



LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL APPRAISAL

PAYSANNE, GODSHILL WOOD, FORDINGBRIDGE, SP6 2LR

On Behalf of Mr and Mrs Vickers

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1. Introduction

1.1 This Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) has been prepared by Briarwood Landscape Architecture by a Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute, on behalf of Mr and Mrs Vickers in respect of a residential development at Paysanne, Godshill Wood, Fordingbridge ('the site'). The residential property on the site is substantially complete. The location of the residential development is shown on the Site Location Plan at Appendix 1.

Appendix 1 – Site Location Plan

1.2 The LVA considers the potential effects of the residential development on:

- Landscape elements and features such as vegetation, topography and water bodies etc.,
- Landscape character and,
- Visual amenity

1.3 The primary objectives of the LVA are as follows:

- To identify, describe and evaluate the current landscape character of the site and its surrounding area
- To identify, describe and evaluate any notable individual landscape elements and/or features within the site
- To determine the sensitivity of the landscape to the type of development on the site
- To identify potential visual receptors (i.e., people who would be able to view the residential development) and to evaluate their sensitivity to the type of changes proposed
- To identify and describe any effects of the residential development in so far as they affect the landscape and/or views and to evaluate the magnitude of change owing to those effects

1.4 The visual assessment was undertaken in late spring (April 2021) with partial leaf cover on the existing deciduous vegetation. Consideration has also been given to the effect on visibility with the vegetation having full leaf cover and minimum visibility and no leaf and maximum visibility.

2. Methodology

Guidance

- 2.1** This LVA has been undertaken with regard to the following best practice guidance:
- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd Edition) – Landscape Institute/Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA).
- 2.2** A detailed methodology is given in Appendix 2. As recommended within the published guidance, landscape (elements and character) and visual effects are assessed separately.

Appendix 2 – Detailed Methodology

Nature of Effects

- 2.3** The nature of effects on landscape, character and visual amenity can be neutral, adverse or beneficial. Neutral effects are those that would maintain, on balance, the existing integrity, quality or key characteristics of a landscape or view.
- 2.4** For the purposes of this assessment, unless otherwise stated, any change to the landscape and visual amenity as a result of the residential development is considered to be permanent and non-reversible and adverse in nature.

Photography and Photoviews

- 2.5** Photographs used as part of the detailed visual assessment have been taken using a Canon E05 Mark III, full frame sensor, digital camera with a 50mm lens. The lens has a standard focal length and is considered to best represent the human eye.
- 2.6** Photography took place in sunny weather, with good visibility, on the 14th April 2021. The camera was held at a height of approximately 1.6 metres.
- 2.7** The Photoviews used for the visual assessment are presented at A3 size as single shots or at A1 (printable size) for panoramic views in accordance with the Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 0/19 Visualisations of development.

Caveat

- 2.8** It is acknowledged that by virtue of carrying out the ‘visual’ element of this assessment, the author has an inherent ‘bias’ against the proposals to which this report relates.

When carrying out the site visit and taking photos from the chosen viewpoint locations (from publicly accessible areas and vantage points), the report's author is actively and deliberately 'looking' for the 'site' within the local landscape.

- 2.9** In reality, visual receptors such as users of the public rights of way network and motorists alike will not 'actively' be 'looking' for the site (or the development) whilst traversing the public rights of way and road network. Whilst each visual receptor will have a varying degree of appreciation for their surroundings, depending on what they are doing (playing sport, walking, driving), their efforts will typically not be concerned with 'actively' and 'deliberately' looking for any given 'site' or 'residential development'.
- 2.10** The photoviews were accurate at the time they were taken. Site conditions can be subject to change, for example garden and field boundary hedgerows can be cut/trimmed by landowners/farmers, trees can be felled by landowners or blown over by adverse weather, and new trees can be planted. Therefore, the extent of visibility can potentially increase or decrease since the photoviews were taken. Such eventualities are not within the control of the report's author. The assessment of visibility within photoviews is accurate at the time of writing

3. Baseline Conditions

The Site and Surrounding Context

- 3.1** The following section describes the individual elements, attributes, and key characteristics of the existing site (see Appendix 3 – Landscape Features Plan) and local landscape, which together contribute to an understanding of the landscape character.

Appendix 3 – Landscape Features Plan

- 3.2** The following physical landscape attributes will be described;

- Topography and Landform
- Hydrology and Water Features
- Land Use
- Landscape Framework – Tree and Vegetation Cover
- Public Rights of Way
- Public Highways and Transport Corridors
- Settlement Pattern and Built Form
- Landscape Designations
- Landscape Character

Topography and Landform

- 3.3** The site is located on a south facing valley hillside. The site slopes upwards from a low point of approximately 44 metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) on the southern site boundary to a high point of approximately 55 metres AOD on the northern site boundary. North of the site the topography continues to rise to reach a high point, within Godshill Wood of approximately 70 metres AOD. To the south, the land falls to a valley bottom at approximately 40 metres AOD.
- 3.4** As with other similar residential plots, the landform within the site has been modified to accommodate the residential property. The latter is situated at approximately 49.5 metres AOD. A series of retaining structures takes up some of the level changes between the residential property and the site's northern boundary.

- 3.5** The southern side of the narrow valley, is similar in form and height to that of the northern side on which the site is situated. The northern side of the site, however, remains undeveloped.

Hydrology and Water Features

- 3.6** The site contains a small naturalistic pond in the south-east corner together with a formal rectangular swimming pool close to the residential property's southern elevation. There are no other obvious water features on the site.
- 3.7** To the south of the site is a small watercourse. This watercourse forms a tributary to the River Avon located to the west of the site at a distance of approximately 1km.

Land Use

- 3.8** The land use on the site is residential. The residential property on the site is an oak frame predominantly 2 storey building with some single elements and a red tile roof. The property is fairly centrally located on the site, which is irregular in shape but broadly oval along an east-west axis, and is surrounded by a level patio area. A gravel drive leads into the site from the north-east.
- 3.9** The site forms the garden curtilage to the residential property. The site includes a garage close to the site entrance, a summer house adjacent to the pond in the south-east of the site and several other minor garden structures.

Landscape Framework including Trees and Vegetation Cover

- 3.10** The site contains several mature trees including oaks, mainly along its northern boundary. Internally, the site contains numerous native and non-native species semi-mature and recently planted trees including fruit trees. A structure of mixed native and non-native shrubs and understorey trees, including evergreen holly, largely encloses the internal perimeter of the site. Other specimen shrubs are located throughout the site and a hedge has recently been planted above the retaining wall on the northern edge of the patio.
- 3.11** The site is generally well defined. Within the landscape framework of trees and shrubs, the site boundaries are mainly defined by low fences except along the southern boundary which is defined by a medium height close boarded timber fence.
- 3.12** Outside of the site, the hillside is generally well treed. Mature trees are found close to the site's southern boundary. Elsewhere, typically dense hedgerows with hedgerow trees follow along sections of highway, public rights of way and residential property boundaries creating a sense of physical and visual enclosure.

- 3.13** Godshill Wood is the skyline feature to the north of the site. Long Ground Copse is an extensive area of woodland feature on the north facing valley slope opposite the site, to the south.

Public Rights of Way

- 3.14** The site is entirely private with no public access. The site is accessed via an un-metalled track to the north that runs east-west diverting from and then reconnecting with the main surfaced public highway. Public right of way (PROW) 261/772/1 runs broadly north-south and passes by the site's eastern boundary. Several other PROW are found within the vicinity of the site and these form a network of routes in the local landscape.

Public Highways and Transport Corridors

- 3.15** The site is located off an unmetalled lane known locally as the 'Lower Track'. The nearest metalled highway is located approximately 55 metres north of the site. The site is located approximately 1.8km from the A338 – the closest main road.

Settlement Pattern and Built Form

- 3.16** The site forms part of a wider residential area that stretches along the southern edge of Godshill Wood. The residential area comprises contains some twenty detached single and two-storey residential properties typically in generous plots. The properties are fairly evenly distributed across the hillside so that the various properties are typically orientated with their principal, front, elevations facing north or north-west.
- 3.17** The Godshill Wood residential area is quite distinct from the larger settlement of Godshill to the south. Settlement is generally sparse within the wider landscape of the National Park.
- 3.18** Built form varies and properties are of differing ages and no one defining typology. However, there is a fairly common vernacular of red tile roofs. Several houses are rendered – typically in white render – and these form visually prominent features amongst the verdant and sylvan backdrop of the hillside in certain views. Other materials include wood and brick.

Landscape Designations

- 3.19** The site and the area surrounding it are within the New Forest National Park, which is recognised in the NPPF as a national important, protected, landscape.
- 3.20** Though not a landscape protection designation, the site and its surroundings are located within the Western Escarpment Conservation Area. The latter is extensive and runs along the western edge of the National Park between Fordingbridge and Ringwood.

Published Landscape Character Assessments

- 3.21** A hierarchy of national/regional, county and national park published landscape character assessments are available. These respective documents describe the host landscape of the site at an increasingly refined level. The published landscape assessments are intended to provide a foundation for understanding the key component elements and features that characterise the host landscape and potential the site itself.

Scale and Geographic Extent of the Residential development

- 3.22** The scale of the site in geographical extent is assessed as ‘medium’; relative to other similar residential plots within the surrounding area. On the site the extent of the residential property is confined to only part of the site and is assessed as ‘small’. Outside of the residential property, the site is garden curtilage.
- 3.23** It is considered that the residential development would have very limited effect on the key characteristics as identified at the national/regional level of published assessment. Attention is consequently focused on the finer grain given to the landscape by the County and National Park published assessments.

County Landscape Character

- 3.24** At the County level within the Hampshire County Integrated Character Assessment (2012) the site is located within the Avon Valley landscape character area (see Appendix 4).

Appendix 4 – Avon Valley landscape character area

- 3.25** The key characteristics of the Avon Valley are given as:
- “Broad, open, relatively flat valley floor containing the meandering river.
 - Western valley sides defined by steeply wooded ridge while eastern valley sides are more open with a series of wide terraces containing important heath and mire habitats.
 - Extensive areas of neutral grassland (one of the largest expanses of unimproved floodplain grassland in Britain), and open lightly treed river valley floor, often with cattle grazing and horse grazing on the terraces.
 - Significant remains of complex water meadows.
 - Regular field pattern on valley floor and terracing indicative of formal enclosures.

- Open bodies of water from former gravel extraction on valley floor particularly immediately north of Ringwood on the eastern terraces.
- Stone bridges at minor crossing points and church towers are features.
- Strong medieval character derived from local built vernacular and settlement pattern including timber framed buildings with red brick infill and thatched roof cottages.
- Large settlements of Fordingbridge and Ringwood at historic river crossings and occasional hamlets, with little 20th century built development.
- Views contained by valley sides but open floodplain results in medium distant views and large skies.
- Busy A338 on eastern side of the valley contrasts with tranquil pastoral scene on the floodplain.”

3.26 Within the built environment the following materials are identified:

“...Local building materials include timber framed cottages, red brick, cob with slate and thatch roofing. Buildings may also be rendered and painted white painted while weatherboarding on agricultural buildings is typical of this area.”

National Park Landscape Character

New Forest National Park Landscape Character Assessment

3.27 Within the New Forest National Park Landscape Character Assessment the site is located within the LCA6 Upper Avon Valley landscape character area (LCA) (see Appendix 5).

Appendix 5 - LCA6 Upper Avon Valley landscape character area

3.28 The key characteristics of the LCA are identified as:

- “Broad open valley containing the meandering River Avon and enclosed to the east by a steep wooded ridge;
- Gently meandering river with stone bridges at minor crossing points;
- Large areas of neutral unimproved grassland and open water meadows of high nature conservation importance;
- Large settlements of Fordingbridge and Ringwood in the floodplain are historic crossing points of the river;

- Main A338 runs the length of the valley with minor crossings in an East-West direction;
- Church towers are features, protruding from trees within the floodplain;
- Timber framed thatched cottages are a feature of the valley;
- Open bodies of water resulting from gravel extraction, function as important breeding grounds and habitats for wintering wildfowl as well as recreational lakes;
- Distant views to steep wooded slopes.”

3.29 The overall strategy for the LCA is to ‘protect’ and ‘manage’ the landscape.

Author’s Own Assessment of Character

3.30 An assessment of the existing landscape character up to 1km from the site has been undertaken by the report’s author.

3.31 The author’s assessment considers the site and its immediate surroundings and reviews the sensitivity and the capacity of the local landscape to accommodate the type and scale of development being proposed. The following criteria will be used:

- Landscape scale
- Landform and enclosure
- Landscape pattern and complexity
- Skylines
- Intervisibility
- Tranquillity

Landscape scale

3.32 The landscape surrounding the site is generally small to medium scale. The site is part of an established residential area and certain plots have a more intimate scale. To the north and south of the site, blocks of woodland, which themselves vary in size, reduce overall the perceived scale of the landscape.

Landscape and enclosure

3.33 There is a fairly strong sense of enclosure in the landscape. The level of enclosure is brought about through the presence of well treed hedgerows, belts of trees, blocks of

woodland, undulating topography and existing built form all of which combine to define and contain spaces and to prevent more distant views.

Landscape pattern and complexity

- 3.34** The pattern and complexity of the landscape within 1km of the site is quite varied. Residential uses dominate the area immediately surrounding the site. To the south and west, the landscape is a mixture of agricultural fields and woodland before reaching the settlement of Godshill. To the north, woodland dominates. To the east the landscape is a mix of agricultural fields, heath and woodland.

Skylines

- 3.35** Skylines in the landscape around the site are typically formed by higher ground that is most often completely or partially tree covered. The site, when viewed from the south, does not form a notable feature on the skyline which is formed by higher ground and the trees associated with Godshill Wood.

Intervisibility

- 3.36** Intervisibility within the local landscape is generally restricted. Many potential views are restricted through a combination of the sloping and undulating topography and the presence of existing built form and vegetation; either as woodland or as tree belts and hedgerows in the intervening landscape. More distant views are afforded along the valley bottom to the south of the site and around Folds farm to the west, where the pastoral fields provide a more open space. However, even more distant views are contained by the valley sides and the woodland on their upper slopes.

Tranquillity

- 3.37** Tranquillity is defined as being the absence of noise and activity. In this context, the area landscape around the site is relatively tranquil. However, some movement of vehicle is evident and there is some noise from residential properties.

Local Landscape Sensitivity

- 3.38** The topography of the site with its relatively steep slope down to the tributary watercourse of the River Avon is noticeable but is not rare or unusual. The profile of the land continues to the east and west of the site and has been developed on. The vegetation along the site boundaries, and the mature specimen trees within the site,

contribute to the wider tree and hedgerow resource found in the surrounding host landscape.

- 3.39** The landscape surrounding the site is recognised as having a historic character. Castle Hill (ring and bailey) and Frankenbury hill fort are two specific historic elements in relatively close proximity to the site; at a distance of approximately 0.5km to the north and south respectively. However, this no physical or visual connection between the site and these historic features.
- 3.40** There any known association with any person of particular historical or cultural importance. The Western Escarpment Conservation Appraisal mentions that Godshill was the holding of a medieval Forester of Fee (in charge of the Godshill Bailiwick of the Forest) until the position was done away with in the late 13th century
- 3.41** The landscape is covered by the National Park designation and there is a good network of public right of ways so that there is a relatively high recreational value to the area. The condition and quality of the local landscape is considered to be fair.
- 3.42** Taking the factors outlined above together, it is assessed that the local landscape has a high value. However, it is considered that the local landscape does have a well-defined ability to accommodate the type of development on the site without experiencing unacceptable adverse effects. The site is within an established residential area and the site has previously been occupied by a residential property. The susceptibility of the local landscape to the residential development is assessed as low. The overall baseline sensitivity of the local landscape within approximately 1km of the application site boundary is assessed as medium.

Baseline Visual Receptors

- 3.43** A visual assessment of the residential development has been undertaken to determine how the proposals would have a bearing on the visual amenity of the surrounding landscape. This assessment was undertaken in April 2021, when leaf cover was only partially present but consideration has also been given to when there is full leaf cover on the deciduous vegetation and potential visibility is at a minimum and when there is no leaf cover and potential visibility is at a maximum.
- 3.44** Having undertaken a visual assessment, it is demonstrable that the visual envelope i.e., the area in which the residential development would be visible, is a restricted one. Local topography, existing development and the layering effect of existing vegetation in the intervening landscape, especially on or close to the site's boundaries, between the person

viewing (the visual receptor) the residential development and the site boundary would restrict many potential views from within the surrounding landscape.

- 3.45** A number of representative viewpoints have been identified on which to base a visual assessment. The viewpoints are taken from public accessible locations but represent a range of different visual receptors i.e. people. The assessment of these representative viewpoints is given in section 8 (refer to Appendices 6, 7 and 8 – Viewpoint Location Plan and Detailed Visual Assessment, A3 size Viewpoints).

Appendix 6 – Viewpoint Location Plan

Appendix 7 – Detailed Visual Assessment

Appendix 8 - A3 size Viewpoint Images

Residential Properties

- 3.46** There is some intervisibility between the site and residential properties close to the site's northern boundary. The closest residential property to the site Bluebell Cottage/Jubilee Bungalow does have filtered views of the residential development from their rear elevation and gardens. There are some filtered views from other adjoining properties. However, the presence of a large number of trees in gardens and along the Lower Track lane and on the site, act to filter many views of and into the site. The filtering and screening of views would be maximised in summer with a full leaf canopy on the area's deciduous vegetation.
- 3.47** The existing vegetation (on and off the site) and topography of the site (the ground floor of the existing property is approximately 5.5 metres below the level of the Lower Track lane) means that the residential development on the site is typically only be seen in part rather than in its entirety.
- 3.48** Over longer distances, to the south, north and west, the layering effect of existing vegetation in the intervening landscape between the particular properties and the site boundary would, accentuated by the generally level topography, act to restrict views of development on the site.

Public Highways

- 3.49** Views of the proposals from the public highway are confined to Lower Track as it pass by the site. Such views are partially filtered by track side and intervening vegetation and would be transitory in nature. For those travelling along the lane, the existing residential development, which is only be evident in part rather than its entirety, is

considered to have only a limited effect on their visual amenity. There is an expectation when travelling along the lane of seeing residential development in succession.

- 3.50** Except for heavily filtered views to the east, views of and into the site are typically screened from other highways in the landscape through a combination of existing vegetation, topography and/or built form in the intervening landscape between the road user and the site boundary.

Public Rights of Way

- 3.51** There are a number of public rights of way (PROW) within the landscape surrounding the site. For those PROW passing through the surrounding landscape most potential views of the residential development are restricted through the layering effect of vegetation associated with the numerous woodland blocks, tree belts and vegetated field boundaries. There is some intervisibility between the site from PROW 261/772/1 as it passes immediately to the east of the site boundary. Direct views are afforded from a section of the PROW network directly to the south and opposite the site. However, the residential development has no physical effects on the public right of way network.

Selection of representative viewpoints

- 3.52** A comprehensive visual assessment has been undertaken of the study area. In line with the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd Edition), a number of representative viewpoints (10 in total) have been selected to form the basis of a detailed visual assessment. The viewpoints are from publicly accessible locations.
- 3.53** The chosen viewpoints are regarded as being representative of the range of potential views and receptors e.g., users of the public highway and PROW networks, etc. from various distances and directions around the site. A desk top study and field surveys has refined the number and exact location of the representative viewpoints and their locations are ones from which there is anticipated to be an effect. The representative viewpoints are not intended to be exhaustive. A greater number of locations would have demonstrated no visual effect.
- 3.54** The locations of the representative viewpoints are shown at Appendix 6. The viewpoints are from located within the following distance range:
- close distance – 0 metres to 500 metres from the site boundary,
 - medium distance – 500 metres to 1km from the site boundary
 - long distance – greater then 1km from the site boundary

4. Description of Residential development

- 4.1** The site comprises the existing dwelling together with a garage, parking area, garden and minor garden structures. The existing 2 storey oak timber frame house replaced an existing single storey dwelling of approximately 123 sq-m in size on the site.
- 4.2** The existing residential property on the site represents a replacement dwelling. The Local Planning Authority had previously granted consent for a replacement dwelling on the site on the 20th December 2016 (application no. 16/00828). However, this consent was not implemented. Instead, a further consent was obtained for another replacement house (consent no. 18/00262) for the following:
- Dwelling: detached garage with office over; sewage treatment plant; demolition of existing dwelling and outbuilding*
- 4.3** The existing residential development, as built, is a deviation from the consented scheme. The existing building is slightly larger and higher than the consented scheme and is orientated at a variation of approximately 7 degrees from the axis of the consented scheme.
- 4.4** The timber property has a pitched roof of red tiles. The southern elevation includes a first floor balcony above large glazed sliding doors on the ground floor looking out from the main living area. The latter doors open onto a paved patio that surrounds most of the building. At the edge of the southern patio is a swimming pool. A grassed lawn sweeps down to the southern site boundary which is currently defined by a medium height timber close boarded fence.
- 4.5** The northern elevation contains a stair well window that rises 2 storeys. The northern patio is contained by a low retaining wall above which is a grassed area. This grassed area is contained by another stepped retained structure. A belt of vegetation including mature trees runs along the northern boundary.
- 4.6** Shrub planting extends along most of the site's perimeter and comprises a mixture of native and non-native species including Cherry Laurel; the latter mostly present on the site as part of the landscape scheme associated with the previous dwelling on the plot. Specimen trees and shrubs have been planted across the site.

- 4.7** Other structures on the site are constructed of timber. The driveway is surfaced in gravel and is similar in form to Lower Track from where the site is entered. The entrance has timber agricultural style gate and timber post and rail with some mesh infill defines the majority of the site's boundary perimeter.

5. Planning Policy Context

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

5.1 The revised NPPF was published in February 2019 and superseded the previous version. The new NPPF has a presumption in favour of sustainable development (paragraph 10). Specifically, paragraph 11 of the NPPF states that:

“Plans and decisions should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development. For plan-making this means that:

a) plans should positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of their area, and be sufficiently flexible to adapt to rapid change;

b) strategic policies should, as a minimum, provide for objectively assessed needs for housing and other uses, as well as any needs that cannot be met within neighbouring areas 5, unless:

i. the application of policies in this Framework that protect areas or assets of particular importance provides a strong reason for restricting the overall scale, type or distribution of development in the plan area; or

ii. any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole. For decision-taking this means:

c) approving development proposals that accord with an up-to-date development plan without delay; or

d) where there are no relevant development plan policies, or the policies which are most important for determining the application are out-of-date, granting permission unless:

i. the application of policies in this Framework that protect areas or assets of particular importance provides a clear reason for refusing the development proposed; or

ii. any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole.”

5.2 Paragraph 8 of the NPPF defines the three dimensions to sustainable development. These dimensions are economic, social and environmental. In detail the environmental dimension is explained in the following terms:

“an environmental objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy...”

5.3 Section 12 of the NPPF is entitled ‘Achieving well-designed places’. The opening line of paragraph 125 states:

“Plans should, at the most appropriate level, set out a clear design vision and expectations, so that applicants have as much certainty as possible about what is likely to be acceptable...”

5.4 Paragraph 127 states:

“Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments:

- a) will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development;
- b) are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping;
- c) are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change (such as increased densities);
- d) establish or maintain a strong sense of place, using the arrangement of streets, spaces, building types and materials to create attractive, welcoming and distinctive places to live, work and visit;
- e) optimise the potential of the site to accommodate and sustain an appropriate amount and mix of development (including green and other public space) and support local facilities and transport networks; and
- f) create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being, with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users; and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience.”

5.5 Section 15 of the NPPF refers to ‘Conserving and enhancing the natural environment’. Paragraph 170 states:

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

- a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);
- b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;
- c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;
- d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;
- e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and
- f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.”

5.6 Paragraph 171 of the NPPF states:

“Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework ; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.”

5.7 The first line of paragraph 172 expands on the requirements of paragraph 171 by saying:

“Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues.”

Local Plan Policy.

5.8 Within the current adopted New Forest National Park Local Plan the following policies are relevant to landscape and visual matters.

5.9 Policy DP2: General development principles states that:

“All new development and uses of land within the New Forest National Park must uphold and promote the principles of sustainable development. New development proposals must demonstrate high quality design and construction which enhances local character and distinctiveness. This includes, but is not restricted to, ensuring:

a) development is appropriate and sympathetic in terms of scale, appearance, form, siting and layout

b) development respects the natural, built and historic environment, landscape character and biodiversity

c) development takes opportunities to protect and enhance the setting of groups and individual trees, hedges and hedgerows and to include new planting of native trees and hedges where appropriate

d) materials and boundary treatments are appropriate to the site and its setting

e) development would not result in unacceptable adverse impacts on amenity in terms of additional impacts, visual intrusion, overlooking or shading

f) development would not result in unacceptable adverse impacts associated with traffic or pollution (including air, soil, water, noise and light pollution). New development must also comply with required standards for:

g) car parking (see Annex 2) h) open space (as set out in Policy DP10). “

5.10 Policy SP7: Landscape character states:

“Great weight in planning decisions will be given to conserving the landscape and scenic beauty of the National Park and to its wildlife and cultural heritage.

Development proposals will be permitted if they conserve and enhance the character of the New Forest’s landscapes and seascapes by demonstrating that:

- a) they are informed by New Forest National Park Landscape Character Assessment and are compatible with the distinct features and type of landscape in which the development is located;
- b) the design, layout, massing and scale of proposals conserve and enhance existing landscape and seascape character and do not detract from the natural beauty of the National Park;
- c) the character of largely open and undeveloped landscapes between and within settlements will not be eroded or have their setting harmed; and
- d) landscape schemes reinforce local landscape or seascape character.

Where planting is appropriate, it is consistent with local character and native species are used.”

5.11 Policy SP15: Tranquillity states:

“New development should avoid, or provide mitigation measures, if the proposal will lead to noise, visual intrusion, nuisance and other unacceptable environmental impacts on the National Park and its special qualities.

This should include reducing the impacts of light pollution on the ‘dark skies’ of the National Park and control of development to prevent artificial lighting from eroding rural darkness and tranquillity.

Development proposals that seek to remove visually intrusive man-made structures from the landscape will be supported.”

5.12 Policy SP17: Local distinctiveness states:

“Built development and changes of use which would individually or cumulatively erode the Park’s local character, or result in a gradual suburbanising effect within the National Park will not be permitted.”

5.13 Policy SP18: Design Principles states:

“All new development will be required to achieve the highest standards for new design: including location, layout, size, scale, details and materials of new development within the National Park, with particular regard to:

- a) enhancing the built and historic environment of the New Forest;
- b) creating a safe environment where people want to live, work and visit;
- c) ensuring new development is accessible where appropriate;

d) ensuring all new development incorporates sound sustainable design and construction principles and good environmental practices; and

e) ensuring development is contextually appropriate and does not harm key visual features, landscape setting or other valued components of the landscape, and enhances these where appropriate.”

New Forest National Park Local Development Framework Design Guide

- 5.14** The New Forest National Park LPA has produced a Design Guide that forms a Supplementary Planning Document. The guide advocates that new development in the national park should reflect its landscape context and make reference to the local vernacular in respect of style, scale, form and detailing including the use of materials. The document provides a series of real life and graphic examples of how to design and not to design new built form/residential development in the New Forest National Park.

Response to Policy

- 5.15** In landscape and visual terms, the residential development on the site represents a contemporarily designed property that has sort to be reflective of the local vernacular in its use of materials. The use of timber both as a structure and as cladding is given as an example in the Design Guide for the National Park. Similarly, the use of red clay tiles is a feature of many other buildings within the National Park. The appropriate use of materials together with the overall scale and form of the residential property and its positioning in the site is consistent with other similar development in the surrounding landscape. The development has retained a large number of mature trees and shrubs on the site and has introduced new planting that is intended, once fully established, to enhance and reinforce the landscape framework of the site and to contribute to the character of the wider area. Suggested mitigation measures allow for the replacement of boundary features deemed to be in appropriate by the LPA and these include close boarded timber fencing and the use of laurel hedging. In both instances new native species hedgerows are proposed.

6. Effect on Landscape Elements and Character

Effect on Landscape Features

- 6.1** This section sets out an assessment of the likely physical landscape effects upon the site and the anticipated landscape effects upon the character of the relevant landscape character area of the site and its immediate context. Except for underground utility connections there are no anticipated works associated with the residential development that would take place outside the site boundary.

Topography

- 6.2** The topography of the site slopes gently down from north to south before falling again beyond the southern boundary. The landform of the site is typical of the sloping and undulating nature of the topography of the area in which the site is situated and is no more distinctive on the site than elsewhere on the hillside where the same landform has already been developed. The topography of the site is assessed as having a medium value.
- 6.3** The layout of the residential development has been so designed as to allow the steeper parts of the site to remain. The existing landform has required some re-profiling to accommodate the footprint of the proposed buildings and associated infrastructure. However, only limited earthworks have taken place to accommodate the existing property and any major cut and fill exercise have been avoided.
- 6.4** The susceptibility of the topography to the specific nature of the type of development being proposed is medium. With a medium value and medium susceptibility, the overall sensitivity of the topography to the residential development is considered to be medium.
- 6.5** Any changes to the topography of the site during the lifetime of the residential development are considered to be permanent and irreversible. Such changes as have occurred are localised ones and relate to the setting of levels necessary to allow the construction of the property. No further remodelling of the existing landform is anticipated and the overall magnitude of change on the site's topography is assessed as low. With a medium sensitivity and low magnitude of change, the overall effect at year 1 on topography would be minor adverse. It is assessed that the effect would remain

minor adverse at year 15. The general slope of the hillside upward from south to north is evident and would continue to prevail with the proposals in place.

Trees, shrubs and hedgerows

- 6.6** The trees, shrubs and hedgerows on the site are generally of the same or of a similarly nature to the trees and shrubs which characterise the wider landscape. There are no Tree Preservation Orders in place on the site and the existing tree, shrub and hedgerow resource is assessed as being of medium value and of medium susceptibility to the type of development in place. With a medium value and a medium susceptibility, the overall sensitivity of the existing tree, shrub and hedgerow resource is medium.
- 6.7** The layout of the residential development has allowed much of the tree, shrub and hedgerow resource on the site to be retained. The existing residential property is set back from the site boundaries which has enabled the retained boundary vegetation to thrive. New planting but especially tree planting has taken place throughout the residential development and any further new planting would be used to strengthen and enhance the existing vegetated site boundaries.
- 6.8** The tree, shrub and hedgerow on the site is both aesthetic and functional. The choice of species provides year round visual interest but also functions as a screen/filter to views into and of the site as well as framing views out of the site.
- 6.9** The magnitude of change on the existing tree, shrub and hedgerow resource at year 1 is assessed as medium. With a medium sensitivity, and a medium magnitude of change, the effect on the tree and hedgerow resource on the site with the residential development in place at year 1 would be moderate and neutral.
- 6.10** It is considered that there would, by year 15, the new planting implemented as part of the development would be fully established and beginning to fill out. At year 15 the tree, shrub and hedgerow resource on the site would experience a moderate beneficial effect.

Water features

- 6.11** A small pond forms a naturalistic feature in the site's south-eastern corner. The water feature is not a notable feature in the wider landscape beyond the site's boundaries.
- 6.12** As part of the residential development, there has and would be no change to the watercourses within the wider landscape beyond the site boundary with the proposals in place.

Land use

- 6.13** There has been no material change to the land use of the site with the proposals in place. The site was previously residential and this continues to prevail with the residential property in place. There would be no effects on land use at years 1 and 15 of the operational phase of the development.

Summary of the effects on landscape elements and features

- 6.14** The design of the layout for the residential development is has sort to minimise the effect of the proposals on the existing landscape elements and features found on the site. The residential property has been constructed area of the site occupied by the dwelling it has replaced so as to minimise the need for major cut and fill and to retain the notable gradient and slope of the site.
- 6.15** The existing vegetation including specimen trees has largely been retained as part of the development on the site and new planting introduced. The retained existing tree, shrub and hedgerow resource on the site form an integral part of the residential development. New planting has reinforced and enhanced the existing landscape structure of the site. Having now established and beginning to mature many of the new tree and hedgerow planting are making a positive and beneficial contribution to the character of the site and the wider area.
- 6.16** No physical works are anticipated beyond the site boundary as part of the residential development. Consequently, the physical fabric of the landscape surrounding the site would remain physically unaffected with the proposals in place.

Effect on Landscape Character

- 6.17** At the finer grain level of assessment as expressed in the published County and National Park landscape character assessment and supported by the author's own assessment, the site's host landscape does many of the key characteristics identified in the baseline conditions. The area in which the site is located on the edge of the Avon Valley and is a transitional landscape between the Avon Valley and the New Forest proper.
- 6.18** The host landscape to the south, west and east reflects a pattern that includes a mainly agricultural hinterland with trees, woodlands and water courses. The latter feature becomes more dominant to the west of the site at a distance of approximately 1km. To the north, woodland is overwhelmingly the dominant feature.
- 6.19** The residential development is contained within, and part of, a well-defined and established residential area. This residential area is broadly triangular in form with its

apex to the west and extends from the valley floor, and the northside of the River Avon tributary, northwards to the public highway south of Godshill Wood and eastward to Woodgreen Road which connects Godshill Wood to Godshill.

- 6.20** The residential property and the site are entirely consistent with, and do not disrupt, the established pattern of development in the area. The pattern of development is a dispersed one but is typified by detached properties in medium to large scale plots comparatively evenly distributed across the valley's hillside.
- 6.21** The orientation of the residential property on the site means its principal front and rear elevations broadly face north and south respectively, However, there is no discernible set building line in the developed area and though nearly all the residential properties are, as with the site's property, orientated so that their principal elevations face up and down the slope they are irregularly positioned and at different angles to one another.
- 6.22** Experientially, the residential character of the area is most apparent in views from the south where residential properties are evident across the entire valley side set amongst trees and on more open garden curtilages. Rendered properties in the residential area demonstrate a prominence against the darker greens of trees and grassland. Other non-rendered properties including that on site are more recessive in the colour of their facades and are less visually conspicuous.
- 6.23** The residential development in the context of the wider residential area is not inherently incongruous. The site has been in residential use for some time and the presence of the residential property retains and complements the wider developed area's sense of place. The use of a timber frame construction is consistent with existing traditional built form that is noted for making a positive contribution to the character of the wider landscape.
- 6.24** The residential development is not extensive on the site and any disruption to the existing natural landscape elements and features including topography, watercourse, trees, shrubs and hedgerows that help characterise the site and the wider area has been limited. With the exception of the introduction of a close boarded fence and some sections of laurel hedging which do not represent a permanent change, such landscape elements and features there are no fundamentally unfavourable effects on landscape elements and features that could not be mitigated with the proposals in place.
- 6.25** The development of the site does not have any physical effects beyond the site boundaries. Only experiential factors such as tranquillity and visual appearance would be potentially affected beyond the site boundary and only to a limited degree.
- 6.26** The visual envelope in which the residential development is seen from within the wider area is demonstrably small. The character of the wider landscape in appearance terms is

not altered to a notable degree with the proposals in place. It is considered that where evident, the residential development does not appear out of context or incongruous in a host landscape that already accommodates similar development. The residential development influences the visual amenity experienced by those people in the surrounding area to only a limited degree. During day light hours, the change in the visual appearance of the site with the development in place does not alter substantially the material perception of the local host landscape.

- 6.27** The physical characteristics of the local landscape beyond the site remain unchanged with the residential development in place. The existing scale and pattern of the landscape with its landcover of fields, generally sloping and undulating topography and dispersed areas of settlement all continue to prevail with the proposals in place.
- 6.28** The tranquillity of the site and of the wider local landscape in respect of noise and movement is substantially unchanged with the residential development in place. The area around the site already accommodates residential activities that some generate movement and noise. The residential property on the site does not fundamentally alter this baseline context.

Effects on Hours of Darkness

- 6.29** The host landscape is generally a dark and tranquil landscape at night. There are no street lights present in the immediate vicinity of the site. However, other residential properties and the presence of public highways do provide potential sources of light. Mitigation of light spill from the fenestration of nearby domestic properties currently appears to come from the use of blinds and curtains etc. internally to the properties.
- 6.30** At present, the residential property does generate some light spill from its glazed southern elevation and from a stair well window to the north elevation. However, the effects of this light spill, though negative, are limited in extent such that it is considered that the overall effect on the night-time tranquillity of the wider landscape is negligible.
- 6.31** The light sources from the site's residential property are not deliberately radiating ones such as beam lighting or flood lights. The northern stair well lighting is experienced only a very close distance and from a short section of the Lower track before existing vegetation and the orientation of the lane relative to the building act to screen the window from view.
- 6.32** The lights from the southern elevation are most evident, from publicly accessible locations, in direct views from the south where there are public rights of way at close distance to the site boundary. However, owing to the general absence of lighting in the landscape, there is little expectation that large numbers of people would be walking

these footpaths during the hours of darkness. The effects of any lighting is typically confined only to those points in the landscape where the property is visible and such point are demonstrably few.

Scale and Nature of Effect on Landscape Features and Character

- 6.33** The character of the local landscape is assessed as having a low sensitivity to the type of development being proposed. The magnitude of change brought to the character of the local landscape with the residential development in place is assessed as low. With a low magnitude of change and an overall low sensitivity, the effect of the residential development on the character and appearance of the local landscape is assessed as negligible at both years 1 and 15 of the operational phase.

Mitigation Measures

- 6.34** It is recommended that in order to further reduce any effects on the character of the landscape on and around the site that the following mitigation measures are implemented:
- Additional planting is to be added to the northern site boundary where the existing is sparse so as to help reduce views into the site from the adjoining Lower Track (and nearby residential properties) . Such planting should comprise native species and be of a size that allows for an immediate filtering of views. Species such as holly, an evergreen, and beech which hold its leaves for much of the year would help mitigate any visual effects including light spill from the stair well window on the northern elevation.
 - Gradual replacement of laurel hedgerow along the site’s boundaries where there is the potential for the shrubs growth to have a physical or visual influence on the public realm. Such sections of laurel should be substituted for native species more appropriate to the rural character of the area.
 - Implementation of a mixed native species hedgerow along the site’s southern boundary to replace the existing closeboard timber fence which the AONB and LPA identify as a suburbanising element in the wider landscape. Retention of the existing fence until any new planting has become established would help serve to protect the new planting from potential damage caused by wild animals such as deer.
 - Use of external/internal screens/filters/coverings etc to reduce or remove light omissions from the main glazed areas of the residential property so as to minimise the amount of existing and potential light spill into the surrounding area and so reduce any negative effects on dark skies and the area’s night-time tranquillity.

Summary

- 6.35** The residential development does not materially change the key landscape characteristics or elements and features, identified in either the published landscape character assessment or the author's own assessment for the local landscape. The existing pattern of settlement, fields, woodland and trees containing the site and the residential development continue to prevail with the proposals in place.
- 6.36** The site is part of a wider residential area that contains a range of properties of a similar scale but comprising a variety of different styles and design. In this context, the sight of the residential development does not unduly affect the visual experience and perception of the landscape's character. The existing pattern and landcover of the landscape comprising fields, generally sloping and undulating topography, areas of settlement and woodland all continue with the residential development in place.

7. Effect on Visual Amenity

Detailed visual assessment

- 8.1** A visual assessment has been undertaken from the representative viewpoints to determine how the residential development might influence the visual amenity of the surrounding landscape. The assessment was undertaken as part of the site survey, with the photographic assessment recording the nature of the view and the existing visibility of the site.
- 8.2** The site survey and photographic assessment were undertaken in April 2021. Leaf cover on existing vegetation was partially but consideration has also been given to when the vegetation is in full leaf cover and similar when the leaf cover is absent from deciduous vegetation. The detailed assessment of the effects of the residential development on the various representative viewpoints is given at Appendix 7.
- 8.3** Of the 10 representative views, none are assessed as experiencing a major or adverse effect. The effect on views with the residential development in place is in a range of no-change through to moderate. It is considered that the nature of the visual effects are typically neutral rather than adverse. There is a balance between in visual terms between potential adverse elements and beneficial ones that allows the visual integrity of the host landscape to be maintained with the existing residential development in place on the site.
- 8.4** As residential development, the property on the site is a replacement residential building. As such there is an acceptance that built form is considered appropriate for the site, a fact reinforced through the granting of consent for a replacement dwelling. Though the residential property is slightly larger and orientated slightly differently to that building for which planning permission has previously granted, such changes in visual terms are not readily apparent and would not be readily perceived by the unversed and casual observer.
- 8.5** The residential property on the site is not a visually incongruous or alien feature in the landscape that would of itself lead to an adverse and unacceptable effect on the visual amenity of those living in or visiting the host landscape. The visual assessment helps demonstrate that even from within a relative proximity to the site boundary, views of and into the site are limited.

- 8.6** From public rights of way and highway, including the Lower Track, the residential property on the site where visible is only seen as sequence of discrete elements. There is no one point in the landscape from a publicly accessible vantage point from which the site and the development on it can be seen in its entirety.
- 8.7** As the visual assessment demonstrates, the residentially property is with few exceptions only seen in the context of other built form and/or other residential developments rather than in total isolation. Specifically, there is already an expectation for users of the public rights of way and highway network closest to the site that residential development is a visible feature of the host landscape before the site, and the residential property, on it become visible when travelling along a particular route.

Summary

- 8.8** Despite its relative size and form, as the visual assessment demonstrates, the opportunity to view the site and the residential development from publicly accessible locations in the wider landscape is limited. Such views that are afforded are typically in close or very close proximity to the site boundary.
- 8.9** In general, the residential development, even from publicly accessible locations is typically screened from view by the presence of changes in the local topography, existing built form or vegetation or a combination of all these elements in the intervening landscape between the observer and the site boundary. Where it is evident, the residential development is typically be seen only as discrete elements rather than in its entirety.
- 8.10** Overall, it is considered that the residential development has a limited visual effect that and does not cause an unacceptable level of harm to the visual amenity of the wider landscape beyond the site boundary.

8. Summary and Conclusions

- 9.1** This Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) has been prepared by Briarwood Landscape Architecture by a Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute, on behalf of Mr and Mrs Vickers in respect of an existing residential development and its curtilage ('the site') at Paysanne Godshill Wood. The site is located in the New Forest national Park, a nationally important landscape s outlined in the NPPF.
- 9.2** The site is accessed off an unmetalled lane known locally as the 'Lower Track' and forms part of a wider residential are that is situated on a hillside on the northern slope of a smally valley of a water course that is a tributary of the River Avon. The site is private with no public access.
- 9.3** The residential development does not materially change the key landscape characteristics or elements and features, identified in either the published landscape character assessment or the author's own assessment for the local landscape. The existing pattern of settlement, fields, woodland and trees containing the site and the residential development continue to prevail with the proposals in place.
- 9.4** The site is part of a wider residential area that contains a range of properties of a similar scale but comprising a variety of different styles and design In this context, the sight of the residential development does not unduly affect the visual experience and perception of the landscape's character. The existing pattern and landcover of the landscape comprising fields, generally sloping and undulating topography, areas of settlement and woodland all continue with the residential development in place
- 9.5** Despite its relative size and form, as the visual assessment demonstrates, the opportunity to view the site and the residential development from publicly accessible locations in the wider landscape is limited. Such views that are afforded are typically in close or very close proximity to the site boundary.
- 9.6** In general, the residential development, even from publicly accessible locations is typically screened from view by the presence of changes in the local topography, existing built form or vegetation or a combination of all these elements in the intervening landscape between the observer and the site boundary. Where it is evident, the residential development is typically be seen only as discrete elements rather than in its entirety.

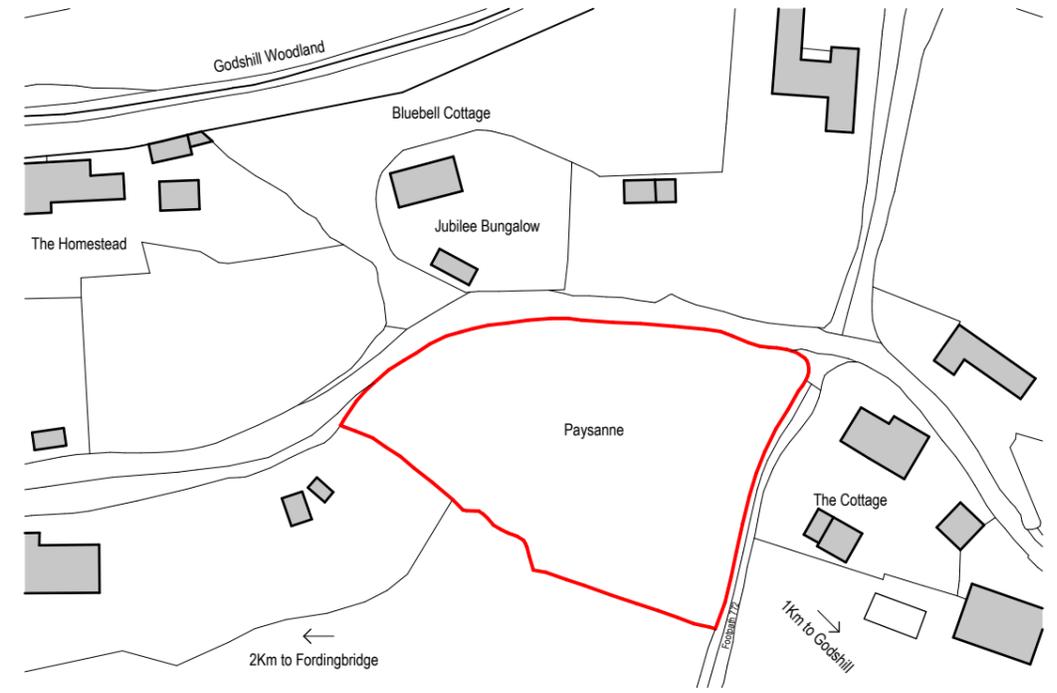
- 9.7** Overall, it is considered that the residential development has a limited visual effect that and does not cause an unacceptable level of harm to the visual amenity of the wider landscape beyond the site boundary.

9. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Site Location Plan



Location Plan
1:500



Location Plan
1:1250



Rev	Date	By	Description
P02	25/11/2020	MF	Updated to comments
P01	02/10/2020	MF	Planning Issue

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Date Printed: 25/11/2020



Appendix 2 – Detailed Methodology

DETAILED METHODOLOGY

Introduction

1. The Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) has been undertaken with reference to best practice, as outlined in the following published guidance:
 - Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd edition) - Landscape Institute/ Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013)
 - GLVIA3 Statement of Clarification 1/13
 - An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment – Natural England (2014)
2. The proposed scheme is assessed for the purposes of the landscape and visual analysis.

Study Area

3. The initial study area for the LVA is taken to be a 5km radius from the site. Unless otherwise stated, the main focus of the assessment is taken as a radius of 2km from the site as it is considered that beyond this distance, even with good visibility, the proposed development would not be perceptible in the composite landscape.
4. The effects on settings of heritage assets or ecological/environmental assets are not considered within this LVA.

Nature of Effects

5. An impact is an action e.g. building a wall. An effect is the consequence of a particular action on the integrity of the landscape, feature or view.
6. The nature of any effect will be adverse beneficial or neutral and are summarised as:
 - Adverse - where on balance there is a negative effect on the quality, integrity or key characteristics of the landscape or visual receptor
 - Beneficial - where on balance there is a positive effect on the quality, integrity or key characteristics of the landscape or visual receptor
 - Neutral – where on balance the effect would maintain the quality, integrity or key characteristics of the landscape or visual receptor or where the change is different but represents neither a deterioration nor enhancement
7. Unless expressly noted, effects are deemed to be adverse in nature.

Landscape Elements and Character Assessment Methodology

8. A baseline landscape assessment is carried out to determine the current elements and character of the landscape within and surrounding the site. This involved an initial desktop study of but not necessarily limited to:

- Ordnance survey maps at 1:50,000, 1:25,000 scales
- Aerial photographs of the site and surrounding area
- Datasets for rural designations from the MAGIC website (Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside)
- Relevant planning policy
- National and local scale landscape character assessments

Visual Assessment Methodology

9. The assessment of visual effects is undertaken on the basis of viewpoint analysis as recommended in best practice guidelines. The viewpoints which are in different directions from the site and are at varying distances and locations were selected to represent a range of views and visual receptor types.

10. The viewpoints are representational and not exhaustive. They are taken from publicly accessible land and not from any third party, private, land.

11. The viewpoints were used as the basis for determining the effects of visual receptors within the entire study area. The viewpoints were photographed at 1.6 metres above ground level.

Sensitivity of Landscape Elements and Features

12. The sensitivity attributed to a landscape element or feature is determined by a combination of the value that is attached to a particular landscape element feature and the susceptibility of the landscape element/feature to changes that would arise as a result of the Proposed Development as outlined in pages 88-90 of GLVIA3. Both value and susceptibility are assessed as high, medium or low.

Table 1: Value of Landscape Elements and Features

Low	<p>Ones that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have no or little rarity and/or, • make no and/or make only a limited contribution to the character and local visual and amenity value and/or • are of such poor condition that the element/feature has lost its ability to contribute effectively to the character of the landscape
Medium	<p>Ones that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are notable in the landscape, with some visual and/or amenity interest but, • do not make a particularly strong or important contribution to the character of the landscape and/or, • ones that are an intrinsic element of landscape but in poor condition
High	<p>Ones that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make an important contribution to the character of the landscape and/or • have particular historical or cultural reference and/or • are distinctive or rare and typically of good condition

Table 2: Susceptibility of Landscape Elements and Features

Susceptibility to change	Criteria
High	A very limited ability of the landscape element of feature to accommodate the type of development being proposed – a particular susceptibility. Few opportunities for mitigation and enhancement.
Medium	A moderate ability of the landscape element of feature to accommodate the type of development being proposed – some susceptibility. Some opportunities for mitigation and enhancement .
Low	A well-defined ability of the landscape element of feature to accommodate the type of development being proposed – little susceptibility. Good opportunities for mitigation and enhancement .

Susceptibility of Landscape Elements and Features

13. The susceptibility criteria of landscape elements and features is given in Table 2 but a judgement has been made by linking back to the evidence gathered at the baseline stage.

Table 3: Sensitivity of Landscape Elements and Features

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

Magnitude of Change on Landscape Elements and Features

14. Professional judgement, using the criteria given in Table 4 , and also considering geographic extent and the duration and reversibility of the effect, has been used to determine the magnitude of direct physical impacts on individual existing landscape elements and features

Table 4: Criteria for magnitude of change for landscape elements and features

NB Alterations may include the addition of new elements and features

Negligible	No loss or very minor alteration to part of an existing landscape element and/or feature
Low	Minor loss or alteration to part of an existing landscape element and or feature
Medium	Some loss or alteration to part of an existing landscape element and/or feature
High	Total/major loss or alteration of an existing landscape element and/or feature

Sensitivity of Landscape Character

15. Sensitivity is determined by a combination of the value that is attached to a landscape and the susceptibility of the landscape to changes that would arise as a result of the Proposed Development as outlined in pages 88-90 of GLVIA3. Both value and susceptibility are assessed as high, medium or low.
16. Table 5 below provides a series of criteria by which the ‘value’ of the landscape is assessed. Such criteria are based upon Box 5.1 on page 84 of GLVIA3.

Table 5: Value of Landscape Character

Low	An area that is in a recognisably poor condition/quality and/or with a weak strength of character that typically has a clear indication of being damaged and/or contains a high number of detractors, and/or is of limited visual cohesion; rare or distinctive elements and features are not a notable component that contribute to the character of the area. No known associations with cultural/historic people.
Medium	An area is recognisable as being in reasonable condition/quality and/or with a strength of character but likely to exhibit some damage or deterioration and/or some visual cohesion and interest; rare or distinctive elements and features make some contribution to the character of the area. Possible or limited associations with cultural/historic people.
High	Areas with international or national landscape designations, i.e. National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty or occasionally landscapes non-designated landscape in particularly good condition/quality and/or strong strength of character or of particular local value and/or with few visual detractors; rare or distinctive elements and features are likely to be a key component that contribute to the character of the area. Recorded associations with cultural/historic people may be present.

Table 6: Susceptibility of Landscape Character

Susceptibility to change	Criteria
High	A very limited ability of the landscape to accommodate the type of development being proposed – a particular susceptibility. Few opportunities for mitigation and enhancement.
Medium	A moderate ability of the landscape to accommodate the type of development being proposed – some susceptibility. Some opportunities for mitigation and enhancement .
Low	A well-defined ability of the landscape to accommodate the type of development being proposed – little susceptibility. Good opportunities for mitigation and enhancement .

Susceptibility of Landscape Elements and Features

17. The susceptibility criteria of landscape elements and features is given in Table 6 but a judgement has been made by linking back to the evidence gathered at the baseline stage.

Table 7: Sensitivity of Landscape Character

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

Magnitude of Change on Landscape Character

18. Professional judgement using Table 8, and also considering geographic extent and the duration and reversibility of the effect, has been used to determine the magnitude change on landscape character

Table 8: Criteria for magnitude of change for landscape character

Negligible	No notable introduction of new elements into the landscape or change to the scale, landform, land cover or pattern of landscape
Low	Introduction of minor new elements into the landscape or some minor change to the scale, landform, land cover or pattern of landscape
Medium	Introduction of some notable elements into the landscape or some notable change to the scale, landform, land cover or pattern of landscape

High	Introduction of major elements into the landscape or some major change to the scale, landform, land cover or pattern of landscape
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Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

19. Sensitivity is determined by a combination of the value that is attached to a view and the susceptibility of the receptor to changes in that view that would arise as a result of the Proposed Development as outlined in pages 113-114 of GLVIA3. Both value and susceptibility are assessed as high, medium or low.

20. GLVIA3 says a judgement should be made as to the value of a particular view being experienced. In making a professional judgement as to the value attached to a view, the following criteria have helped guide the process. Not all the criteria have to apply to a particular view and the criteria are not in a hierarchy.

Table 9: Criteria for judging levels of visual value

Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Views from within or towards undesignated landscapes and/or features of either importance to the site only or of no importance • View has little aesthetic merit e.g. has numerous visual detractors, is badly degraded etc. • View makes a limited contribution to the understanding of the function or wider pattern of the landscape • Views with no known social, cultural or historic associations • Views from locations that are not necessarily destination points or that are infrequently visited
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Views from within or towards undesignated landscapes and/or features of local importance • View with some limited aesthetic appeal • View makes a reasonable contribution to the understanding of the

	<p>function or wider pattern of the landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Views with some known local social, cultural or historic associations • Views from locations that are locally popular destination points or that are frequently visited by locals but not necessarily by visitors from further afield
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Views from within or towards designated landscapes and/or features of importance at district level and above • View with great aesthetic appeal • View makes an important contribution to the understanding of the function or wider pattern of the landscape • Views with some known national or international social, cultural or historic associations especially to art and literature • Views from locations that are popular regional, national or international destination points or that are frequently visited by large numbers of visitors from further afield

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors

21. GLIVA3 advises (on page 113) that susceptibility of a particular visual receptor (observer) to change in a view is mainly a function of the nature of the activity or occupation of the person or people experiencing a view at a particular location and the extent to which their interest or attention is drawn to the view.

22. In general, it is considered that occupiers of residential properties and people using public rights of way (where enjoyment is primarily drawn from the view) have a high susceptibility to change. Users of roads, railways and open space or engaged in an activity where an appreciation of the view forms a part of the experience are considered to be of medium susceptibility. People engaged in formal sport or occupiers of commercial premises or in areas of employment, where the view has limited importance to the activity being undertaken, are considered to be of low susceptibility to change.

Table 10: Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

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

Magnitude of Change on Visual Amenity

23. Professional judgement has been used to determine the magnitude change on landscape character based upon the criteria outline in Table 11 but also considering the size and scale of change (including the loss or addition of features, changes in visual composition etc.) , the geographic influence of the change (orientation and angle of view in relation to the visual receptor, distance of the viewpoint from the main development, extent of area over which change would occur etc.) and, the duration and potential reversibility of any change (short term 0-5 years, medium term 5-10 years, long term 20 years +, temporary, permanent, intermittent, continuous and whether the views will be full, partial or glimpsed).

Table 11: Criteria for magnitude of change for visual receptors

Negligible	No notable change in the view
Low	Some change in the view that is not prominent / few visual receptors affected
Medium	Some change in the view that is clearly visible and forms an important but not defining element in the view
High	Major change in the view that has a defining influence on the overall view / many visual receptors affected

Scale of Effects

24. The scale of the landscape and visual effects is determined by cross referencing the sensitivity of the landscape feature, landscape character or view with the magnitude of change. The scale of effects is described as major, moderate, minor or negligible.

Table 12: Scale of effect thresholds for landscape character, landscape elements/features and visual receptors

		Magnitude of Change			
		High	Medium	Low	Negligible
Sensitivity	High	Major	Major	Moderate	Minor
	Medium	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible
	Low	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	Negligible

Appendix 3 – Landscape Features Plan

Appendix 4 – Avon Valley landscape character area

3A: AVON VALLEY



River Avon near Fordingbridge – the presence of woodland along the riverbanks and on the higher terraces does much to retain the rural character of the valley floor.



Blashford Lakes – part of a series of gravel extraction sites restored to lakes north of Ringwood on the east side.



The floodplain has significant areas of unimproved wet pasture – near Ringwood



There are several river floodplain terraces which make up the river valley terrace ‘type’ and are predominantly permanent pasture such as at North Gorley.



Bridge at Ibsley

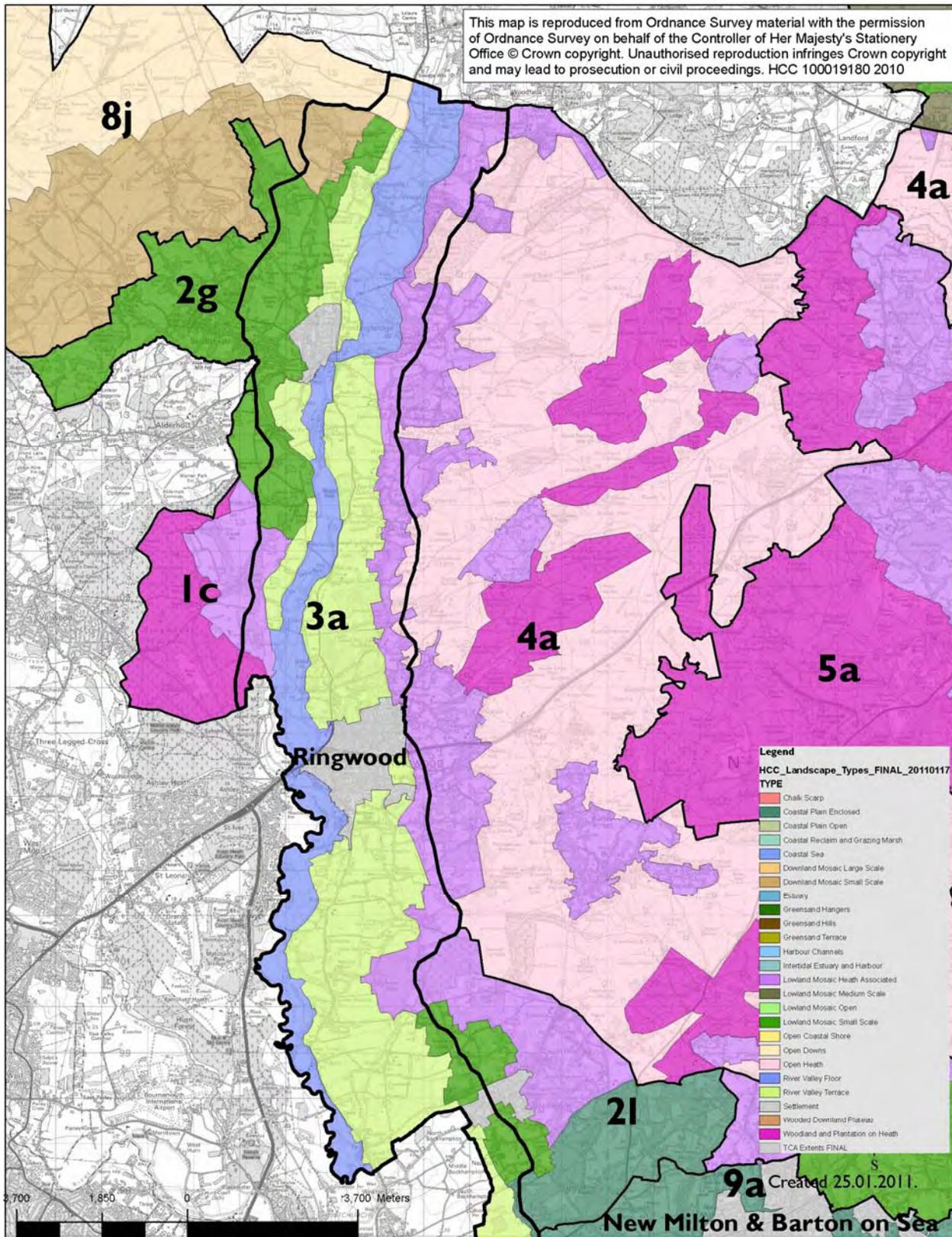


Mineral extraction processing near Ibsley – well screened from the rest of the valley.

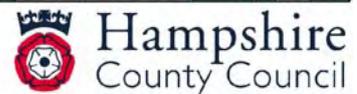


Converted mill at Sopley.

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AVON VALLEY



1.0 Location and Boundaries

1.1 This character area is located in the southwest of the county and encapsulates the discrete river valley of the Avon. The east and west boundaries of the character area are defined by the upper outer edges of the valley sides while the northern and southern boundaries are defined by the County boundary. The character area extends northwards and southwards into Wiltshire and Dorset respectively.



1.2 Component County Landscape Types

River Valley Floor, Lowland Mosaic Heath Associated, River Valley Terrace, Lowland Mosaic Small Scale, Settlement of Ringwood and Fordingbridge.

1.3 Composition of Borough/District LCAs:

New Forest District

Upper Avon Valley
Lower Avon Valley

This character area combines the two character areas of the Upper and Lower Avon Valleys defined in the New Forest District character assessment and its outer boundaries are almost identical.

1.4 Associations with NCAs and Natural Areas:

NCA 131: New Forest JCA 135: Dorset Heaths, JCA 134: Dorset Downs and Cranbourne Chase
NA 77: New Forest, NA 81: Dorset Heaths, NA 80: South Wessex Downs

1.5 Townscape Assessment Areas

Ringwood

2.0 Key Characteristics

- Broad, open, relatively flat valley floor containing the meandering river.
- Western valley sides defined by steeply wooded ridge while eastern valley sides are more open with a series of wide terraces containing important heath and mire habitats.
- Extensive areas of neutral grassland (one of the largest expanses of unimproved floodplain grassland in Britain), and open lightly treed river valley floor, often with cattle grazing and horse grazing on the terraces.
- Significant remains of complex water meadows.
- Regular field pattern on valley floor and terracing indicative of formal enclosures.

- Open bodies of water from former gravel extraction on valley floor particularly immediately north of Ringwood on the eastern terraces.
- Stone bridges at minor crossing points and church towers are features.
- Strong medieval character derived from local built vernacular and settlement pattern including timber framed buildings with red brick infill and thatched roof cottages.
- Large settlements of Fordingbridge and Ringwood at historic river crossings and occasional hamlets, with little 20th century built development.
- Views contained by valley sides but open floodplain results in medium distant views and large skies.
- Busy A338 on eastern side of the valley contrasts with tranquil pastoral scene on the floodplain.

3.0 Physical Characteristics and Land Use

3.1 This valley landscape is orientated north south and comprises a relatively flat valley floor which varies between 15 to 20m AOD and valley sides which rise to 120m AOD in the northwest at Breamore Wood. The valley sides are most pronounced to the west where they form a steeply sloping wooded ridge and skyline. The area is underlain by London clay/Reading Beds/Chalk to the north of Fordingbridge and sandy Bagshot Beds and Boscombe Sand to the south. However this underlying geology is masked by river alluvium deposits of sand and gravel which form several distinct river terraces overlain by silts/clays on the valley floor the latter being poorly drained and subject to flooding. Agricultural land quality in this character area is varied with relatively good quality soils occurring along the course of the river, medium quality throughout most of the floodplain and valley sides and some areas of poorer quality on the terrace sands particularly in the south.

3.2 This landscape is dominated by pastoral land uses and rich water meadows which give rise to a rich and verdant landscape particularly in summer. There are also some areas of arable on the valley floor or terraces mostly in the lower reaches of the valley south of Ringwood. The Avon is renowned for fishing especially trout, greyling and salmon. Broadleaved woodland extends onto the valley sides from adjacent landscapes while on the lower slopes and valley floor woodland is limited to small copses or linear trees along the water course itself. There are occasional mature veteran trees within the floodplain meadows that provide some shade for grazing cattle and add visual interest. Fields are defined by hedgerows and hedgerow trees or thick mature tree belts although some areas are also defined by unobtrusive post and wire fencing particularly meadows liable to flooding. In the central part of this character area there is a concentration of large deep lakes created from former gravel extraction enclosed by mixed tree belts.

3.3 The area falls within the Environment Agency Avon Hants Middle and Lower catchment areas with a small area in the northwest falling into the Ashford Allen catchment. Tributaries to the River Avon include Sweatfords Water, Ashfordwater, Turner Brook, King Stream, Huckles Brook, Ditchend Brook, In addition networks of ditches drain the meadows area and are a feature e.g. north of Woodgreen. Deep open water lakes created following gravel and sand extraction occur between Blashford and North Gorley. Unlike other chalk rivers in Hampshire the Avon experiences wide variation in water levels.

4.0 Experiential/Perceptual Characteristics

- 4.1 This character area has a wide and open valley floor which affords extensive views across meadows to the valley sides and conveys a strong sense of place. Views are occasionally interrupted by vegetation but in many places the relatively flat and open topography means that wide skies are an important component of the view.
- 4.2 The Avon Valley Path passes right through the length of this character area sometimes running along the valley sides or river terraces and other times running along the valley floor adjacent to the river. In the southern part of this character area the river creates a physical barrier to movement with only one crossing point south of Ringwood.
- 4.3 This is generally a tranquil pastoral landscape comprising extensive areas of water meadows grazed by cattle which are relatively inaccessible physically. However tranquilly decreases along the A338 and at recreational hotspots such as the gravel extraction lakes and larger towns of Ringwood and Fordingbridge. The river valley is particularly tranquil south of Ringwood.

5.0 Biodiversity Character

- 5.1 The Avon Valley supports internationally designated habitats associated with the River Avon, a classic chalk river. The Avon Valley RAMSAR/SPA site encompasses the lower reaches of the River Avon and its floodplain between Bickton and Christchurch and extends beyond the Hampshire County boundary. The Avon valley has a greater range of habitats and a more diverse flora and fauna than any other chalk river in Britain, including one of the largest expanses of unimproved floodplain grassland in Britain, including extensive areas managed as hay meadow. Other habitats include fen, mire, lowland wet grassland and small areas of woodland. The SPA is valued for five aquatic water-crowfoot species with stream water-crowfoot and river water-crowfoot being dominant. There is an extensive population of Desmoulin's whorl snail along about 20 km of the margins and associated wetlands of the Rivers Avon, Bourne and Wylye. The Avon Valley RAMSAR/SPA is also designated the Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch) SSSI encompassing the lower River Avon valley between Bickton in the north and the estuary of Christchurch Harbour in the south, and The River Avon System SSSI because it is richer and more varied than most chalk streams, with over 180 species of aquatic plant recorded, one of the most diverse fish faunas in Britain and a wide range of aquatic invertebrates.
- 5.2 This character area also includes the western fringes of the New Forest RAMSAR, SPA and SAC sites supporting an area of semi-natural vegetation including valley mires, fens and wet heath within catchments whose uncultivated and undeveloped state buffer the mires against adverse ecological change. This RAMSAR/SPA/SAC is also designated as The New Forest SSSI embracing the largest area of 'unsown' vegetation in lowland England although only the western fringes penetrate this LCA. Further information on these designations can be found in LCA 4A.
- 5.3 Breamore Marsh SSSI is located in the north of this LCA and represents an important surviving manorial green on which goose and cattle grazing persists. The grassland flora, whilst limited, is of interest in the extent to which its species composition has been derived from its grazing history. The marsh includes a series

of shallow pools and connecting waterways which support an exceptionally rich aquatic flora. The ponds have margins of base-enriched bare mud in summer that are not excessively wet, with a near-unique assemblage of aquatic and semi-aquatic plants, including the national rarity brown Cyprus, common mudwort and pennyroyal.

5.4 Beyond the designations this landscape character area contains a variety of habitats. Away from the river course, there is a significant amount of agriculturally improved grassland and arable land with occasional woodland patches, often broadleaved. Larger woodland patches tend to comprise different woodland types, for example, Ripley Wood contains broadleaved woodland, mixed woodland and coniferous plantation. Within the agricultural landscape there are occasional patches of habitat including dry heath/acid grassland mosaic. Adjacent to the river the habitat character changes. Agricultural land gives way to unimproved and semi improved grasslands which are generally neutral but occasionally acidic. These grasslands often represent relict water meadows and can be species rich. Other habitats are typically aquatic, including base rich fens, marshy grassland, aquaculture, ponds and swamp vegetation. In the centre of the area, there are a series of ponds, associated with mineral extraction but nevertheless providing habitats and habitat variation. There are urban areas, particularly towards the periphery of the area and habitat variation tends to exist here through amenity grasslands, gardens and sports pitches.

5.5 Two BOAs exist in this character area. The majority is covered by the Avon Valley BOA which includes the river and flood plain between North Charford and Christchurch Harbour and provides an opportunity to enhance habitats including wet woodland, lowland meadows, floodplain grazing marsh, purple moor grass and rush pastures. The New Forest BOA extends into the eastern edge of the character area and covers the largest area of 'unsown' vegetation in lowland England with lowland heath, valley and seepage step mire or fen, and ancient pasture woodland, including riparian or bog woodland.

5.6 There are over 55 SINC's within this landscape character area - most are designated either for the ancient and semi-natural woodland resource which they support or for the unimproved grassland resource. There are some designated for wetland habitats.

6.0 Historic Character

6.1 Archaeology

6.1.1 The river valley represents a diversity of landscapes each with its own archaeological pattern/evolution. The valley floor would have been floodplain, and so settlement and occupation would have been unlikely, but the land was and is fertile for grazing. Here exploitation of the rich river valley resources would have included water, water power, fish and wildlife. Adjacent and above the floodplain are the terraces, which being less susceptible to flooding were a focus of occupation and route ways.

6.1.2 The Avon valley has produced a considerable quantity of Palaeolithic hand axes from the Pleistocene gravels. However, their presence relates to geological processes which predate the present landscape.

- 6.1.3 Remarkably few records of Mesolithic date exist in the Avon valley, although one occupation site has been suggested at Ringwood. Elsewhere such as in the Kennet valley there is considerable evidence to demonstrate that valley resources were an attractive environment at this time. To date however the Avon Valley has not demonstrated the same level of activity despite field walking and research. This may reflect some generally lower level exploitation in the Avon valley than in some other valleys.
- 6.1.4 In the upper Avon valley (north of Ringwood) there is evidence of Neolithic activity and some occupation, suggesting that the valley was exploited in this period, although it is not clear if this represents settlement and agriculture. The low level of evidence may suggest that there was only limited occupation in the valley in the early prehistoric period.
- 6.1.5 In the Bronze Age a number of Bronze Age settlements developed in the mid Avon valley, with burial mounds flanking on the valley sides and in the adjacent character areas. It seems likely that these river side communities existed in a farmed and settled landscape, probably exploiting the adjacent higher ground and heath of the New Forest. A transhumance model would fit well.
- 6.1.6 From the Iron Age there is evidence of settlement in the northern half of the valley. It is possible that some simple undated enclosures might represent Bronze Age or Iron Age settlement, perhaps with a different set of activities associated, but this is not proven. In any event, it would appear that the exploitation of the Avon valley south and north of Ringwood is very different. The nearest hill forts are on the higher plain in the New Forest, where there is an absence of other settlement types. This speaks eloquently of the hill forts fulfilling a role controlling or enabling use of the landscape, rather than a settled intensively exploited landscape. The Iron Age settlements in the valley do tend to be on the edges of the flank, and are likely to have a relationship with the non intensive exploitation of the New Forest as well as with the valley itself.
- 6.1.7 In a similar way the Roman sites are present in the northern part of the valley and not in the south. The relationship to the exploitation of the New Forest is not clear, but it might be that the relationship between the valley and the Forest continued. Of particular note is the emergence of the large Roman pottery industry in the New Forest close to the Avon valley.
- 6.1.8 In the medieval period the lowland mosaic that separates the valley from Cranbourne Chase is characterised by woodland with moats and deer parks, suggestive of a woodland landscape starting to emerge as a settled landscape, with dispersed settlement appearing. In the valley there are nucleated settlements along the valley bottom on the terrace, and Saxon churches and burials suggest that this pattern probably has its origins in the Saxon period.
- 6.2 **Historic Landscape**
- 6.2.1 As described above, the differences between the valley floor and valley side landscapes have resulted in the emergence of two distinct historic patterns which are evident in the present day landscape character.

- 6.2.2 The valley watermeadow landscapes on the flat valley floor were deliberately flooded (floated) through use of complex controlled systems known as catch meadows, so that the flooding was carefully controlled. The watermeadows and the carriers and drains which distribute the water create a distinctive historic character which is clearly evident. By keeping a flow of water through the grass early in the year it protected the roots from frost and allowed early growth. This in turn shortened the 'over winter' period before animals could be turned out and so improved the ability to carry stock through the winter (the 'early bite'). The extensive complex and distinctive water meadow systems of the Avon are regionally if not nationally important. Whilst flooding meadows has a long history these complex catch systems are relatively recent, from the 17th century onwards.
- 6.2.3 On the river terraces and shallow valley sides, field patterns seen today date predominately to the 18-19th century, although some may be earlier and have survived through continued predominance of grazing over arable farming. Archaeological evidence suggests that this was a farmed landscape since the Bronze Age and thus the predominance of parliamentary enclosures in the landscape today suggests that earlier enclosure patterns have since been lost. It is notable however that paths, tracks and roads often share a 'diagonal' alignment at odds with the parliamentary pattern and this may betray something of the earlier lost landscape pattern. Today fields are often bounded by low cut, gappy hedgerows or tree belts, sometimes of pine.
- 6.2.4 The extensive sand and gravel deposits which form the gravel terraces have transformed the central eastern side of the Avon Valley to a pattern of lakes (old gravel pits) which form a distinctive area.
- 6.3 **Built Environment**
- 6.3.1 The main A338 between Ringwood and Downton runs the length of the valley with many small villages such as Ibsley and Bickton scattered at regular intervals along the route. Although the A338 allows good access north-south, the river itself creates a barrier to movement east-west. Small stone bridges (that at Fordingbridge being of particular note), provide movement east-west across the river valley and meadows at key points. Associated with the road network are a large number of signs particularly around the area of gravel extraction lakes which are now used for recreation.
- 6.3.2 The largest settlement in this character is Ringwood followed by Fordingbridge both of which are medieval market towns located at strategic river crossing points and both of which have conservation areas. Both towns retain their historic cores, Fordingbridge having some recent (post war) development to the north and west and Ringwood having more extensive suburban development.
- 6.3.3 Beyond the two market towns the settlement pattern within the valley is predominately one of dispersed farmsteads and hamlets within some small villages that date back to before the 11th century. The villages are not strongly nucleated e.g. Breamore, which is polyfocal with archaeological evidence for parts of the village having been subject to shrinkage. Because of the control of the Hulse family ownership, and conservation area/listed building designations, the village remains

remarkably intact, and retains several historic farmsteads. The Saxon church is probably the best unaltered example in the county.

- 6.3.4 Significant parts of this character area are covered by conservation areas which extend beyond the built up areas of an historic settlement to include the surrounding field patterns as well (archaeological monuments and SAMs). The most recent conservation area is that associated with the New Forest National Park which extends into the eastern part of this character area north-south from Woodgreen to the northern fringe of Ringwood. Many of the villages are also conservation areas, the boundaries of which extend beyond the built up area reflecting the historical evolution of the settlement and archaeological importance of land adjacent e.g. Sopley and Breamore. Local building materials include timber framed cottages, red brick, cob with slate and thatch roofing. Buildings may also be rendered and painted white painted while weatherboarding on agricultural buildings is typical of this area.
- 6.3.5 Farmsteads are predominately found in isolation, spread out along the line of the valley between the river on one side and the heath of the New Forest on the other. Larger farm estates also developed along the valley floor and farmed the best land making significant investments into the development of the watermeadows which are a key feature of this landscape today. These larger farms are generally laid out in a courtyard plan which buildings ranged around two or three sides. Within the valley there are also notable areas of historic park and garden a number of which have developed from pre 1810 parkland associated with agricultural manors e.g. Hale Park, Moyles Court, Burgate Manor, North End Park, Somerley Park, Bisterne Manor and Sopley Park. Hale Park was the designed by Thomas Archer and includes a double Lime avenue along the approach drive. In contrast to these more recent parks, Breamore Park originates from an early deer park.
- 6.3.6 Hamlets and villages make an important contribution to the character of this area due to their small unspoilt character, vernacular architecture and notable church towers which act as local landmarks. Stone bridges at minor crossing points are also notable features of this landscape as is the important Arts and Crafts house by architect Lethaby at Avon Tyrell, north of Sopley village.

EVALUATION

7.0 Forces for Change

1. Changing land and water management practises, often associated with intensification of farming methods.
2. New housing development including small scale and the cumulative impact of small sites between main settlements but also larger scale extensions to major settlements particularly Ringwood and Fordingbridge.
3. Demand for access and recreation in close proximity to the New Forest National Park boundary and centres of population.
4. Mineral extraction and restoration to lakes.

KEY QUALITIES AND EFFECTS OF FORCES

7.1

An outstanding chalk river valley with watermeadows and floodplain of international nature conservation importance, valley sides which support lowland heath and seepage step mire or fen, and water management systems of notable historic value

FORCES FOR CHANGE:

CONSEQUENCES

1.2.3.4

Threats:

Past and potential lack of traditional management of hay meadows and improvement to grassland within the river valley.
 Loss of watermeadows around towns due to urban land uses such as playing fields, golf courses and pony paddocks.
 Fertiliser and soil run-off from valley side fields resulting in pollution of water courses and silting of water management systems.
 Potential damage and loss of habitat due to pressures for increased access and recreation.
 Disturbance by mineral extraction, hydrological impacts on floodplain and heath habitats.

Opportunities:

Agri-environment schemes could target land management solutions to diffuse pollution issues and seek to extend and reinstate areas of water meadow where they have been lost through drainage or improvements.
 Raise awareness of this historic value of water management systems through local level assessment.
 Manage valley floor to maintain biodiversity of watermeadows, grazing marsh and wet woodland in accordance with BOA objectives.
 Manage areas of lowland heath, seepage mire or fen to the east of this character area in accordance with the New Forest BOA.
 Maintain the wide fluctuations in water levels typical of this river valley through sensitive abstraction and supply and quality of water through monitoring and management of surface water run-off quality through nutrient, manure and crop protection management plans.
 Restoration to lakes can give wildlife benefits but must be balanced with damage caused by extraction.

7.2

Intact small historic medieval villages containing a range of vernacular buildings and notable church landmarks and larger towns with historic centres, set within a high quality meadow setting.

FORCES FOR CHANGE:

CONSEQUENCES

2.3.4

Threats:

Possible future small scale growth of villages altering their historic form and intact character.

Trend towards change of use and domestication of existing farmsteads and loss of vernacular features and gradual small scale development outside of villages which may undermine the dispersed pattern of these nucleated settlements i.e. linear development along roads.

Future development which may be visually intrusive when viewed from the valley sides.

Possible future upgrading of road routes through villages and across key river crossing points altering historic pattern of movement and valued features such as stone bridges.

Proposed major employment development at Ringwood as set out in 'Major development projects excepted across the rest of Hampshire to 2026, Environment Department, 2009'.

Limited 'car free' access between urban centres and the wider landscape.

Mineral workings can compromise village open meadow settings.

Opportunities:

Encourage local level assessment work to identify valued views particularly associated with church landmarks, the setting of settlements and historic crossing points and characteristic stone bridges.

Support green infrastructure strategy work to create better car free routes from urban centres into the wider landscape setting in accordance with the New Forest South West Hampshire Countryside Access Plan.

Preparation of village design statements to engage local communities and articulate the special qualities of each settlement.

Use of existing planning policy (including Green Belt in the southern half of this area) to conserve and protect built and settlement character in accordance with the New Forest Core Strategy.

7.3

Extensive wide views across the verdant valley floor meadows framed by woodland on the upper valley slopes and overlapping pattern of valley floor copses and meadow trees

FORCES FOR CHANGE:

CONSEQUENCES

1.2.4

Threats:

Past and potential future lack of woodland management.

Development within the valley floor which is out of scale with the valley, diminishing its expansiveness and definition.

Planting which screens areas of former mineral extraction which may block views and changes the character of the valley.

Mineral workings, planting, bunding can compromise the rural riparian landscape.

Opportunities:

Target agri-environment and other schemes to; encourage traditional woodland management including thinning, coppicing and/or replanting to ensure typical wooded backdrop to the valley sides and overlapping pattern of vegetation is retained and; integrate new planting associated with mineral extraction lakes more successfully into the landscape.

Conserve veteran trees within the floodplain and encourage the strategic planting of new native trees to continue this pattern into the future.

Encourage local level assessment work to identify valued views particularly associated with the juxtaposition of the valley watermeadows and wooded valley slopes.

Identifying locations of sensitive visual receptors could help in minimising the impact of the mineral extraction industry.

Appendix 5 – LCA 6 Upper Avon landscape character area

Chapter 3

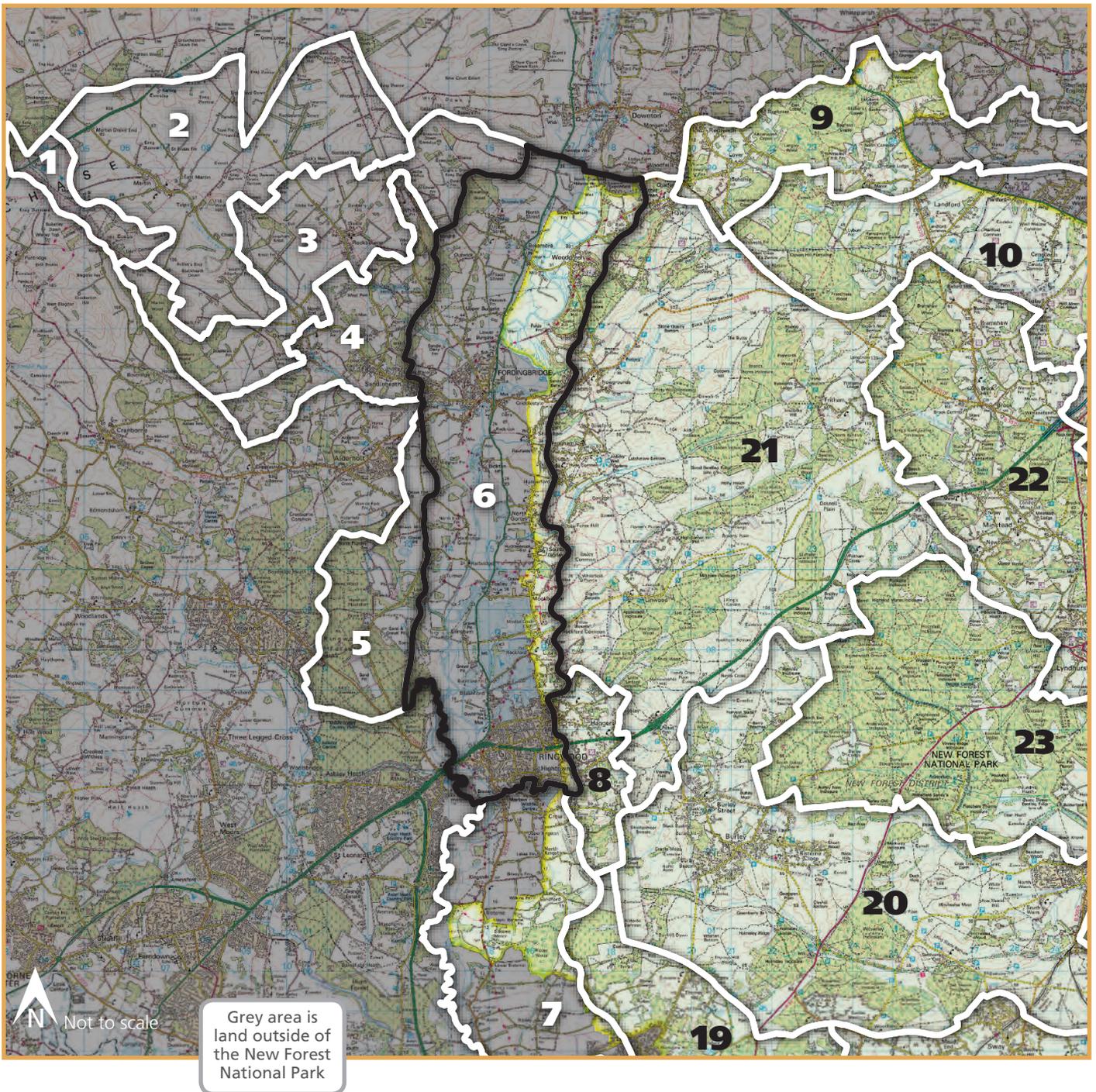
Landscape Character Assessments



View across the Avon Valley from Hale

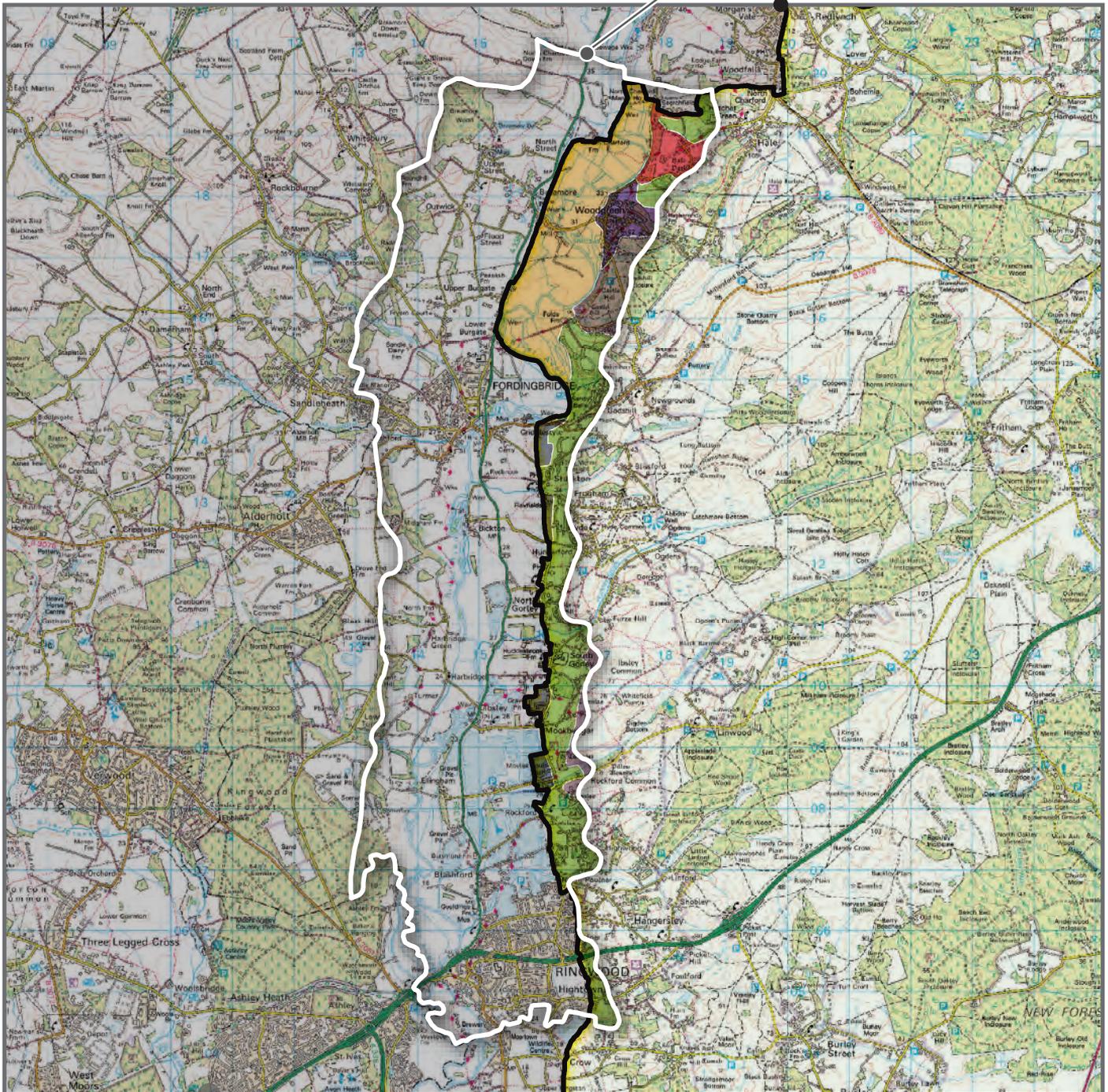
LCA 6: UPPER AVON VALLEY

Location of LCA in the National Park



Component landscape types within LCA 6

LCA 6
National Park boundary



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Not to scale

Area in shadow- outside National Park

- 6. Heath associated smallholdings and dwellings
- 7. Ancient Forest farmlands
- 11. River terrace farmlands
- 12. River floodplain
- 20. Heathland
- 21. Historic parkland

Only the eastern slopes and the northern most part of the floodplain of the Upper Avon Valley fall within the New Forest National Park.

A. LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

Key landscape characteristics¹

- Broad open valley containing the meandering River Avon and enclosed to the east by a steep wooded ridge;
- Gently meandering river with stone bridges at minor crossing points;
- Large areas of neutral unimproved grassland and open water meadows of high nature conservation importance;
- Large settlements of Fordingbridge and Ringwood in the floodplain are historic crossing points of the river;
- Main A338 runs the length of the valley with minor crossings in an East-West direction;
- Church towers are features, protruding from trees within the floodplain;
- Timber framed thatched cottages are a feature of the valley;
- Open bodies of water resulting from gravel extraction, function as important breeding grounds and habitats for wintering wildfowl as well as recreational lakes;
- Distant views to steep wooded slopes.

Component landscape types

The main landscape types found within this LCA, in the New Forest National Park, are:

6. Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings
7. Ancient Forest Farmlands
11. River Terrace Farmlands
12. River Floodplain
20. Heathland
21. Historic Parkland

Key positive landscape attributes

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ River Avon and seasonally flooded historic water meadows, marsh and rough grazing on the valley floor. ■ Stone bridges, mills and historic built features on the valley floor. ■ Small, traditional fields of pasture (including assarted fields) bound by thick thorn hedgerows and hedgerow oaks. ■ Semi-natural broadleaved woodlands on the valley side comprising some ancient hanger woodland, areas of ancient wood pasture, and plantation woodlands. ■ Historic parkland, including historic landscape features such as avenues and copses at Hale Park. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Historic features including a hillfort on the valley side. ■ Open heathland on the top of the valley side at Mockbeggar. ■ Enclosed heaths. Villages/hamlets often with an historic core and village green or common on the valley side. ■ Scattered smallholdings and dwellings with common grazing interspersed with pastures and paddocks on the valley side. ■ A network of narrow lanes and residual commons, including drove roads running from the lower land up to the commons. ■ Panoramic views from Castle Hill towards Breamore. |
|---|---|

¹ Note that because most of this LCA falls outside the National Park, some of these key characteristics, taken from the New Forest District Landscape Character Assessment, do not apply. See the table of positive landscape attributes for information on the landscape attributes within the National Park.

Relevant designations relating to positive landscape attributes

Key landscape features	Relevant designations
River Avon and seasonally flooded historic water meadows, marsh and rough grazing on the valley floor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Part of the Breamore Conservation Area. ■ River Avon is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). ■ The river forms part of the River Avon System Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Protection Area (SPA) ■ Some meadows are designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) e.g. Breamore Meadow.
Stone bridges, mills and historic built features on the valley floor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Part of the Breamore Conservation Area. ■ St Michael's Priory is a Scheduled Monument (SM); ■ Includes listed buildings.
Small, traditional fields of pasture (including assarted fields) bound by thick thorn hedgerows and hedgerow oaks.	
Semi-natural broadleaved woodlands on the valley side comprising some ancient hanger woodland, areas of ancient wood pasture, and plantation woodlands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Some woodlands designated as SINCs e.g. Sandy Balls Wood.
Coniferous plantation woodland on heathland at Godshill Inclosure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Part of the New Forest SPA, SAC and SSSI.
Historic parkland, including historic landscape features such as avenues and copses at Hale Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Part of the Western Escarpment Conservation Area. ■ Grade II* listed park (on English Heritage's Register). ■ Includes listed buildings.
Historic features including a hillfort on the valley side.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Frankenbury Hillfort is a SM.
Open heathland on the top of the valley side at Mockbeggar.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Part of the New Forest SPA, SAC and SSSI.
Enclosed heaths.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ N/A
Villages/hamlets often with an historic core and village green or common on the valley side.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Part of the Western Escarpment Conservation Area; ■ Includes listed buildings.
Scattered smallholdings and dwellings with common grazing and interspersed with pastures and paddocks on the valley side.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Part of the Western Escarpment Conservation Area; ■ Includes listed buildings.
A network of narrow lanes and residual commons, including drove roads running from the lower land up to the commons.	
Panoramic views from Castle Hill towards Breamore.	

B. LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Current condition

Landscape structure: This is a largely intact landscape with historic origins. The structure of the river flood plain, comprising water meadows, marsh and rough grazing on the valley floor is intact. The mosaic of woodlands, fields (including small assorted fields), commons and villages on the valley side is intact, although there is evidence of some field boundary loss which is beginning to erode landscape structure of the Ancient Forest Farmlands landscape type. The structure of Hale Park is readable in the landscape.

Landscape elements: The condition of individual elements in the floodplain landscape is good with bridges and mills in good repair, a varied age structure of trees and actively grazed fields. However, there is evidence of some paddocks on the floodplain. Large electricity pylons cross the floodplain, dominating views. On the valley side, in the Ancient Forest Farmlands landscape type, there is some evidence of under-grazed fields, gappy and grown-out hedgerows and hedgerow loss. The elements that comprise Hale Park are generally intact, but in variable condition. In the Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings landscape type there is evidence of coniferous species associated with gardens, close board fencing and signage which is suburbanising the area.

Landscape change

Key issues and trends

- Further loss of, or fragmentation of, hedgerows – altering the structure the landscape by affecting the small scale field pattern sense of enclosure. Loss of hedgerow oaks, as key features associated with the Forest, is also an issue (in the Ancient Forest Farmlands type).
- Under-grazed fields - affecting the condition of the Ancient Forest Farmlands landscape type.
- Changes in land use resulting in potential loss of historic water meadows and characteristic floodplain habitat, reducing the sense of openness of the flood plain and changing the traditional land use of rough grazing (in the River Floodplain type).
- Restoration of past coniferisation of open heathland and 19th century beech and oak Inclosures through clearfell positively affecting parts of the Heathland landscape type.
- Decline in traditional woodland management and loss of wood pasture, decreasing the diversity of woodlands in both the Historic Parkland and Ancient Forest Farmlands types.
- Changing pests and diseases leading to decline or death of certain tree species.
- Expansion of coniferous and non-native species in private gardens – eroding the rural character of the area and spreading into semi-natural woodlands (in the Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings landscape type).
- Replacement of native hedgerows or open roadside property curtilages with impermeable and suburban boundary treatments e.g. close board fencing and ornamental brick walls – eroding the rural character of the landscape (in the Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings landscape type).
- Proliferation of signage - eroding the rural and open character of the landscape (in the Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings landscape type).
- Encroachment of settlement onto commons – eroding the traditional character of the Ancient Forest Farmlands landscape type.

C. LANDSCAPE QUALITY OBJECTIVES (LQOS) / STRATEGY

Vision

An open floodplain landscape of historic water meadows and unimproved grazing marsh subdivided by occasional hedgerows with ancient oak and willows, enclosed by a contrasting valley side that supports a mosaic of small scale fields bound by well managed hedgerows with hedgerow oaks, managed semi-natural broadleaved woodlands (including assarted woodlands and ancient hanger woodlands), wood pasture, ancient commons supporting unimproved grazing, scattered smallholdings and dwellings, and historic parkland. A landscape in which rural villages and hamlets have strong functional and visual links with commoning communities, historic elements such as hillforts and historic parkland forming landmark features. A landscape that is clearly part of the New Forest, with good links to the river floodplain to the west and to the central forest landscapes to the east.

Overall Landscape Strategy

The priority in this landscape character area is to **protect** the positive landscape attributes valued within it. This will require active protection.

This should be accompanied by a strategy to **manage** the landscape to improve those attributes that are in poorer condition to improve overall quality.

Management guidelines number
(as per following table LCA 6)

Future landscape management guidelines

Field patterns and boundary features

1. Protect the mosaic of small scale fields bounded by well managed hedgerows with hedgerow oaks on the valley sides – manage to retain and enhance the strong hedgerow network that reflects the historic origins of the landscape (particularly in the Ancient Forest Farmlands landscape type).

Agricultural land use

2. Protect the open floodplain landscape of historic water meadows and unimproved grazing marsh.
3. Manage through grazing to maintain the continuity of a grazed landscape, able to provide grazing for commonable animals.
4. Manage the characteristic open floodplain habitats and traditional land use of rough grazing (in the River Floodplain landscape type) – maintaining traditional field patterns.

Forestry and woodlands

5. Protect the semi-natural broadleaved woodlands (including assarted woodlands and ancient hanger woodlands) through the removal of exotics and manage these to maintain a diverse age structure through coppicing and pollarding where appropriate – helping increase adaptation to climate change (in the Ancient Forest Farmlands, Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings and Historic Parkland types).
6. Protect the remaining areas of wood pasture, heathland and ancient commons and manage these by maintaining common grazing.
7. Plan for the gradual restoration of the conifer plantation at Godshill Inclosure to predominantly mixed and broadleaved woodland, by allowing broadleaf regeneration (in the Heathland landscape type). Refer to the appropriate Forest Design Plan for more detailed information.

Historic landscapes and features

8. Protect the stone bridges and mills that are features of the valley floor (in the River Floodplain landscape type) – manage these to ensure their survival.
9. Protect historic elements such as hillforts and historic parkland features and manage these to ensure they form visible features in the landscape.

Development and settlement edge

10. Protect the distinctive historic pattern of settlement with distinctive rural villages, hamlets and scattered smallholdings and dwellings – maintaining the rural character of the landscape with, for example, property boundaries of native hedgerows or railings rather than suburban close-board fencing, external lighting kept to a minimum and selection of deciduous species rather than ornamental conifers on garden boundaries (particularly in the Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings landscape type).
11. Protect the strong functional and visual links between the settlements and their landscape setting and manage common grazing to maintain the character of these settlements, ensuring settlement does not encroach onto commons.
12. Protect the network of narrow lanes and residual commons.
13. Protect and enhance the physical and visual links between the river floodplain to the west and the central forest landscapes to the east, including maintaining the drove roads running from the lower land up to the commons.
14. Refer to the Western Escarpment Conservation Areas Appraisal and the Breamore Conservation Area Appraisal for details on historic landscape setting, layout and plan form of the historic settlements, and architectural styles, materials and detailing of buildings within these settlements.

Summary table LCA 6 showing landscape issues and guidelines by Landscape Type

Landscape type	Summary of issue	Management guidelines (number)
River Floodplain	Increase in subdivision of land on the floodplain.	4
	Loss of historic water meadows and characteristic floodplain habitat, reducing the sense of openness.	2, 4
Heathland	Past coniferisation of open heathland and historic beech and oak Inclosures.	6, 7
Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings	Spread of exotic species, including rhododendron, into semi-natural woodlands. Lack of woodland management.	5, 10
	Replacement of traditional hedgerow boundaries with suburban treatments such as close board fencing.	10
	Proliferation of signage	10
Ancient Forest Farmlands	Hedgerow and hedgerow tree loss, affecting ancient field patterns.	1
	Undergrazed fields.	2
	Spread of exotic species, including rhododendron, into semi-natural woodlands. Lack of woodland management.	5
	Spread of development onto common land.	10,11,14
Historic Parkland	Spread of exotic species, including rhododendron, into semi-natural woodlands. Lack of woodland management.	5
	Loss of wood pasture.	6
Heath Associated Estates	No issues identified	N/A
ALL – LANDSCAPE-WIDE ISSUES	Development pressure (National Park wide issue)	10,11,12,13, 14

PHOTOGRAPHS OF LCA 6: UPPER AVON VALLEY

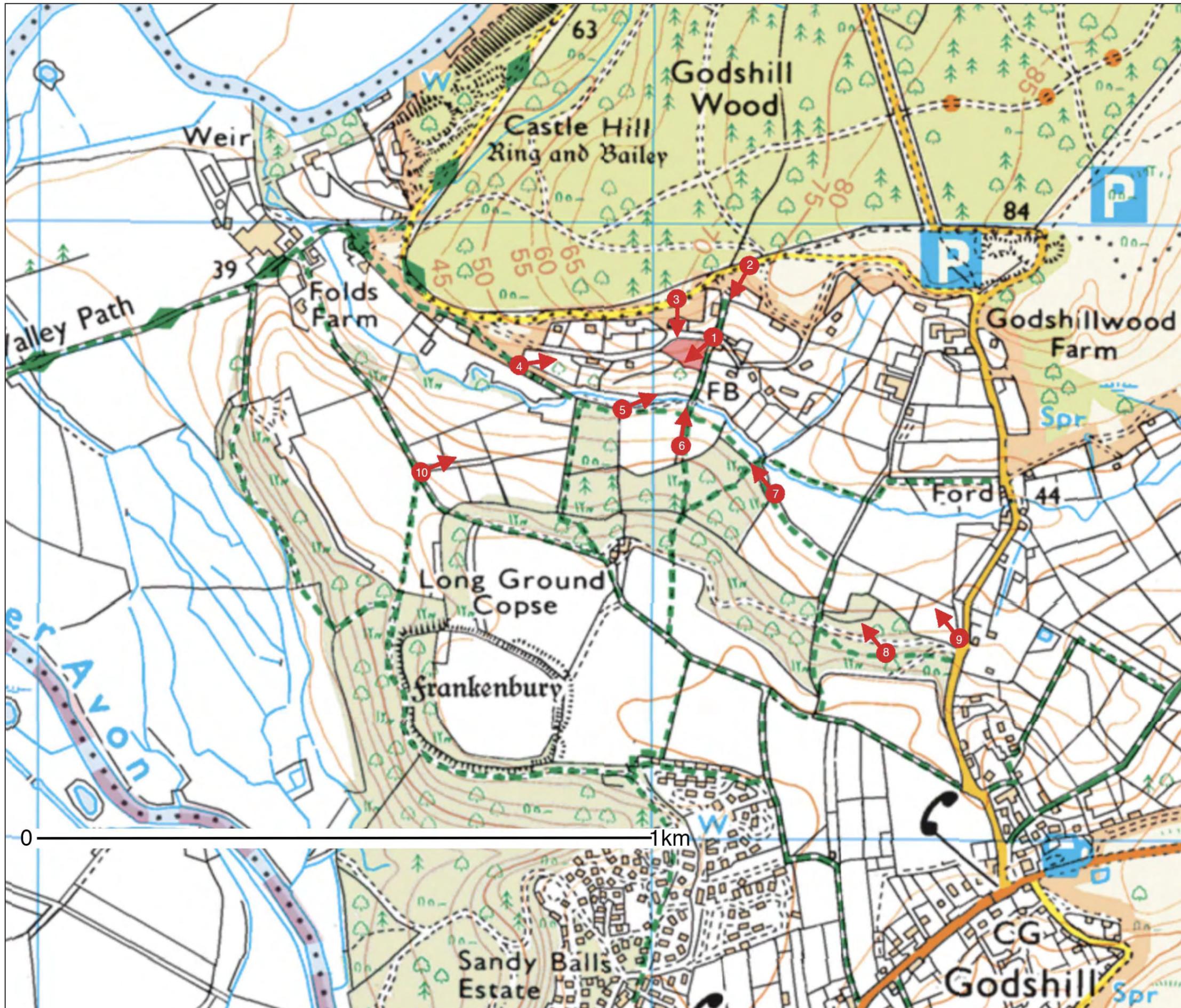
Infill development, Woodgreen



View across the Avon Valley from Hale



Appendix 6 – Viewpoint Location Plan



The Key:

- The site
- 8
↖
 View point location



PROJECT Paysanne Godshill			
CLIENT Mr and Mrs Vickers			
DRAWING Viewpoint Location Plan			
SCALE As shown	DATE May 2021	DRAWN SW	
DRAWING NUMBER BLA062-001		REVISION	

Appendix 7 – Detailed Visual Assessment



Viewpoint 1 – View from Lower Track looking west at site entrance

Camera make & model - Canon 5d Mark III

Date of photograph - 14th April 2021

Description of Baseline View and Sensitivity of Visual Receptor

Key Characteristics: Gravel surfacing, hedging, mature trees, grass, built form and post and rail fencing

Distance from site: Close

Proportion of site visible: Heavily filtered glimpse of site

Static or Transient View: Static

Receptors: Users of public right of way network

Receptor Susceptibility: high

Visual Value of View: medium

Overall Sensitivity: high

Magnitude of Change: No change.

Scale of Visual Effect Year 1

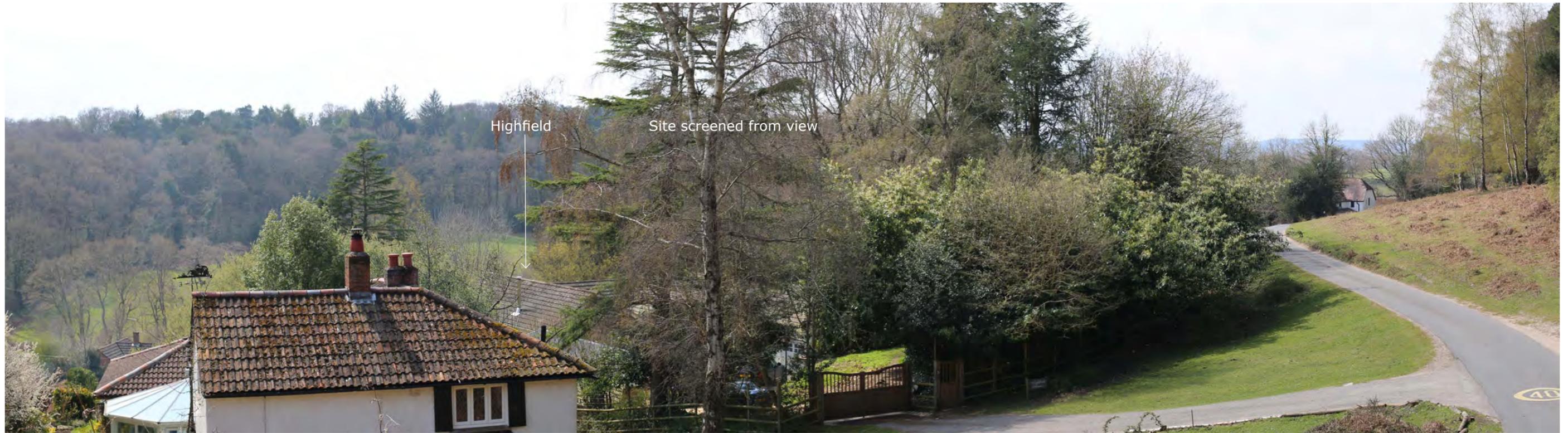
With a high sensitivity and a low magnitude of change, there would be a moderate but neutral visual effect with the proposals in place at year 1 or year 15.

Predicted View at Year 1

Nature of view of proposals	Full View	Partial View	Glimpse	None
Proportion of proposals visible	Full	Most	Small Part	None
Distance of viewpoint	Long Distance	Medium	Close proximity	
Stationary or transitional view	Static (users of the public right of way network)	Transient (road)		
Creation of new visual focus	Total Change	Partial Change	Unnoticeable Change	No change
Introduction of new man made objects	Yes: Built form		No:	
Changes to existing skyline	Total Change	Partial Change	Unnoticeable Change	No Change
Changes to visual enclosure	Total Change	Partial Change	Unnoticeable Change	No Change
Alteration of visual scale	Total Change	Partial Change	Unnoticeable Change	No Change
Change to existing landscape features	Total Loss	Partial Loss	No Loss	Few additions Many additions
Quality of visual experience changed	Positive Change	Neutral Change	Negative Change	No Change
Nature of changes	Partial view of residential property and associated structures			

Predicted View at Year 15

Screening from Landscape Mitigation	Proposals hidden	Mostly screened	Partially screened	Filtered/ Softened	N/A
Proportion of proposals visible	Full	Most	Small Part	None	
Scale of effect	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	No change
Nature of effect	Beneficial	Adverse	Negligible	Neutral	No change



Viewpoint 2 - View from the public highway looking south

Camera make & model - Canon 5d Mark III
 Date of photograph - 14th April 2021

Description of Baseline View and Sensitivity of Visual Receptor

Key Characteristics: Highway, hedging, mature trees, grass, built form, and woodland

Distance from site: Close

Proportion of site visible: None - views into site screened from view

Static or Transient View: Transient

Receptors: users of the public highway

Receptor Susceptibility: medium

Visual Value of View: Medium

Overall Sensitivity: medium

Magnitude of Change: No change.

Scale of Visual Effect Year 1

With a medium sensitivity and a no magnitude of change, there would be no visual effect with the proposals in place at year 1 or 15

Predicted View at Year 1

Nature of view of proposals	Full View	Partial View	Glimpse	None
Proportion of proposals visible	Full	Most	Small Part	None
Distance of viewpoint	Long Distance	Medium	Close proximity	
Stationary or transitional view	Static (users of open space)	Transient (road)		
Creation of new visual focus	Total Change	Partial Change	Unnoticeable Change	No change
Introduction of new man made objects	Yes:		No: none visible	
Changes to existing skyline	Total Change	Partial Change	Unnoticeable Change	No Change
Changes to visual enclosure	Total Change	Partial Change	Unnoticeable Change	No Change
Alteration of visual scale	Total Change	Partial Change	Unnoticeable Change	No Change
Change to existing landscape features	Total Loss	Partial Loss	No Loss	Few additions Many additions
Quality of visual experience changed	Positive Change	Neutral Change	Negative Change	No Change
Nature of changes	No changes owing to built form and vegetation in the intervening landscape between the observer and the site boundary			

Predicted View at Year 15

Screening from Landscape Mitigation	Proposals hidden	Mostly screened	Partially screened	Filtered/ Softened	N/A
Proportion of proposals visible	Full	Most	Small Part	None	
Scale of effect	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	No change
Nature of effect	Beneficial	Adverse	Negligible	Neutral	No change



Viewpoint 3 - View from public highway looking south

Camera make & model - Canon 5d Mark III

Date of photograph - 14th April 2021

Description of Baseline View and Sensitivity of Visual Receptor

Key Characteristics: built form, woodland, and grass

Distance from site: Close

Proportion of site visible: part of roof ridge line

Static or Transient View: Transient

Receptors: users of the public highway

Receptor Susceptibility: medium

Visual Value of View: Medium

Overall Sensitivity: medium

Magnitude of Change: low

Scale of Visual Effect Year 1

With a high sensitivity and a low magnitude of change, there would be a moderate neutral effect at year 1. Existing built form outside the site would remain a more dominant feature.

At year 15, existing immature vegetation around the outside of the site would have begun to mature and fill out and off site vegetation would continue to grow. It is considered that the nature of the scale of the effect would diminish to minor neutral as much of the proposed development would be filtered from view.

Predicted View at Year 1

Nature of view of proposals	Full View	Partial View	Glimpse	None	
Proportion of proposals visible	Full	Most	Small Part	None	
Distance of viewpoint	Long Distance	Medium	Close proximity		
Stationary or transitional view	Static (occupiers of residential properties)	Transient (road)			
Creation of new visual focus	Total Change	Partial Change	Unnoticeable Change	No change	
Introduction of new man made objects	Yes: new built form		No:		
Changes to existing skyline	Total Change	Partial Change	Unnoticeable Change	No Change	
Changes to visual enclosure	Total Change	Partial Change	Unnoticeable Change	No Change	
Alteration of visual scale	Total Change	Partial Change	Unnoticeable Change	No Change	
Change to existing landscape features	Total Loss	Partial Loss	No Loss	Few additions	Many additions
Quality of visual experience changed	Positive Change	Neutral Change	Negative Change	No Change	
Nature of changes	Introduction of new built form into the view.				

Predicted View at Year 15

Screening from Landscape Mitigation	Proposals hidden	Mostly screened	Partially screened	Filtered/ Softened	N/A
Proportion of proposals visible	Full	Most	Small Part	None	
Scale of effect	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	No change
Nature of effect	Beneficial	Adverse	Negligible	Neutral	No change



Viewpoint 4 - View from public right of way 261/770/5 looking east

Camera make & model - Canon 5d Mark III
 Date of photograph - 14th April 2021

Description of Baseline View and Sensitivity of Visual Receptor

Key Characteristics: built-form, grass, trees and hedgerow

Distance from site: Close

Proportion of site visible: None visible

Static or Transient View: static

Receptors: public rights of way users

Receptor Susceptibility: high

Visual Value of View: medium

Overall Sensitivity: high

Magnitude of Change: low

Scale of Visual Effect Year 1

With a high sensitivity and no magnitude of change, there would be no visual effect with the proposals in place at year 1 or 15

Predicted View at Year 1

Nature of view of proposals	Full View	Partial View	Glimpse	None	
Proportion of proposals visible	Full	Most	Small Part	None	
Distance of viewpoint	Long Distance	Medium	Close proximity		
Stationary or transitional view	Static (users of public right of way network)	Transient (road)			
Creation of new visual focus	Total Change	Partial Change	Unnoticeable Change	No change	
Introduction of new man made objects	Yes:		No: none visible		
Changes to existing skyline	Total Change	Partial Change	Unnoticeable Change	No Change	
Changes to visual enclosure	Total Change	Partial Change	Unnoticeable Change	No Change	
Alteration of visual scale	Total Change	Partial Change	Unnoticeable Change	No Change	
Change to existing landscape features	Total Loss	Partial Loss	No Loss	Few additions	Many additions
Quality of visual experience changed	Positive Change	Neutral Change	Negative Change	No Change	

Predicted View at Year 15

Screening from Landscape Mitigation	Proposals hidden	Mostly screened	Partially screened	Filtered/Softened	N/A
Proportion of proposals visible	Full	Most	Small Part	None	
Scale of effect	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	No change
Nature of effect	Beneficial	Adverse	Negligible	Neutral	No change