

# Land off Penistone Road, Birdsedge

## Landscape and Visual Appraisal




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**Landscape  
Institute**  
Registered  
Practice

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# Land off Penistone Road, Birdsedge

## Landscape and Visual Appraisal

### 1 Introduction

#### 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1. This report presents the findings of a Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) undertaken to accompany an outline application for erection of residential development including associated infrastructure works (hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development'). All matters reserved except means of access into (but not within) the site from Penistone Road. The Proposed Development is located at: Penistone Road, Birdsedge, Huddersfield (hereafter referred to as the Site).
- 1.1.2. The LVA was commissioned by Johnson Mowat on behalf of Yorkshire Land Ltd and was undertaken in April 2026. The LVA was undertaken by DRaW UK Ltd (DRaW), a Registered Practice of the Landscape Institute.

#### 1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site comprises approximately 4 hectares (ha) of agricultural land located to the northeast of Birdsedge. The Site comprises part of a larger agricultural field, extending beyond the original field boundary into the adjacent field to the east. The land to the east is bounded by the woodland corridor in which the River Deane lies.
- 1.2.2 The Site is bounded to the west by the A629 (Penistone Road). To the northwest, the Site adjoins the village of Birdsedge comprising buildings, hardstanding and associated access, with the residential property known as 2 Moorland View located adjacent to the Site at this corner. To the east, the Site extends into an adjoining agricultural field, with a low stone wall forming part of the internal field boundary. To the south, the Site adjoins a small number of residential properties and their curtilages.
- 1.2.3 Designations and constraints relating to a 2 kilometre (km) study area offset from the Site boundaries are set out on drawing 041-54-01: Designations and Constraints Plan. Issues relating to agricultural land classification, flood risk, designated habitats, protected species and designated heritage assets are outside the scope of this LVA.
- 1.2.4 Figure 1 below shows the Site location, and Figure 2 shows the approximate application boundary (red line), ownership boundary (blue line) and the Site context.

Figure 1: Site location

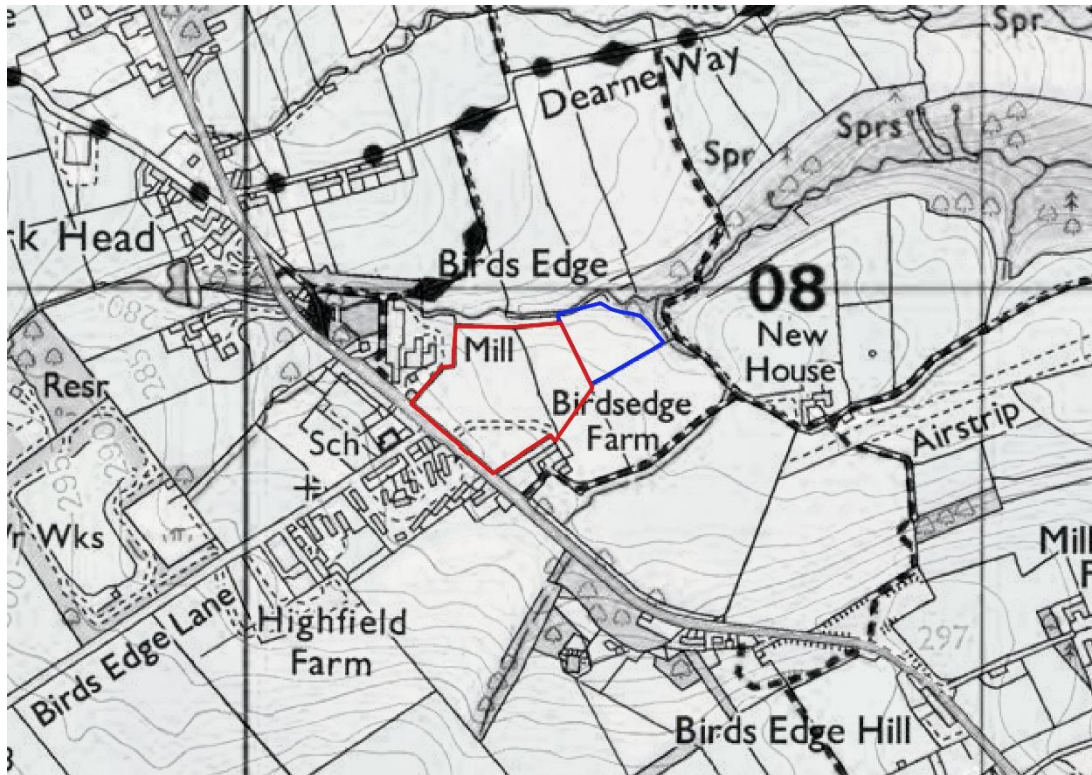
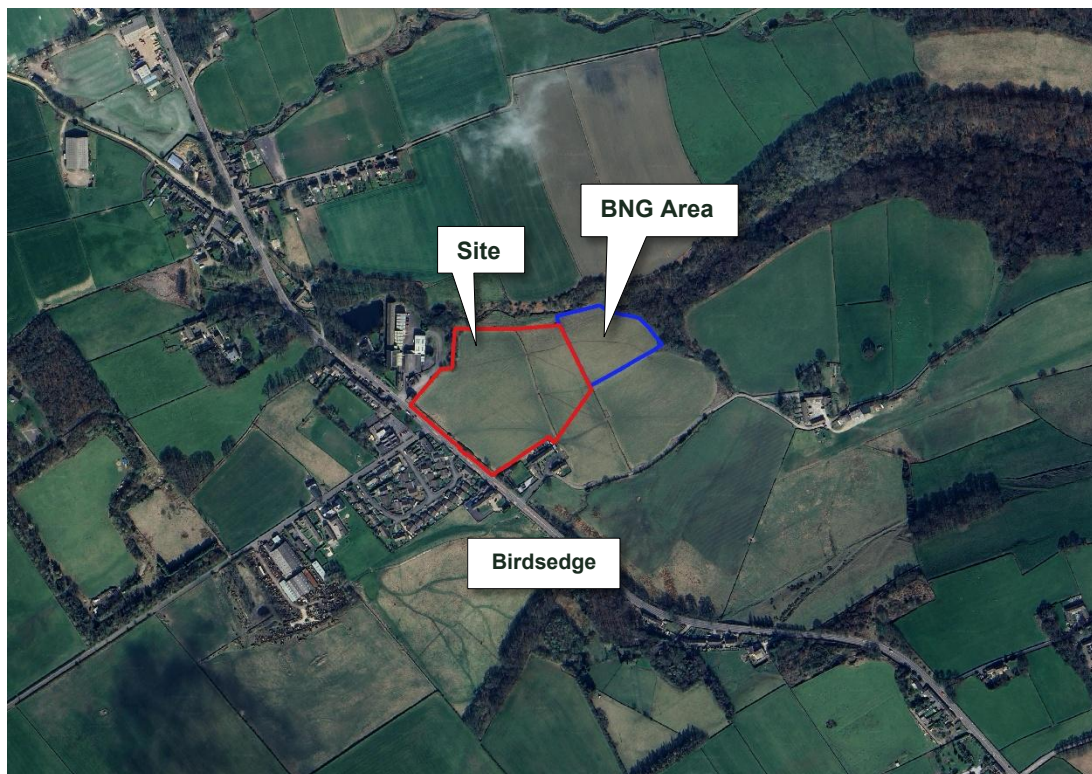


Figure 2: Application boundary and Site Context



## 1.3 Scope of the LVA

1.3.1 This LVA comprises:

- A description of the Proposed Development, including the proposed Landscape Strategy;
- A description of the existing baseline conditions including identification of key landscape planning designations, landscape characteristics and potential receptors; and
- An appraisal of the potential landscape and visual effects resulting from the Proposed Development during construction, at Year 1 operation, and at Year 15 operation.

## 1.4 LVA Methodology

1.4.1 The LVA accords with current best practice guidance, written specifically for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment/ Landscape and Visual Appraisal, namely: *'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment'*, (GLVIA) produced by the Landscape Institute with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (Third Edition, 2013).

1.4.2 The LVA is considered in two separate but inter-linked parts, as follows:

**Landscape Effects** relating to changes in the fabric, character and quality of the landscape. These include physical impacts on features such as vegetation cover, as well as indirect effects on the landscape, taking into account landscape designations and land-use.

**Visual Effects** relating to specific changes in views and the effects of those changes on visual receptors (e.g. residents, users of public rights of way or recreational facilities). Effects on views from publicly accessible heritage assets, particularly those that are popular visitor attractions are also considered, although the effects on the setting of historical assets are outside the scope of this report.

1.4.3 This report is referred to as an LVA rather than an LVIA because the Proposed Development does not require Environmental Impact Assessment. The Landscape Institute published Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01, August 2024, which includes *"How to carry out non-EIA Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA)"*. The advice / clarification states: *"...In carrying out an LVA, the same principles and process as set out in GLVIA3 may be applied to report on effects (identifying the relative importance/ levels of the effects on a scale with reference to sensitivity and magnitude of effect), but it is not required to establish whether the effects arising are or are not significant. Effects should be comparable between LVA and LVIA. For example, a 'moderate effect' should be the same in both assessment contexts"*.

## 1.5 Desk-Based Study

1.5.1 Information for the LVA was gathered from the following sources:

- Proposed Development Information
- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment', (GLVIA) produced by the Landscape Institute with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (Third Edition, 2013).
- Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01, published by The Landscape Institute August 2024.
- National Planning Policy Framework, December 2024.
- Kirklees Local Plan-Adopted 2019.
- Historic England Open Data Hub (<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/data-downloads/>).
- Natural England's National Character Area Profiles 37 (Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe) and 38 (Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield) (<https://nationalcharacterareas.co.uk/>, accessed online April 2026).
- Natural England Open Data Geoportal (<https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com>).
- Public Rights of Way data (<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/countryside-parks-and-open-spaces/Search-for-public-rights-of-way.aspx>, accessed April 2026).
- Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale site-centred digital raster map.
- Open data for the location plan and aerial photography; and
- Google Earth.

## 1.6 Field Study and Study Area

1.6.1 A visual appraisal of the Site and study area was undertaken in April 2026 to assess:

- Landscape characteristics.
- Views of the site from the surrounding areas.
- The location of visual receptors; and
- The potential landscape and visual effects arising from the Proposed Development.

1.6.2 The LVA was undertaken from roads, Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) and publicly accessible locations within 2 km from the Site (the study area) included within the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (see below).

## 1.7 Technical Difficulties Encountered / Limitations and Assumptions

1.7.1 Some of the initial proposed viewpoint photograph locations were adjusted in the field to show the most open and 'worst case' views for the most sensitive receptors.

- 1.7.2 Field work was carried out from publicly accessible locations. Private properties were not accessed.

## 2 Proposed Development

### 2.1 Description of The Proposed Development

- 2.1.1 The Proposed Development comprises an outline planning application (with all matters apart from access reserved) for: the construction of up to 60 dwellings (Class C3 use); access into the site and associated landscaping and infrastructure works.
- 2.1.2 A Parameters Plan (7072-SSA-00-XX-DR-A-03-P07-A1-L- Parameters Plan February 2026) is provided under separate cover.

### 2.2 Proposed Landscape Mitigation

- 2.2.1 The Proposed Development aims to respond to local landscape character. Landscape mitigation is integrated throughout the design of the scheme.
- 2.2.2 Key landscape mitigation includes:
- Retained and reinforced field boundaries in keeping with the field pattern and local landscape character, to support softening and transitioning between built form and the countryside beyond;
  - Retention of existing drystone walls where practicable, reflecting the characteristic boundary treatment of the local landscape;
  - Native species tree, woodland and hedgerow planting to assist integration of the Proposed Development within the wider landscape;
  - Seeding of species rich grassland to provide a richer sward across the Site;
  - Extension of the woodland following the contours, to extend the ancient woodland and soften views from the north, and:
  - Street tree planting throughout the development but specifically at key nodes, to emphasise junctions and strengthen village character.

## 3 Landscape Planning Context

3.1.1 Planning policies and designations which are of direct relevance to the LVA are summarised below. They should be read in conjunction with Drawing 041-54-01 Designations and Constraints Plan (Appendix B).

### 3.2 National Planning Policy Framework

3.2.1 The NPPF was most recently updated in December 2024 (amendments made in February 2025 have been incorporated into the published version and do not impact Policy). The NPPF sets out the government’s planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.

3.2.2 **NPPF Paragraph 135** states that *“Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments (among other things)...are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping...and...are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change...”*.

3.2.3 **NPPF Paragraph 136** recognises that, *“Trees make an important contribution to the character and quality of urban environments and can also help mitigate and adapt to climate change,”* and states that *“existing trees should be retained wherever possible”*.

3.2.4 **NPPF Paragraph 187** states *“Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by [among other things]...protecting and enhancing valued landscapes...(in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan)...and...recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services...”*.

3.2.5 **NPPF Paragraph 188** states that, *“Plans should distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites”*.

3.2.6 **NPPF Paragraph 189** states that, *“Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and National Landscapes, which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues”*. The Site does not fall within any such designated landscape.

3.2.7 The NPPF at Paragraph 2 confirms that *“Planning law requires that applications for planning permission be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise”*.

3.2.8 The Development Plan relevant to this application is the Kirklees Local Plan 2013-2031 (adopted February 2019). The Council launched a Kirklees Local Plan Early Engagement in late 2024. The consultation ran from 25 November 2024 to 28 February 2025. Feedback from this consultation will help shape the vision and objectives and help the Council identify what are to be the main challenges and opportunities when we are planning for the future of Kirklees. To date, there are no strategies or proposals

from an emerging Plan that could carry any weight in the determination of the planning application.

### 3.3 Kirklees Local Plan 2013-2031 (Adopted 2019)

3.3.1 The following policies relate to landscape and visual matters or are specifically relevant to the Proposed Development. The Site lies entirely within Green Belt, which is a planning designation and outside the scope of this assessment.

#### **Policy LP24: Design**

3.3.2 Policy LP24 requires all development proposals to achieve “*good design*” and ensure that the “*form, scale, layout and details*” “*respect and enhance the character*” of the townscape, heritage assets and landscape. Development should also provide a “*high standard of amenity*” for existing and future users and incorporate appropriate landscape treatment and green infrastructure. The policy supports “*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*”.

3.3.3 The policy further promotes “*high levels of sustainability*” and requires development to create “*safe, inclusive and accessible*” environments. Proposals should support biodiversity, contribute to ecological networks, and ensure well-integrated and adaptable places.

#### **Policy LP31: Strategic Green Infrastructure Network**

3.3.4 Policy LP31 gives priority to “*safeguarding and enhancing green infrastructure networks, green infrastructure assets and the range of functions they provide*” within the Strategic Green Infrastructure Network. Development proposals should ensure that “*the function and connectivity of green infrastructure networks and assets are retained or replaced*” and that new green infrastructure is “*designed and integrated into the development scheme*”.

3.3.5 The policy also requires integration with “*cycling, bridleway and walking routes*”, and supports “*the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological links*”, including connections to the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network. Proposals for new or enhanced green infrastructure are supported where they accord with other Local Plan policies.

3.3.6 The Site lies within the Strategic Green Infrastructure Network, specifically associated with the River Dearne corridor, as identified on the Policies Map.

#### **Policy LP32: Landscape**

3.3.7 Policy LP32 requires development proposals to “*take into account and seek to enhance the landscape character of the area*”. In doing so, proposals should consider “*the setting of settlements and buildings within the landscape*”, “*the patterns of woodland, trees and field boundaries*”, and “*the appearance of rivers, canals, reservoirs and other water features within the landscape*”.

- 3.3.8 The policy also requires consideration of “*views in and out of*” designated landscapes, including the Peak District National Park, and the protection of important landscape features and characteristics that contribute to local distinctiveness.

**Policy LP33: Trees**

- 3.3.9 Policy LP33 seeks to protect “*trees or woodlands of significant amenity*” and requires development proposals to “*retain any valuable or important trees*” where they contribute to public amenity, local distinctiveness or the wider environment, including green infrastructure networks. The policy requires compliance with relevant standards for tree protection, and where loss is unavoidable, appropriate mitigation is required.

## 4 Designations and Constraints

### 4.1 Designations and Constraints Relevant to Landscape and Visual Matters

4.1.1 This section which should be read in conjunction with Drawing *041-54-01 Designations and Constraints*, identifies relevant designations and constraints relevant to this LVA. Table 1 lists relevant designations and features within the Site and the wider 2 km study area. Ecology related matters are addressed elsewhere.

Table 1: Designations and Constraints within the Site and study area

Designations or Feature	Present within the Site Boundary	Present within the Study Area (1.5 km of the site).
<b>Protected Landscape &amp; Nature Assets</b>		
National Parks	None	None
National Landscapes	None	None
Green Belt	Yes (Refer to section below)	Yes (Refer to section below)
Ancient Woodland	None	Yes (Refer to section below)
Tree Preservation Orders	None	Yes (Refer to section below)
<b>Protected Heritage Assets</b>		
World Heritage Sites	None	None
Scheduled Monuments	None	None
Conservation Areas	None	Yes (Refer to section below)
Listed Buildings	None	Yes (Refer to section below)
Registered Parks and Gardens	None	None
Historic Battlefields	None	None
<b>Access</b>		
Country Parks	None	None
Recreational Routes	None	Yes (Refer to section below)
Public Rights of Way	None	Yes (Refer to section below)

#### Green Belt

The Site lies entirely within Kirklees Green Belt, which is a planning designation and outside the scope of this assessment.

### **Ancient Woodland**

4.1.2 There are areas of ancient woodland located along the River Deane to the northeast of the Site within the Study Area. These are shown for context only and are considered in ecological reporting.

### **Conservation Areas**

4.1.3 There are three Conservation Areas within the Study Area: High Flatts, Upper Cumberworth and Shepley. As noted above, issues relating to designated heritage assets are outside the scope of this LVA.

### **Tree Preservation Orders**

4.1.4 There are several Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) within the Study Area, although none are located within the Site. The Proposed Development would not affect any TPOs.

### **Listed Buildings**

4.1.5 There are 24 Listed Buildings within the Study Area. As noted above, issues relating to designated heritage assets are outside the scope of this LVA. The contribution of these features to the landscape and visual baseline and representative views towards the Site from them can be considered as part of LVA.

### **Recreational Routes**

4.1.6 The Dearne Way lies approximately 70m to the northwest of the Site at its closest point. The long-distance walking route extends for approximately 50km and follows the course of the River Dearne from near its source at Birdsedge to its confluence with the River Don at Mexborough. Barnsley Boundary Walk lies approximately 885m to the southwest and Kirklees Way is lies at the edge of the 2km study area to the northeast.

### **Public Rights of Way (PRoW)**

4.1.7 Public Rights of Way are shown on Drawing 041-54-01 Designations and Constraints, which identifies landscape planning designations and constraints relevant to this LVA. Public Rights of Way within the Study Area have informed the selection of viewpoints and visual receptors.

## 5 Landscape Baseline

### 5.1 Landscape Context

5.1.1 The landscape character is considered at three levels:

- National level, in relation to the National Character Area Profiles, produced by Natural England.
- Local level, through local Landscape Character Assessments.
- Study Area level, based on field observations to confirm the key features and characteristics pertinent to the study area and the application site.

5.1.2 Drawing 041-54-02: *Landscape Character* maps National and Local level Character Areas in relation to the Site.

### 5.2 National Character Areas (NCA)

5.2.1 The Site lies entirely within NCA profile 37: Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe. This NCA covers a broad geographical area, providing background and context to more detailed local landscape character assessments (LCAs). Typical 'key characteristics' for the NCA may not necessarily be relevant to specific locations within it. For these reasons, this LVA focuses upon local LCAs and Site-specific information.

5.2.2 Some key characteristics of the NCA 37 include:

- *“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.*
- *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.*
- *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 upside slopes, with location and layout strongly influenced by the landform.*
- *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; and*
- *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.”*

5.2.3 NCA 37 provides several environmental objectives (SEOs). The following SEOs are considered relevant to the Site:

- **SEO3:** *“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.”*
- **SEO4:** *“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.”*

### 5.3 Local Landscape Character Areas

#### **Landscape Character Supplementary Planning Document, Kirklees District Council, 2015**

5.3.1 The *Kirklees District Council Landscape Character Assessment* (2015) provides a detailed description of Landscape Character Types (LCTs), which are sub-divided into Landscape Character Areas (LCAs).

5.3.2 The Site lies within *the Low Common, Royd Moor and Whitley Common Landscape Character Area (LCA D9)*, which forms part of the ‘Moorland Fringes / Upland Pastures’ Landscape Character Type (LCT D). The Site is located toward the northern part of this LCA, with adjacent areas of *(LCA G10) River Dearne Valley* also present within the wider Study Area (refer to drawing *041-54-02 Landscape Character*).

#### **Character Area D9 Low Common, Royd Moor and Whitley Common**

5.3.3 The description for LCA D9 states that *“This LCA forms a small area of upland pasture located along the southern boundary of Kirklees... It lies above the Holme Valley to the west and Dearne Valley to the east”*.

5.3.4 It continues that the landscape comprises a *“gently rising landform”* forming part of a *“broad, gently rounded range of hills”*, with an open and elevated character affording *“long distance open views over the district”*.

5.3.5 Key Characteristics relating to Topography, geology and drainage:

- *“Gently rising landform... between approximately 250 and 400 metres altitude”;*
- *Landform forming part of a broader range of rounded hills; and*
- *Presence of ponds, springs and small tributaries draining toward surrounding valleys.*

5.3.6 Key characteristics relating to Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife:

- Land divided into a “*regular patchwork of small fields... typically enclosed by gritstone walls*”;
- Land use dominated by grazing pasture;
- Generally open landscape with limited woodland cover, comprising small blocks and shelterbelts; and
- Presence of remnant semi-natural habitats including species-rich grassland, meadows and water features.
- The LCA is crossed by a number of public rights of way including short lengths of the Dearne Way and Barnsley Boundary Walk.

5.3.7 Key characteristics relating to Settlement, built environment and communication include:

- A “*dispersed settlement pattern*” of scattered farmsteads and small villages including Birdsedge;
- The A629 (Penistone Road) forming the main route through the area; and
- A network of minor roads and lanes bounded by stone walls.

5.3.8 Key characteristics relating to Views and perceptual qualities include:

- “*This is a sparsely settled landscape with a strong rural nature and important relative levels of tranquillity – broken locally by traffic on the A629*”;
- Wind turbines forming visual detractors on skylines, including domestic turbines and views toward larger wind farms to the south;
- An “*open, large scale and quite exposed landscape*”;
- Long-distance views across the surrounding area; and
- A strong visual relationship with adjacent landscapes due to the elevated landform.

### **Character Area G10 River Dearne Valley**

5.3.9 The description for this character area includes “a well-defined river valley landscape with strong linear features associated with the watercourse and riparian vegetation”. It also includes “woodland belts, trees and wetland habitats which contribute to a well-vegetated and enclosed character in parts”. The river corridor forms a key landscape feature, with “ecological value and connectivity” and a strong influence on local landscape character. Views are often “filtered or contained by vegetation along the valley sides and floor”, although occasional openings allow views across the valley.

### **Character Area E6 Fenay Beck Valley Rural Fringes**

5.3.10 The description for this character area includes “a transitional landscape influenced by both agricultural land use and adjacent urban development”. It also includes “a mix of pasture and arable fields defined by hedgerows, with scattered trees and small woodland blocks”. Built development is typically dispersed or located along settlement edges, contributing to a semi-rural character. Views are often “medium to long-

distance, influenced by gently undulating landform and intermittent vegetation”, with localised influence from infrastructure and settlement edges.

## 5.4 Local Character

### The Site and its Surroundings

- 5.4.1 The Site and its surroundings are defined by the A629 (Penistone Road) to the west, agricultural fields to the east, the River Dearne corridor to the north, and scattered residential properties and agricultural land to the south.
- 5.4.2 The Site comprises agricultural land forming part of a wider rural landscape, with a generally open character influenced by the adjacent road corridor and nearby development.

### Landform

- 5.4.3 The Site comprises a gently sloping landform, falling from approximately 270m AOD at the western boundary adjacent to the A629 (Penistone Road) to approximately 250m AOD towards the eastern extent of the Site. The wider landscape is characterised by gently undulating agricultural land, with local variations associated with the River Dearne corridor. The Site’s elevation affords views across and up the valley towards Upper Cumberworth. Approximate levels are illustrated on Drawing 041-54-03 Topography.

### Vegetation Cover

- 5.4.4 Vegetation within the Site is limited, comprising of intermittent hedgerow and scrub along the road boundary and vegetation associated with gritstone walls. A single Ash tree is located along the Site boundary adjacent to Penistone Road. Vegetation along the road frontage includes low-level scrub and ornamental planting. More substantial vegetation is present beyond the Site, including mature trees along the River Dearne and Jordan Beck. Trees are also present within adjacent residential curtilages, including at Moorland View.

### Land Use and Built Form

- 5.4.5 The Site is in agricultural use, comprising fields defined by drystone wall boundaries which follow the undulating landform and form a characteristic field pattern. Built development in the surrounding area is dispersed, with individual properties and small clusters. Residential development along the A629 forms a linear pattern. Buildings are predominantly constructed from Yorkshire stone, with more recent development incorporating stone, brick and render.

### Watercourses/bodies

- 5.4.6 The River Dearne lies to the north of the Site and forms a key landscape feature, contained by mature trees and riparian vegetation. Jordan Beck is located to the south, associated with lower-lying land and vegetation along its course.

### Aesthetic and Perceptual Qualities

- 5.4.7 The Site has a predominantly rural character, defined by agricultural land use, drystone wall field patterns and undulating landform. Perceptual qualities are influenced by the A629 (Penistone Road), which is a well-used and heavily trafficked route, introducing movement and noise and reducing levels of tranquillity. The Site is relatively open, with a degree of enclosure from adjacent dwellings and boundary vegetation. Localised roadside infrastructure, including utility cabinets, lighting columns and overhead cables introduces elements of visual clutter within the immediate context.

### Cultural Associations/Historic Setting

- 5.4.8 The Site is located within a landscape characterised by dispersed rural settlement and agricultural land use. Historic mapping indicates a consistent field pattern and incremental expansion of settlement along the A629. The surrounding landscape is valued for wider views, including from locations along the Dearne Way such as Mill Workers View.

### The Site and its Surroundings within the context of published landscape character information

In relation to Character Area D9 Low Common, Royd Moor and Whitley Common, the Site forms part of a gently undulating agricultural landscape characterised by pasture and arable fields enclosed by hedgerows and stone walls. The Site reflects the key characteristics of this landscape, including its open, rural nature and dispersed settlement pattern. Whilst the wider character area is described as open and elevated with long-distance views, these are locally influenced by nearby built development and the A629 corridor, which provide a limited degree of enclosure and partially reduce the perception of openness.

- 5.4.9 In relation to the perceptual qualities of the D9 character area, the Site reflects the description of “*a sparsely settled landscape with a strong rural nature*”, although tranquillity is locally influenced by the presence of the A629 (Penistone Road) and associated movement, and roadside infrastructure, which introduces elements of visual clutter.
- 5.4.10 In relation to Character Area G10 River Dearne Valley, the Site lies adjacent to, but outside, the defined river corridor. The character of this area is strongly influenced by the presence of the River Dearne and associated riparian vegetation, which creates a partially enclosed and well-vegetated landscape. This is evident to the northeast of the site, where mature trees and vegetation define the river corridor. However, the Site itself is separated from this feature by intervening agricultural land and does not share the same degree of enclosure or strong vegetated character, instead relating more closely to the open farmland of the D9 character area.
- 5.4.11 Overall, the Site and its immediate surroundings are representative of a transitional part of the D9 landscape, where the open agricultural character is influenced by nearby infrastructure and built development. The Site retains a predominantly rural character, although this is locally moderated by the presence of the road corridor and adjacent properties.

### Landscape Character Photos

5.4.12 Figure 3 shows the current agricultural use of the Site, its sloping topography towards the River Dearne wooded corridor.

Figure 3: Agricultural use



5.4.13 Figure 4 shows Penistone Road immediately south of the Site looking north including adjacent residential properties.

Figure 4: A629 Penistone Road



5.4.14 Figure 5 shows a gently undulating agricultural landscape characterised by fields defined by drystone walls, with land falling towards the vegetated valley corridor and rising to wooded ridgelines beyond.

Figure 5: Looking east from the edge of the Mill



## 5.5 Future Landscape Change

5.5.1 Without the Proposed Development, the Site would likely remain in its current agricultural use, forming part of the surrounding farmland adjacent to the A629 (Penistone Road).

# 6 Landscape Assessment

## 6.1 Potential Landscape Effects

6.1.1 Potential landscape effects resulting from the Proposed Development are assessed in relation to:

- Effects upon the Site and its surroundings during construction, at Year 1 operation, and at Year 15 operation; and
- The perceived changes to wider landscape character using published landscape character assessments (national and local) as a baseline.

6.1.2 As described above, the Site and its immediate surroundings include the A629 (Penistone Road) to the west, agricultural fields to the east, the River Dearne corridor to the north, and scattered residential properties and agricultural land to the south.

6.1.3 The perceived changes to landscape character are considered in relation to Character Area D9 Low Common, Royd Moor and Whitley Common.

6.1.4 Visual effects are considered separately in Section 7.

## 6.2 Sources of Potential Landscape Effects

- 6.2.1 Construction stage activity would vary in nature and intensity across the Site, introducing temporary site fencing, compounds, storage areas, welfare and parking facilities. Heavy plant movements would be present, including associated lighting and noise, and construction operatives would be visible within the Site.
- 6.2.2 Soil stripping and excavations would be required to facilitate access, foundations and infrastructure. Topsoil and subsoil would be stored on Site for re-use where possible, with some materials removed from Site. There would be deliveries and temporary storage of materials, and the use of lifting equipment, such as cranes, during the construction of the houses. The final phase would include the implementation of the landscape scheme and planting (during the appropriate season).
- 6.2.3 Existing vegetation within and adjacent to the Site would be retained and protected during construction works where possible. Some localised removal or alteration of boundary features may be required to facilitate access from the A629 (Penistone Road).
- 6.2.4 The Proposed Development would introduce new residential dwellings and associated infrastructure, including access roads, parking areas and areas of hard and soft landscaping. Areas of public open space and a Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP) would also be provided within the Site.
- 6.2.5 Landscape measures would be implemented, managed and maintained in accordance with good horticultural practice to ensure successful establishment. This would assist in integrating the Proposed Development within the surrounding landscape, providing filtering of views towards the Site whilst maintaining connectivity with the wider landscape.

## 6.3 Sensitivity of the Site and it's Immediate Surroundings

- 6.3.1 The sensitivity of the Site and its immediate surroundings has been assessed in relation to 'value' and 'susceptibility to change', taking into account of the desk study and field observations.
- 6.3.2 Landscape sensitivity is determined by professional judgment, combining levels of 'value' that are attached to the landscape, and its 'susceptibility' to the proposed change. Levels of landscape value and susceptibility are based upon analysis of information gathered during the baseline studies, as set out in the preceding sections, and criteria used in the LVIA methodology following the methodology presented in Appendix A.

### ***Value of the Landscape***

- 6.3.3 **Landscape value** is defined as the '*value attached to the landscape by society*' (Paragraph 5.19 of GLVIA3).
- 6.3.4 Landscape value is represented by designations which are assigned at a national or local level. As defined by Paragraph 5.47 GLVIA3 '*Landscapes that are nationally*

*designated will be accorded the highest value in the assessment.*’ and further defined by point 5(7) in Technical Guidance Note LI TGN-2024-01, August 2024, which states *‘landscape value within nationally designated landscapes should be at the highest level (e.g. expressed as high/ very high/ of national value)’*.

6.3.5 Outside of designated landscapes, a range of definitions used to define landscape value are set out in TGN 02/21 *‘Assessing landscape value outside national designations’*, as set out in the methodology provided in Appendix A.

6.3.6 The assessment of landscape value considers the following criterion for a site and its surroundings:

- Natural heritage
- Cultural heritage
- Landscape condition
- Associations
- Distinctiveness
- Recreational value
- Perceptual (scenic) value
- Perceptual; (wildness & tranquillity) value
- Functional value.

6.3.7 Published local landscape character assessment information is discussed above. This information is considered as part of the assessment of sensitivity below. As mentioned above, the Site and its immediate surroundings lie within local character area D9 Low Common, Royd Moor and Whitley Common.

Table 2: Value of the landscape within the Site and its immediate surroundings

Criterion	Justification	Value
<i>Natural Heritage</i>	The Site and its immediate surroundings have some evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest.	<b>Medium</b>
<i>Cultural Heritage</i>	The Site and its immediate surroundings have some evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest.	<b>Medium</b>
<i>Landscape condition</i>	The Site and its immediate surroundings are in a moderate physical state.	<b>Medium</b>
<i>Associations</i>	The Site and its immediate surroundings have no known connections with notable people, events and the arts.	<b>Low</b>
<i>Distinctiveness</i>	The Site and its immediate surroundings include some characteristics of the local landscape character area and is assessed to have a moderate sense of identity.	<b>Medium</b>
<i>Recreational Value</i>	The Site has no access offering very limited recreational opportunities.	<b>Low</b>

<i>Perceptual (scenic) value</i>	The landscape has some perceptual appeal to the senses, attributable to its rural context and longer-distance views, albeit constrained by limited vegetation and the influence of surrounding development and road corridors.	<b>Medium</b>
<i>Perceptual; (wildness &amp; tranquillity) value</i>	Although the site's perceptual qualities are reduced by adjacent road, residential curtilage and active arable land use, residual rural characteristics contribute some degree of wildness and tranquillity.	<b>Medium</b>
<i>Function</i>	The landscape of the Site has a clearly identifiable and valuable function (agriculture).	<b>High</b>
<b>Overall Value</b>		<b>Medium</b>

### **Susceptibility of The Landscape to Change**

6.3.8 The susceptibility of a landscape to development change is defined as, “*The ability of the landscape (whether it be the overall character or quality/condition of a particular landscape type or area, or an individual element and/or feature, or a particular aesthetic and perceptual aspect) to accommodate the Proposed Development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies*” (Paragraph 5.40 of GLVIA3).

6.3.9 The following susceptibility assessment is set out in Table 3: Susceptibility Assessment of The Site and its Surroundings. It considers the Site and its surroundings against three criterion that relate to its physical, visual and experiential susceptibility to change. The assessment is to be read in conjunction with the Methodology provided in Appendix A.

Table 3: Susceptibility of the landscape within the Site and it's immediate surroundings

<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Justification</b>	<b>Value</b>
<i>Pattern, complexity and physical susceptibility to change</i>	A landscape with mostly intact pattern and/or with a degree of complexity and with features mostly in reasonable condition.	<b>Medium</b>
<i>Visual susceptibility to change</i>	A partially enclosed landscape with some visual containment and filtering, possible limited inter-visibility with visual landmarks and designated landscapes.	<b>Medium</b>
<i>Experiential susceptibility to change</i>	A partially tranquil landscape with limited visual and/or aural intrusion, some relationship with built development/ infrastructure may be present. A landscape which contains some light sources.	<b>Medium</b>
<b>Overall Value</b>		<b>Medium</b>

- 6.3.10 In relation to overall landscape sensitivity, the 'value' of the site and its immediate surroundings is assessed to be **Medium** and its 'susceptibility' to the type of Proposed Development is assessed to be **Medium**.
- 6.3.11 Using the appended methodology as a guide, the overall landscape sensitivity is assessed to be **Medium**.

## 6.4 Sensitivity of Local Landscape Character

- 6.4.1 Kirklees District Landscape Character Assessment does not include overall sensitivity assessments, and it is out of scope of this study to evaluate contextual character areas. As such, the sensitivity assessment derived for the site and its immediate surroundings shall be used to form judgements on overall landscape effects on the local character area. For clarity this is **Medium**.

## 6.5 Landscape Effects upon the Site and Immediate Surroundings

- 6.5.1 Table 4 sets out potential landscape impacts and their magnitude during construction, at operation and after 15 years. Assessments are based upon the methodology presented in Appendix A. Predicted landscape effects assume the primary mitigation measures outlined in Section 2.1 as part of the Proposed Development scheme are implemented as an integral part of the scheme proposals.

Table 4: Magnitude of Landscape Effects: Site and Immediate Surroundings

Description of Potential Landscape Effects
<b>DURING CONSTRUCTION</b>
<p><b>Landscape Impacts During Construction</b></p> <p>Construction would involve vegetation clearance, soil stripping and excavations to facilitate access, infrastructure and foundations. Topsoil and subsoil would be stockpiled on Site for reuse where practicable, with construction materials delivered and temporarily stored. Cranes, heavy plant and construction activity would be intermittently prominent, alongside temporary site fencing, compounds, welfare facilities and contractor parking. These activities would generate visual and aural intrusion associated with plant movements, warning lights and construction operatives.</p> <p>Existing vegetation within and adjacent to the Site would be retained and protected where feasible, with any removals limited to localised sections required to enable access or development.</p>
<p><b>Magnitude of Effects during Construction</b></p> <p><b>Size and / or scale:</b> Construction activity would result in a <b>high</b> level of change, primarily through temporary loss of agricultural land and the introduction of construction features forming a dominant characteristic across the Site.</p> <p><b>Geographical extent:</b> Effects would be discernible across the majority of the Site and its immediate surrounding and therefore <b>high</b>.</p> <p><b>Duration and Reversibility of effects:</b> Notable landscape effects would be short term and reversible, with construction activities expected to last less than two years. On a worst-case basis, the magnitude of landscape effects during construction is assessed as <b>high</b>.</p> <p>To present a worst-case scenario, <b>the <u>Magnitude of Effects during the Construction phase is assessed as High.</u></b> The nature of the effect is <b><u>Adverse.</u></b></p>

**AT YEAR 1 OPERATION**

**Landscape Impacts at Operation**

At year one operation, the introduction of new houses and a pump station, together with access roads, parking areas and hard landscaping, would be built into the Site, within the immediate context of the A629 (Penistone Road) corridor and surrounding dispersed residential properties. The proposed buildings would be spaced across the Site and would be similar in scale and form to nearby development. Areas of public open space, including a Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP), would increase the useability of the Site for people, whilst maintaining areas of open land.

The proposed planting would begin to establish, contributing to the integration of the development within the surrounding landscape. Retention of existing vegetation, together with new planting, would assist in filtering views of the development, although built form would remain apparent in the early years following construction.

**Magnitude of Effects at Year 1 Operation**

**Size and / or scale:** In terms of size and/or scale of change, the extent and relative proportion of the existing landscape elements to be changed would be large, as the introduction of residential development would form a noticeable new landscape element, albeit within the context of existing development and infrastructure along the A629 corridor, resulting in a **High** level of change.

**Geographical extent:** Effects would be discernible across a large majority of the Site and therefore **High**

**Duration and Reversibility of effects:** In terms of duration and reversibility, notable landscape effects would persist for approximately 5–10 years, after which planting would provide increasing levels of mitigation. The magnitude of effects are assessed as **Medium**.

To present a worst-case scenario, **the Magnitude of Effects during the Year 1 Operation phase is assessed as High** The nature of the effect is **Adverse**.

**AT 15 YEARS OPERATION**

**Landscape Impacts at Year 15 Operation**

At Year 15 operation, tree planting within the Proposed Development would have aided its integration into the surrounding landscape. The landscape scheme, including areas of public open space and the LEAP, would contribute positively to the character of the Site and its immediate surroundings, and increase its useability for people.

**Magnitude of effects at 15 years Operation**

**Size and / or scale:** In terms of size and/or scale of change, the extent and relative proportion of the existing landscape elements to be changed would be moderate, as the introduction of residential development would form a noticeable new landscape element, resulting in a **Medium** level of change.

**Geographical extent:** Effects would be discernible across a moderate proportion of the Site and its immediate surroundings and therefore **Medium**.

**Duration and Reversibility of effects:** In terms of duration and reversibility, notable landscape effects would persist for approximately 2-5 years, planting would provide increasing levels of mitigation. The magnitude of effect is assessed to be **Low**.

To present a worst-case scenario, **the Magnitude of Effects during the Year 15 Operation phase is assessed as Medium**. The nature of the effect is **Adverse**.

## Overall Landscape Effects

6.5.2 Table 5 presents the overall assessment of landscape effects at construction, operation and at 15 years operation on the site and its environs.

Table 5: Overall Landscape Effects: Site & Immediate Surroundings

Magnitude of effects: Construction			Magnitude of effects: Year 1 Operation			Magnitude of effects: Year 15 Operation		
Size and Scale of Change	Geographical Extent	Duration and Reversibility	Size and Scale of Change	Geographical Extent	Duration and Reversibility	Size and Scale of Change	Geographical Extent	Duration and Reversibility
<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Negligible</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>
Magnitude of Effect <b>High</b>			Magnitude of Effect <b>High</b>			Magnitude of Effect <b>Medium</b>		
Landscape Sensitivity <b>Medium</b>			Landscape Sensitivity <b>Medium</b>			Landscape Sensitivity <b>Medium</b>		
<b>Overall effects: Construction</b>			<b>Overall effects: Year 1 Operation</b>			<b>Overall effects: Year 15 Operation</b>		
Overall Effect with direction <b>Moderate/Substantial (Adverse)</b>			Overall Effect with direction <b>Moderate/Substantial (Adverse)</b>			Overall Effect with direction <b>Moderate (Adverse)</b>		

## 6.6 Landscape Effects on Local Landscape Character Areas

6.6.1 As described above, the Site is located within Character Area D9 Low Common, Royd Moor and Whitley Common. In addition to the potential landscape effects upon the Site and its immediate surroundings considered above, the potential landscape effects resulting from the Proposed Development are assessed in relation to the perceived changes to the landscape character of the surrounding landscape, with reference to the published landscape character area information.

6.6.2 The majority of key characteristics, features and land uses throughout the wider character area would not be affected including:

- Overall landform (Changes are expected to be highly localised).
- The presence of the gritstone walls and field patterns. Although a small part of one wall is likely to be removed this will not affect overall landscape characteristics of this area.
- Provision of Public rights of way overall.
- Pattern and arrangement of tree cover overall.

6.6.3 Generally, the Proposed Development would reflect the existing landscape structure of this character area, including the majority of field patterns and vegetation structure, and would integrate with the surrounding landscape through the retention and strengthening of existing planting and the introduction of new planted areas.

6.6.4 The Proposed development would introduce increased housing, arranged in blocks (as shown on the parameters plan) in Birdsedge. This change which would erode the characteristic “*sparsely settled landscape with a strong rural nature*” (Kirklees District Council Landscape Character Assessment (2015)). The result of this change would also limit long distance views experienced from one particular aspect within the study

area (see the Visual assessment in section 7.6 for additional detail). That said, this type of change has occurred elsewhere in the character area in other villages.

- 6.6.5 These changes would be minor and localised in relation to the wider landscape character area. The change would be long-term.

#### Overall Landscape Effects: Local Landscape Character

- The Size and scale of proposed changes and landscape effects, in relation of the wider character area would be **Low**.
- The Geographical extent of proposed changes and landscape effects would be **Low**.
- The Duration of effects would be **High**.

**Overall Magnitude of Effect to the local landscape character area** D9 Low Common, Royd Moor and Whitley Common would be **Low**.

**The overall effect has been assessed as Minor / Moderate adverse in the long-term.**

- 6.6.6 There would be no physical effects upon other local landscape character areas within the study area, including Character Area G10 River Dearne Valley. Any effects would be limited to perceptual effects associated with views towards the Site.

## 7 Visual Baseline & Assessment

### 7.1 Visual context and Zone of Theoretical Visibility

- 7.1.1 A computer-generated zone of theoretical visibility map (ZTV) was produced to identify the locations from which it may be possible to view the Proposed Development. The ZTV is provided on Drawing *041-54-04 ZTV and Viewpoint Locations*, available in Appendix B.
- 7.1.2 The ZTV takes into account screening afforded by landform, using 'OS Terrain 5' (digital terrain data at 5m resolution). Woodland and buildings are mapped as visual barriers using OS VectorMap District data. The ZTV identifies those areas from which the development may be theoretically visible. The ZTV does not take into account the myriad of small, low-level intervening features which, combined, also contribute to visual screening, consequently the actual visibility is likely to be less than the ZTV plot indicates. Despite limitations it is a valuable technique for identifying potential visual receptors, directing field work and informing the selection of representative viewpoints.
- 7.1.3 The ZTV parameters are included on the Drawings and Figures. These relate to the Proposed Development included within the planning application.

### 7.2 Visual Receptors and Viewpoint Assessment

- 7.2.1 Based on the ZTV analysis and field observations it is predicted that the key views of the Proposed Development would be experienced by:

- Users of Public Rights of Way within the local area;
- People living and moving about adjacent residential neighbourhoods; and
- Users of Penistone Road (A629) and the local road network.

7.2.2 Views of the Proposed Development are experienced from publicly accessible locations and surrounding settlements, although the extent of visibility is influenced by intervening vegetation, built form and landform, resulting in varying degrees of filtering and partial restriction. Whilst there no publicly available views from surrounding farmland, there will be people who experience views of the Proposed Development from these locations. It is noted that people engaged in work activity are considered to have a low sensitivity to the Proposed Development.

### 7.3 Representative Viewpoints

7.3.1 An assessment of visual effects was undertaken from nine publicly accessible viewpoints representing views for key receptors, at varying distances and orientations from the Site (Refer to Viewpoints 1 to 9 below). The viewpoint locations are shown on Drawing 041-54-04 ZTV and Viewpoint Locations.

### 7.4 Photography

7.4.1 The baseline photographs within this report are Visualisation type 1 ‘annotated viewpoint photographs’, referred to within Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19, Visual Representation of Development Proposals, “*to represent context and outline or extent of development and of key features*”.

7.4.2 For each viewpoint the camera was set up to ensure that it was level, and the centre of lens was 1.6m above ground level. The geographical location of the camera was then recorded photographically, using a handheld GPS device. All relevant viewpoint details were recorded (including time, date, location, weather condition, visibility level etc).

7.4.3 Photographic panoramas were created by ‘stitching’ together a series of overlapping, single frame photographs taken at each viewpoint location. These were stitched using specialist software within PTGui (specialist photo stitch software) to create single panoramic images.

### 7.5 Weather and Visibility

7.5.1 The weather forecast was checked using the Met Office mobile phone application. The weather during the day was sunny and ‘Very Good’ visibility.

### 7.6 Visual Assessment

7.6.1 The tables below present the baseline conditions and potential effect for each of the assessed viewpoints. Full sized, baseline photography and montages are presented in Appendix C.

## Viewpoint 1: Penistone Road

Viewpoint 1: Penistone Road		
<b>Receptor Type:</b> People travelling along Penistone Road (A629), local residents of Birdsedge		
<b>Distance from development area:</b> 15m Photograph parameters, camera location and orientation information is provided on the Viewpoint Photographs figures.		
The assessment is to be read in conjunction with the Methodology set (Appendix A), Viewpoint Locations on Drawing 041-54-04 (Appendix B) and Viewpoint Photographs (Appendix C).		
Description of existing view		
<p>This location is within the Low Common Royd Moor &amp; Whitley Common character area.</p> <p>The photographs were taken from a location adjacent to a residential property on the eastern side of Penistone Road, opposite the Site. The view looks eastwards across the Site, which comprises agricultural fields that roll away from the road towards a small watercourse. Field boundaries are generally defined by dry stone walls which follow the undulating landform.</p> <p>In the foreground, Penistone Road is a prominent feature within the view. The road experiences frequent vehicle movement, including heavy goods vehicles, resulting in noticeable activity and noise. Roadside infrastructure, including telegraph poles, electricity substation boxes and street lighting, introduces vertical elements along the frontage which detract from the otherwise rural character of the view.</p> <p>Beyond the road, the Site forms part of a wider agricultural landscape with gently rolling landform. In the midground, woodland associated with the watercourse comprises predominantly deciduous species, creating a distinctive pattern where the land falls towards and rises away from the valley. Closer to settlement edges, the species mix becomes more varied, including occasional evergreen planting.</p> <p>Longer-distance views extend towards Upper Cumberworth and the surrounding countryside. Emley Moor Mast forms a prominent vertical feature on the skyline and a distinctive local landmark. To the right, views towards the outskirts of Huddersfield include rolling countryside and wooded hilltops, with limited built development, although a distant wind turbine is perceptible.</p> <p>The value of the view is medium. Overall, the view over the wider landscape is pleasant and contains visual interest, the presence of the road and associated infrastructure reduces the sense of tranquillity and is a detractor. It is mostly frequented by local people and is not waymarked or publicised.</p> <p>The susceptibility of residential receptors to change is high reflecting experiences of residents at home, where views contribute to the setting or visual amenity of the house or settlement.</p> <p>The susceptibility of the road receptors to change is medium reflecting that travellers using the road are not primarily focused on the views, although they do contribute to the setting of the route.</p>		
Value of the View	Susceptibility of the Visual Receptor	Sensitivity of the Receptor
<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium (road users)</b> <b>High (residents)</b>	<b>Medium (road users)</b> <b>High (residents)</b>
Description of Proposed View		
<p><b>Construction:</b></p> <p>Construction activity would create a prominent change within the view, with moving plant and construction equipment providing a clear contrast with the existing rural landscape. Views towards the Site are largely open and unrestricted, Effects would last less than two years, leading to an overall magnitude of <b>High</b>.</p> <p><b>Year 1 Operation:</b></p> <p>Agricultural fields present in the foreground would change to accommodate new residential development and associated infrastructure, greenspace and trees. The slightly lower elevation and set back position of any proposed homes within the developable area along Penistone Road, and the inclusion of doorstep open spaces could permit glimpses of the existing rural backdrop over and between new properties, however overall, the view would be substantially foreshortened and would change substantially in character.</p> <p>Over time, vegetation and trees proposed along the Penistone Road and throughout the development could soften and filter views however the fundamental effects would remain unchanged over time.</p> <p>The magnitude of effect would be <b>High</b> due to the substantial change introduced and the proximity of it to the receptor.</p> <p><b>Year 15 years Operation:</b></p>		

Established planting would assist integration of the Proposed Development and provide partial filtering of the view. However, due to the close proximity of the receptor, the overriding foreshortening effect would remain unchanged resulting in a <b>High</b> magnitude of effect.								
<b>Magnitude of effects: Construction</b>			<b>Magnitude of effects: Year 1 Operation</b>			<b>Magnitude of effects: Year 15 Operation</b>		
Size and Scale of Change <b>High</b>	Geographical Extent <b>High</b>	Duration and Reversibility <b>Negligible</b>	Size and Scale of Change <b>High</b>	Geographical Extent <b>High</b>	Duration and Reversibility <b>High</b>	Size and Scale of Change <b>High</b>	Geographical Extent <b>High</b>	Duration and Reversibility <b>High</b>
Magnitude of Effect <b>High</b>			Magnitude of Effect <b>High</b>			Magnitude of Effect <b>High</b>		
<b>Overall effects: Construction</b>			<b>Overall effects: Year 1 Operation</b>			<b>Overall effects: Year 15 Operation</b>		
Overall Effect with direction <b>Moderate</b> (Adverse) road users <b>Substantial</b> (Adverse) residents			Overall Effect with direction <b>Moderate</b> (Adverse) road users <b>Substantial</b> (Adverse) residents			Overall Effect with direction <b>Moderate</b> (Adverse) road users <b>Substantial</b> (Adverse) residents		
<b>Comments and Recommendations</b>								
Ample spacing between proposed properties directly opposite the existing homes would potentially increase the extent of the existing view to be retained and limit the foreshortening effect at this point. Lower rise properties could increase the extent of long-distance views available from this viewpoint.								

## Viewpoint 2: Junction of Footpath KL/DEN/76/80

<b>Viewpoint 2: Junction of Footpath KL/DEN/76/80</b>		
<b>Receptor Type:</b> representative of views experienced by people travelling along Footpath KL/DEN/76/80.		
<b>Distance from development area:</b> 195m Photograph parameters, camera location and orientation information is provided on the Viewpoint Photographs figures.		
The assessment is to be read in conjunction with the Methodology set (Appendix A), Viewpoint Locations on Drawing 041-54-04 (Appendix B) and Viewpoint Photographs (Appendix C).		
<b>Description of existing view</b>		
<p>This location is within the Low Common Royd Moor &amp; Whitley Common character area.</p> <p>The viewpoint is located on a Public Right of Way along a metalled lane, where it meets a second trodden public footpath passing between wooded field boundaries. The view looks towards the Site, visible in the close distance, across agricultural fields in the foreground.</p> <p>In the foreground, features include dry stone walls, a field margin stretching across the view, and scattered deciduous trees, including Sycamore and Holly. To the right, a dry-stone wall flanks the lane, beyond which the land rises southwards towards a distinctive ridgeline forming the skyline.</p> <p>In the midground, Birdsedge Farm is visible as a small cluster of residential buildings. Beyond this, properties along Penistone Road and Birdsedge School are visible, with the rear elevations of dwellings and Birdsedge Mill evident further to the right.</p> <p>Vegetation associated with the watercourse is visible to the right of the view, with fields falling towards and rising away from it, creating variation in the landform. The horizon is largely defined by woodland, comprising predominantly deciduous trees.</p> <p>The value of the view is medium. It is a pleasant view with several visual features including buildings in keeping with local vernacular. There are no visual detractors present and there is a degree of tranquillity experienced, although this is eroded by the traffic noise from Penistone Road. The viewpoint is mainly visited and valued locally.</p> <p>The susceptibility of the receptor to change is medium because travellers on this recreational public right of way may not be focused on the view, although the views do contribute to the setting of the route.</p>		
Value of the View <b>Medium</b>	Susceptibility of the Visual Receptor <b>Medium</b>	Sensitivity of the Receptor <b>Medium</b>
<b>Description of Proposed View</b>		

**Construction:**

Construction equipment, activity and emerging buildings would form an obvious, immediately apparent change in a portion of the view within the near to middle distance. Views towards the Site are largely open and unrestricted, Effects would last less than two years, leading to an overall magnitude of **High**.

**Year 1 Operation:**

The Proposed Development would create an obvious, immediately apparent change in the view altering the balance of open space to developed land within the mid-ground where it would be possible to see more houses, constructed in new materials. This would reduce the perceived sense of openness and historic character and increase the influence of built form within the view, including of the presence of additional rooftops within the existing skyline. The rural character of the immediate view could become more suburban in nature, which although may assimilate with the urban edge of Birdsedge, might contrast starkly at Year 1. Views towards this change would be unrestricted and alter approximately a third of the view in the middle distance. It would affect a small number of receptors. The effect would last between five and ten years until proposed trees matured. As such, the magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium**.

**Year 15 years Operation:**

Established tree planting across the fields would assist integration of the Proposed Development within the landscape and provide partial filtering of the view towards built form. The built form will have weathered, reducing the contrast between old and new. Effects could be partly mitigated by increased tree planting to the southeast of the proposed Public Open Space. As such, the magnitude of effects has been assessed as **Low**.

Magnitude of effects: Construction			Magnitude of effects: Year 1 Operation			Magnitude of effects: Year 15 Operation		
Size and Scale of Change <b>High</b>	Geographical Extent <b>Medium</b>	Duration and Reversibility <b>Negligible</b>	Size and Scale of Change <b>Medium</b>	Geographical Extent <b>Medium</b>	Duration and Reversibility <b>Medium</b>	Size and Scale of Change <b>Low</b>	Geographical Extent <b>Low</b>	Duration and Reversibility <b>Medium</b>
Magnitude of Effect <b>High</b>			Magnitude of Effect <b>Medium</b>			Magnitude of Effect <b>Low</b>		
<b>Overall effects: Construction</b>			<b>Overall effects: Year 1 Operation</b>			<b>Overall effects: Year 15 Operation</b>		
Overall Effect with direction <b>Moderate/Substantial (Adverse)</b>			Overall Effect with direction <b>Moderate (Adverse)</b>			Overall Effect with direction <b>Minor / Moderate (Adverse)</b>		

**Comments and Recommendations**

Further tree planting to the south / east of the public open space could improve the overall visual effects to Neutral. Boundary treatments and material finishes to be dealt with sensitively and in keeping with local vernacular.

### Viewpoint 3: Footpath KL/DEN/77/10

<b>Viewpoint 3: Footpath KL/DEN/77/10</b>
<b>Receptor Type:</b> representative of views experienced by people travelling along Footpath KL/DEN/77/10.
<b>Distance from development area:</b> 490m Photograph parameters, camera location and orientation information is provided on the Viewpoint Photographs figures.
The assessment is to be read in conjunction with the Methodology set (Appendix A), Viewpoint Locations on Drawing 041-54-04 (Appendix B) and Viewpoint Photographs (Appendix C).
<b>Description of existing view</b>
This location is within the Low Common Royd Moor & Whitley Common character area. The photographs were taken from a Public Right of Way, at an oblique angle, at an elevated position within an agricultural field, adjacent to woodland and a dry-stone wall. The footpath is on very steep land and did not appear well-used. The view looks towards the Site, which is visible in the midground.

In the foreground, the view comprises sloping fields likely used for grazing, defined by post and wire fencing and dry-stone walls which follow the landform. Low-level electrical wires are also visible.

In the midground, a farm complex is visible to the right, comprising a courtyard of traditional and more modern buildings, including three agricultural structures clad in metal sheeting. Two caravans and a shed are also present. Penistone Road is visible to the left, where traffic movement, including heavy vehicles, is evident. The road is partially lined by trees, which are in early leaf and are likely to provide greater screening during the summer months.

The wider view includes a combination of agricultural fields, farmsteads and dispersed settlement, with dry stone walls creating a distinctive pattern across the rolling landform. Woodland blocks, comprising predominantly deciduous and occasional mixed planting, are associated with field boundaries, watercourses and residential properties, and contribute to a softened skyline.

The value of the view is medium. It is a pleasant rural fringe view containing several visual features. Visual detractors include some utilitarian farm buildings within the midground including two to the right of the view. and there is a degree of tranquillity experienced, although this is eroded by the traffic noise from Penistone Road. The viewpoint is mainly visited and valued locally.

The susceptibility of the receptor to change is **medium** because although the views provide a valuable setting to this route, pathway users are likely to be concentrating on navigating its gradient.

Value of the View <b>Medium</b>	Susceptibility of the Visual Receptor <b>Medium</b>	Sensitivity of the Receptor <b>Medium</b>
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**Description of Proposed View**

**Construction:**  
Construction equipment, activity and emerging buildings would form an obvious, immediately apparent change of the view in the middle distance. Views towards the Site are largely open and unrestricted, Effects would last less than two years, leading to an overall magnitude of **Medium**.

**Year 1 Operation:**  
The Proposed Development would be visible within part of this view in the middle-distance occupying one field to the northeast of Birdside village. Development would not interrupt the skyline. Some of the Proposed built form is likely to be partially screened by Birdside Farm and Primrose Cottage. The character of the undeveloped fields within the site would change to include slightly altered drystone walls and a more diverse mix of vegetation. Young tree planting would be visible adjoining the existing woodland.  
The change in the view at Year 1 would be obvious and apparent but also partially screened, within the middle distance and effecting only a small number of receptors. As such, the magnitude of effects would be **Medium**.

**Year 15 years Operation:**  
Long term establishment of proposed planting would support assimilation of the development within the landscape and an increase in the prominence of trees within the view screening built form and reducing perceived extent of physical change resulting in a **Low** magnitude of effects.

Magnitude of effects: Construction			Magnitude of effects: Year 1 Operation			Magnitude of effects: Year 15 Operation		
Size and Scale of Change	Geographical Extent	Duration and Reversibility	Size and Scale of Change	Geographical Extent	Duration and Reversibility	Size and Scale of Change	Geographical Extent	Duration and Reversibility
<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Negligible</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>High</b>
Magnitude of Effect <b>Medium</b>			Magnitude of Effect <b>Medium</b>			Magnitude of Effect <b>Low</b>		
<b>Overall effects: Construction</b>			<b>Overall effects: Year 1 Operation</b>			<b>Overall effects: Year 15 Operation</b>		
Overall Effect with direction <b>Moderate (Adverse)</b>			Overall Effect with direction <b>Moderate (Adverse)</b>			Overall Effect with direction <b>Minor / Moderate (Adverse)</b>		

**Comments and Recommendations**  
Ensuring that the character of the built form complements local vernacular would better assimilate the Proposed development in the long term and potentially improve the nature of effect to Neutral. Boundary treatments and material finishes to be dealt with sensitively and in keeping with local vernacular.

## Viewpoint 4: Footpath KL/DEN/76/100

Viewpoint 4: Footpath KL/DEN/76/100								
<b>Receptor Type:</b> representative of views experienced by people travelling along Footpath KL/DEN/76/100.								
<b>Distance from development area:</b> 330m Photograph parameters, camera location and orientation information is provided on the Viewpoint Photographs figures.								
The assessment is to be read in conjunction with the Methodology set (Appendix A), Viewpoint Locations on Drawing 041-54-04 (Appendix B) and Viewpoint Photographs (Appendix C).								
Description of existing view								
<p>This location is within the Low Common Royd Moor &amp; Whitley Common character area.</p> <p>The photographs were taken from a Public Right of Way footpath. The view looks across arable fields in the foreground, bounded by post and wire fencing with barbed wire, towards the Site, which is visible in the midground.</p> <p>Dry stone walls follow the contours of the land, falling towards a stream which cuts into the hillside. Woodland associated with the watercourse occupies the mid to upper slopes on the left-hand side of the view, providing a degree of enclosure. Beyond this, the land rises towards the horizon, comprising agricultural fields defined by dry stone walls. The skyline is softened in places by copses of woodland associated with field boundaries and private land.</p> <p>In the midground beyond the Site, Birdsedge Farm is visible, along with residential properties to the south of Penistone Road and Birdsedge Mill. The rooftops of Birdsedge are also visible beyond the road corridor.</p> <p>The value of the view is medium. It is a pleasant rural fringe view containing several visual features and no detractors and a degree of tranquillity. Audible elements include livestock, birds and the movement of traffic along Penistone Road, which is visible in the midground. The viewpoint is mainly visited and valued locally.</p> <p>The susceptibility of the receptor to change is high because travellers on this recreational public right of way are likely to have a high awareness of views.</p>								
Value of the View <b>Medium</b>			Susceptibility of the Visual Receptor <b>High</b>			Sensitivity of the Receptor <b>High</b>		
Description of Proposed View								
<b>Construction:</b>								
<p>Construction activity would create a noticeable change to across approximately a third of the centre of this view in the middle distance, with moving construction equipment providing a contrast with its immediate context. The existing landform could partially screen some of the construction activity and works. Effects would last less than two years. As such, Magnitude of change has been assessed as <b>Low</b></p> <p>The Proposed Development would be visible across a small part of this view within the middle distance, in context of a wider view. Agricultural fields within the Site will be lost and replaced with Proposed built form and new planting. This change will increase the extent of built form in this view and extend the edge of Birdsedge village to the northeast. The mix of vegetation present in the view would be diversified.</p> <p>Parts of the Proposed Development are likely to be partially screened by existing landform and vegetation, especially in summer. The Proposed Development would not interrupt the skyline or wider landform within the view. In localised areas, the existing agricultural field pattern would be altered. Whilst the wider rural landscape and long-distance views would remain largely intact, there would be a noticeable change within a part of it, changing the typical scattered nature of development in this area. The change would remain until vegetation matures. As such the magnitude of effects has been assessed as <b>Low</b></p>								
<b>Year 15 years Operation:</b>								
Established planting along the River Dearne is likely to be semi-mature by Year 15. The effect of this is likely to screen and filter views towards proposed buildings, especially when vegetation is in leaf, reducing its prominence. The wider landscape structure and skyline would remain unaffected, resulting in a <b>Low</b> magnitude of effect.								
Magnitude of effects: Construction			Magnitude of effects: Year 1 Operation			Magnitude of effects: Year 15 Operation		
Size and Scale of Change <b>Low</b>	Geographical Extent <b>Medium</b>	Duration and Reversibility <b>Negligible</b>	Size and Scale of Change <b>Low</b>	Geographical Extent <b>Medium</b>	Duration and Reversibility <b>Medium</b>	Size and Scale of Change <b>Low</b>	Geographical Extent <b>Low</b>	Duration and Reversibility <b>Medium</b>

Magnitude of Effect <b>Low</b>	Magnitude of Effect <b>Low</b>	Magnitude of Effect <b>Low</b>
<b>Overall effects: Construction</b>	<b>Overall effects: Year 1 Operation</b>	<b>Overall effects: Year 15 Operation</b>
Overall Effect with direction <b>Moderate (adverse)</b>	Overall Effect with direction <b>Moderate (adverse)</b>	Overall Effect with direction <b>Moderate (neutral)</b>
<b>Comments and Recommendations</b>		
Early establishment of proposed planting would support assimilation of the development within the landscape and an increase in the prominence of trees within the view.		

## Viewpoint 5: Park Lane

Viewpoint 5: Park Lane								
<b>Receptor Type:</b> representative of views experienced by residents of Park Lane.								
<b>Distance from development area:</b> 645m Photograph parameters, camera location and orientation information is provided on the Viewpoint Photographs figures.								
The assessment is to be read in conjunction with the Methodology set (Appendix A), Viewpoint Locations on Drawing 041-54-04 (Appendix B) and Viewpoint Photographs (Appendix C).								
Description of existing view								
<p>This location is within the Fenay Beck Valley Rural Fringes character area.</p> <p>The photographs were taken from a lane at Upper Cumberworth and represent views experienced by users of the lane and nearby residential properties overlooking the Site. Views are typically experienced obliquely by pedestrians and are frequently filtered by changes in landform, field boundaries and vegetation. However, there are select points along the lane where more open views are available.</p> <p>In the foreground, the view includes a planted and semi-natural verge, dry stone wall and post and wire fencing with barbed wire. These features, together with some farm-related elements, introduce minor detractors within the view. Beyond this, the view extends across agricultural fields bounded by stone walls which follow the contours of the land. Occasional hedgerow trees, including Oak and Holly, are present, and livestock is evident within the fields.</p> <p>The landform undulates and slopes towards streams which cut through the landscape, with small woodland blocks occupying the valley floors. The horizon is defined by a prominent ridgeline to the south of Birdsedge. In the mid to far distance, Birdsedge is visible, including rooftops of properties along Penistone Road and within the village.</p> <p>The value of the view is medium. It is a pleasant, tranquil, rural fringe view containing several visual features and minor visual detractors. The viewpoint is mainly visited and valued locally.</p> <p>The susceptibility of the receptor to change is high representing residents at home, where views contribute to the setting or visual amenity of the house or settlement.</p>								
Value of the View <b>Medium</b>			Susceptibility of the Visual Receptor <b>High</b>			Sensitivity of the Receptor <b>High</b>		
Description of Proposed View								
<p><b>Construction:</b></p> <p>Construction activity would create a perceptible change within the midground of the view, with moving plant and construction equipment providing a contrast with the existing agricultural landscape. The view, however would be screened in places, especially when vegetation is in leaf. The wider landscape structure and skyline would remain unaffected. Effects would last less than two years, leading to a <b>Low</b> magnitude of effect.</p> <p><b>Year 1 Operation:</b></p> <p>The Proposed Development would be visible in a small part of the mid-far distance. The new development would be a notable change in the view which would be partially obstructed by existing landform, vegetation and field boundaries. At Year 1, proposed tree planting and changes to vegetation types and mixes are unlikely to be visible at this distance. Whilst the wider rural landscape, landform and skyline would remain largely intact, the change, although potentially partially obstructed, would be perceptible in the medium term until proposed trees mature. As such the magnitude of effect has been assessed as <b>Low</b>.</p> <p><b>Year 15 years Operation:</b></p> <p>Established planting along the River Dearne is likely to be semi-mature by Year 15. The impact of this would likely screen and filter views towards proposed built form, especially when vegetation is in leaf reducing its prominence. The wider landscape structure and skyline would remain unaffected, resulting in a <b>Negligible</b> magnitude of effect.</p>								
Magnitude of effects: Construction			Magnitude of effects: Year 1 Operation			Magnitude of effects: Year 15 Operation		
Size and Scale of Change <b>Low</b>	Geographical Extent <b>Low</b>	Duration and Reversibility <b>Negligible</b>	Size and Scale of Change <b>Low</b>	Geographical Extent <b>Low</b>	Duration and Reversibility <b>Medium</b>	Size and Scale of Change <b>Negligible</b>	Geographical Extent <b>Low</b>	Duration and Reversibility <b>Low</b>

Magnitude of Effect <b>Low</b>	Magnitude of Effect <b>Low</b>	Magnitude of Effect <b>Negligible</b>
<b>Overall effects: Construction</b>	<b>Overall effects: Year 1 Operation</b>	<b>Overall effects: Year 15 Operation</b>
Overall Effect with direction <b>Moderate</b> (adverse)	Overall Effect with direction <b>Moderate</b> (adverse)	Overall Effect with direction <b>Minor</b> (adverse)
<b>Comments and Recommendations</b>		
Additional structural planting and early establishment of proposed planting would support assimilation of the development within the landscape and an increase in the prominence of trees within the view.		

## Viewpoint 6: Footpath KL/DEN/79/20

<b>Viewpoint 6: Footpath KL/DEN/79/20</b>		
<b>Receptor Type:</b> representative of views experienced by people travelling along Footpath KL/DEN/79/20.		
<b>Distance from development area:</b> 570m Photograph parameters, camera location and orientation information is provided on the Viewpoint Photographs figures.		
The assessment is to be read in conjunction with the Methodology set (Appendix A), Viewpoint Locations on Drawing 041-54-04 (Appendix B) and Viewpoint Photographs (Appendix C).		
<b>Description of existing view</b>		
<p>This location is within the Fenay Beck Valley Rural Fringes character area.</p> <p>The photographs were taken from a Public Right of Way to the south of Upper Cumberworth. The view looks across agricultural fields bounded by dry stone walls which follow the undulating landform and fall into small, relatively steep-sided valleys.</p> <p>The Site is visible in the midground, along with Penistone Road. Birdsedge Farm and residential properties overlooking the Site, including adjacent bungalows, are also visible. To the right-hand side of the view, residential properties are visible along Penistone Road. These date from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and are out of keeping with local vernacular.</p> <p>The horizon is defined by a pronounced ridgeline to the south of Birdsedge, which is locally softened by deciduous and evergreen trees in the foreground. The tips of several wind turbines are visible above the skyline.</p> <p>The view forms part of a wider panorama extending along the Dearne Valley, with a varied combination of landform, field pattern and vegetation.</p> <p>The value of the view is medium. It is a pleasant, complex, tranquil, rural fringe view with tranquil qualities that are eroded slightly by traffic noise from the Penistone Road. Visual detractors include the properties to the far-right of the view, which do not complement local vernacular. The viewpoint is mainly visited and valued locally.</p> <p>The susceptibility of the receptor to change is high because travellers on this recreational public right of way are likely to have a high awareness of views.</p>		
Value of the View <b>Medium</b>	Susceptibility of the Visual Receptor <b>High</b>	Sensitivity of the Receptor <b>High</b>
<b>Description of Proposed View</b>		
<p><b>Construction:</b> Construction activity would create a noticeable change within a small section of the middle distance of the view, with moving plant and construction equipment contrasting with the existing agricultural landscape. Whilst the wider panorama, skyline and valley landform would remain unaffected, the temporary alteration to the rural character of the view would result in a <b>Low</b> magnitude of effect.</p> <p><b>Year 1 Operation:</b> The Proposed Development would increase the extent of built form in a portion of the midground of this view, extending the fringe of Birdsedge northeast. The change would alter the composition of the view in a localised</p>		

area and introduce housing set out in parcels. At year 1, the contrast between old and new buildings may be stark. Existing field boundaries would be altered in localised areas. It may be possible to see the alteration and increased variation in vegetation in non-developed areas. At Year 1, the change in this view would be obvious but localised and partly screened by existing landform and field boundaries and visual features in the foreground of the view. As such, the magnitude of effect has been assessed as **Low**.

**Year 15 years Operation:**

At Year 15, building materials will have weathered and the contrast between old and new would be less so. Established planting along the River Dearne is likely to partially screen and filter the Proposed Development assisting the integration of the Proposed Development within the landscape and increase the prominence of trees along the valley in the view (a local characteristic). The wider landscape structure, valley landform and skyline would remain unaffected, resulting in a **Low** magnitude of effect.

Magnitude of effects: Construction			Magnitude of effects: Year 1 Operation			Magnitude of effects: Year 15 Operation		
Size and Scale of Change	Geographical Extent	Duration and Reversibility	Size and Scale of Change	Geographical Extent	Duration and Reversibility	Size and Scale of Change	Geographical Extent	Duration and Reversibility
<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Negligible</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>
Magnitude of Effect <b>Low</b>			Magnitude of Effect <b>Low</b>			Magnitude of Effect <b>Low</b>		
Overall effects: Construction			Overall effects: Year 1 Operation			Overall effects: Year 15 Operation		
Overall Effect with direction <b>Moderate (adverse)</b>			Overall Effect with direction <b>Moderate (adverse)</b>			Overall Effect with direction <b>Moderate (adverse)</b>		

**Comments and Recommendations**

A reduction in density towards the slope of the Dearne Valley, increased tree planting along the whole of the valley side and ensuring that the character of the built form complements local vernacular would better assimilate the Proposed Development in the long term and potentially improve the nature of effect to **Neutral**.

Early establishment of proposed planting would support assimilation of the development within the landscape and an increase in the prominence of trees within the view.

## Viewpoint 7: Dearne Way

Viewpoint 7: Dearne Way		
<b>Receptor Type:</b> representative of views experienced by people using this recreational route.		
<b>Distance from development area:</b> 110m Photograph parameters, camera location and orientation information is provided on the Viewpoint Photographs figures.		
The assessment is to be read in conjunction with the Methodology set (Appendix A), Viewpoint Locations on Drawing 041-54-04 (Appendix B) and Viewpoint Photographs (Appendix C).		
Description of existing view		
<p>This location is within the Low Common Royd Moor &amp; Whitley Common character area.</p> <p>The photographs were taken from a Public Right of Way overlooking the Site, which is visible in the foreground, beyond a field that slopes down towards the River Dearne.</p> <p>In the immediate foreground, the view includes the footpath, an adjacent dry-stone wall, farm gates and post and wire fencing with barbed wire. The Site fields are clearly visible, with dry stone walls following the contours and reinforcing the field pattern.</p> <p>In the midground, tree cover indicates the presence of the river corridor. Birdsedge Farm and properties within Birdsedge are visible beyond, with Penistone Road crossing the view diagonally. Traffic movement is both visible and audible.</p> <p>To the right, an area of semi-natural woodland contributes to the vegetation structure within the view. The horizon is defined by a ridgeline to the south.</p> <p>The view forms part of a wider panorama across the Dearne Valley, with a clear field pattern and variation in landform.</p> <p>The value of the view is medium. It is a landscape with a mostly intact field pattern and a degree of complexity, with features mostly in reasonable condition. There is a sense of tranquillity here which is reduced by the presence of Penistone Road.</p> <p>The susceptibility of the receptor to change is high because travellers on this recreational public right of way are likely to have a high awareness of views.</p>		
Value of the View <b>Medium</b>	Susceptibility of the Visual Receptor <b>High</b>	Sensitivity of the Receptor <b>High</b>
Description of Proposed View		
<p><b>Construction:</b> Construction activity would create an obvious and immediately apparent change in the view, with moving plant and construction equipment contrasting with the existing agricultural landscape. Due to the proximity of the viewpoint and the largely unrestricted line of sight across the Site, construction activity would form a prominent feature within the wider panorama, resulting in a <b>Medium</b> magnitude of effect.</p> <p><b>Year 1 Operation:</b> The Proposed Development would introduce prominent built form, domestic features and associated infrastructure into the middle ground of approximately half of the Site area, changing the character of the landscape within this view. The existing pattern of drystone wall field boundaries across the Site would be partially altered with part of the development installed in its place. This reduces the integrity of landscape pattern and character. The changes would be experienced in the context of the wider valley. Landform and skyline would remain intact. The change would be an obvious and immediately apparent, and as such the magnitude of effects have been assessed as <b>Medium</b>.</p> <p><b>Year 15 years Operation:</b> At year 15, proposed tree planting along the Dearne Valley side to the east of development parcels would be established and maturing but this would not create a screening effect from this particular receptor. As such the magnitude of effects have been assessed as <b>Medium</b>.</p>		

Magnitude of effects: Construction			Magnitude of effects: Year 1 Operation			Magnitude of effects: Year 15 Operation		
Size and Scale of Change	Geographical Extent	Duration and Reversibility	Size and Scale of Change	Geographical Extent	Duration and Reversibility	Size and Scale of Change	Geographical Extent	Duration and Reversibility
Medium	Medium	Negligible	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
Magnitude of Effect <b>Medium</b>			Magnitude of Effect <b>Medium</b>			Magnitude of Effect <b>Medium</b>		
<b>Overall effects: Construction</b>			<b>Overall effects: Year 1 Operation</b>			<b>Overall effects: Year 15 Operation</b>		
Overall Effect with direction <b>Moderate/ Substantial (adverse)</b>			Overall Effect with direction <b>Moderate/ Substantial (adverse)</b>			Overall Effect with direction <b>Moderate/ Substantial (adverse)</b>		
<b>Comments and Recommendations</b> A reduction in density towards the slope of the Dearne Valley, increased tree planting along the whole of the valley side and ensuring that the character of the built form complements local vernacular would better assimilate the Proposed Development in the long term and potentially improve overall effect at Year 1 and Year 15. Retention and reinforcement of the existing dry-stone wall field boundaries would retain valued landscape characteristics.								

## Viewpoint 8: Birds Edge Lane

<b>Viewpoint 8: Birds Edge Lane</b>
<b>Receptor Type:</b> representative of views experienced by people travelling on Birds Edge Lane and from the adjacent residential receptors
<b>Distance from development area:</b> 295m Photograph parameters, camera location and orientation information is provided on the Viewpoint Photographs figures.
The assessment is to be read in conjunction with the Methodology set (Appendix A), Viewpoint Locations on Drawing 041-54-04 (Appendix B) and Viewpoint Photographs (Appendix C).
<b>Description of existing view</b>
<p>This location is within the Low Common Royd Moor &amp; Whitley Common character area.</p> <p>The photograph was taken from Birds Edge Lane looking towards the Site. The view is directed along the lane, which is sporadically flanked by buildings constructed from traditional materials, including stone walls and slate roofs, reinforcing the rural character of the area.</p> <p>In the foreground, dry stone walls define the field boundaries, with some farm buildings also visible. Pedestrian provision is intermittent, with sections of pavement present along parts of the lane. The lane is bordered on both sides by agricultural fields.</p> <p>In the midground, pockets of woodland are interspersed with residential properties. Where gaps occur between buildings, partial longer-distance views are available. Emley Moor Mast is visible in the distance, alongside woodland and scattered settlement.</p> <p>The Site is potentially visible in the centre of the view at mid-range, where development would become a more noticeable feature within the existing view, which is currently framed by two Sycamore trees. The backdrop to the view includes Penistone Road and associated vegetation.</p> <p>The value of the view is <b>Medium</b>. The view is reasonably pleasant and tranquil, with a predominantly rural, village character and visual interest associated with the attractive buildings including the school, the grit-stone walls, field pattern. Some detracting features are present, but these are typically associated with farm activities and are not unexpected.</p> <p>The susceptibility of the receptors to change is <b>Medium</b> because users of Birds Edge Lane are primarily travelling along the route where views are not the primary focus, although they contribute to the setting and experience of the lane.</p>

Value of the View <b>Medium</b>	Susceptibility of the Visual Receptor <b>Medium</b>	Sensitivity of the Receptor <b>Medium</b>																																																						
<b>Description of Proposed View</b>																																																								
<p><b>Construction:</b> Construction activity would create a limited and temporary change within the midground of the view, with occasional visibility of moving plant and construction equipment through gaps within existing vegetation and built form. The wider character, skyline and composition of the view would remain largely unaffected, resulting in a <b>Low</b> magnitude of effect.</p> <p><b>Year 1 Operation:</b> The Proposed Development would form a minor and partially filtered addition within the existing midground view, increasing the extent of built form. The position of this would help enclose the village centre but would block potential longer distance views which may be experienced more readily in winter when the trees are not in leaf. The existing character of the lane, wider field pattern and longer-distance views would remain largely unchanged, resulting in a <b>Low</b> magnitude of effect.</p> <p><b>Year 15 years Operation:</b> Established street tree planting along Penistone Road would further filter views and assist integration of the Proposed Development within the village setting and wider landscape. This change will affect a very small portion of this view. The wider composition, characteristics and skyline would remain unaffected, resulting in a <b>Low</b> magnitude of effect with an overall Neutral direction reflecting that from this viewpoint, and in context of the whole view, the change would be neither an improvement nor a deterioration in the quality of view or landscape compared to the baseline.</p>																																																								
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Magnitude of effects: Construction</th> <th colspan="3">Magnitude of effects: Year 1 Operation</th> <th colspan="3">Magnitude of effects: Year 15 Operation</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Size and Scale of Change</th> <th>Geographical Extent</th> <th>Duration and Reversibility</th> <th>Size and Scale of Change</th> <th>Geographical Extent</th> <th>Duration and Reversibility</th> <th>Size and Scale of Change</th> <th>Geographical Extent</th> <th>Duration and Reversibility</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Low</b></td> <td><b>Negligible</b></td> <td><b>Negligible</b></td> <td><b>Low</b></td> <td><b>Low</b></td> <td><b>Medium</b></td> <td><b>Low</b></td> <td><b>Low</b></td> <td><b>Medium</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Magnitude of Effect <b>Low</b></td> <td colspan="3">Magnitude of Effect <b>Low</b></td> <td colspan="3">Magnitude of Effect <b>Low</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"><b>Overall effects: Construction</b></td> <td colspan="3"><b>Overall effects: Year 1 Operation</b></td> <td colspan="3"><b>Overall effects: Year 15 Operation</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Overall Effect with direction <b>Minor / Moderate (Adverse)</b></td> <td colspan="3">Overall Effect with direction <b>Minor / Moderate (Adverse)</b></td> <td colspan="3">Overall Effect with direction <b>Minor / Moderate (Neutral)</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Magnitude of effects: Construction			Magnitude of effects: Year 1 Operation			Magnitude of effects: Year 15 Operation			Size and Scale of Change	Geographical Extent	Duration and Reversibility	Size and Scale of Change	Geographical Extent	Duration and Reversibility	Size and Scale of Change	Geographical Extent	Duration and Reversibility	<b>Low</b>	<b>Negligible</b>	<b>Negligible</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	Magnitude of Effect <b>Low</b>			Magnitude of Effect <b>Low</b>			Magnitude of Effect <b>Low</b>			<b>Overall effects: Construction</b>			<b>Overall effects: Year 1 Operation</b>			<b>Overall effects: Year 15 Operation</b>			Overall Effect with direction <b>Minor / Moderate (Adverse)</b>			Overall Effect with direction <b>Minor / Moderate (Adverse)</b>			Overall Effect with direction <b>Minor / Moderate (Neutral)</b>		
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## Viewpoint 9: Barnsley Road

<b>Viewpoint 9: Barnsley Road</b>
<b>Receptor Type:</b> representative of views experienced by local residents, footpath users and users of the public realm alongside the road.
<b>Distance from development area:</b> 910m Photograph parameters, camera location and orientation information is provided on the Viewpoint Photographs figures.
The assessment is to be read in conjunction with the Methodology set (Appendix A), Viewpoint Locations on Drawing 041-54-04 (Appendix B) and Viewpoint Photographs (Appendix C).
<b>Description of existing view</b>
This location is within the Fenay Beck Valley Rural Fringes character area.

The photographs were taken from Barnsley Road at Lower Cumberworth, from the pavement, and are representative of views experienced by local residents, footpath users and users of the public realm alongside the road.

The view looks across the road in the foreground towards a rural landscape comprising agricultural fields with a gently undulating landform. Field boundaries are defined by dry stone walls. Woodland is present in association with properties, valleys, streams and hedgerows.

The fields comprising the Site are visible in the middle to far distance, along with properties overlooking the Site and Birdseye School. The Proposed Development would be visible within this view. The backdrop is formed by rising land beyond the ridge, with a wooded hillside to the right.

The viewpoint is influenced by traffic movement and noise associated with the Barnsley Road and its location on the edge of the settlement. However, the wider landscape retains a predominantly rural agricultural character.

The value of the view is medium. It is reasonably pleasant, with visual interest derived from the undulating agricultural landscape, drystone wall field pattern and woodland structure, although traffic movement and noise is a major detractor here.

The susceptibility of the receptor to change is high representing a worst case scenario for residential receptors and those using nearby public rights of way where views are an important component of the experience.

Value of the View <b>Medium</b>	Susceptibility of the Visual Receptor <b>High (residents)</b>	Sensitivity of the Receptor <b>High (residents)</b>
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**Description of Proposed View**

**Construction:**

Construction activity would create a perceptible change within the middle to far distance view, with moving plant and construction equipment contrasting with the existing agricultural landscape. Existing vegetation and intervening landform would provide partial filtering of views towards the Site, and the wider skyline would remain unaffected, resulting in a **Low** magnitude of effect.

**Year 1 Operation:**

The Proposed Development would increase the influence of built form within the middle to far distance of the view into part of the existing agricultural landscape, potentially taking on a suburban character in small portion of the view. Existing vegetation and intervening features would provide partial filtering and screening, whilst the wider rural character, landform and skyline would remain largely unchanged, resulting in a **Low** magnitude of effect.

**Year 15 years Operation:**

Established planting would further assist integration of the Proposed Development within the landscape and increase the prominence of trees within the view, providing additional screening of the proposed buildings. The wider landscape structure and skyline would remain unaffected, resulting in a **Negligible** magnitude of effect.

Magnitude of effects: Construction			Magnitude of effects: Year 1 Operation			Magnitude of effects: Year 15 Operation		
Size and Scale of Change	Geographical Extent	Duration and Reversibility	Size and Scale of Change	Geographical Extent	Duration and Reversibility	Size and Scale of Change	Geographical Extent	Duration and Reversibility
<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Negligible</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Negligible</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b>
Magnitude of Effect <b>Low</b>			Magnitude of Effect <b>Low</b>			Magnitude of Effect <b>Negligible</b>		
<b>Overall effects: Construction</b>			<b>Overall effects: Year 1 Operation</b>			<b>Overall effects: Year 15 Operation</b>		
Overall Effect with direction <b>Moderate (adverse)</b>			Overall Effect with direction <b>Moderate (adverse)</b>			Overall Effect with direction <b>Minor (adverse)</b>		

**Comments and Recommendations**

Additional tree planting along the Dearne Valley would further screen proposed buildings at Year 15.

## 8 Summary & Conclusion

### 8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1 A Landscape and Visual Appraisal has been carried out in line with current best practice guidance, to assess the predicted effects of the Proposed Development upon landscape and visual receptors.

#### Summary of Landscape Effects

##### **Summary of landscape effects on the Site and its surroundings**

- 8.1.2 Overall, the sensitive characteristics of the landscape, including the drystone wall field pattern, stands of trees, public rights of way, ridgelines and the wider rural setting, would be retained except for a slight loss of drystone wall in a localised area. Public access and provision of public open space would be improved, although proposed paths do not presently connect to the wider footpath network. New tree planting and variation in the field layer would achieve more ecological diversity than at present and proposed planting would serve to soften and filter views over time. Although the wider scenic value would not be altered, some close-range views would be affected adversely by the Proposed Development (see summary of visual effects).
- 8.1.3 The Site and its immediate surroundings would change in use and appearance to take on more suburban characteristics in place of the rural fringe character that presides presently. The proposed developed area follows landform and could strengthen the village centre along Penistone Road. However, the extent of development towards the Dearne valley would be prominent in local views changing the perception of landscape character and inhibiting the sense of openness and tranquillity in places.
- 8.1.4 It was found that the Proposed Development would have a moderate/substantial adverse effect on the Site and its immediate surroundings during construction and Year 1 operation, reducing to moderate adverse at Year 15 operation to reflect the beneficial effect of proposed tree planting proposed on wildlife corridors, diversity and screening.

##### **Summary of landscape effects on National and Local Landscape Character Areas**

- 8.1.5 The Proposed Development would not notably affect the wider key characteristics of national character areas.
- 8.1.6 Overall, the characteristics of this Area D9 Low Common, Royd Moor and Whitley Common would be retained or unaffected however the introduction of the proposed development is likely to have adverse impact on the character areas' sparsely settled nature specifically around the village of Birdsedge. As such, the overall effect will be Minor / Moderate adverse in the long-term.
- 8.1.7 There would be no physical effects on surrounding landscape character areas beyond the Site itself. Any effects on the wider landscape would be limited to perceptual effects

associated with views towards the Proposed Development from nearby roads, residential properties and Public Rights of Way.

### Summary of key landscape assessments

#### Site and immediate surroundings

##### Sensitivity assessment

- The value of the Site and its immediate surroundings was assessed to be Medium and its susceptibility to the type of Proposed Development is assessed to be Medium, leading to a sensitivity assessment of **Medium**.

##### Magnitude of Change and overall landscape effect

- The magnitude of effect at construction was assessed to be High, leading to an overall landscape effect of **Moderate / Substantial Adverse**.
- The magnitude of effect at year one operation was assessed to be High, leading to an overall landscape effect of **Moderate/ Substantial Adverse**.
- The magnitude of effect at year 15 operation was assessed to be Medium leading to an overall landscape effect of **Moderate Adverse**.

#### D9 Low Common, Royd Moor and Whitley Common

##### Sensitivity assessment

- 8.1.8 Kirklees District Landscape Character Assessment does not include overall sensitivity assessments, and it is out of scope of this study to evaluate contextual character areas. As such, the sensitivity assessment derived for the site and its immediate surroundings shall be used to form judgments on overall landscape effects on the local character area. For clarity this is Medium.

##### Magnitude of Change and overall landscape effect

The overall effect on Low Common, Royd Moor and Whitley Common has been assessed as **Minor / Moderate Adverse** in the long-term.

### Summary of Visual Effects

- 8.1.9 Nine viewpoint assessments were carried out to determine predicted effects of the Proposed Development at Construction stage, Year 1 and Year 15 Operational stages. The findings of the visual assessment are summarised below.

Table 6: Summary of Effects upon Visual Receptors

Viewpoint Number and Name	Effects at Construction	Effects at Operation (Year 1)	Effects at Operation (Year 15)
<b>Viewpoint 1: Penistone Road</b>	<b>Moderate</b> (Adverse) road users /	<b>Moderate</b> (Adverse) road users /	<b>Moderate</b> (Adverse) road users /
	<b>Substantial</b> (Adverse) residents	<b>Substantial</b> (Adverse) residents	<b>Substantial</b> (Adverse) residents
<b>Recommendations:</b> Ample spacing between proposed properties directly opposite the existing homes would potentially increase the extent of the existing view to be retained and limit the foreshortening effect at this point. Lower rise properties could increase the extent of long-distance views available from this viewpoint. Ensuring that the character of the built form complements local vernacular would better assimilate the Proposed development in the long term.			
<b>Viewpoint 2: Footpath KL/DEN/76/80</b>	<b>Moderate/ Substantial</b> (Adverse)	<b>Moderate</b> (Adverse)	<b>Minor / Moderate</b> (Adverse)
	<b>Recommendations:</b> Further tree planting to the south / east of the public open space could improve the overall visual effects to Neutral. Boundary treatments and material finishes to be dealt with sensitively and in keeping with local vernacular.		
<b>Viewpoint 3: Footpath KL/DEN/77/10</b>	<b>Moderate</b> (Adverse)	<b>Moderate</b> (Adverse)	<b>Minor / Moderate</b> (Adverse)
	<b>Recommendations:</b> Ensuring that the character of the built form complements local vernacular would help assimilate the Proposed development in the long term and potentially improve the nature of effect to Neutral. Boundary treatments and material finishes to be dealt with sensitively and in keeping with local vernacular.		
<b>Viewpoint 4: Footpath KL/DEN/76/100</b>	<b>Moderate</b> (Adverse)	<b>Moderate</b> (Adverse)	<b>Moderate</b> (Neutral)
	<b>Recommendations:</b> Early establishment of proposed planting would support assimilation of the development within the landscape and an increase in the prominence of trees within the view.		
<b>Viewpoint 5: Park Lane</b>	<b>Moderate</b> (Adverse)	<b>Moderate</b> (Adverse)	<b>Minor</b> (Adverse)
	<b>Recommendations:</b> Additional structural planting and early establishment of proposed planting would support assimilation of the development within the landscape and an increase in the prominence of trees within the view.		
<b>Viewpoint 6: Footpath KL/DEN/79/20</b>	<b>Moderate</b> (Adverse)	<b>Moderate</b> (Adverse)	<b>Moderate</b> (Adverse)
	<b>Recommendations:</b> A reduction in density towards the slope of the Dearne Valley, increased tree planting along the whole of the valley side and ensuring that the character of the built form complements local vernacular would better assimilate the Proposed Development in the long term and potentially improve the nature of effect to Neutral. Early establishment of proposed planting would support assimilation of the development within the landscape and an increase in the prominence of trees within the view.		
<b>Viewpoint 7: Dearne Way</b>	<b>Moderate/ Substantial</b> (Adverse)	<b>Moderate/ Substantial</b> (Adverse)	<b>Moderate/ Substantial</b> (Adverse)
	<b>Recommendations:</b> A reduction in density towards the slope of the Dearne Valley, increased tree planting along the whole of the valley side and ensuring that the character of the built form complements local vernacular would better assimilate the Proposed Development in the long term and potentially improve overall effect at Year 1 and Year 15. Retention and reinforcement of the existing dry-stone wall field boundaries would retain valued landscape characteristics.		

<b>Viewpoint 8: Birds Edge Lane</b>	<b>Minor / Moderate</b> (Adverse)	<b>Minor / Moderate</b> (Adverse)	<b>Minor / Moderate</b> (Neutral)
	<b>Recommendations:</b> Early establishment of proposed planting would support assimilation of the Proposed Development within the landscape and increase the prominence of trees within the view.		
<b>Viewpoint 9: Barnsley Road</b>	<b>Moderate</b> (Adverse)	<b>Moderate</b> (Adverse)	<b>Minor</b> (Adverse)
	<b>Recommendations:</b> Additional tree planting along the Dearne Valley would further screen proposed buildings at Year 15.		

- 8.1.10 Of the viewpoints assessed, the closest views towards the Site, particularly from Penistone Road and nearby Public Rights of Way, would experience the greatest adverse visual effects. Receptors at these viewpoints would experience the most substantial change during construction and the early years of operation, reflecting the proximity of the Site and the open nature of views.
- 8.1.11 Viewpoint 1 is expected to experience the most substantial adverse long-term visual effects due to the proximity of receptors and the substantial change to the foreground of the view. Viewpoint 1 represents views from residential properties located opposite the Site on the Penistone Road.
- 8.1.12 In the long-term, receptors located at Viewpoint 4 (A public footpath) and at Viewpoint 8 (on Birdsedge Lane; a local road) are likely to experience neutral effects. At Viewpoint 4, this is due to the likely maturing of woodland planting along the Dearne Valley. At Viewpoint 8 this is due to the presence of intervening screening elements and the distance between the receptor and the Proposed Development.
- 8.1.13 All other long term adverse effects to visual receptors identified in this study have been assessed as Minor to Moderate / Substantial Adverse in the long term.
- 8.1.14 Additional mitigation measures could be adopted at detail design that could improve overall landscape and visual effects. Recommendations are listed below.

## Recommendations

Any future proposals should incorporate the recommendations summarised here and detailed in Sections 7.6 and Table 6. The recommendations centre around:

- Ensuring that the character of the built form complements local vernacular contributing positively to the landscape effects on the site and local character area and the visual effects experienced at Viewpoints 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7.
- A reduction in density towards the slope of the Dearne Valley could contribute positively to the landscape effects on the Site and local character area and the visual effects experienced at Viewpoints 6 and 7.
- Increased tree planting along the whole of the Dearne valley side (within the developable area) would contribute positively to the visual effects experienced at Viewpoints 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9.

- Increased tree planting to the southeast of the Proposed public open space would contribute positively to and the visual effects experienced at Viewpoint 2.
- Ensuring the good and sensitive design of boundary treatments and public spaces to complement local vernacular contributing positively to landscape character would contribute positively to the visual effects on Viewpoints 2,3 and
- Retaining long-distance views from properties located opposite the site on Penistone Road would have a positive effect on the views experienced at Viewpoint 1.
- Early establishment of trees to help assimilate Proposed buildings into the landscape as quickly as possible and would contribute positively to all visual receptors.
- Connecting proposed footpaths to the wider footpath network where possible would have a further beneficial effect on landscape character.
- Ensuring all grit-stone walls are retained would benefit landscape characteristics.

## 8.2 Conclusion

- 8.2.1 A Landscape and Visual Appraisal has been carried out in line with current best practice guidance, to assess the predicted effects of the Proposed Development upon landscape and visual receptors.
- 8.2.2 The Proposed Development comprises an outline application for erection of residential development including associated infrastructure works. All matters reserved except means of access into (but not within) the Site from Penistone Road.
- 8.2.3 The Site is located to the northeast of the village of Birdsedge, a small village located in the Dearne Valley. It comprises agricultural land which is part of the wider rural landscape. The Site extends to approximately 4 hectares and lies adjacent to the A629 (Penistone Road), with agricultural fields, dispersed residential properties and woodland associated with the River Dearne forming the surrounding landscape context.
- 8.2.4 The wider landscape is characterised by gently undulating agricultural land divided by drystone walls, dispersed settlement and pockets of woodland associated with watercourses and field boundaries. The Site forms part of Character Area D9 Low Common, Royd Moor and Whitley Common, which is characterised by open agricultural land, rural character and long-distance views, although locally influenced by the A629 corridor and nearby development.
- 8.2.5 The overall effect on the landscape character of the Site and its Immediate Surroundings was assessed as Moderate Adverse. The overall effect on D9 Low Common, Royd Moor and Whitley Common was assessed as Minor/Moderate Adverse.
- 8.2.6 Nine viewpoints were selected to represent a range of visual receptors located around the Site. High sensitivity visual receptors include nearby residents and users of Public Rights of Way. Road users travelling along the A629 and surrounding lanes obtain open or partial views towards the Site, although these receptors are generally considered less sensitive to visual change.

- 8.2.7 In the long term, one assessment concluded a long-term visual effect of Substantial Adverse, which represented a high proximity viewpoint from a highly sensitive receptor. Six of the remaining eight visual assessments concluded with a minor to moderate / substantial outcome. Two assessments concluded a long-term Neutral effect.
- 8.2.8 Overall, whilst the Proposed Development would alter the character of the Site itself and introduce adverse landscape and visual effects, particularly to the closest range views, the development would be viewed within the context of the existing settlement edge and road corridor. The wider landscape structure, valley landform and principal skylines would generally remain intact. In the longer term, proposed landscape mitigation would assist integration of the development within the wider landscape.
- 8.2.9 Several recommendations have been made to reduce landscape and visual effects further, including the careful positioning of built form, retention of glimpsed wider views and the provision of additional structural planting.

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