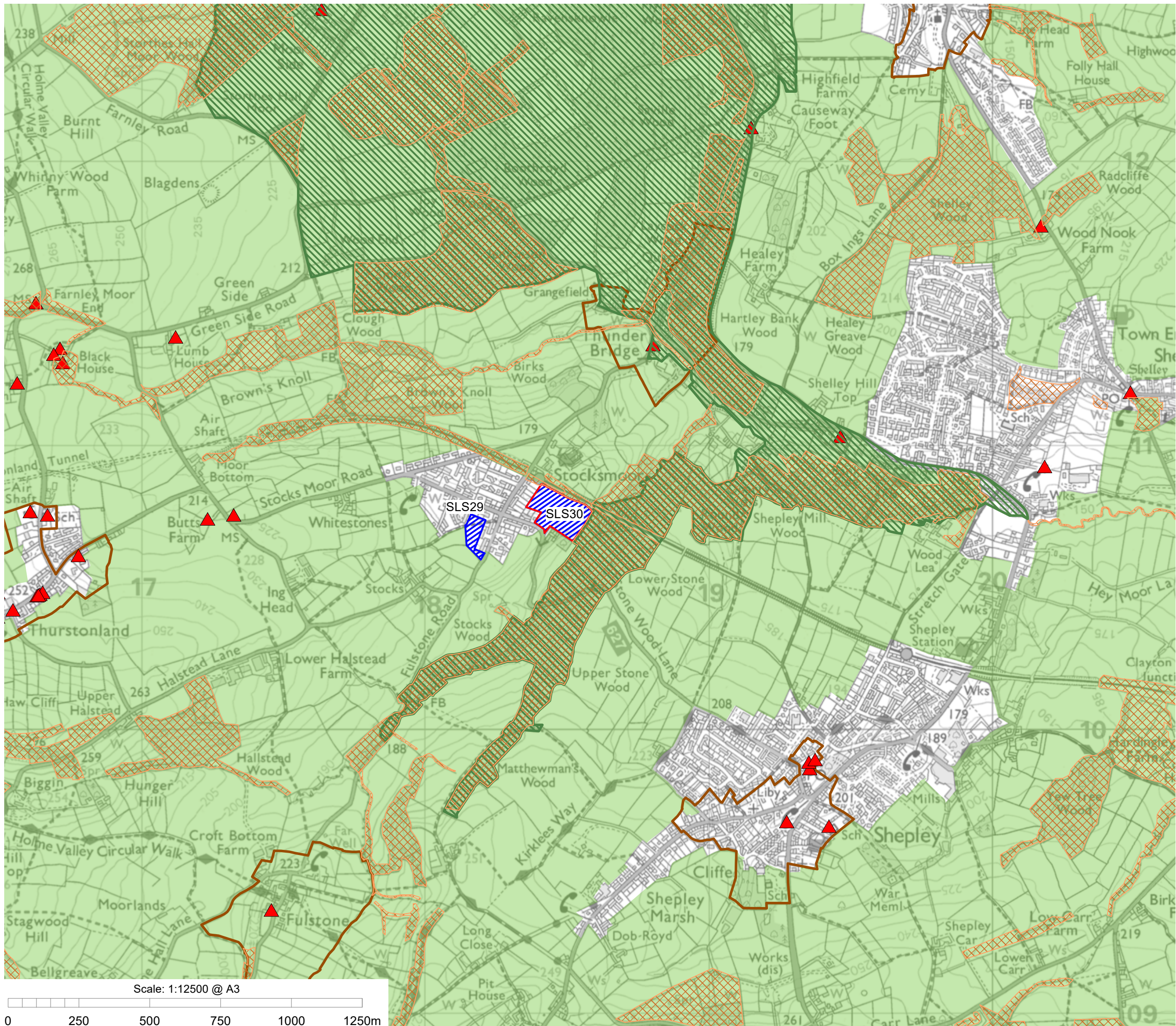
drawing title
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

scale 1:12500 @ A3 drn EMA chik SS date created 13 DECEMBER 2022

drawing/figure number
Figure 3 issue A

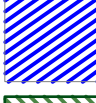


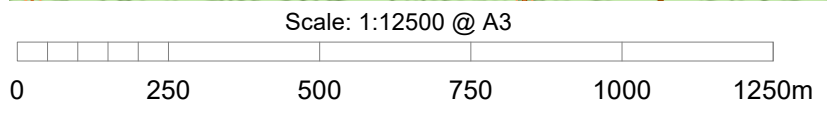
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KEY

-  Site Boundary
-  Green Belt
-  Conservation Areas
-  Listed Buildings
-  Safeguarded Land
Kirkles Local Plan (Adopted 27 Feb 2019)
Sites SLS30 & SLS29
-  Strategic Green Infrastructure Network
Kirkles Local Plan (Adopted 27 Feb 2019)
-  Wildlife Habitat Network
Kirkles Local Plan (Adopted 27 Feb 2019)



client
Newett Homes

project
Stocks Moor, Kirkles

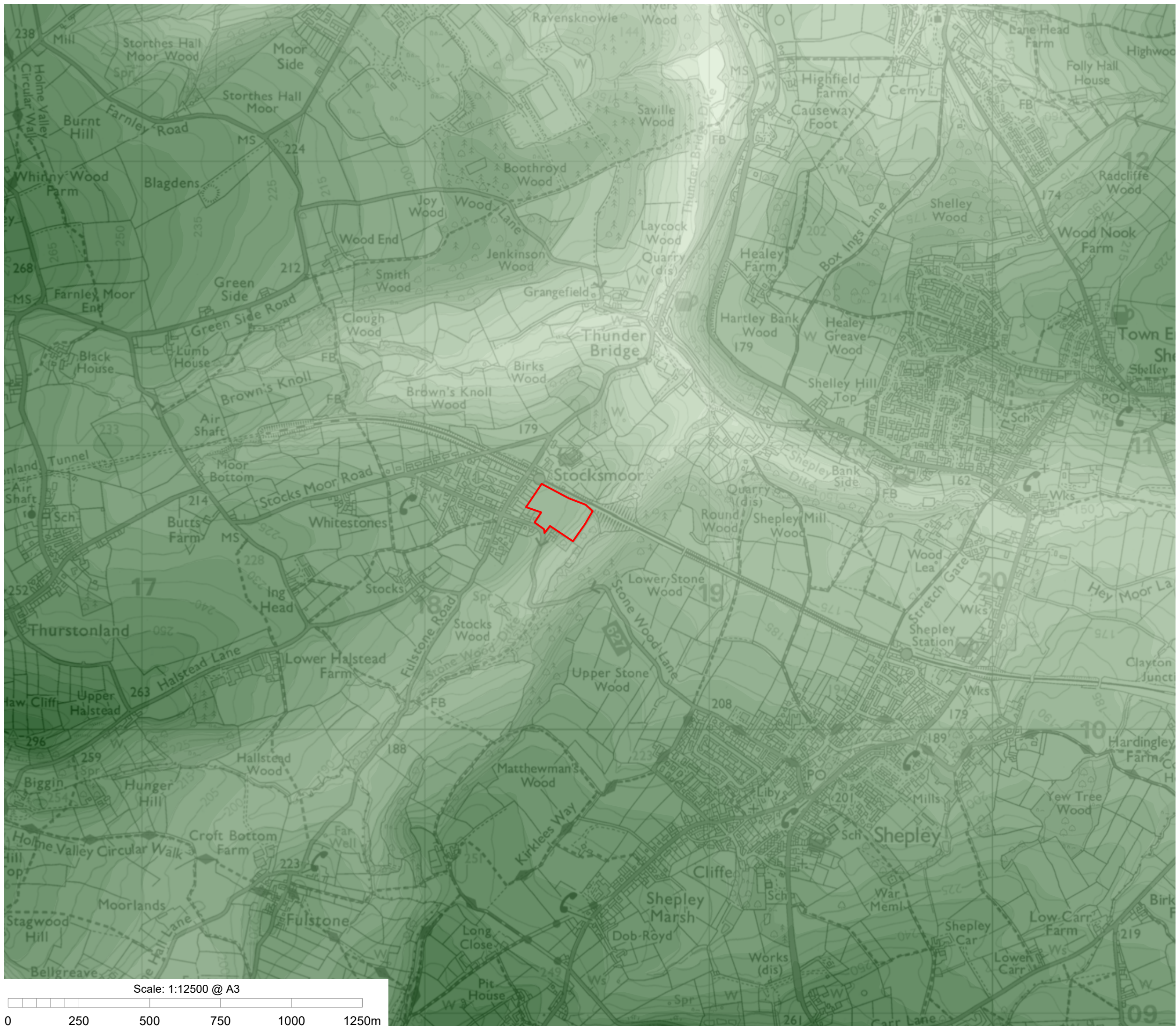
drawing title
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scale 1:12500 @ A3 drn EMA chik SS date created 13 DECEMBER 2022

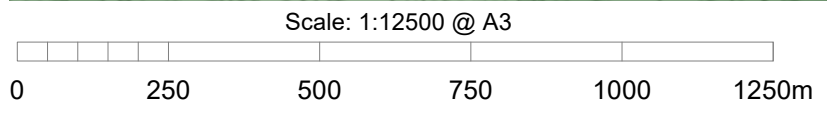
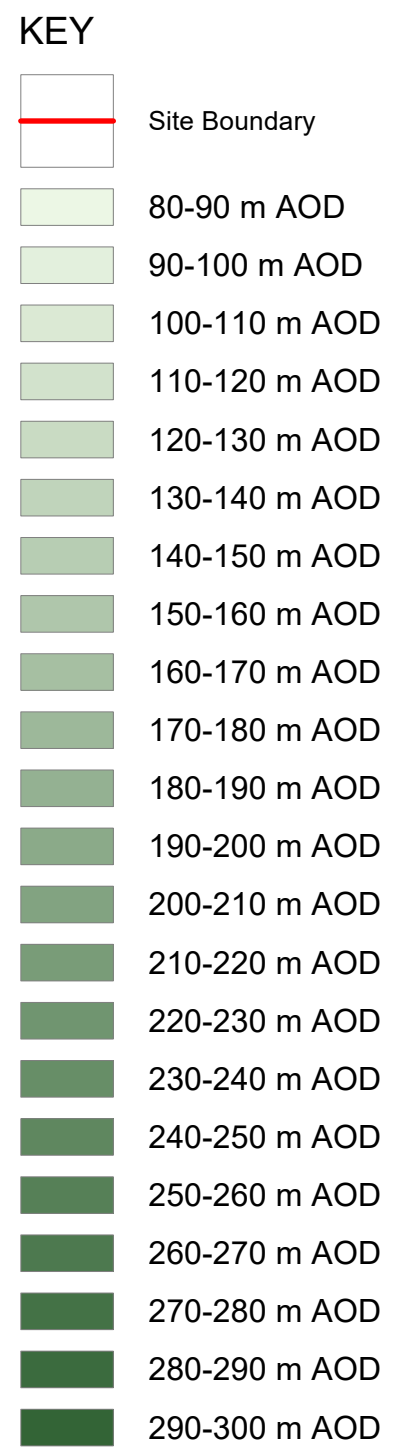
drawing/figure number
Figure 4 issue -



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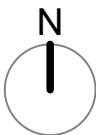
client
Newett Homes

project
Stocks Moor, Kirklees

drawing title
TOPOGRAPHY

scale 1:12500 @ A3 drn EMA chik SS date created 13 DECEMBER 2022

drawing/figure number
Figure 5 issue -



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KEY



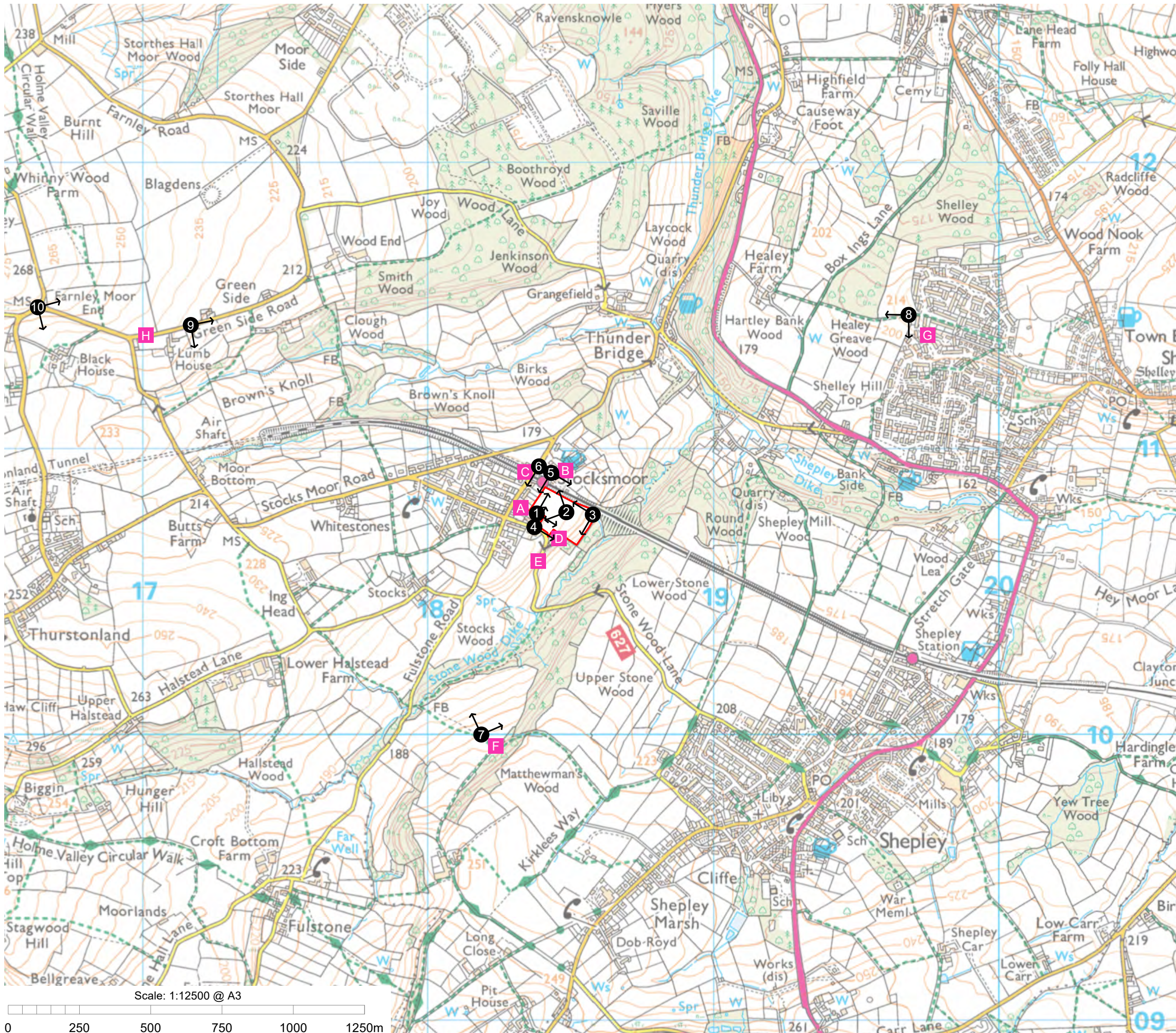
Site Boundary



Viewpoint Locations



Visual Receptor



Scale: 1:12500 @ A3



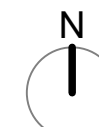
client
Newett Homes

project
Stocks Moor, Kirklees

drawing title
VISUAL APPRAISAL

scale 1:12500 @ A3 drn EMA chk SS date created 13 DECEMBER 2022

drawing/figure number
Figure 6 issue A



Local landmark - tower

Properties on Station Road, Stocksmoor



Photo Viewpoint 1: North east across the site (private viewpoint)

Emley Moor Tower

Shelley



Photo Viewpoint 1: Continuation of above view.



Photo Viewpoint 1
Date & time of photo: 08 Dec 2022, 11:42
Camera make & model, & sensor format:
Canon EOS 6D, FFS
Horizontal Field of View: 174°
Direction of View: 70°, bearing from North

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

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Properties on Shepley Road

Properties on Station Road



Photo Viewpoint 2: North west across the site from the high point (private viewpoint)



Photo Viewpoint 2: Continuation of above view.



Photo Viewpoint 2
 Date & time of photo: 08 Dec 2022, 11:46
 Camera make & model, & sensor format:
 Canon EOS 6D, FFS
 Horizontal Field of View: 174°
 Direction of View: 310°, bearing from North

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

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

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Property on
Shepley Road

Photo Viewpoint 3: South west across the site from the low point (private viewpoint)



Properties on
Shepley Road

Photo Viewpoint 3: Continuation of above view.

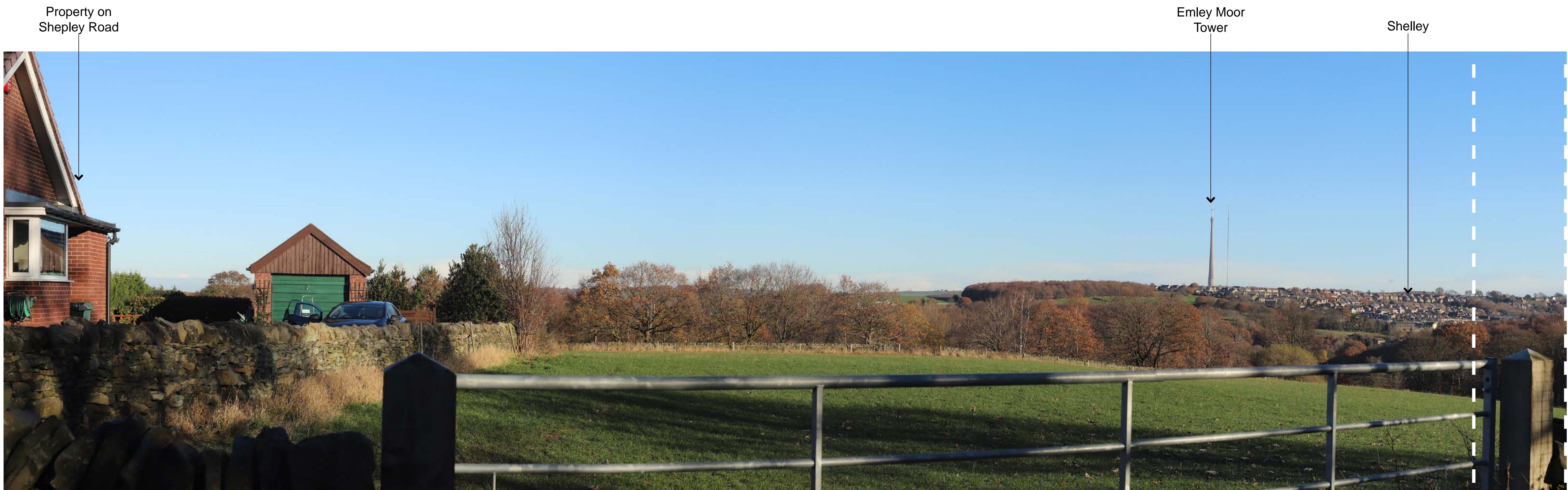


Photo Viewpoint 3
Date & time of photo: 08 Dec 2022, 11:55
Camera make & model, & sensor format:
Canon EOS 6D, FFS
Horizontal Field of View: 174°
Direction of View: 265°, bearing from North

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

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

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Property on Shepley Road

Emley Moor Tower

Shelley

Photo Viewpoint 4: North east across the site from Shepley Road

Property adjacent to Shepley Road



Photo Viewpoint 4: Continuation of above view.



Photo Viewpoint 4
 Date & time of photo: 08 Dec 2022, 12:01
 Camera make & model, & sensor format:
 Canon EOS 6D, FFS
 Horizontal Field of View: 170°
 Direction of View: 70°, bearing from North

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

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Direction of the site
(above embankment)



Photo Viewpoint 5: South from Stocksmoor Train Station Platform



Photo Viewpoint 5
Date & time of photo: 08 Dec 2022, 12:04
Camera make & model, & sensor format:
Canon EOS 6D, FFS
Horizontal Field of View: 87°
Direction of View: 160°, bearing from North

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

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Station Road



Photo Viewpoint 6: South east from Station Road, Stocksmoor (adjacent to Stocksmoor Village Hall)

Direction of the site



Photo Viewpoint 6: Continuation of above view.



Photo Viewpoint 6
 Date & time of photo: 08 Dec 2022, 12:06
 Camera make & model, & sensor format:
 Canon EOS 6D, FFS
 Horizontal Field of View: 150°
 Direction of View: 174°, bearing from North

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

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

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Properties on Stocks Lane



Photo Viewpoint 7: North from public footpath

Properties on Fulstone Road

Properties on Shepley Road

Property on Shepley Road adjacent to the southern corner of the site

Glimpses of field within the site

Stone Wood



Photo Viewpoint 7: Continuation of above view.



Photo Viewpoint 7
 Date & time of photo: 08 Dec 2022, 12:54
 Camera make & model, & sensor format:
 Canon EOS 6D, FFS
 Horizontal Field of View: 174°
 Direction of View: 20°, bearing from North

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

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

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Photo Viewpoint 8: South west from public footpath, Shelley

Property adjacent to southern corner of the site The site Properties on Station Road Stocksmoor



Photo Viewpoint 8: Continuation of above view.



Photo Viewpoint 8
 Date & time of photo: 08 Dec 2022, 13:42
 Camera make & model, & sensor format:
 Canon EOS 6D, FFS
 Horizontal Field of View: 172°
 Direction of View: 240°, bearing from North

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

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Shelley

Approximate direction of the site (beyond properties within Stocksmoor)



Photo Viewpoint 9: South east from Green Side Road

Approximate direction of the site (beyond properties within Stocksmoor)



Photo Viewpoint 10: South east from Green Side Road (adjacent to Scheduled Monument)



Photo Viewpoint 9
Date & time of photo: 08 Dec 2022,12:37
Camera make & model, & sensor format:
Canon EOS 6D, FFS
Horizontal Field of View: 87°
Direction of View: 110°, bearing from North



Photo Viewpoint 10
Date & time of photo: 08 Nov 2022,12:16
Camera make & model, & sensor format:
Canon EOS 6D, FFS
Horizontal Field of View: 87°
Direction of View: 110°, bearing from North

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

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Appendix A

Landscape and Visual Appraisal – Methodology and Assessment Criteria

Introduction

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

Landscape

Landscape Sensitivity

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

Landscape Value

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

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

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

Landscape Susceptibility to Change

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

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

Magnitude of Landscape Effects

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

Scale or Size of the Degree of Landscape Change

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

Geographical Extent

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

Duration

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

Reversibility

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

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

Visual

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

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

Visual Susceptibility to Change

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

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

Value of Views

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

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

Magnitude of Visual Effects

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

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

Level of Effect

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

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