

Landscape and Visual Appraisal



**Tyler
Grange**

Aldi, Little Testwood Farm

March 2022

TG Report No. 13865_R04_A_RM_WL

Report No:	Date	Revision	Author	Checked	Approved
13865_R04	March 2022	A	RM	WL	XX

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Summary

- S.1. This Appraisal has determined that the Site can accommodate the proposed development from a landscape and visual perspective.
- S.2. The Site is located to the north of the settlement of Totton fronting the A36 Salisbury Road. The Site abuts existing development to the south and new development still partly under construction to the west. The Site itself is enclosed by hoardings and is cleared of all built form and landscape features other than a limited number of semi-mature trees situated along its boundary.
- S.3. The Site is located within the New Forest District landscape character area 11 Copythorne Forest Farmlands although the Site contains few of the characteristic features of this character area as it is a cleared development plot.
- S.4. Views of the Site are largely limited to locations within 1km of its boundary. Where views are possible such as from Little Testwood Farm in the north or the A36 Salisbury Road to the west these would be experienced obliquely and include some screening elements. Furthermore, whilst partially screened by intervening vegetation, views of the Site may be possible from the upper storeys of adjoining residential, commercial interests and recreational facilities immediately to the south.
- S.5. The New Forest National Park is located approximately 0.8km west of the Site however there is little intervisibility with this designated landscape and the proposed development would not impact upon the special qualities of the New Forest NP.
- S.6. The overall change to landscape character and the identified landscape receptors is considered to be negligible. Whilst it is noted there will be a change resulting from the inclusion of the proposed development at the site level, this will not adversely alter the perception of the currently experienced wider landscape or its character.
- S.7. In respect of visual changes, negligible visual changes are afforded to motorists and pedestrians travelling along the A36 Salisbury Road and people walking along the permissive paths within Testwood Lakes, to the east of the site. Whilst visible from a limited number of locations the proposals would not introduce an element to views which is discordant and the retention and enhancement of boundary vegetation would filter and soften many views.



Section 1: Introduction and Site Context

Background

- 1.1. Tyler Grange Group Limited (TG) has been appointed by Aldi Stores Limited to undertake an assessment of the potential landscape and visual effects associated with the proposed redevelopment of the site to erect a new 1,315 sqm (net) Aldi food store and class E/B2 light/general industrial two storey unit (1,848 sqm approx.) and ancillary servicing areas, car parking spaces and soft landscaping at Little Testwood Farm, Salisbury Road, Calmore, Totton, SO40 2RW.
- 1.2. This report has been prepared in March 2022 following field work in the preceding winter by a Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute (CMLI) and has been peer reviewed.
- 1.3. This landscape appraisal considers both the landscape context and the relevant applicable planning policies applicable to the proposed development and then assesses landscape and visual effects in comparison to the baseline.

Site Context

- 1.4. The Site is centred on National Grid Reference SU 34494 15211, located on the A36 Salisbury Road and set within a wooded context. There is a partially culverted water course on site, which it is cleared of vegetation and fenced with close-board security timber fencing 1.8m high. Existing intermittent vegetation along the site perimeter is retained. Access to the Site is possible from Salisbury Road located on the Site's south-western boundary.
- 1.5. The site location is to the north of Totton within a relatively flat urban fringe landscape with existing large-scale commercial properties and recreational facilities within the locality, including football pitches with associated stands, lighting and buildings. The site is allocated in the New Forest District Council Development Plan Document (DPD) (TOT12: Land at Little Testwood Farm) for employment development following site specific criteria. The site adjoins a Strategic Site: Land to the North of Totton and open countryside to the west and north. Testwood and Little Testwood Lakes Nature Reserve and the River Blackwater and River Test are located to the north and northeast.
- 1.6. There is a network of transport infrastructure including major roundabouts for the junction of the A326 and M27 (partially on embankment) and the A326 and A36 close to the Site.
- 1.7. The New Forest National Park is located further to the west (0.8km distant) beyond the A326 and the site and as such is considered to be within the setting of this nationally designated landscape.

Pre-application and Consultations

- 1.8. A pre-application response was sent on the 8th February 2021 (ENQ/20/20375/PD), comments where appropriate have been incorporated into the proposals. Key issues for consideration included:



- Vehicular, pedestrian and cycle access from Salisbury Road.
- Retention of important trees on site.
- Additional landscape treatment on the boundaries of the site to include retention and improvement of the hedge fronting Salisbury Road.
- Retention and enhancement of the water course on the site; and
- An assessment of potential contamination and implementation of appropriate remediation measures.

1.9. TG scoped the approach to this LVA and agreed photo viewpoint locations with the Local Planning Authority (LPA) in March 2021. The email exchange is contained at Appendix 1. Full details relating to previous consultations with the LPA are contained with the Planning Statement which accompanies this planning application.

1.10. The report findings are informed by the baseline information provided by the following:

- 200550-1050-P4 Existing site layout (Kendall Kingscott); and
- 299550-1300-P5 Proposed site layout (Kendall Kingscott).

Development Proposal

1.11. The proposals include the following elements:

- The redevelopment of the site to provide a Class E food store (1,315sqm net) and Class E/B2 light general industrial unit (1,848sqm approx.);
- 144 parking spaces;
- Associated hard landscaping to facilitate vehicular and pedestrian movement;
- 2.5m high timber acoustic fencing to car park boundary;
- Soft landscaping to provide a landscape buffer to augment and enhance the retained site boundary vegetation;
- Road widening and realignment to provide appropriate vehicular access; and
- Diverted and partially culverted water course on southern boundary.

1.12. A walkover of the site and local landmarks and viewpoints of importance was undertaken in April 2021 to help determine the landscape context of the site and evaluate the degree of change that might be likely from the proposed development. The proposals are considered in the context of the existing landscape and visual baseline.

Methodology

1.13. The assessment methodology considers in principle, the following guidance:



- Landscape Institute / Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013), 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment', 3rd Edition (GLVIA3);
- Landscape Institute (2021), Technical Guidance Note 02/21, 'Assessing landscape value outside national designations'; and
- Natural England (2014), 'An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment'.

- 1.14. This LVA methodology has been tailored to be proportionate to the nature, scale and location of the proposed development. The level of landscape and visual effect is determined through consideration of the 'sensitivity' and 'susceptibility' of the landscape or visual receptor to the proposed development and the magnitude of change that would be brought about by its construction.
- 1.15. The baseline evaluates the aesthetic, cultural and perceptual factors within the landscape and the value attached to them. A landscape may have value regardless of lack of designation. These factors are outlined in Box 5.1 of GLVIA3 whilst the LI's Technical Guidance Note 02/21 builds on GLVIA3 and identifies a range of factors that can assist in the identification of valued aspects of the landscape.
- 1.16. Professional judgement plays an important role in the landscape and visual analysis process where the analysis of landscape character and visual amenity is both a subjective and objective process. However, the analysis process seeks to provide a narrative to explain the judgement reached.

Limitations and Assumptions

- 1.17. Site walkovers were undertaken in April 2021 during good visibility when vegetation was not in leaf and equate to winter views. Viewpoints elected for assessment were chosen for their possible visual relationship to the site such as proximity or raised landform and features of importance i.e., long-distance footpaths or statutory designation. The sample viewpoints show potential visibility and effects of development 'in the round' and represent a wide range of receptors, including those at the viewpoint but also others nearby at a similar distance or orientation. They do not include all available views.
- 1.18. Public Rights of Way (PRoW), public highways and publicly accessible open space were assessed. The outlook from a residential property or its curtilage is essentially a private matter and is not generally included within the planning balance.
- 1.19. Generally, beyond 2-2.5km distance any proposed development would be expected to be screened by intervening features such as structures, landform and vegetation or become a recessive feature in the landscape due to reduced contrast at longer distance.



Section 2: Planning Policy Context

National

National Planning Policy Framework 2021 (NPPF)¹

- 2.1. At the heart of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development. For plan making the presumption requires plans to positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of an area and be sufficiently flexible to adapt to rapid change. Footnote 7 accompanying the presumption identifies protected areas or assets of particular importance which includes Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- 2.2. Paragraph 12 of the NPPF clarifies that the presumption in favour of sustainable development does not change the status of the development plan as the starting point for decision making. Furthermore, it confirms that where a planning application conflicts with an up-to-date development plan (including any neighbourhood plans that form part of the development plan), permission should not usually be granted. Local planning authorities may take decisions that depart from an up-to-date development plan, but only if material considerations in a particular case indicate that the plan should not be followed.
- 2.3. The creation of high-quality buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve, as stated at paragraph 126.
- 2.4. Paragraph 130 seeks to ensure that developments:
- *“Will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, just not for the short term but over the lifetime of the development;”*
 - *Are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping;*
 - *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);*
 - *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;*
 - *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*
 - *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.”*

¹ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2021) [National Planning Policy Framework](#)



- 2.5. Paragraph 131 notes the important contribution trees make to the character and quality of urban environments and can also help mitigate and adapt to climate change. It states that appropriate measures should be in place to secure the long-term maintenance of newly-planted trees, and that existing trees are retained wherever possible.
- 2.6. Paragraph 134 states that development that is not well designed should be refused, especially where it fails to reflect local design policies and government guidance on design.
- 2.7. Paragraph 174 requires planning policies and decisions to contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by fulfilling criteria including amongst others:
- 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); and
 - 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.

National Design Guide²

- 2.8. As noted in the NPPF, creating high quality buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve. The National Design Guide illustrates how well-designed places that are beautiful, healthy, greener, enduring and successful can be achieved in practice. Of relevance to landscape and visual matters are the following:

“Places affect us all – they are where we live, work and spend our leisure time. Well-designed places influence the quality of our experience as we spend time in them and move around them. We enjoy them, as occupants or users but also as passers-by and visitors.

The focus of this design guide is on good design in the planning system, so it is primarily for:

- *local authority planning officers, who prepare local planning policy and guidance and assess the quality of planning applications;*
- *councillors, who make planning decisions;*
- *applicants and their design teams, who prepare applications for planning permission; and*
- *people in local communities and their representatives”.*

Planning Practice Guidance³

- 2.9. Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) considers that the creation of new residential neighbourhoods can, through sensitive design, be deemed acceptable even where it

² Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) (2021) [National Design Guide](#).

³ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (2019) [Planning Practice Guidance](#)



results in a loss of open countryside. Those categories within the PPG that are of particular relevance to landscape and visual matters in relation to this Site are set out below.

Design: process and tools

- 2.10. The PPG emphasises the need for good design and sets out the characteristics of well designed places. At paragraph 001, Reference ID: 26-001-20191001, it states: *“As set out in paragraph 134 of the National Planning Policy Framework, development that is not well designed should be refused, especially where it fails to reflect local design policies and government guidance on design, taking into account any local design guidance and supplementary planning documents such as design guides and codes. Conversely, significant weight should be given to:*
- a) development which reflects local design policies and government guidance on design, taking into account any local design guidance and supplementary planning documents such as design guides and codes; and/or*
 - b) outstanding or innovative designs which promote high levels of sustainability, or help raise the standard of design more generally in an area, so long as they fit in with the overall form and layout of their surroundings”.*
- 2.11. The use of high quality hard and soft landscape design to help successfully integrate development into the wider environment is also emphasised as being important to consider from the outset, in order to ensure proposals improve the overall quality of the townscape and landscape.

Natural environment

- 2.12. This PPG highlights the multifaceted benefits provided through the provision of Green Infrastructure, including but not limited to: *“enhanced wellbeing, outdoor recreation and access, enhanced biodiversity and landscapes, urban cooling, and the management of flood risk”* (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 8-005-20190721).
- 2.13. Moreover, the PPG recognises how green infrastructure exists within a wider landscape context and can thus be used to reinforce and enhance local landscape character and contribute to a sense of place.

Landscape

- 2.14. The PPG makes reference to the National Planning Policy Framework, stating: *“it is clear that plans should recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and that strategic policies should provide for the conservation and enhancement of landscapes”* (Paragraph: 036 Reference ID: 8-036-20190721).
- 2.15. It is therefore emphasised that the cumulative impacts of development on the landscape need to be considered carefully, whereby proposals should *“avoid adverse impacts on landscapes and set out necessary mitigation measures, such as appropriate design principles and visual screening, where necessary”* (Paragraph: 036 Reference ID: 8-036-20190721).



- 2.16. When assessing landscape character the NPPG states that: "To demonstrate the likely effects of a proposed development on the landscape, a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment can be used" (Paragraph: 037 Reference ID: 8-037-20190721).

Local Planning Policy Context

- 2.17. The site is within the Totton and Waterside plan area of the New Forest District Council Local Plan. The Local Plan is comprised the following documents (as relevant to landscape / visual matters):
- Local Plan 2016-2036 part 1 adopted July 2020⁴;
 - Saved policies of the Core Strategy 2009⁵, New Forest District Local Plan First Alteration 2005⁶ and Local Plan Part 2: Sites and Development Management April 2014⁷;
 - The Policies Map;
 - Adopted Neighbourhood Plans (Totton and Eling Town Council confirmed the extent of a Neighbourhood Area in 2014, but this is still in progress and has not been made); and
 - Evidence Base Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents / Guidance.
- 2.18. The site is situated within a built-up area and does not lie within or adjacent to a designated landscape (i.e., Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) or National Park). However, it is within the setting of the New Forest National Park which located approximately 820m to the west and beyond the A326. The setting of a valued landscape is generally considered land which is visible from within its boundary or from which the designated landscape may be seen from outside the designation.
- 2.19. The specific policies that are applicable for landscape and visual matters relevant to the site are summarised below:
- 2.20. Policy ENV3: Design Quality and Local Distinctiveness requires proposals to be 'sympathetic to their environment and their context' and 'avoid unacceptable effects by reason of visual intrusion or overbearing impact...or other adverse impacts on local character or residential amenity'.
- 2.21. Policy ENV4: Landscape Character and Quality states that development proposals should retain or enhance 'through sensitive design, mitigation and enhancement measures, to successfully integrate new development into the local landscape context' in particular its landscape setting 'and the transition between the settlement fringe and the open countryside.'

⁴ New Forest District Council (2020) [Local Plan 2016-2036. Part One: Planning Strategy](#)

⁵ New Forest District Council (2009) [Local Development Framework Core Strategy](#)

⁶ New Forest District Council (2005) [Local Plan First Alteration](#)

⁷ New Forest District Council (2014) [Local Plan Part 2: Sites and Development management](#)



2.22. Policy ECON5: Retail Development and Other Main Town Centre Uses notes that 'proposals should be consistent with the scale and function of settlement' and 'is or will be made accessible by a range of transport modes.'



Section 3: Landscape Baseline

- 3.1. This section, in accordance with policy and professional guidance, considers the existing landscape character of the Site and its environs and should be read in conjunction with Plan 4: Landscape Character Assessment.
- 3.2. The characterisation process is a non-value judgement process; therefore, classifying landscapes into distinct areas does not suggest that one character is more sensitive than another or valued by people more or less.
- 3.3. The landscape character appraisal process reviews the wider landscape character type at a national level and then explores more detailed character features at a county / district level, before analysing site-specific land use that informs local distinctiveness and sense of place.
- 3.4. The report considers the local, site-specific character, features and context as identified by Tyler Grange through fieldwork and informed by a review of published assessments. From this baseline information we can identify the relevant characteristics, important site features to retain and identify detracting features that need to be addressed within the proposals.

Published Landscape Character Assessments

National

- 3.5. The site lies wholly within National Character Area (NCA) 128: Low Hampshire Lowlands⁸. It is located towards the west edge of the character area, the adjoining NCA 131 New Forest⁹ being situated approximately 1km to the west. However, there is limited intervisibility between NCA 131 and the Site as illustrated by the ZTV and, as such NCA 131 New Forest is scoped out of this appraisal and is not explored further.
- 3.6. The NCA is 29% urban, and the landscape is dominated by the high-rise buildings in Southampton and the urban edge which contains industrial buildings and associated infrastructure. However, there are many recreational opportunities associated with the adjoining South Downs and New Forest National Parks and the area is rich in biodiversity and contains many wetland habitats valuable for breeding and overwintering birds. Characteristics of relevance applicable to the site include:
 - Low-lying, undulating plain abutting the chalk downs to the north and the coastal plain and Southampton water to the south;
 - Fast-flowing chalk rivers in wide, open valleys with water meadows and riparian vegetation that provide valuable wildlife; and

⁸ Natural England (2014) [National Character Area profile 128. South Hampshire Lowlands](#)

⁹ Natural England (2015) [National Character Area profile 131. New Forest](#)



- In parts a very urban NCA dominated by the city and the port of Southampton and other large towns such as Waterlooville and Havant. The more rural hinterland is characterised by small, loosely clustered or dispersed settlements, intermixed with isolated farmsteads.

3.7. Statements of Environmental Opportunity (SEO 1) for this NCA which have relevance for the site include:

- 'Making all development permeable to wildlife through the use of greenspace and green corridors that can function as ecological networks; and
- Seeking to encourage a softer transition between rural and urban landscapes through the planting of native trees around new development.'

3.8. For the purposes of assessing the effects of development, NCA's provide context and general landscape characteristics and objectives; however, they are very broad stroke descriptions and set out the characteristics of large geographical areas. NCA's have therefore not been considered further within this Appraisal.

County

3.9. At a county level, an Integrated Character Assessment (LCA) has been produced by Hampshire County Council (FINAL, May 2012)¹⁰. The assessment identifies 23 generic landscape types within the County which have been refined into 62 landscape character areas which are specific to a single location. The report also includes a Townscape Assessment which examines 23 of the larger settlements in the area including Totton, although it is noted that the Site is not located within the Totton townscape character area.

3.10. The site is located within the Lowland Mosaic Medium Scale landscape type which is described as undulating and comprised of heavy clay soils which are often seasonally waterlogged with some sandy gravelly outcrops. It is noted that this landscape type is often situated in close proximity to large settlements and that views and horizons are often shortened by intervening vegetation although fringes are often very visible from external vantage points. Other landscape types present within the Study Area include River Valley Floor and Lowland Mosaic Heath Associated.

3.11. The Site is located within landscape character areas 3b Test Valley and 9c New Forest Waterside. The characteristics of relevance applicable to the Site of landscape character area 3b Test Valley are described as:

- Urban setting beyond the valley edge of Totton and Southampton; and
- Views limited to valley floor but good views across and along the valley from open parts of the valley sides.

3.12. The characteristics of relevance applicable to the Site of landscape character area 9c New Forest Waterside are described as:

- In parts dominated by mid to late 20th century suburbs... resulting in a predominantly urban fringe landscape;

¹⁰ Hampshire County Council (2012) [Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment](#)



- Remnant woodland survives from commons and assart landscapes; and
 - Short wooded visual horizons.
- 3.13. As noted in GLVIA3, regional level assessments of landscape character such as Hampshire’s are useful to set the landscape context. GLVIA3 also indicates that local authority assessments provide more detail and that these should be used to form the basis of the assessment of effects on landscape character – with (appropriately justified) adaptation, refinement and interpretation where required

District

- 3.14. At a District level, New Forest District Council prepared a local landscape character assessment (July 2001)¹¹ that identifies 21 landscape types that were refined to 27 distinct landscape character areas.
- 3.15. The Site spans two landscape types, 14. Enclosed Valley Sides to the east and 6. Heath Associated Small Holdings and Dwellings to the west. The characteristics of relevance applicable to the Site of the 14. Enclosed Valley Sides landscape type include:
- A flat low lying predominantly pastoral landscape of meadows, pasture and arable farmland; and
 - The enclosed valley floor is characterised by a dense network of hedgerows and trees.
- 3.16. The characteristics of relevance applicable to the Site of landscape character type 6. Heath Associated Small Holdings and Dwellings include:
- A variable, small scale pastoral landscape with a regular small scale field pattern; and
 - Linear roadside settlements and associated smallholdings have arisen from progressive encroachment.
- 3.17. Other character types present within the Study Area include 12. River Floodplain, 7. Ancient Forest Farmlands and 4. Urban Areas.
- 3.18. When considering the finer grained and distinct landscape character areas present within the district the report identifies the Site as being located within landscape character 11. Copythorne Forest Farmlands. The characteristics of relevance applicable to the Site include:
- A small scale undulating landscape situated to the east of the NP;
 - Major road infrastructure create access problems;
 - Density of residential development and A36 reduces tranquillity of the area;
 - Settlement is predominantly linear ribbons of dense settlements;

¹¹ New Forest District Council, Hampshire, County Council, the Countryside Agency and English Heritage (2000) New Forest District Landscape Character Assessment: Main Report



- Views are short in nature with few landmarks present; and
- Areas of woodland and mature hedgerow trees are noted as positive feature of the landscape.

Site Character

- 3.19. The site comprises a 1.6 hectare parcel of land currently cleared of all built form and landscape features with the exception of semi-mature trees located along the Site boundary. A 1.8m high timber security hoarding separates the Site from the wider landscape.
- 3.20. The topography of the site is generally flat, with small undulations in landform rising to the west and dipping down to the east towards the River Blackwater beyond the site boundary. The Site boundaries abut Little Testwood Farm to the north behind a mature evergreen hedge, Testwood House, a commercial building is situated to the northeast with a series of lakes used for recreation beyond and AFC Totton Football Club and South Hampshire Industrial Park adjoining to the south. Little Testwood House (Grade II Listed) is situated adjacent to Testwood House Commercial Building.
- 3.21. PRow 232:9 runs between the football club and the industrial park to the south of the Site. The western boundary is enclosed by a clump of boundary vegetation on the A36 Salisbury Road. There are several mature trees including a number of semi-mature oak trees on the perimeter.
- 3.22. In terms of the wider landscape, there are a limited number of mature trees which are generally considered to be positive features of the landscape but also detractors such as electricity pylons and lighting columns associated with the recreational facility at the adjacent football ground. The New Forest National Park (NP) and Forest North-East Conservation Area comprised of the settlements of Copythorne, Winsor, Woodlands, parts of Netley Marsh and Bartley are situated 0.8-1km to the west.
- 3.23. The key landscape elements / features within the site are summarised as follows:
- Flat landform of the site, which is located at a height of approximately 10-11m AOD.
 - Fences, intermittent hedgerows and trees located at the Site boundaries.
 - Small, partially culverted water course dissecting the site; and
 - Urban fringe context, influenced by the surrounding road network and commercial structures.



Landscape Character Summary

3.24. For the purposes of this LVA, the effects of the proposed development upon the character of the landscape will be considered for the Site and surroundings. The assessment focuses upon the key features and sensitivities identified from the review of published studies and Tyler Grange's site-specific appraisal and those valued components of the landscape. These include the following:

- Published district level Landscape Character Area 11. Copythorne Forest Farmland; and
- The site-specific character and features (boundary trees, hedgerows and flat topography).



Section 4: Visual Baseline

Visual Context and Visual Receptors

- 4.1. In order to establish the degree of any change that may arise from future development on the site and the extent to which such changes will affect identified local landscape, and visual receptors, it is important to understand the existing situation in terms of visual amenity alongside the availability and context of views associated with the local area. The baseline establishes the area in which the proposed development may be visible, those people who may experience views of the development, the key viewpoints representative of affected views and the nature of the views at the viewpoints.
- 4.2. The visual baseline establishes the areas from where the new components of the proposed development can be seen and the nature of these views and visual amenity of receptors. The visibility of the site considers potential representative views towards it from the surrounding area. This is based on the findings of topographical mapping (Plan 3: Topography) and Geographic Information System (GIS) first sieve analysis mapping (Plan 4: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)).
- 4.3. The software generated image illustrates the extent to which development of up to 9m high on the site would be potentially visible within a 2km radius to a 1.6m high receptor (person). The calculation is based on Ordnance Survey Terrain 5 data. This only takes account of landform and does not consider the screening effects of intervening built form and vegetation and therefore equates as a worst-case scenario and needs to be refined and verified through field assessment. The ZTV generated for the proposed development is however a useful guide and clearly identifies the influence of the topography in limiting views.
- 4.4. The ZTV reflects the valley-like nature of the landform which follows the River Test and its tributaries, along a north-south axis through the landscape to the east of the site location. It indicates that visibility would be largely restricted to the built-up area and urban fringes of Southampton including Calmore, Testwood and Hammond Green. It is shown extending to the north but in actuality, the M27 which is partially raised on embankment and extensive blocks of woodland south and north of the road infrastructure such as the vegetation at Broadland Lakes, Moorcourt Copse, Ridge Copse and south of Longbridge Lakes would reduce this visibility.
- 4.5. Longer distance views to the west are shown to be limited by the topography which rises to form a ridgeline. This visibility was also shown to be limited in the field due to the presence of built form and vegetation.
- 4.6. A site visit in April 2021 verified in the field significant blocks of vegetation or built form which further restricts or limits the extent of visibility. A number of representative viewpoints have been included that illustrate the approximate extent of site visibility i.e., the visual envelope. In accordance with GLVIA3, the visual analysis is based on views from external spaces within the public domain and not from inside buildings or private spaces. In many cases views are barely discernible but the viewpoint has been included to illustrate landscape context.



- 4.7. A total of 10 representative viewpoints have been chosen to be representative of a range of potential landscape and visual receptors and orientation (see Photoviewpoints 1-10). Whilst the views are chosen to be representative of the landscape context and inter-visibility, they cannot provide continuous coverage of all potential viewpoint locations within the vicinity of the development. Often, views will occur as a sequence within the surrounding environment, where transient or fleeting glimpsed views may be possible.

Public Rights of Way

- 4.8. The site is not currently accessible to the public. Salisbury Road extends along its western boundary and a public footpath (PRoW 9) runs between the football stadium and South Hampshire Industrial Estate to the south connecting via Mill Lane to a long-distance footpath, the Test Way. The lakes situated to the north and east of the site also have many permissive paths and are a popular recreational resource.
- 4.9. In terms of visibility the landscape is well-contained. The existing views out from the site to the east and south are comprised of a range of large-scale commercial structures and football stadia with floodlights. Views from the west are extensively filtered by roadside boundary vegetation.

Short Distance views (1km-)

- 4.10. The ZTV indicates that the proposed development would be visible in short distance views from a range of orientations. However, the site is screened for the most part within the lower-lying land to the east by intervening vegetation and built form. In views from the north, it is assumed that the site would be visible to residents immediately to the north of the site although Little Testwood Farm is orientated to face east - west and would have an oblique view and to those utilising the local road network (the A36). There may be upper storey and direct views from the driveway of the Laurel Bank Rest Home and also potential for partial or upper storey views from adjoining residential, commercial interests and recreational facilities immediately to the south.
- 4.11. Views from the west beyond the A36 are limited by roadside vegetation, significant woodland blocks and landform, restricting any potential intervisibility with the New Forest NPA and the New Forest North-East Conservation Area.
- 4.12. Photoviewpoints 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10 illustrate the Site's limited visibility and restricted visual envelope.

Distant views (1km+)

- 4.13. As the photographic viewpoints illustrate there are no distant views of the Site, although potential intervisibility is identified within the ZTV. This is due to the presence of intervening vegetation and built form, which screens the Site from view even in winter views.
- 4.14. These potential views are illustrated by photoviewpoints 6, 7, 8 and 9.



Visual summary

- 4.15. Generally, views of the site are limited to locations immediately on the boundaries or within close proximity to the Site. From the wider landscape, views of the Site are limited to filtered and partially screened views in winter from the east around Testwood Lakes. As indicated by the ZTV there is limited intervisibility within the New Forest NP.
- 4.16. Following the visual analysis, the following people (visual receptors) have been identified as those who may experience visual change as a result of the proposed development. They have therefore been taken forward within the Appraisal:
- Recreational users of Testwood lakes;
 - Users of PRow 232:9 on Brunel Road;
 - Motorists and pedestrians using the A36 Salisbury Road; and
 - Residents and visitors to Laurel Bank Rest Home, people who work in the commercial units or industrial estate and residents within homes immediately adjoining or in close proximity to the Site.

Representative Photoviewpoints

Photoviewpoint 1: View southeast towards site from Salisbury Road

- 4.17. This viewpoint is located on the A36 at Sharves Hill. Views towards the Site are filtered by roadside vegetation including mature trees on both sides. Two gateway pillars are visible at the driveway entrance to Little Testwood Farm. There are partial views to the hoarding at the site boundary which is visible above the roadside vegetation. There is a joint entrance shared with the AFC Totton Football Ground with a bus stop adjacent. Laurel Bank Rest Home located on the western edge of Salisbury Road has a direct view into the site from its driveway and from upper storey windows, although views from the curtilage are screened by a mature evergreen hedge. The viewpoint is directed along the direction of travel and any views above or through the vegetation would be glimpsed and transient in nature.

Potential receptors include:

- Motorists although this is an A road and vehicles would be proceeding at speed with a focus on the road corridor.
- Pedestrians; and
- Residents located off this lane such as those of Laurel Bank Rest Home; other properties are generally screened at ground level by garden boundary vegetation or orientated to face north-west.

Photoviewpoint 2: View west from southern bank of Testwood Lake

- 4.18. This viewpoint illustrates the Site context and demonstrates the views available recreational users of Testwood Lakes. The current views are of electricity pylons, Testwood House and the floodlighting columns for Totton football ground which are a visual and



landscape detractor. It also illustrates the extensive and mature vegetative buffer along the boundary which effectively filters views to the existing commercial properties to the rear of the Site. Any potential views to the Site would be partially screened (summer views) or filtered (winter views) by this mature vegetation.

Potential receptors include:

- Motorists driving to the Lakeside centre; and
- Recreational users of Testwood Lake.

Viewpoint 3: View north from PRow 232:9 on Brunel Road

- 4.19. This partially enclosed view illustrates the wooded context and limited visibility from the boundary of South Hampshire Industrial Park across the Totton football ground towards the Site. The view is directed across a 2m high metal mesh security fence and includes lighting columns and associated sports pitches and enclosed by a vegetated backdrop. There are glimpsed and oblique views of the Site from gaps between mature hedging which flank the PRow on both sides.

Potential receptors include:

- Users of PRow 232:9; and
- People undertaking recreation.

Viewpoint 4: View east from PRow 166:3 adjacent Calmore Croft Farm

- 4.20. This view shows the strong vegetative framework in the locality of Pauletts Lane. The view is directed along PRow 166:3 across low, maintained field boundary hedges across fields some of which are used for equestrian use. There are mature oaks in the hedgerow and a rounded landform with a wooded skyline beyond effectively screens views to the south. The site is not discernible from this viewpoint and as such is not considered further in this assessment.

Potential receptors include:

- People living within the houses located off these routes;
- Users of PRow 166:3; and
- Agricultural workers.

Viewpoint 5: View south from PRow 166:4 on Green Lane

- 4.21. An enclosed viewpoint directed along PRow 166:4 between timber close-board garden fencing and along a garden boundary hedge line. Residents and people undertaking passive recreation are sensitive to change. However, there are no discernible views to site from this location and as such is not considered further in this assessment.



Potential receptors include:

- People who reside in adjoining properties; and
- Users of PRow 166:4.

Viewpoint 6: View south from Test Way (junction of PRow 198:13 and 198:21a) by Longridge Farm

- 4.22. This viewpoint illustrates the generally wooded wider landscape context from the Test Way long-distance footpath. The viewpoint is from a bridge over the River Test and encompasses a view of fields with a wooded skyline. People undertaking passive recreation are particularly interested in visual amenity and are highly sensitive to change. However, the site is not discernible from this viewpoint and as such is not considered further in this assessment.

Potential receptors include:

- Users of Test Way; and
- Residents and agricultural workers near this route.

Viewpoint 7 View west from PRow 175:506 by Nutsea Road

- 4.23. This viewpoint illustrates the wider landscape context and the generally limited visibility due to intervening built form and mature vegetation. The view is directed across a residential area comprised of two storey dwellings with garages with an area of mature woodland adjoining. Residents and people undertaking gentle recreation are particularly sensitive to change and there is potential for long-distance views to site through gaps between structures particularly from upper storeys, however no ground floor views were identified from the PRow or public roads and as such is not considered further in this assessment.

Potential receptors include:

- Users of PRow 175:506;
- Motorists travelling to and from home; and
- Residents within the buildings.

Viewpoint 8: View northeast from A326 and New Forest NP boundary

- 4.24. This viewpoint illustrates the wider urban fringe context and the low inter-visibility from the New Forest NP boundary south of the site. The viewpoint is from the A36 above a railway line and is directed along the road and across and through roadside vegetation. Motorists and pedestrians traveling along the roadside would be concentrating on the direction of travel with a lesser focus on their surroundings. No discernible views to site were identified and as such is not considered further in this assessment.



Potential receptors include:

- Motorists and pedestrians using the A36.

Viewpoint 9: View southwest from Mill Lane

- 4.25. Views from Mill Lane are aligned along the road and across adjoining farmland enclosed by maintained hedges and established hedgerow trees. Motorists travelling along narrow country lanes, residents and people undertaking gentle recreation are interested in visual amenity and sensitive to change. Views are extensively filtered and there is a wooded skyline which forms a backdrop. It is unlikely that there would be a discernible view of the proposed development from ground level due to the distance and the intervening vegetation and built form and as such is not considered further in this assessment.

Potential receptors include:

- Motorists and pedestrians using Mill Lane; and
- Residents of properties adjoining viewpoint.

Viewpoint 10: View west from northern bank of Testwood Lake

- 4.26. This view is directed across Testwood lake and represents the views available to people undertaking various forms of gentle and active recreation at this resource. People undertaking recreation are generally interested in visual amenity and therefore are more sensitive to change. There is an extensive vegetative buffer to the boundary of the lake, and this provides filtered views in winter of the existing commercial buildings adjacent to the proposed development. Views towards the Site are partially screened by the intervening built form of Testwood House and screened in summer views by the thick belt of vegetation.

Potential receptors include:

- 4.27. Recreational users of Testwood Lake.



Section 5: Landscape designations

- 5.1. The Site does not lie within any national, regional or local landscape designations however, the New Forest National Park is located approximately 0.8km to the west of the Site which is a nationally recognised landscape.

New Forest National Park

- 5.2. Whilst the Site is not located within the New Forest NP, it is situated within its setting, the special qualities of the New Forest NP of relevance to proposals are described as being:
- Outstanding natural beauty.
- 5.3. Other qualities such as diversity of plants, historic commoning system and opportunities for quiet recreation would not be altered by proposals as the Site is outwith the NP.



Section 6: Landscape changes

- 6.1. As set out in section 3 of this report, the landscape receptors assessed within this Appraisal are identified as follows:
- The District level LCA 11. Copythorne Forest Farmland; and
 - The site-specific character and features.
- 6.2. As set out in GLVIA3, the landscape sensitivity to the development is determined through consideration of the value and susceptibility of the receiving landscape to the proposed development. The nature of the change is then described, based on the scheme proposed. The Appraisal then concludes whether this change (combined with the sensitivity) results in an overall adverse, beneficial or neutral landscape change on the receptor.
- 6.3. As a result of the proposed development, the principal changes relate to the redevelopment of the Site to create a food store and light general industrial units with a maximum height of 9m alongside car parking and soft landscape treatments. These will take place in the context of a settlement edge cleared site.

LCA 11. Copythorne Forest Farmland

- 6.4. It is considered that the 11. Copythorne Forest Farmland LCA is of a low sensitivity to the proposed development. The magnitude of change is limited given that the proposal effects the site only and the site itself contains few landscape features relevant to the overall local landscape character other than boundary vegetation which would be retained and enhanced. It is considered that there would be a neutral landscape change overall.
- 6.5. A change is understood to be neutral when it, on balance would result in neither an improvement, nor a deterioration of the landscape compared with the existing situation. This is due to the limited change in respect of the wider area which already contains structures of a similar scale, the retention and opportunity for enhancement of characteristic features, low visibility and the general intactness of the landscape within this area which is not uncharacteristic although there are landscape detractors within it.

Site specific character and features

- 6.6. In respect to the site-specific landscape character and features, the site has been assessed as having a low sensitivity to the proposed development with a low magnitude of change. Overall, it is considered that there would be a neutral landscape change to the site-specific landscape character and features with the opportunity for some beneficial change at site level. This is due to the limited features on site, the retention and opportunity for enhancement of the boundary vegetation and consideration in relation to the siting and scale of the new buildings and interface with the wider landscape and its urban fringe context which already contains similar structures.



- 6.7. The development neither contributes or detracts from the landscape or the effects are so negligible that the change is barely noticeable. A change or alteration to the baseline is not necessarily considered adverse.



Section 7: Visual changes

- 7.1. The visual receptors to be assessed within this Appraisal are identified as follows:
- Recreational users of Testwood lakes;
 - Users of PRow 232:9 on Brunel Road;
 - Motorists and pedestrians using the A36 Salisbury Road; and
 - Residents and visitors to Laurel Bank Rest Home, people who work in the commercial units or industrial estate and residents within homes immediately adjoining or in close proximity to the Site.
- 7.2. As noted in Section 4 of this report, due to a lack of intervisibility the following photoviewpoints were not considered further; photoviewpoints 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.
- 7.3. As set out in GLVIA3, the visual sensitivity of the development is a combination of the sensitivity and susceptibility of the visual receptor to the proposed development. The nature of the change is then described, based on the scheme proposed. The Appraisal then concludes whether this change (combined with the sensitivity) results in an overall adverse, beneficial or neutral visual change to the receptor.
- 7.4. People using PRow will be engaged in outdoor activities associated with the routes and enjoyment of the landscape and / or views. Residents with views of the Site will experience these views on a daily basis. Both users of the PRow and residents are likely to value these views to some degree and their attention is likely to be focussed on the landscape and visual experience. As a result, their sensitivity to visual change will be higher. Motorists travelling along the road network and workers will have a different focus on their activities. As a result, these people are less sensitive to visual change.

Photoviewpoint 1: View southeast towards site from Salisbury Road

- 7.5. Visitors, and workers within the commercial units, industrial estate and football ground have been identified as having a low sensitivity while residents and visitors within Little Testwood Farm, Laurel Bank Rest Home and other adjoining residential properties have been identified as having a medium / high sensitivity. The proposed buildings would be set back from the site frontage and this would help reduce their visibility in combination with the proposed landscape strategy from the roadside. However it is noted that the majority of views towards the Proposed Development will be glimpsed or oblique in nature and partially screened. Whilst it is noted that the development may alter current traffic levels this is not considered to alter the current perception of tranquillity experienced on the A36. On balance, the magnitude of change is considered to be medium due to the existing urban fringe context and limited number of direct views to Site.

Photoviewpoint 2: View west from southern bank of Testwood Lake

- 7.6. It is considered that the recreational users of Testwood Lakes to the east of the Site have a medium sensitivity and will experience a low magnitude of change overall. The proposed buildings would introduce a minor new element to views largely screened to receptors by intervening vegetation. Views already contain a number of urban features such as large-



scale commercial buildings and floodlighting columns and the structure would be partially screened by intervening built form or filtered by extensive boundary vegetation which includes many mature trees.

Viewpoint 3: View north from PRow 232:9 on Brunel Road

- 7.7. Users of PRow 232:9 on Brunel Road would have a glimpsed view to site with the AFC Totton football ground fencing, buildings and lighting columns in the foreground. In this context the viewer would be concentrating on the direction of travel and are assessed as having low / medium sensitivity. The magnitude of change is considered to be negligible. Additional tree and shrub planting to the water course on the southern boundary and retained mature trees would partially filter views to the building which would be viewed in the context of the wooded skyline and barely discernible.
- 7.8. Motorists travelling along the A36 (Station Road), have been identified as having a low sensitivity and pedestrians travelling along this route having a low/medium sensitivity. The magnitude of change has been identified as medium overall.

Viewpoint 10: View west from northern bank of Testwood Lake

- 7.9. It is considered that the recreational users of Testwood Lakes to the east of the Site have a medium sensitivity and will experience a low magnitude of change overall. The proposed building would introduce a minor new element to views however, these already contain many urban features such as large-scale commercial buildings, electricity pylons and floodlighting columns and the structure would be partially screened by intervening built form or filtered by extensive boundary vegetation which includes many mature trees.



Section 8: Changes to Landscape Designations

New Forest NP

- 8.1. While the Site is not located within the New Forest NP, it is situated within its setting and as such the indirect effects on this nationally important landscape are considered in this LVA. The special qualities identified in the Management Plan are set out in Section 5. Of relevance to this assessment is the outstanding natural beauty and tranquillity, the other special qualities of this designated landscape (such as diversity of plants, historic commoning system and opportunities for quiet recreation) would not be altered by the proposals as the Site is outwith the NP.

Landscape Character

- 8.2. There will be limited inter-visibility from the NP towards the application site and where possible, the character of these are already influenced by the settlement of Totton and road corridors. Given that there will be limited inter-visibility of the proposed development experienced from a localised area within the NP, where they do occur it is considered they would represent a minor change to the character of the NP and its setting.

Views into and out of the NP

- 8.3. In external views from the NP, the proposed development would appear amongst the existing commercial developments situated to the north and east of Totton. Views would constitute a minor element in a much wider vista and would be experienced in the context of existing development. Views towards the NP from the urban area of Totton are more limited however, limited to glimpses between and above built form, the proposed development would not further encroach into existing views.

Tranquillity

- 8.4. The application site and NP within the study area are situated within an area of relatively low tranquillity, the M27 A34 and urban fringe development all negatively impacting on this quality. The inclusion of the proposed development would not alter the level of tranquillity currently experienced in the NP.

Summary

- 8.5. Combining the changes to landscape character, views into and out of the NP and tranquillity the overall landscape changes are assessed as being low to negligible. Furthermore, the proposed development would not impact upon the special qualities of the New Forest NP.



Section 9: Conclusion

- 9.1. This LVA has been carried out in accordance with industry standard guidance including the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3), Third Edition (2013). It has been carried out by a CMLI Landscape Architect and peer reviewed.

Landscape and Visual

- 9.2. In respect to landscape changes, negligible landscape residual changes are afforded to all receptors at the completion of the development identified within this LVA. This includes the District level Landscape Character Area 11. Copythorne Forest Farmland and site-specific landscape character and features. This is largely due to the relatively few landscape features on Site and their limited contribution to landscape character.
- 9.3. There will be noticeable changes as a result of the design and materials of the proposed building associated signage / car parking design, however key landscape features such as mature trees with TPO designation have been designed to be retained and new additional landscaping introduced. The layout has been designed to respond to the existing situation (i.e., additional hedge and tree planting; and enhancements to the diverted water course) and the building set back from the site frontage behind retained vegetation to mitigate impacts. The extent of the car parking area has been broken up by soft landscaping planting including tree planting which would filter views of built form and the extent of hard surfacing.
- 9.4. The changes experienced in respect of the published assessments are localised to the Site itself and as such the proposals are not considered to adversely alter the perception of the wider landscape character areas or types. Furthermore, the scale and massing of the development is in-keeping with existing settlement and development patterns. Overall it is considered that the landscape can accommodate the proposed development without detriment to the currently experienced baseline condition.
- 9.5. In respect of visual effects, negligible residual visual changes are afforded to motorists and pedestrians travelling along the A36 (Salisbury Road) and people walking along the permissive paths within Testwood Lakes, to the east of the site. This is due to the limited changes experienced. The proposed development does not introduce an element to views which is 'alien' or discordant. The retention and replacement of boundary vegetation would filter and soften views of built form and this screening would increase as new vegetation matures. The visual effects are therefore localised in nature and are not unacceptable.
- 9.6. The scheme has been designed to respond to the existing baseline situation and will deliver the following benefits:
- Provision of a new food store with associated landscape, car park and access.
 - Retention of existing boundary vegetation including trees with TPOs (refer to the Tree Survey, produced by TG for further detail);



- The creation of Wildflower meadow and Pond Edge habitats with enhanced biodiversity benefits; and
- New (predominantly native) tree, hedgerow, and shrub planting (see the Landscape Proposals, prepared by TG for further detail) for visual amenity, provide green infrastructure and facilitate the integration of the proposals into the wider landscape.

Policy

- 9.7. Proposals for development are required to be designed to a high standard and relate well to local distinctiveness without visual intrusion or overbearing on adjacent areas in accordance with adopted policy ENV3. The proposed building is located away from the site frontage and benefits from an existing mature vegetative buffer to the rear which reduces its visual intrusion in both winter and summer views. Detailed information relating to building design, is contained within the Design and Access Statement which accompanies this application.
- 9.8. The landscape strategy has been to retain semi-mature trees and hedgerows in good condition and of amenity and wildlife value wherever possible, replacing trees lost to development with an equivalent and a quantum of new tree and native shrub planting along the water course on the southern boundary. The retained trees and hedgerows will be appropriately protected during construction activities in accordance with saved policies DM2 and DW-E12.
- 9.9. The scale and function of proposals within the Site are consistent with those within the settlement of Totton in accordance with adopted policy ECON5.
- 9.10. The proposal has sought to provide a safe car parking arrangement with pavements and footways. There is an existing connection to public transport on Salisbury Road adjacent to the site entrance in-keeping with the objectives of Site allocation TOT12 for Land at Little Testwood Farm.
- 9.11. The Proposed Development includes an enhanced landscape treatments to the Site boundaries and along the diverted water course that incorporates native plants with berries, or nectar for improved foraging and wildlife value. This is in-keeping with the aims of policies DM2 and DM9.
- 9.12. Situated within a sensitive urban fringe location the Proposed Development has been designed to retain and enhance boundary vegetation to provide an effective visual buffer to Salisbury Road and integrate the proposal with the open countryside in-keeping with adopted policy ENV4.
- 9.13. On balance, this LVA finds that the proposals are compatible with relevant landscape and visual aspects of planning policy. It is also concluded that there are no issues arising with regard to landscape and visual matters which would undermine the feasibility of the scheme.



Appendix 1: Correspondence with LPA



From: Anneliese Walker [REDACTED] >
Sent: 26 March 2021 16:11
To: Judith.garrity@nfdc.gov.uk [REDACTED]
Subject: Proposed ALDI, Little Testwood Farm, Salisbury Road, Totton - Landscape and Visual Scoping

Dear Judith,

Proposed ALDI, Little Testwood Farm, Salisbury Road, Totton

Tyler Grange Group Limited have been instructed to provide a Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) and Detailed Soft Landscape Proposals to accompany a planning application for the development of the above-named site for an ALDI store. I wondered if I could confirm the photoviewpoint locations and study area for inclusion within the LVA with you before proceeding.

The site boundary is outlined in red of the attached plans.

I attach a plan to this email which identifies the proposed photoviewpoint locations (drawing number: 13865/P05) for the LVA. These locations have been chosen following the production of Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping (also attached, drawing number: 13865/P04), a review of local planning policy, landscape designations and aerial mapping. I propose that the study area for the LVA is defined by the ZTV 'potential visibility'.

The photoviewpoint locations have been chosen to be representative of a number of visual receptors including the local residents, users of public rights of way (including the Test Way long distance route), users of local roads and visitors to the adjacent Testwood and Little Testwood Lakes and the adjacent New Forest National Park. The viewpoints also allow for views from a range of orientations and distances to be considered, within the ZTV potential visibility envelope, in order to allow for a balanced assessment to be made of the likely landscape and visual effects arising from the proposed development. Exact locations of the photoviewpoints will be verified in the field.

I would also ask that you confirm that when considering the extent of likely effects on landscape character, that the Landscape Assessment may limit its focus to that areas covered by Landscape Character Areas 'New Forest Waterside (9c)' and 'Test Valley (3b)' within the Hampshire Landscape Character Assessment and the 'Waterside Parishes (13)' and 'Copythorn Forest Farmlands (11)' Landscape Character Areas within the New Forest District Landscape Character Assessment.

I would be grateful if you could kindly confirm that you are happy with the proposed photoviewpoint locations and approach to the LVA as detailed above, and whether you have any further matters we need to consider.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards,
Anneliese



Anneliese Walker
Senior Landscape Consultant

m [REDACTED]

e [REDACTED]

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From: Judith Garrity [redacted] k>
Sent: 30 March 2021 16:28
To: Anneliese Walker <[redacted]>
Subject: Proposed ALDI, Little Testwood Farm, Salisbury Road, Totton - Landscape and Visual Scoping - Landscape comment required - ENQ/20/20357/PD

Dear Anneliese,

I have now received comments from my landscape team on your LVIA viewpoints. They have suggested 2 additional viewpoints and I attach a plan with these annotated.

There are :

1. Far side of the accessible lake at Testwood lakes – this area is very a very popular destination for informal recreation with open views across the lake to the site– receptors are sensitive here to change
2. From the long distance PROW north east of the site at Mill Lane – it would be worth testing this location as the ZTV plan shows a very open view shed (although it doesn't account for intervening buildings or vegetation)

I also confirm that the baseline landscape character studies are appropriate.

I hope this is of assistance to you in preparing your planning submission.

Regards

Judith Garrity

Judith Garrity

Development Management Team Leader
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Appendix 2: Extracts of Landscape Character Assessments





Summary

The South Hampshire Lowlands National Character Area (NCA) is a low-lying plain between the chalk hills of the Hampshire and South Downs and Southampton Water. Its highest point is an outlying chalk ridge – Portsdown Hill – but the bedrock geology is mostly open marine, estuarine and freshwater Tertiary deposits. The NCA is dominated by the city and port of Southampton and its adjoining towns and suburbs – 29 per cent of the area is urban. In the more rural areas, it is a mixture of farmland, particularly pasture, and woodland.

Some 18 per cent of the land cover of the NCA is woodland, of which almost half is designated ancient woodland, a legacy of the Forest of Bere, a Royal Hunting Forest that once covered the area. Today the most significant blocks of woodland are West Walk near Wickham, Botley Wood at Swanwick and Ampfield Wood near Romsey.

Although a high percentage of the area is urban, the NCA has considerable biodiversity interest. Southampton Water is internationally recognised for its importance for breeding and overwintering waterfowl and waders and for its wetland habitats such as mudflats and salt marshes. Three Natura 2000 designations cover parts of the area – Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site, Solent and Southampton Water Special Protection Area and Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation.

The NCA is drained by several rivers: the lower reaches of the Test and Itchen, the source and headwaters of the Hamble and the middle section of the Meon. These provide not only a refuge for species in decline elsewhere,

such as otters, but also examples of unusual habitats such as the estuarine woodlands on the Hamble. Both the Test and Itchen are important sources of potable water.

The NCA however faces many challenges, particularly ongoing development. This will need to be implemented sensitively in order to safeguard not only the designated sites within the NCA but also the important adjacent sites such as the New Forest and South Downs National Parks.

[Click map to enlarge; click again to reduce](#)

[Click map to enlarge; click again to reduce](#)

Statements of Environmental Opportunities:

- **SEO 1:** Promote creative and effective sustainable development – including a well-connected network of high-quality greenspace in and around Southampton, Romsey, Eastleigh and Havant – which benefits local businesses and communities, protects local distinctiveness, encourages public understanding and enjoyment of the natural environment, and helps to mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- **SEO 2:** Conserve, manage and enhance the semi-natural habitats of the river valleys, their estuaries and intertidal areas along the coast, to maintain water availability and flow, reduce flooding downstream, improve water quality, and enhance their biodiversity and landscape benefits.
- **SEO 3:** Protect, manage and enhance the area's historic well-wooded character – including its ancient semi-natural woodlands, wood pasture and hedgerows – to increase biomass provision, link and strengthen habitats for wildlife, and improve recreational opportunities.
- **SEO 4:** Conserve, manage, link and enhance the traditional mosaic of semi-natural grassland habitats – including chalk grassland, watermeadows and unimproved grassland – for the benefits they provide in protecting and regulating soils and water, climate change adaptation as well as recreational opportunities and improved biodiversity.



Swans on the River Itchen at Highbridge.

Photo credits

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Catalogue Code: NE543

ISBN: 978-78367-103-8

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LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE:

Lowland Mosaic Medium Scale

Present throughout Lowland Mosaic landscape locations in Hampshire. Largest concentration by area in South Hampshire.



SIMILAR AND ASSOCIATED TYPES HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT AND BOROUGH LEVEL ASSESSMENTS

Basingstoke:	Primary Associations: Mixed Farmland and Woodland and Mixed Farmland and Woodland Small Scale, Forest on Heath. Secondary Associations: Small Scale Pasture and Woodland Heath Associated, Parkland, Open Farmland and Woodland
East Hampshire	Included as part of Mixed Farmland and Woodland (but matches character area boundary split in type)
Eastleigh	Primary Associations: Enclosed woodland and farmland, , Wooded Hills, Small fields and nurseries. Secondary: Woodland Farmland and Parkland, Undulating farmland
Fareham	Farmland and Woodland
Gosport	n/a
Hart	Primary Associations: Mixed Farmland Woodland Large Scale, Secondary Associations: Mixed Farmland Woodland Small Scale, Parkland or Estate Farmland.
Havant	Lowland Settled Wooded Farmland, Pasture and Woodland Heath Associated,
New Forest	Woods and pasture, Forest Farmlands and part of River valley
Rushmoor	n/a
Test Valley	Primary Associations: Mixed Farmland and Woodland Medium Scale Secondary Associations: Mixed Farmland and Woodland Small Scale
Winchester	Primary Associations: Mixed Farmland and Woodland Enclosed, Pasture Woodland Heath Associated. Secondary Associations: Mixed Farmland Woodland, Parkland, River Valley Floor.

SIMILAR AND ASSOCIATED TYPES IN NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITY ASSESSMENTS

Dorset	
West Berkshire	Royal Forest (some similarities)
West Sussex	
Wiltshire	

KEY IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS AND BOUNDARY DEFINITIONS

- Undulating predominantly clay soils with sandy gravely outcrops
- Clay soils low lying - seasonally wet and not particularly good agricultural grade.
- High biomass and moderately high heathland creation opportunity
- Associated with small chalk fed streams.
- Large Ancient woodlands, blocky shaped woodland and thick hedgerows
- Proportion of grazing land slightly more than arable but less permanent pasture than most other Lowland Mosaic Types.
- Low built up percentage compared with other Lowland Mosaic Types
- Significant association with common land and open access
- Surprising sense of remoteness as often close to large centres of population.
- Rich in wildlife designations and BAP priority habitats particularly Ancient semi natural woodlands, hedgerows, neutral and acid grassland, heath associated habitats, freshwater associated and wet woodland.
- High proportion of assarting
- Numerous cultural associations from the medieval period and Royal hunting forests, including deer parks and lodges and woodpasture. Little intensive exploitation pre Saxon period and less intensively post disafforestation than most lowland mosaic types..
- Few settlements and development.
- Particular association with Common Edge settlement type.
- Low density dispersed settlement pattern where this type occurs in North and South Hampshire and South of New Forest National Park.

PHYSICAL

GEOLOGY, LANDFORM, ELEVATION:

Bedrock and Superficial Geology: Strong correlation with presence of Bracklesham beds and London Clay in South Hampshire, and Bagshot Beds and London Clays in the north, Headon and Osbourne beds south of the New Forest. The Lambeth Group and London Clays are associated with the lowland landscape around the southern areas of the R. Test. The Gault clay underlies this type in East Hampshire. They are all within the *Palaeogene period* and predominantly clay or clay and sands. Very little presence of head or outwash gravels apart from locally elevated areas.

Landform and Elevation: Locally low lying, gently undulating, the higher ground reflects where sand and gravel outcrops in the landscape. There is always higher land surrounding these LCTs.

SOILS TYPES:

Extensively heavy clay soils, seasonally waterlogged and poorly drained. Sandier gravelly outcrops but not as extensive as Lowland Mosaic Heath Associated.

Typical soil type pattern:

Predominantly type: 711h and g (Drift over clay, seasonally waterlogged) often more than 75%
Other types present: 572j (Loam over clay), 581c (Plateau and river terrace drift) and 841b (River terrace gravel)

FUNCTIONS:

Hydrological function: Associated with minor groundwater vulnerability zones. Occasionally overlay source protection of low category type

Food and Biomass: Low agricultural grade; often grade 4/5 or other in south Hampshire, but not exclusively. In the north grade 3 or other. Nearly always poorer agricultural grade than in surrounding LCTs.

Biodiversity potential: Large Ancient Woodland concentration (above 2ha) – high reversion potential of replanted ASNW opportunity.

LANDCOVER AND LAND USE PATTERN:

Above average woodland cover percentage compared with other Lowland Mosaic types, second only to Woodland Plantation and Heath type. The landcover is distinguishable from other Lowland Mosaic type by the unusually high proportion of ASNW and replanted ASNW over 2ha. Arable and grazing land mix, with a high proportion of the latter where it occurs over heavy clays. Larger field size pattern than other Lowland Mosaic types. Thick treed hedges and copses and assart woods form field boundaries. Typically, few settlements, within these LCTs compared with other Lowland Mosaic types. Low levels of sand and gravel mineral extraction. Some historical associations with clay extraction.

HYDROLOGY:

Often associated with the presence of small streams, in shallow valleys, and wetter soils with poor drainage both laterally and vertically. Tend to correspond geographically with the lower parts of the hydrological basin. Streams generally chalk fed apart from south of the New Forest.

EXPERIENTIAL**ACCESS AND TRANSPORT ROUTES (Resource and users):**

Strongest correlation is with commons, and wooded ones in particular and accessible woodlands. Not particularly dense PRow network, but bridleways and footpaths present. Often located close to large centres of population, therefore demand for access is high.

Generally minor road network and predominantly less dense network than other Lowland Mosaic LCTs.

TRANQUILLITY:

Often with lower settlement density, so inherently more tranquil than other more settled Lowland Mosaic types.

BIODIVERSITY

The Lowland Mosaic Medium Scale landscape character type is a wooded agricultural landscape comprising improved grassland and arable land with woodland, unimproved grassland and occasional heath associated habitats.

Thick and wooded hedgerows frequently define field boundaries: the hedgerow network is generally dense, although in places it does remain more open. Improved grassland tends to dominate over arable land within the Lowland Mosaic Medium Scale landscape character type.

There is a significant resource of unimproved grassland in this landscape. Unimproved grassland is an increasingly scarce habitat due to pressures for productive land, within this landscape, here it is most likely associated with grazing or hay meadows and provides an important resource of bio diverse grasslands. Unimproved grasslands play a vital role in supporting farmland associated species, particularly in areas with intensively improved grasslands and arable land. Most unimproved grassland is neutral, with some acid grasslands and some marshy grassland, often associated with ponds or other aquatic habitats.

Woodland varies; there is a significant amount of ancient and semi-natural woodland. Other woodland includes mixed woodlands, mixed and coniferous plantations, new tree growth and some parkland/ trees scattered over grassland which can represent areas where timber cropping and livestock grazing are undertaken concurrently: these parkland habitats are often species rich. There is some active coppice with standards in this landscape. Hazel coppice with oak and ash standards is a widespread habitat in Hampshire relating from the historical production of wattle sheep hurdling. Hazel coppice woodlands can support rich flora and butterfly populations if the coppice is active and regularly cut.

There are occasional patches of heathland habitats within the Lowland Mosaic Medium Scale landscape character type, including both wet and dry heaths. Dry heath supports heather and bristle bent grass and usually exist on higher, better drained ground. Wet heath exists when drainage becomes impeded; species on wet heath include purple moor grass and cross leaved heath. Ponds also exist in this landscape and can often support important and rich wetland marginal flora. Ponds can be an important resource to dragonfly fauna.

Two BOAs exist within this landscape character type:

- The Hamble Catchment BOA identifies opportunities for wet woodland, lowland meadow, lowland mixed deciduous woodland and purple moor grass and rush pasture habitat creation and enhancement.
- Tytherley Woods BOA identifies opportunities for lowland mixed deciduous woodland, wet woodland and lowland meadow habitat creation and enhancement.

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

ARCHAEOLOGY

There is generally light evidence of exploitation during the Mesolithic, but with more significant distributions east of Alton where this zone is adjacent to the heath, and in the Forest of Bere. The pattern is similar for the Neolithic. In the Bronze Age, there is little evidence and no suggestion that this is a farmed or settled landscape, and there are few Bronze Age burial mounds. Similarly, in Iron Age there is little evidence of settlement, although there is some on the fringes of the Calleva area. In the Roman period there are some Villa sites in these areas

suggesting that exploitation, such as for woodland, hunting and quasi industrial activity such as pottery or tile production (and this type's associations with heavy clays) made them less marginal. There is a close correlation between lowland mosaic landscapes and pottery/tile production which may well reflect the availability of clay and fuel. In the medieval period assart landscapes, moats and deer parks, speak eloquently of the release of forest land to farming at this late stage in the evolution of the landscape.

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

This is a landscape that has been less intensively used and has evolved from woodland and common. There is a strong association with royal forests, often where disafforestation has been relatively late or they are in core areas of former Forest and very marginal for farming. The incremental release of woodland has resulted in a landscape with a higher proportion of assart and informal enclosure patterns. There are some areas of more formal enclosure where late enclosure of open common has occurred (e.g. 2f). Also as a consequence of this less intensive landscape use there is a relative abundance of historic parks and gardens, some deriving from deer parks associated with the forest origins of the landscape type. The landscape has generally been subject to more piecemeal enclosure and less intensive exploitation than other landscape types. There are often areas of former common land associated with this landscape type

HISTORIC BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Settlement types by form: Few medium to large settlements. Very high dispersion density in North Hampshire and South of New Forest but extremely low dispersion density in South Hampshire (Mid 19th - C Roberts and Wrathmell mapping). No Market towns, correlation with instance of Common Edge type but not as prevalent as within Lowland Mosaic Heath Associated. Some association with Irregular Row type in the north associated with streams. Moderate density of farmsteads compared with other Lowland Mosaic LCTs but still greater than downland landscapes. Most prevalent type 19th century. Significant numbers of medieval origin farms.

Building materials and type; Very varied and inconsistent styles. Predominantly red brick and clay tiles (flintwork not typical). New build interspersed with old along road network.

VISIBILITY

Prominency: Low lying with high proportion of woodland cover makes this LCT of low visibility from within the type. However being lower than much of the surrounding land, the adjoining fringes are often very visible from external vantage points.

Enclosure: Views and horizon distances shortened by presence of woodland and thick hedgerows.

Public perceptions: Often situated in close proximity to large settlements, and often closest countryside where it is possible to feel visually detached from built up areas – particularly where this LCT occurs north of the Solent and south of the Blackwater conurbations.

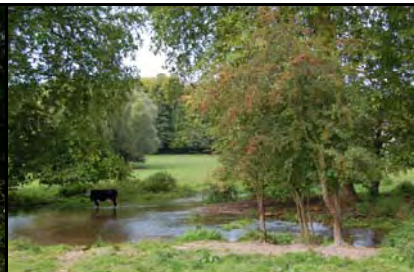
3B: TEST VALLEY



The Test in its downs setting at Houghton Lodge – with a wide valley floor and several natural and man made braided stream sections – numerous private fishing sites.



Valley side above Nether Wallop



Braided river course near Leckford. And wide chalk valley floor.



Reed beds at Totton – © Jim Champion



Romsey in its varied Lowland mosaic landscape setting from the A27 to the west.

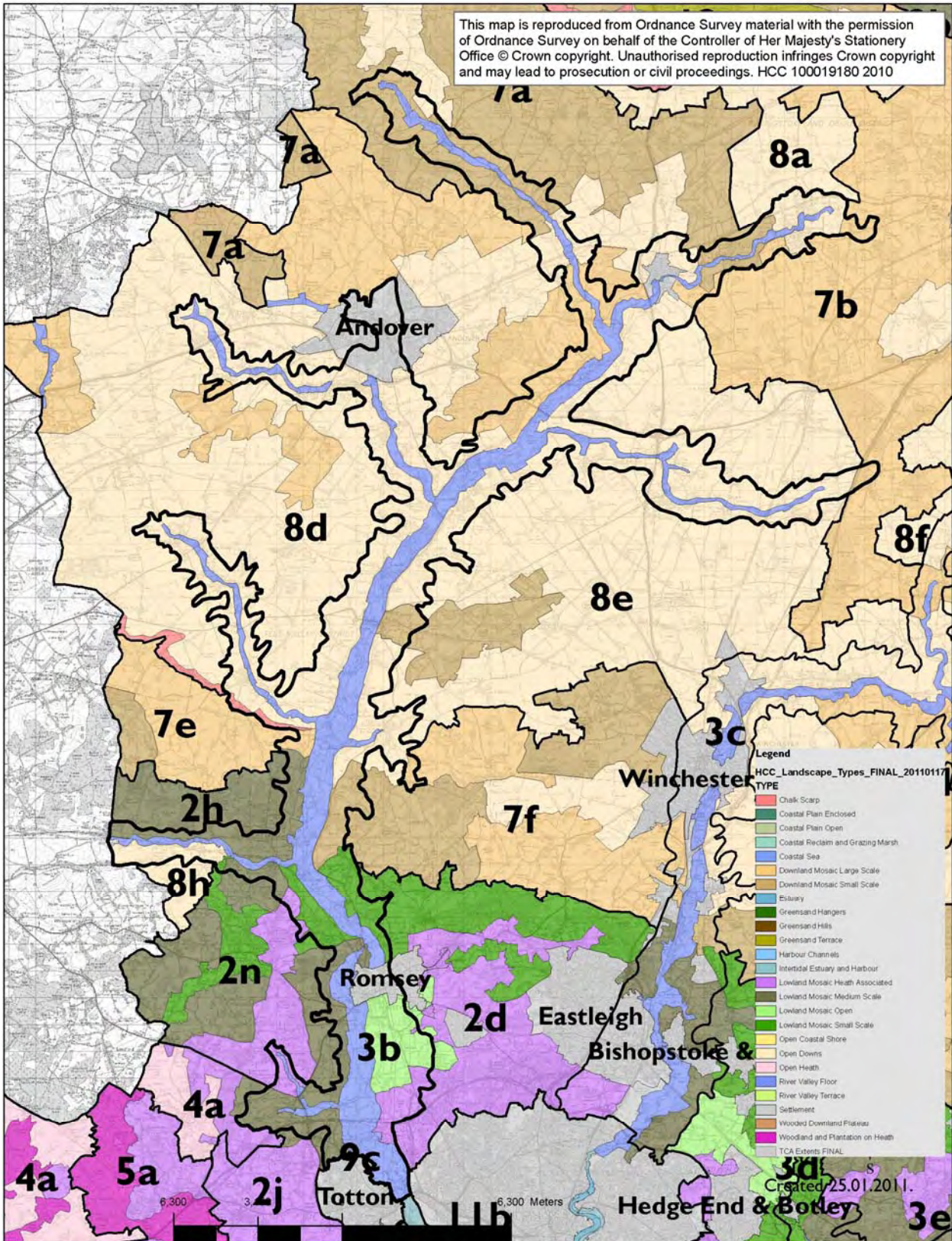


Thatched cob walling restoration at Longparish

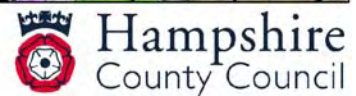


Stockbridge along with Romsey Andover, Overton and Whitchurch were established as local market towns.

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TEST VALLEY



I.0 Location and Boundaries

I.1 This character area comprises the Test Valley which stretches from Overton in the northeast to Totton/Southampton Water in the south and includes the tributary valleys of the Bourne Rivulet, Pillhill Brook, Wallop Brook and Rivers Dever, Anton, Kings Somborne, Dun and Blackwater. The character area boundaries include the



valley floor meadows and valley sides which form the visual context of the valley and therefore include the surrounding margins of downland and lowland which form the upper valley sides. This approach to defining the edge of the visual valley landscape unit results in a significant difference between this character area boundary and the boundaries of character areas defined in the local districts. As a result this character area crosses into a significant number of other district character areas only in part.

I.2 Component County Landscape Types

River Valley Floor, Open Downs, Downland Mosaic Large Scale, Downland Mosaic Small Scale, Lowland Mosaic Open, Lowland Mosaic Medium Scale, Lowland Mosaic Small Scale, Lowland Mosaic Heath Associated.

I.3 Composition of Borough/District LCAs:

Test Valley District

Upper Test Valley Floor	River Dever Valley Floor
Upper River Anton Valley Floor	Lower River Anton Valley Floor
Pillhill Brook Valley Floor	Middle Test Valley Floor
Kings Somborne River Valley Floor	Wallop Brook Valley Floor
Dun River Valley Floor	Lower Test Floodplain
Harewood Forest Wooded Downs (in part)	
Drayton Chalk Downland (in part)	
Leckford and Chilbolton Downs (in part)	
Andover Chalk Downland (in part)	
Thruxton and Danebury Chalk Downland (in part)	
Ampport Wooded Downs (in part)	
Little Somborne Wooded Downs (in part)	
Kings Somborne Chalk Downland (in part)	
Broughton Downs (in part)	
Tytherley and Mottisfont Wooded Farmland (in part)	
Compton with Parnholt and Michelmersh Woods (in part)	
Michelmersh to Ampfield Wooded Farmland (in part)	
Melchet and Awebriage Wooded Farmland (in part)	
Baddesley Mixed Farm and Woodland (in part)	

Basingstoke and Dean District

Test and Bourne Valley

Great Litchfield Down and Willesley Warren (in part)

Litchfield Down (in part)

Wyke Down (in part)

South Test Down (in part)

New Forest District

Copythorne Forest Farmlands (in part)

West Wellow Heaths and

Commons (in part)

Waterside Parishes (in part)

North Wessex Downs (AONB)

Bourne Valley

Chute Forest – Faccombe (in part)

Litchfield Downs (in part)

1.4 Associations with NCAs and Natural Areas:

NCA 130: Hampshire Downs, JCA 132: Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs, JCA 128: South Hampshire Lowland and JCA 131: New Forest

NA 78: Hampshire Downs, NA 80: South Wessex Downs, NA 75: South Coast Plain and Hampshire Lowlands, NA 77: New Forest

1.5 Townscape Assessment Areas

Andover, Romsey

2.0 Key Characteristics

- Chalk geology in the north changing to lower lying Tertiary Clays/Plateau Gravels in the south.
- Steep abrupt valley sides becoming gentler further south, long tributaries extending deep into the chalk hinterland.
- Clear alkaline nutrient rich spring water supporting a rich biodiversity and nationally designated riverine, wetland, grassland, and woodland habitats.
- Generally meandering and braided river course bordered by luxuriant riverine vegetation, reedbeds, marshes and former water meadows.
- Unimproved grazed floodplain meadows, arable production on valley terraces, pasture and arable on valley sides.
- Floodplains with no obvious field pattern and overlapping vegetation comprising individual trees, remnant hedgerows and small carr woodlands.
- Valley sides have a range of different enclosure patterns and scales with fields defined by hedgerow and hedgerow trees.
- Generally unspoilt, remote and tranquil except for urban influences and noise intrusion close to major towns and roads.
- Generally winding roads and lanes following the edge of the valley floor.
- Intact historic village morphology little altered by 20th C development and significant concentration of use of cob as a building material.
- Small settlements in main valley and tributaries and very lightly populated chalk surroundings contrast in the south with the urban setting beyond the valley edge of Totton and Southampton.
- Views limited to valley floor but good views across and along the valley from open parts of the valley sides

3.0 Physical Characteristics and Land Use

- 3.1 The Test Valley passes through chalk in its upper reaches and then, south of Bossington, through Tertiary Clays and Plateau Gravels. Geologically the northern section is comprised mainly of Upper Chalk with rounded shoulders of downland forming the tops of the valley sides at approximately 100m AOD and increasing to 150m AOD in the headwater valleys. In these tributary valleys the sides may be steep and abrupt and the valley floor relatively narrow, e.g. Stoke on the Bourne Rivulet. In the Hampshire Lowlands the valley passes through the chalk scarp between Bossington and King's Somborne before reaching the rapid change in the geology from chalk to clays. Beyond this the valley tops vary with the underlying geology from approximately 50m to 30m AOD, giving rise to a more gently defined valley profile and much wider valley floor. The valley floor comprises calcareous alluvium overlying the river terrace gravels which is stone free and fertile but seasonally waterlogged. The valley sides are steep with shallow flinty soils on the chalk and heavier clayey soils in the south which are of lesser quality. South of Romsey there is a discrete area of better quality agricultural land.
- 3.2 The river valley floor is dominated by permanent pasture and semi or unimproved grassland – often with visible remains of watermeadow features such as field undulations, carriers and areas of reedbeds, marshlands and wetland habitats. Floodplains are loosely structured with no obvious field pattern and overlapping vegetation comprising individual trees, remnant hedgerows and small carr woodlands. Typical waterside tree species include willow, poplar and alder. Watercress beds, particularly between Whitchurch and Longparish and at Abbots Ann (now abandoned), are a feature of the northern downland section. In places such as around Andover and Romsey the valley floor has become significantly influenced by urban development and the use of land for recreation and playing fields is common. Outside these urban areas and south in the Hampshire Lowlands, the extraction of gravels and sand has resulted in the creation of open lakes. Throughout the course of the valley there are areas of parkland landscape and occasional remnant commons on the valley floor.
- 3.3 On the valley sides in the upper reaches of downland the field sizes are mixed but appear medium to large scaled, regular in form and relatively open. They support arable land use with remnant patches of downland on steeper slopes. Field boundaries are defined by hedgerows some of which are thin and gappy. Further south field enclosures become smaller scale, irregular and defined by thicker hedges and trees supporting a mixture of arable and pastoral land uses. Orchards are also evident around Leckford. Nearer the major conurbations of Andover and Romsey land use also includes golf courses and sewage works.
- 3.4 The area falls within the Environment Agency Upper and Lower Test and catchment areas. The main river is of course the Test but this character area also includes its main tributaries namely the Bourne Rivulet, Pillhill Brook, Wallop Brook and Rivers Dever, Anton, Kings Somborne, Dun and Blackwater. The River Test flows north-south and its tributaries tend to join it from the northeast and northwest. Throughout the valley floor there are numerous waterbodies including millponds, reservoirs and gravel extraction lakes (e.g. Meadow Lake and Testwood Lake south

of Romsey). The river channel meanders along the valley floor creating braded channels and remnant silted water channels. There are winterbornes at the heads of the valley tributaries such as at Kimpton and Fyfield and most notably associated with the River Swift tributary of the Test. Characteristic of the valley are built structures which are closely associated with the watercourses namely mill buildings and weirs, bridges and fords, as well as watercress beds and fish farms (north of Andover).

4.0 Experiential/Perceptual Characteristics

4.1 The topography of the valley sides and well treed character of much of the valley combine to create an inward looking and often intimate character with limited views. However in areas of more open valley side there are opportunities to gain views both across and down the valley over a longer distance giving rise to a greater sense of the scale and appreciation of the length of this valley landscape.

4.2 This landscape is moderately accessible via the network of public footpaths and bridleways as well as the rural lane network – but there are few circular walk opportunities. It is popular for recreation and nationally renowned for fly fishing and areas of open access on former common (e.g. Bransbury Common, Chilbolton Cow Common and Common Marsh). The Test Way long distant route broadly follows the Test from Middleton in the north to Totton in the south. However, along some stretches of the river, access is very limited, most notably at Laverstoke and Longparish and between Forton and Wherwell, where there are very few public footpaths to or along the riverbank. Access along the river, (e.g. by canoe) is not permitted. This landscape is also crossed by the Clarendon Way from Broughton in the west to King’s Somborne in the east.

4.3 Despite the settled character of the valley it is a landscape that remains remarkably unspoilt, remote and tranquil except for urban influences and noise intrusion close to major towns and roads. There is some night blight felt around Andover, Romsey and Totton and to a lesser extent around Whitchurch.

5.0 Biodiversity Character

5.1 This river valley landscape character area contains the River Test and tributaries. The area is ecologically valuable and contains the internationally designated Mottisfont Bats SAC site which supports an important population of the rare barbastelle. It is one of only six known maternity sites in the UK (2002 data) and the only one in Hampshire. Mottisfont is also designated a SSSI containing a mix of woodland types including hazel coppice with standards, broadleaved plantation and coniferous plantation which the bats use for breeding, roosting, commuting and feeding. Very small sections of the Southampton and Solent Waters RAMSAR and SPA sites also exist here, associated with the brackish change from marine to freshwater river at the lower reaches of the Test. This area is also designated as the Lower Test Valley SSSI comprising the upper estuary of the River Test and exhibits a gradation from salt through brackish to freshwater conditions. It consists of one of the most extensive reed beds on the south coast with flanking unimproved meadowland intersected by numerous tidal creeks which are flooded on high water spring tides.

- 5.2 Other SSSI designations in this LCA encompass a range of habitat types. They include *Bere Mill Meadows SSSI* (comprising a group of damp, unimproved herb-rich neutral grasslands on the flood plain of the upper Test valley); *Bransbury Common SSSI* (comprising both common and meadow habitat embracing a remarkable range of grassland and grass/sedge communities, probably unparalleled in southern England); *Chilbolton Common SSSI* (comprising the ancient common of Chilbolton together with surrounding fen, sallow carr and an unimproved marshy meadow); *East Aston Common SSSI* (comprising extensive tall sedge-rich fen communities and riparian habitats associated with the classic southern chalk stream. It also embraces areas of herb-rich alluvial meadows, including East Aston Common); *The River Test SSSI* (comprising a classic chalk stream which is one of the most species-rich lowland rivers in England supporting a high diversity of invertebrate species, and is especially rich in aquatic mollusks); *Stockbridge Common Marsh SSSI* (comprising a mosaic of wetland habitats along the floodplain of the River Test supporting breeding and wintering wildfowl as well as a number of rare invertebrate species); *Stocksbridge Fen SSSI* (comprising six shallow, former peat workings (shown on the 1st edn. OS map, 1871), which support an exceptionally diverse rich-fen flora).
- 5.3 Beyond the designations the pattern of habitat includes agricultural grasslands and woodland within arable land at the peripheries of the area, giving way to unimproved grasslands and aquatic associated habitats adjacent to the chalk watercourses. Adjacent to waterways, grassland tends to be unimproved or semi-improved. Neutral grassland dominates, while occasional patches of unimproved and semi-improved calcareous grasslands along the waterways provide habitat variation and often exist close to neutral grassland. Along with the less intensively managed grasslands adjacent to the waterways, there are a variety of wetland habitats, including ponds of varying size, patches of base rich fen, tall marginal vegetation (such as reeds) and marshy grasslands. There are large patches of base rich fen at Bransbury Common, with associated unimproved calcareous and neutral grasslands. Aquatic and wetland habitats vary in distribution and size, many represent fen meadows, rush or flood pastures, and swamp communities. There are woodland patches throughout the landscape, ancient and semi-natural woodland is concentrated in the south of the area, particularly associated with Mottisfont and Romsey. Harewood Forest extends into this landscape character area and although the ancient and semi-natural woodland resource is not as high within the area as outside, it still represents a significant habitat resource: woodland has existed there from at least the 13th century and it is one of the richest woods in the country for invertebrate populations. Woodland varies in type, with orchards, parkland/ wood pastures and broadleaved plantations represented. There are some small patches of active coppice with standards. Broadleaved woodland often fringes watercourses and here represents wet woodland, often associated with alder carr.
- 5.4 The landscape character area is covered by a number of BOAs. The Test Valley BOA has most significant coverage of them all and supports a complex system of chalk streams (many SSSIs) with several major tributaries. In the northwest, the Harewood Forest BOA continues into this area and covering 670 hectares of ancient semi-natural woodland with extensive areas of oak coppice which are now derelict. The Vernham's Dean to Hurstbourne Tarant BOA in the north of the area, lies within the North Wessex AONB and consists of a chalk downland landscape. Longparish Arable Plants Area BOA has been identified by Plantlife as an important

area for arable plants of European importance. There are also very small sections of the Bere Ashley BOA and the Broughton Downs BOA in the southern section of this area. The range and type of BOA that protrude and exist within this character area illustrate the diverse nature of the area.

- 5.5 There are over 100 SINC's within this landscape character area covering a diverse range of habitats. Many are designated either for the ancient and semi-natural woodlands which exist there or for the unimproved grasslands which they support.

6.0 Historic Character

6.1 Archaeology

- 6.1.1 This is an area defined by the river valley and its tributaries. The character and resources are reflected in the archaeology found, but the utilisation of the valley through time also reflects the nature of the exploitation of the adjacent landscapes.

- 6.1.2 The valley floor floodplain is rich and fertile, but susceptible to flooding. The area was exploited from earliest times, but settlement and occupation would have been unlikely. Adjacent and higher than the floodplain is the terrace, which is less susceptible to flooding except and was a focus of occupation and route ways.

- 6.1.3 The lower Test 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.

- 6.1.4 Mesolithic evidence is most notable on the flanks of the valley as it passes through the lowland belt at its southern end. Evidence here might reflect the wider lowland distribution more than the valley distribution and it is possible that such evidence awaits discovery, perhaps buried beneath floodplain alluvium as at Romsey.

- 6.1.5 For the greater part of its length the Test Valley runs through open downland which has strong evidence of settled and farmed exploitation during the Neolithic, and it is reasonable to assume that this intensive exploitation applied to the valley and tributaries. To the south, where the valley runs through the lowland belt, the evidence is of a less settled yet perhaps extensively exploited landscape. However, Neolithic sites have been found in the valley to the north of Romsey, and it is possible that this is suggestive of Neolithic occupation pattern extending south preferentially in the valley. This is reflected in the absence of long barrows in this lowland zone.

- 6.1.6 A similar extension of settlement southwards from the chalk along the valley where it is not equally reflected in the adjoining lowland flanks can be hypothesised for the subsequent periods. In the Bronze Age there is ample evidence of occupation and exploitation in the downland around the valley, which is more intensive than the evidence either side as it passes through the lowland belt. However, in the valley there are a number of settlement sites, and at Testwood Lakes there is even the suggestion of a settlement using a jetty to unload river borne goods. The presence of burial mounds and artefacts in the Bronze Age in the lowland section suggests that it was exploited, but less intensively, and it seems reasonable to assume that this exploitation took place from communities on the downland and within the valleys that cross the lowland belt.

- 6.1.7 In the Iron Age the downland remained intensively exploited, and evidence of settlement extends down the valley further than it does in the surrounding lowland belt. However, whilst settlement confined itself to the valley in the lowland belt, there is a distribution of Hillforts across the lowland zone and into the New Forest which is very similar to that across the downland. This suggests that these hill forts were controlling a landscape exploitation as extensive as the downlands, but not reflected by settlement patterns, for example this may have been exploitation by grazing from surrounding landscapes, such as downland, valley and coastal plain communities.
- 6.1.8 In the Roman period a notable addition to the prevailing pattern was the probability that the more extensive exploitation of the downland is marginally extended into the lowland belt, and this may be associated with Roman villas. Perhaps this reflected an extension of exploitation in areas not previously exploited by newly created estates. At Nursling at the highest available point of the river a Roman site of appreciable size was discovered during digging for ballast in the last century, and whilst details are not available, it might suggest a transshipment point for goods up the valley.
- 6.1.9 There are Saxon cemeteries across the downland, but by the late Saxon period and the medieval period, the settlement was nucleating in the river valley. To the north and in the lowland belt to the south, these settlements are flanked by more dispersed settlement, deer parks, fish ponds and moats. It would appear that these less exploited areas (wooded, forest and heath) evolved in the late medieval and post medieval periods. This tends to support the assumptions made from the evidence from earlier periods.

6.2 **Historic Landscape**

- 6.2.1 As indicated above the differences in the valley floor and terraces have influenced the present day historic landscape patterns.
- 6.2.2 On the valley floor and low terraces the most prominent feature throughout this landscape is the numerous surviving systems of post-medieval water meadows interspersed by stands of valley floor woodland, rough grazing and what are termed 'miscellaneous valley floor enclosure'. The water meadows (reputedly developed by Rowland Vaughn in the later 16th century) were a system whereby the growing season could be extended and two crops of grass could be grown instead of one. The water meadows fall into two distinct categories – bedwork and catchwork systems. The bedwork systems are generally found in wide open valley floors where extensive blocks of water meadow could be constructed and supplied by a complex series of sluices, leats and drains. The catchwork system tended to occupy narrower valley floor and sides, were fed often by a single leat and relied on gravity to move the water to the fields. This pattern of bedworks on the River Test and catchworks on the tributaries is characteristic. The construction of these water meadows destroyed much of the open common and valley floor enclosures which had previously occupied the river valley. In some places they do survive as at Bransbury Common (ancient common now comprising wet woodland, pasture), Chilbolton Cow Common (former common now wooded), Common Marsh and Stockbridge Common.

- 6.2.3 During the mid 19th century the widespread agricultural depression, poor weather conditions, increased mechanisation and the development of affordable fertilisers led to the decline in these traditional watermeadow systems. Following abandonment large areas returned to more marginal agriculture including wet pastures/grazing, areas of scrub and woodland and more recently arable use and paddocks.
- 6.2.4 Much of the present day valley side character reflects an episode of formal enclosure in the post medieval period thought largely to be extensive enclosure of downland in the late 18th century and early 19th century. The relatively late enclosure pattern on the valley sides reflects population growth, urbanisation and high grain prices associated with the wars. It is possible to see some older systems, such as around Timsbury where traces of the open field systems are apparent, but it is also interesting to note that many of the 'structural' elements of landscape division (such as ladder arms and drove routes), which in some landscapes survive to provide a structure within which the formal lies, have been formalised as well. Their general scale, alignment and arrangement reflect the former system, but their character is decidedly reflecting the formal enclosure process. An example of this is where the Drove road to the downs from Broughton has retained its sinuous character as a downland drove, but the drove from Houghton (Steven's Drove) has a very formal character. Inevitably original sheep walk routes succumbed as more and more of the open downland grazing were converted to crop production.
- 6.2.5 This pattern of large/medium scaled regular fields on the valley sides alters where the geology changes south of Bossington. On the clays or 'lowland belt' to the south, the landscape historically supported a different economy. Earlier field systems established from piecemeal clearance of woodland and use of land for agriculture. At Mottisfont and Michelmersh a band of woodland pinches the river valley and the field system reflects woodland clearance with a notably smaller scale enclosure pattern and higher concentration of woodland. Again a more recent pattern of formal enclosure can be seen in places along the valley sides and this reflects the formal enclosure of commons and heaths.
- 6.2.6 Throughout the Test valley there are numerous parkland landscapes of mixed date with many having been influenced by a demand for the enjoyment of country sports. Some originated as deerparks e.g. Laverstoke Park, Paultons Park and Hurstbourne Park. Other pre 1810 parklands are often associated with a manor e.g. Bossington and Stanbridge Earls, or have ecclesiastical origins e.g. Mottisfont Abbey and Wherwell Priory. During the 18th century some parks were developed or redesigned in the English Landscape style – 'Capability' Brown was involved in the design of Broadlands and Paultons Park. In the 20th century formal gardens were laid out at Marsh Court by Gertrude Jekyll and Sir Edwin Lutyens.
- 6.2.7 Although the Test Valley comprises a rich and diverse assemblage of relic landscape patterns and features it is perhaps where these features come together to articulate an earlier land management system that they have greatest value and make a particular contribution to the character of the valley. An example is the landscape focused on Wherwell and Chilbolton. Here the combination of meadow edge settlements, former priory and associated remnant area of common combined with

relics of former watermeadow systems is a testament to the growth and development of the Test landscape.

- 6.2.8 Near Forton there is a 20th century defence site and south of Chilbolton a radio and space field stations both illustrating the continued strategic importance of the Test Valley in terms of defence in recent history.

6.3 **Built Environment**

- 6.3.1 The communication network within the river valleys tends to align with the main water channel and only cross infrequently at fording or bridging points. A series of main roads extend along the valley floor of the River Test with short spur roads extending at right angles to these main routes providing access between settlements and farmsteads and up onto the surrounding valley sides and wider landscape. The Test valley is also home to a number of now disused communications routes including the disused railway line which extended into the Anton Valley connecting to Andover. Another spur of disused railway enters the Test Valley north of Longparish connecting Whitchurch with Sutton Scotney and Winchester. Today the only section of railway which remains active lies in the southern half of the Test valley, running through the River Dun tributary south to Romsey and Totton. The M27 runs on an embankment just north of Testwood lakes giving commanding views of the valley floor with north south land and track access having been retained.

- 6.3.2 This character area is particularly rich in terms of historic buildings many of which are listed and contained within the settlement conservation areas. Settlement is dominated by a pattern of linear villages and hamlets (their form dictated by steep topography and communication routes). Many retain their small scale character and are covered by conservation area status, while others, since the 18th century, have expanded along their approach roads to become more elongated in form or have resulted in a number of settlements becoming amalgamated or development extending up onto the higher valley slopes and downland. Settlements generally originated just on the valley floor edge as the focus of a network of valley floor and side roads, although some, in the upper reaches of tributary valleys, form hill top settlements above the valley and in the lower reaches are located further away from the valley meadowlands. Within the valley, smaller settlements tend to occupy a single riverbank while large settlements may span river channels to occupy both banks. Such settlements can often retain one or more red brick bridges which are 18th or 19th century in date and may be located on the site of earlier and possibly medieval precursors. River valley settlements often retain a historic core of 16th and 17th century date and possibly buildings of an earlier date including early medieval churches and manorial complexes. In places where villages have expanded along the valley they may incorporate historic farm buildings – this is a distinctive feature of this area.

- 6.3.3 Traditional building materials include timber framed buildings, brick, flint and cob with thatch, clay tile or slate roofs. Tiled copings are a particular feature of the Wallop settlements along the Wallop Brook valley while in the southern reaches of the Test Valley and River Dun tributary white rendered buildings and clay tile hanging becomes more prevalent and stone detailing is evident on some buildings in Stockbridge (reflecting periods of prosperity in relation to river trade).

- 6.3.4 Of the larger settlements that flank the Test valley and its tributaries, Andover, grew substantially during the 1800's and 1900's. Although the valley floor remains largely devoid of development the valley sides are now substantially built up. The growth of Andover has also affected adjacent villages which have also seen substantial development e.g. those in the Pillhill Brook Valley. A similar pattern of development is also evident at Romsey and surrounding villages.
- 6.3.5 Farmsteads in the upper reaches of the Test tributary valleys occur in the villages, mostly alongside roadways and as a result are visually prominent. In some places there are also farmsteads located amongst the 18th and 19th century enclosures on the valley sides which moved there once formal enclosure had occurred. Further south towards Romsey there are fewer farmsteads and their distribution is more dispersed. Most farmsteads are courtyard plan, unconnected buildings ranged around 2 or 3 sides of the yard. Smaller farms are based on an L shaped plan with barns, stables, cart shed and free standing timber framed weather boarded granaries. Barn roofs are usually fully or half-hipped with a higher proportion retaining their thatched covering than in other parts of the County. The high concentration of barns particularly in the chalk area of the Test Valley is an indication of the importance of the corn economy. Many small farm buildings and boundary and farmyard walls are constructed of cob – a distinctive feature of the area, the walls often with thatched or tile cappings. Brick or brick and flint boundary walls to farmsteads are also commonly found. Some farmsteads were completely rebuilt in the 19th century and now incorporate 'modern' farm buildings fit for modern farming practices.
- 6.3.6 Watermills are particularly characteristic of this landscape.

EVALUATION

7.0 Forces for Change

1. Changing land and water management practices, often associated with intensification of farming methods
2. Urban and infrastructure expansion, particularly associated with larger settlements such as Romsey and Andover, with possible smaller residential developments at Whitchurch and Overton. A major employment site is also planned at Whitchurch.
3. Demand for access and recreation, due to proximity to population
4. Past and future extraction of sand and gravel (Safeguarded areas along the course of the river and safeguarded sites in the south)
5. Climate change, particularly affects on river and groundwater levels
6. Loss of tranquillity due to infrastructure and development

KEY QUALITIES AND EFFECTS OF FORCES

7.1
Clear chalk streams flow along braided channels through an ecologically-rich and varied floodplain with a tranquil, intimate and traditional character containing watermeadows, reedbeds, marshes, riparian trees, carr woodlands, and playing fields. In the upper parts of the tributaries there are seasonal winterbornes such as the Bourne and Swift valleys.

FORCES FOR CHANGE:	CONSEQUENCES
1.2.3.4.5.6	<p>Threats: Climate change, potentially leading to variations in spring patterns, quality and quantity of water, e.g. potential for over abstraction reducing Spring height depth. Potential loss of unique floodplain features and changing land use from pastoral to arable, leading to a risk of homogeneity between valley floor and sides. Trend towards increase in numbers of horse paddocks, often associated with rank grassland and ranch-style fencing, which alters the pattern and appearance of the landscape. Past loss of traditional water meadows around towns due to pressure from urban land uses such as playing fields, sewage works and golf courses, affecting the character of the area. Sand and Gravel extraction in the southern part of the character area potentially introduces industrial scale operations into this intimate landscape. Continuing localised visual intrusion and noise from built development and trunk roads within the river corridor, leading to a loss in tranquillity. Increased demand for recreational access to river banks can conflict with other land uses. Seasonal flooding from winterbornes.</p> <p>Opportunities: Retain and enhance the contrast between landscape patterns in the valley floor and sides. Target agri-environment and other schemes to manage the valley floor to maintain the landscape pattern of watermeadows, grazing marsh and wet woodland. Also seek opportunities for wetland creation and ditch reinstatement (possibly as park of flood reduction measures) to retain the landscape pattern of the area. Manage growth in horse-related activities to prevent deterioration of landscape features. Resist change in land use from pastoral to arable or recreation uses, unless they can be absorbed into the landscape through sensitive design and planting schemes. Use minerals planning policy and conditions to ensure that any future minerals working has minimal impact on the appearance of the landscape. Where possible, improve the visual and acoustic containment of main roads, particularly where they run through the valley floor. Encourage sensitive access to the river and river banks in line with CAP actions. Protection of the headwaters which retreat underground in dry summer months.</p>

7.2
Valley side slopes often have long, open views, and contain arable and pastoral fields divided by hedgerows, with pockets of ancient semi-natural woodland and occasional grassland and heathland.

FORCES FOR CHANGE:	CONSEQUENCES
1.2.3.5	<p>Threats: Potential loss of local diversity of land use and landscape features. Continued loss of hedgerows in arable areas (especially on chalk), leading to a loss of landscape features and structure, and biodiversity. Past (and potential future) loss of remnant grassland, heathland and common land due to scrub encroachment or conversion to arable land use. Potential loss of long views, either through vegetation growth or intrusive development.</p> <p>Opportunities Protection of significant vistas and protection/enhancement to valued landscape features. Restoration of traditional orchards (for example around Leckford) for example through targeting of agri-environment schemes. Target agri-environment and woodland grant schemes to encourage maintenance and enhancement of woodland and hedgerow landscape structure (where these features have been degraded or lost), and promote good woodland management in accordance with BOA objectives. Encourage retention/ replanting of linear beech plantations where they are a feature of the lower valley sides (for example the Bourne valley). Encourage public access to the countryside through CAP actions. Management of remnant areas of unimproved chalk downland, heathland and commons to retain the characteristic landscape pattern and texture of the valley sides.</p>

7.3
Rich and rare biodiversity, designated at a National level for its clear, alkaline, nutrient-rich spring water streams, wet woodland, wetlands, grassland and occasional heathland habitats. Mottisfont Woods has an internationally-important bat population.

FORCES FOR CHANGE:	CONSEQUENCES
1.2.3.4.5.6	<p>Threats: Potential loss of water quality due to agricultural run-off into rivers. Past loss of ecologically-rich traditional water meadows around towns due to expansion of urban land uses such as playing fields, sewage works and golf courses. Sand and gravel extraction may potentially lead to a loss of biodiversity. Intensification of agriculture and changes in land management may result in habitat loss. Past loss, fragmentation and inappropriate management of grasslands.</p> <p>Opportunities: Maintain quality and flow of water to retain ecological value and suitability for fly fishing. Manage valley floor to maintain the biodiversity of watermeadows, grazing marsh and wet woodland, in accordance with BOA objectives. Use minerals planning policy and conditions to ensure that existing and future mineral extraction sites are restored to maximise their biological diversity. Use of ELS and HLS schemes to maximise the biodiversity of arable farmland in accordance with BOA objectives (e.g. Longparish Important Arable Plants Area, which falls partly within this landscape character area). Promotion of good woodland management to maximise biodiversity value, in accordance with BOA objectives and CAP actions, particularly with regard to the conservation of the rare bat population at Mottisfont Woods. Conservation, restoration, management of remnant areas unimproved chalk downland. Protection and enhancement of remnant heathland/commons to maximise habitat value.</p>

<p>7.4 Numerous historic features associated with centuries of river and valley exploitation for settlement, transport, agricultural, aesthetic and military purposes, including villages and buildings, disused railway lines, mills, millponds, weirs, bridges, fords, watermeadow irrigation systems, watercress beds, fish farms, drove roads, and parklands.</p>	
FORCES FOR CHANGE:	CONSEQUENCES
1.2.3.4.5.6.	<p>Threats: Potential loss of historic landscape features through disuse and neglect. Incremental loss of character of historic villages due to inappropriate modern development. Potential lack of skills in traditional local building techniques, resulting in loss or compromised appearance of historic features and buildings.</p> <p>Opportunities: Maintain characteristic braided channels, drainage ditches, mill streams and pools, buildings, weirs and leats. Restore and protect historic bridges, and enhance the sense of place of crossing points of rivers through Village Design Statements and Parish Plans. Improve access to and interpretation of historic features, so that the public can visit them and understand what they are seeing, in accordance with CAP actions. Where practical, restore features such as watermeadows and mills to a working state for commercial or educational purposes. Encourage use of traditional building materials, such as cob, thatch, and brick and tile, in accordance with English Heritage and HCC historic building guidance documents. Encourage the protection and/or restoration of park and estate features i.e. trees.</p>
<p>7.5 Diverse range of settlement types, including linear and nucleated villages (often incorporating farm buildings) within the valleys, dispersed farms on higher chalk areas of the valley sides, and urban areas and infrastructure associated with large settlements beyond the boundaries of this character area.</p>	
FORCES FOR CHANGE:	CONSEQUENCES
1.2.3	<p>Threats: Loss of distinctive settlement character due to incremental suburbanisation/insensitive development. Coalescence of settlements, particularly linear villages. Larger scale developments planned around Andover, Romsey, Overton and Whitchurch, potentially affecting the character of this area. Urban fringe areas of lower landscape quality around Andover and Romsey. Potential urbanisation of rural roads and loss of character through signage, kerbing etc. Continued visual intrusions of pylons, main roads and other infrastructure.</p> <p>Opportunities: Use Village Design Statements and other local-level assessments to identify and promote local character in terms of building materials, techniques, and design. Inform planning policy to avoid the amalgamation of linear settlements, through the use of structural planting and strategic gaps. Encourage improved management of the landscape around settlements to increase biodiversity value, enhance urban fringe and integrate modern development. Use planning policies and conditions to ensure larger-scale development is well sited and designed so that it has minimal visual intrusion, and enhances settlement setting. Improvement of access to riverside landscapes and links between town and country, in accordance with CAP actions. Potential use of Rural Roads Initiative to retain the character of rural lanes (particularly in the tributary valleys) whilst meeting Highways standards.</p>

9C: NEW FOREST WATERSIDE



Dibden Bay and West Cliff, with backdrop of Southampton water and skyline of the container port and city.



Small fields with thick hedges and wooded boundaries – West of Hythe



Remnant mature trees with origins from wooded common of Langdown, later emparkment and recent modern housing development



View north from Hythe Pier to Itchen bridge – extensive shoreline development – © Ben Stevenson.



Waterside cranes and high voltage power lines loom over wooded horizons – nr. Marchwood

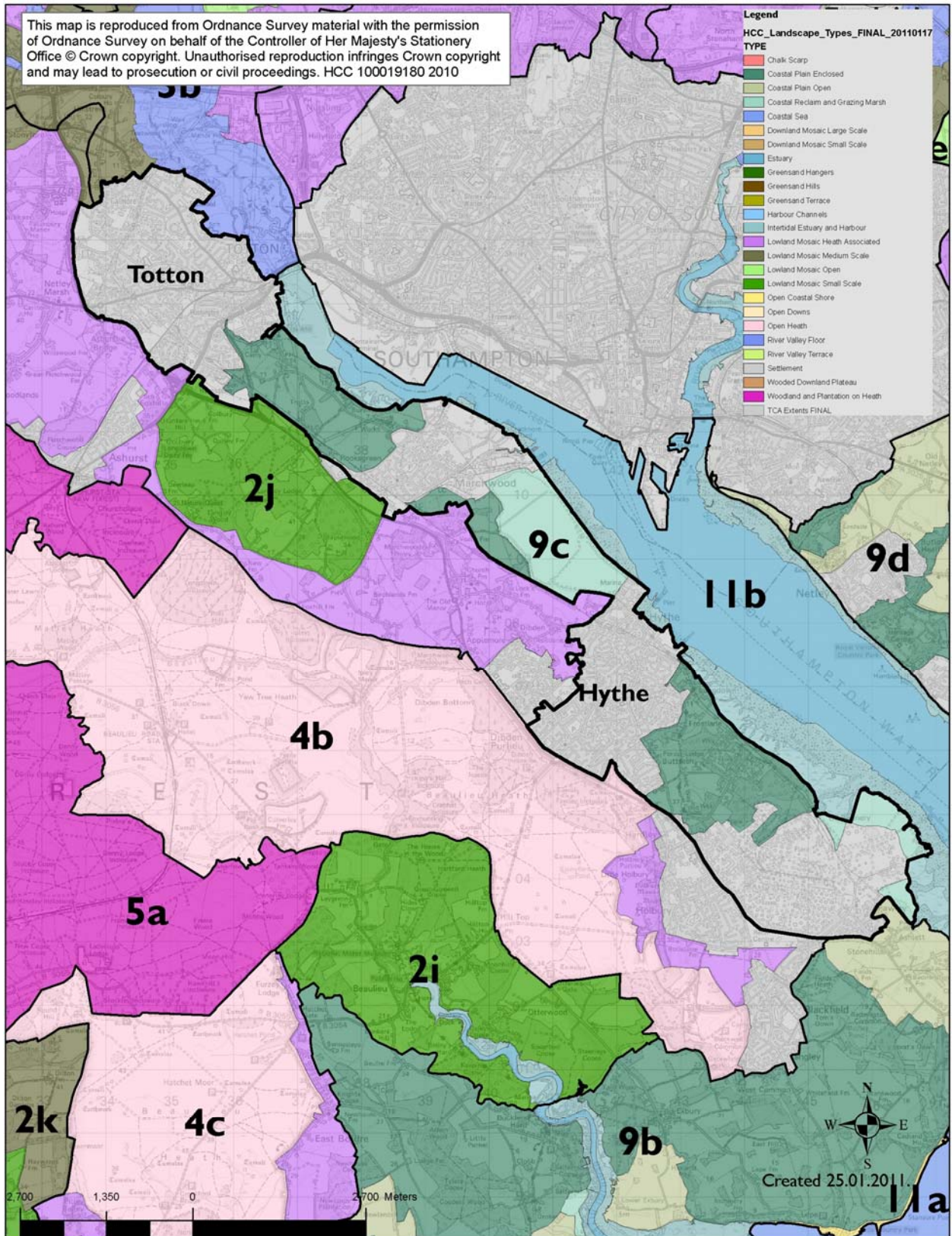


Fawley refinery across Southampton Water – © Trevor Carpenter.



Large scale mid to late 20th C development - Totton overlooking Southampton Water.

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NEW FOREST WATERSIDE



Hampshire
County Council

1.0 Location and Boundaries

1.1 The eastern boundary follows the mean low water mark (spring tides). The area includes Totton, the highly developed and wooded coastal plain, and rising land and terrace at about 30 -40m AOD. However, it excludes the higher, more undulating landscape further inland where Southampton Water is no longer perceived as a coastal estuary. To the



south the character area is defined by the transition to a coastal landscape more visually connected with the Solent than the estuary.

1.2 Component County Landscape Types

Coastline and Shore, Significant sized settlement , Coastal Plain Enclosed

1.3 Composition of Borough/District LCAs:

New Forest DC:

Waterside Parishes (predominantly)
Fawley Refinery Complex

This character area closely follows the NFDC assessment Waterside Parishes boundary.

1.4 Associations with NCA and Natural Areas:

NCA 131: New Forest
NA 77: New Forest

1.5 Townscape assessment areas:

Totton, Hythe

2.0 Key Characteristics

- Marine alluvium soils over gravel coastal plain, rising inland to more sandy soils on river terrace, includes large reclaim areas.
- Originally 19th century small, nucleated coastal settlements which have expanded rapidly and extensively and are now threatened by coalescence.
- Busy local road network with large commercial vehicles servicing industrial facilities.
- In parts dominated by mid to late 20th century suburbs, military ports, pylons and electricity sub stations, oil refinery, sand and gravel extraction, and large scale industrial coastal development, resulting in a predominantly urban fringe landscape.
- Commercial maritime and naval related waterfront industry, particularly in the northern coastal stretch.

- Remnant woodland survives from commons and assart landscapes. It breaks up and reduces the perception of extensive modern development.
- Wooded creeks and tide mills such as Eling.
- Historic parkland retained around Hythe gives a distinct landscape character of mature trees, open spaces and woodland belts.
- Short wooded visual horizons inland, but open coastal edge has views over intertidal muds and saltmarsh and across busy Southampton Water.
- Tall vertical elements such as electricity pylons, oil refinery chimneys and dockside cranes and the towering stack of Fawley Power Station, in the adjoining character area, visible above the tree line.

3.0 Physical Characteristics and Land Use

3.1 The topography is low lying and flat where the Coastal Shore landscape type is defined. The land rises to between 20 and 30m and then levels out for between 1 and 2.5km before rising again at the western boundary of the character area. The Barton Clay formation of the terrace is overlain by estuarine gravel deposits and clay and silt tidal deposits, with peat deposits above on the coastal shore. The terrace is rich in sand and gravel mineral deposits, the largest current extraction site located just north of Marchwood. There is speculation that this deposit was a former shingle beach⁴⁴ well below the current sea level. The soils on the lower areas are predominantly marine alluvium. As the land rises, this coincides with the Barton Clay. In the southern part the Barton Sand Group comes closer to the shore. The soils are agriculturally poor but more productive than adjoining heathier areas. Hence much of the land outside developed areas is wooded in the enclosed coastal plain landscapes. This is in marked contrast to other coastal plain landscapes which border the Solent which have very rich agricultural soils.

3.2 There is extensive remnant pre 1810 woodland and areas strongly enclosed by conifer plantation such as Dibden and Fawley. Built development takes up a large proportion of the character area and includes a mixture of heavy industry (Fawley Oil Refinery and dockside uses), military docks (Marchwood), marinas, large residential estates and small rural estates. The enclosed character of the coastal plain landscape does much to mitigate the visual effects of this developed coast. Fields are typically small varying from under a hectare to 7ha. and irregular in pattern, with thick boundary hedges and woodland. The pattern is broken by development. Permanent pasture is dominant with occasional arable in the north. Saltmarsh and semi improved coastal grazing marsh is dominant in the east, below the gravel terrace.

3.3 Alluvial marine depositional processes have strongly influenced the coastal fringe over an extensive area due to the high tidal range of Southampton Water. Stretches of the coastline have been formalised with sea wall construction for docks, marinas and flood protection. Typically there are small incised stream valleys through woodland which drain into Southampton Water through creeks such as at Eling, Cadland and Dibden Bay.

4.0 Experiential/Perceptual Characteristics

4.1 The industrial skyline of chimney stacks, flares, containers, oil tanks, electricity transmission lines and wharveside cranes associated with the huge scale industrial developments of Fawley and Marchwood are dominant visual features. These vertical

elements loom above dense mature woodland. Seen from the estuary the wooded backdrop to the shoreline development provides a visual buffer to the elevated landscape of the New Forest heaths behind. Views within the character area are frequently truncated and views over Southampton Water are infrequent and tend to be where development abuts the coast such as at Hythe rather from the local road or rights of way network. Views over the water where they do occur such as Hythe pier new promenade are a popular asset and overlook the docks at Southampton.

4.2 Compared with other stretches of the Solent in Hampshire, the coastline in this character area does not have as high a draw to visitors compared with other areas with shingle beaches or heritage attractions. There is a low density rights of way network with very few bridleways – typical of much of the coastal plain - and relatively short unconnected footpaths. There is a shortage of accessible open space for recreation and routine exercise within or close to settlements⁴⁷. However, Test Wood lakes just north of Totton and outside of this character area and Forest Front at Hythe are key local open space assets. The A326, just to the west of the character area is a barrier to areas like Dibden Purlieu open space and there is a perceived lack of safe routes for walkers, cyclists and horseriders⁴⁷.

4.3 The pervasive and extensive nature of the mid to late 20th century residential, and industrial development and the busy adjoining A326 have resulted in a huge change in this area in the past 100 years. Despite these overwhelming detractors of tranquillity there remains substantial woodland cover, which limits the visual extent of development significantly. Views over Southampton water (in the southern half of the character area) have the wooded backdrop of Netley and Royal Victoria Country Park. There is, however, very little opportunity for public access to the southern shoreline to experience this. Areas of woodland close to and within development afford a sense of intimacy and visually contain residential development.

5.0 Biodiversity Character

5.1 A small section of the northern fringe is designated for internationally important habitats including the Solent and Southampton Waters RAMSAR site and SPA. They contain bird feeding grounds and roosting sites, and their protection is thus critical to the function of Southampton Water as a nationally and internationally important intertidal wetland. The occurrence of bird populations reflect the high densities of benthic invertebrates inhabiting the mudflats on which they mainly feed. The benthic and shallow water is species-rich and muds also support extensive areas of green algae on which brent geese and some other wildfowl feed. This area is also designated as The Eling and Bury Marshes SSSI. In addition to these designations the Solent Maritime SAC also extends briefly into the northern edge of this area.

5.2 Other national designations include The Dibden Bay SSSI, formed by the deposition of marine dredgings over a complex of coastal habitats between 1935 and 1980 This in-filled area (often referred to as the Reclaim and covering over 335ha⁴⁶.) was allowed to colonise naturally, and now supports wet and dry grassland, saltmarsh vegetation, saltpans, swamp, reedbed, scrub and open water. The land is poorly drained, and parts flood during the winter to form brackish temporary pools. Westcliff Marsh is a relict area of grazing marsh containing stretches of two streams. Both the in-filled area and Westcliff Marsh are grazed by cattle and ponies. Some of

the grassland patches are ancient grassland, supporting ant mounds. The New Forest SSSI also covers a very small patch in the southern part of the character area.

- 5.3 Beyond the designations, this landscape character area comprises developed areas and more open areas of either agricultural land or coastal associated habitats. Areas of residential development are punctuated by patches of amenity grassland, sports pitches, woodland, scrub and wooded stream corridors. Close to the estuary the wooded character becomes more open, with swamp vegetation giving way to continuous salt marsh and small patches of coastal grazing marsh. Further south is an open agricultural landscape of predominantly arable land and improved grassland. There are patches of parkland, mixed woodland, coniferous plantation and amenity grassland associated with this area. Strips of unimproved grasslands and broadleaved woodland separate this agricultural landscape from the coastal estuary habitats. There is also a significant area of land associated with quarrying.
- 5.4 In the far south the area becomes more open, supporting a large area of coastal grazing marsh. Channels through the marsh support swamp vegetation and there are patches of scattered saltmarsh and scattered scrub. A marina complex is associated with more residential development. This area is punctuated by small interlinked strips and blocks of woodland and patches of amenity grassland. It opens to another agricultural area supporting improved grassland, larger blocks of broadleaved woodland, some unimproved grassland and occasional strips of acid grassland/ dry heath mosaic. There is also a large pond and patches of coastal grazing marsh which extends down to the south along the estuary and into an industrial area which has limited habitat interest. A further significant area of coastal grazing marsh exists adjacent to the estuary and separates the industrial development from the estuary shore.
- 5.5 This landscape character area is partially covered by the New Forest Coast BOA which covers a remarkable diversity of habitats supporting a rich flora and an equally rich and diverse insect fauna, as well as overwintering wild fowl, wading birds and breeding gulls and terns. There are over 35 SINC's in this landscape character area, designating mainly ancient woodland resources. Some SINC's designate unimproved grassland and coastal habitat resources.

6.0 Historic Character

6.1 Archaeology

- 6.1.1 The coast offered a significant resource opportunity, with fish, molluscs, birds and salt, and these will have been exploited since earliest times. Land reclamation and modern development may well account for the limited archaeological evidence. Evidence for Mesolithic activity, when hunter gatherers roamed through the landscape, is particularly rich on the heathland and open forest that over looks the coastal plain. It is not unreasonable to assume that this population was also exploiting the coastal zone.
- 6.1.2 The poor nature of the agricultural land means that it would not have been subject to early arable farming and it is likely that through the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age this area was used for grazing. Historic landscape character suggests that the stock were moved seasonally between the coastal plain grazing and the higher heathland grazing, with evidence of commons, fields and salt marsh connected the higher open heathland by droveways.

6.1.3 There is very little Neolithic evidence, but by the Bronze Age the open heath above the coastal plain is particularly rich in burial mounds. The importance placed on this landscape almost certainly reflects its grazing value, and the absence of recorded settlement sites implies seasonal use rather than a settled landscape. Bronze Age settlement may well emerge on the coastal plain. Iron Age evidence is also weak. The supposition that exploitation continued is supported by Tatchbury hillfort close by. It is possible that the rights of use of this area that were previously asserted through the presence of burial mounds was now controlled through the hillfort. Coastal Iron Age sites such as Exbury, Tournerbury and Hengistsbury indicate that along the coast were ports or entrepôts of trade in the adjoining coastal landscapes to the west. There may well be evidence of Iron Age/ Roman coastal settlement of this nature, particularly to the south of Fawley.

6.2 **Historic Landscape**

6.2.1 The coastline above the mean high water mark is relatively narrow. Historically the area was comprised of extensive saltmarsh, saline lagoons and mudflats. Coastal development, particularly in the latter part of the 20th century has resulted in 'hardening' of sections of the coastline. This is especially prevalent from Hythe northwards, with naval, industry and port related development. For example, the Marchwood Waterside and to a certain extent the Marchwood and Eling Farmlands local character areas⁴⁰ have become a mosaic of storage areas, industrial sites, sewage/waste site, naval barracks and sand and gravel extraction. This has obliterated the historic landscape pattern of small/medium irregular field and small woodland, resulting from early informal enclosure. South of Hythe the coast retains a more natural character apart from the Fawley refinery complex.

6.2.2 The enclosed coastal plain landscapes are squeezed between settlement and industrial development. Late 18th century maps show the areas between Marchwood and Totton and south of Marchwood to have been landscapes of irregular pattern medium-small scale fields with numerous assarts. To the west and the boundary with the adjoining character area there was a greater prevalence of commons which were subject to later enclosure. The southernmost enclosed coastal plain area was dominated by wooded and heathy open common. Langdown common was subject to 19th century enclosure, creation of parks and subsequently post WW2 expansion to become a suburb of Hythe. The ancient wooded landscape of Lyne common further south has been subject to large scale industrial development. Rapid and extensive development pressures reduced land available as back up grazing land outside the New Forest perambulation (i.e. fields used for grazing by commoners when conditions become unsuitable in the New Forest). Areas of common were also reduced by the establishment of conifer plantations in the late 19th to mid 20th century.

6.2.3 Cadland Park (designed by Capability Brown in the 18th century) was the most significant park in this area until it was developed with the construction of the Fawley refinery. The refinery sits in a well wooded landscape designed by Bodfan Gruffydd. There is a concentration of historic parks in Hythe, including several developed in the 18th and 19th centuries, possibly to take advantage of the views across Southampton Water. Although during the 20th century many of the houses were demolished and the sites redeveloped for housing, much of the planting and

other features such as lodges, walls and fences still remain. This gives the area a distinct bosky character with roads enclosed by planting (including a significant proportion of evergreen trees and shrubs) and ancient parkland trees surviving within housing estates.

6.3 **Built Environment**

- 6.3.1 The road network is not particularly dense outside the settlement boundaries. The busy A326 has the typical characteristics of a route through a large area of former common, with long straight sections. There is a tendency for roads to run perpendicular to the shoreline, through areas where enclosure was at least pre 1800. This arrangement would have enabled good access to the adjoining pasture fields. The Totton to Fawley light railway opened in 1925, when the refinery was first developed. The local road network is busy especially where it feeds the A326.
- 6.3.2 The settlement pattern in the mid 19th century was of medium density nucleated villages. These were set in landscapes of small fields resulting from informal enclosures. Most village cores are irregular row in form and include Totton, Rumbridge, Eling, Marchwood, Dibden and Fawley. Hythe has a regular row core reflecting its more densely developed nature and importance as a landing stage between the Saxon manors of Southampton and Fawley. It has a strong medieval street pattern and buildings in remnant burgage plots. Many of the settlements have succumbed to huge post war expansion and struggle to retain separate identities. Dibden and Eling have had relatively little expansion around their village cores, but lie in the shadow of the modern development of Hythe and Totton respectively.
- 6.3.3 The density of farmsteads is low and they tend to be distributed towards the western boundary of the character area. Medieval and 17th century steadings are rare and tend to be located in the northern half of the character area but they are more numerous than those of 18th century origin. These early farmsteads were typically located close to villages. The areas occupied by the modern settlements of Hythe, Totton and Marchwood have frequently occurring 19th century farmsteads. These have mostly become engulfed by 20th century development. Within the character area some historic buildings show the use of 'Beaulieu Brick' a yellow/pale grey brick from the local clay source.
- 6.3.4 Much of the shoreline has experienced large scale industrial development from industrial and naval related activity to commercial ship building and marinas. The site at Fawley oil refinery was first developed in the 1920s and more extensively in the 1960s. Petrochemical companies are found to the north of the site. The development of Fawley changed the essentially medieval shoreline into one of the most important centres for the British oil refinery industry. The British Power Boat Works was developed at Hythe in 1927 which produced racing boats and military craft throughout the 1930s and WW2. The Royal Naval Armourments Depot at Marchwood was constructed in 1812. The Georgian works and magazines are of national importance and include 6m high protective earth blast walls around the buildings. The depot was closed in 1961 and the site has partly been converted to residential use⁴⁵.

EVALUATION

7.0 Forces for Change

1. New development, in particular spread of waterside industry.
2. Potential for further mineral extraction.
3. Pressure from urban fringe use related activities.
4. Recreation pressures.
5. Climate change in particular sea level rise and increase in frequency of storms.

KEY QUALITIES AND EFFECTS OF FORCES

7.1 <i>The waterside settlements expanded from medieval cores and are often leafy in character as they incorporated many of the previous underlying woodland. In particular Hythe and Fawley refinery retain remnant parkland landscape features in their layouts.</i>	
FORCES FOR CHANGE:	CONSEQUENCES
All	Threats: Development pressures which affect remaining parkland features particularly at Hythe and former park at Cadland. Climate change which could adversely affect health of exotic species. Removal of mature trees in residential settings from perceived issues such as root damage, dead or dying trees and shading.
	Opportunities: Encourage this key quality to be included and valued in local level assessments and reflected in any future design briefs, to promote understanding of the positive effect these trees have in these residential areas.
7.2 <i>Biodiversity interest concentrated on the strategic undeveloped coastal fringes, containing species rich meadows, small ancient woodland and grazing marsh which support the high nature conservation value of adjoining coastal habitats as high water roosting and feeding areas for wildfowl.</i>	
FORCES FOR CHANGE:	CONSEQUENCES
1.2.3.5	Threats: Coastal squeeze - long sections of coastline in the north and south have defences where there is limited opportunity to create compensatory intertidal habitat on the landward side – mainly because of development e.g. Fawley, Eling, Hythe, Marchwood and the historic RNAD site and Marchwood military port. Breaching of sea defences and flooding and loss of coastal grazing marsh, species rich meadow and woodland. New development along this coastline further limiting the potential areas of coastal retreat for habitat creation and direct loss of important habitats. Potential loss of back up grazing land for New Forest ponies. Potential mineral extraction
	Opportunities: The location and design of potential coastal retreat areas along this stretch of coastline could be influenced by taking account of the positive key characteristics in this landscape – as well as important habitats, areas of ancient enclosure would preferably be avoided.

<p>7.3 <i>Although developed in parts, the coastline has a predominantly natural edge along Southampton water – which is important to the setting of the New Forest backdrop when viewed from the east.</i></p>	
FORCES FOR CHANGE:	CONSEQUENCES
1.2.3.5	<p>Threats: Expansion of industry along the remaining open coastline stretches. Loss of back up grazing land for New Forest animals, and economic pressures to reduce grazing stock could potentially increase proportion of arable land and produce very visual land management changes. Continued loss of saltmarsh seaward of the character area could make the coastline more susceptible to erosion, particularly along the southern half of the character area.</p> <p>Opportunities: The current balance of grazing and arable could be encouraged through agri-environment criteria. The management and importance the contribution of the existing treed character within Hythe, Marchwood and Eling and adjoining Fawley could be encouraged to be included in local level assessments and parish planning.</p>
<p>7.4 <i>A coastal edge which (between the waterside settlements) is relatively remote and inaccessible, with a mixture of waterside industry and reclaimed land. It is often open in character, contrasting with inland areas containing remnant ancient enclosures, treed hedges, small ancient woodlands, lanes, and footpaths leading to the New Forest.</i></p>	
FORCES FOR CHANGE:	CONSEQUENCES
1.3.4.5	<p>Threats: Mineral safeguarding areas extend over remaining ancient enclosure origin fields. Sea defence work/adaptation may limit or restrict views in a coastline with currently limited access. Estuary side redevelopment schemes which restrict access/are insensitive to the views over the harbour.</p> <p>Opportunities: Historic access from coastal back up land to the Forest could be promoted and made safer and more linked up through transport planning and improvements to countryside access. Modifications to design of sea defences (especially on settlement coastline) could ensure views from the landward side are retained over Southampton Water. Retaining and improving harbour and coastal views could be emphasised as a key factor in design briefs for development, public realm and open space strategies. The effect of improving provision for access to the coast through the Marine and Coastal Access legislation may have a radical effect on its accessibility, and therefore enable experience of the coastal /estuary landscape in this character area.</p>

New Forest District Council, Hampshire
County Council, the Countryside Agency and
English Heritage

New Forest District Landscape Character Assessment: *Main Report*

July 2000



(incorporating the whole of the New Forest Heritage Area)

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Landscape Type	Description	Key Issues
3. Coastal Plain Estates - large informal enclosures	An intensively farmed, but well managed, large scale estate landscape dominated by fields resulting from informal enclosure between late Medieval and 17 th -18 th century and graded size fields resulting from 18 th -19 th century Inclosure Acts. Fields are divided by hedgerows with hedgerow oaks. Blocks of ancient woodland and recent plantations provide a sense of enclosure and small wooded river valleys drain south into the Solent. Brick and tile farmsteads, weatherboarded outbuildings and large country houses with estate cottages and gate houses are traditional built features. Clear views over the Solent to the Isle of Wight.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedgerow fragmentation and loss; • loss of hedgerow oaks which are distinctive features; • degradation of pockets of ancient woodland; • gravel extraction; • pressure for urban development, particularly residential expansion.
4. Urban Areas	Dense urban areas which are not an integral part of the surrounding landscape, as a result of their size or form, have been given a separate category. These tend to be large settlements which are inward looking towards a town centre and which have a large area of residential development around their core which acts as a barrier between the town centre and surrounding landscape. A select number of these will be examined in more detail in the Settlement Analysis section.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decay and dereliction of brownfield sites within urban centres; • pressure for residential development; • recreational use and public access to urban green spaces.
5. Heath Associated Estates	An enclosed wooded estate landscape, often on undulating ground, around the fringe of the forest. This landscape is closely associated with a zone of former heathland and still retains a heathy character; pine and oak plantations are interspersed by tracts of open heath and intensively farmed land consisting of large fields enclosed by hedgerows and woodland edges. There are few settlements or roads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedgerow fragmentation and loss; • heathland restoration - particularly from conifers; • declining use of traditional 'back-up' commoning land and loss of commons; • pressure for new built development; • ornamental species from private gardens encroaching on native species.
6. Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings	A variable, small scale pastoral landscape with a regular small scale field pattern defined by ditches and banks, often fringed with gorse or hedgerows and gapped up with fencing or tin sheeting. The area has developed from relatively recent enclosure from former common and is characterised by a heathy character, lack of mature trees and low quality pasture, often used as back-up grazing land for commoners stock. Linear roadside settlements and associated smallholdings have arisen from progressive encroachment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedgerow loss (unrelated to pressure for increase in field size); • unmanaged hedgerows and increase in post and wire or ranch style fencing; • pressure for new built development in ribbon style along roads; • erosion of traditional 'back-up' commoning land and loss of commons; • loss of wood pasture; • heathland restoration.

Landscape Type	Description	Key Issues
12. River Floodplain	A flat, low-lying pastoral river landscape, frequently associated with former water meadows. Water, both in the river channel itself and in the any associated drainage ditches is an important landscape element. Meandering river channels are bordered by gently sloping grazed banks beyond which lies an open landscape of meadows and rough grazing divided by the occasional post and wire fence. Individual floodplain trees stand out as features.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of water meadows and unimproved grazing marsh; • water abstraction; • pollution from fertiliser and soil run-off; • inappropriate bank management and engineering works; • management of floodplain trees.
13. Enclosed Farmland and Woodland	A wooded agricultural landscape, often on undulating terrain, forming the boundary with the chalklands. Mixed arable (on drier ridges) and grazing land (in clayey hollows) of medium irregularly shaped fields. Ancient semi-natural woodlands, hedgerows with hedgebanks and hedgerow trees create a strong sense of enclosure. Diverse habitats include streams, water meadows, commons and some ancient field systems. Network of winding lanes links scattered farmsteads and villages which are often associated with village greens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedgerow removal and fragmentation of woodlands, sometimes in association with field expansion; • loss of hedgerow oaks; • management of ancient woodlands; • new built development - along roads and around settlements.
14. Enclosed Valley Sides	This landscape type is an extension of the <i>enclosed valley sides</i> landscape type defined in the Test Valley Borough Landscape Assessment. It is described as a flat low-lying predominantly pastoral landscape of meadows, pasture and arable farmland with a remote, riparian character. The enclosed valley floor is characterised by a dense network of hedgerows and trees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedgerow removal and fragmentation of woodlands, sometimes in association with field expansion; • loss of hedgerow oaks; • management of ancient woodlands.
15. Enclosed Arable Farmland	Eroded dip slope margins of chalk at the edge of the transition to lowland clays. A landscape of farmland, numerous semi-natural ancient woodlands (including oak-hazel coppice) and hedgerows with hedgerow oaks creating a strong sense of enclosure. Historically the rounded bluffs provided defensible sites for hill-forts and several of the hills are crowned with ramparts. The pattern of settlement is distinctive; linear villages lie within valleys.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedgerow removal and fragmentation of woodlands, sometimes in association with field expansion; • loss of hedgerow oaks; • management of oak-hazel coppice; • ribbon development along valleys; • replacement of deciduous woodland by conifers.

Key Characteristics

- An enclosed and settled area of interspersed with small areas of ancient deciduous woodlands;
 - small scale irregular fields are particularly distinctive, bordered by ditch and bank boundaries with hedgerows and mature hedgerow trees;
 - shaded leafy lanes, sometimes sunken, wind their way through wooded areas;
 - major infrastructure including the M27, A36, A326, A31, A336 pass through the creating barriers to movement across the landscape;
 - distinctive linear development along roadsides of traditional two storey red brick cottages with slate roofs infilled with a variety of modern housing styles and materials;
 - rusting agricultural outbuildings and electricity pylons detract from the landscape;
 - views are short, most usually to the next field boundary or woodland edge.
-

Formative Influences

The *Copythorne Forest Farmlands* LCA contains extensive areas of early small/irregular assart fields with small copses - all very 'Medieval' in origin. There are, however some areas of more recent small parliamentary-type (18th century) enclosures. The barrier effect of main infrastructure routes has resulted in a quiet 'backwater' feel to the area.

Landscape Description

The Copythorne Forest Farmlands are a small scale undulating landscape on the eastern edge of the *Furzey Inclosures and Villages* which rises to 40m at Hilly Copse. It lies to the west of Totton and the River Test and is bordered by the M27 and A31 to the north and west and the A326 to the east. The A336 cuts across the area. The landscape is underlain by clays and sands which give rise to some brown forest soils which promote good tree growth.

This is an ancient farmed landscape of small medieval assarts and small parliamentary enclosures interspersed with small areas of ancient woodland, and lush hedgerows with hedgerow oaks which create a well wooded character and a strong sense of enclosure. The small scale, irregular field pattern is the most characteristic feature of this landscape. Bartley Water and Golden Gutter drain the area, flowing east into the River Test.

Major infrastructure creates access problems for local traffic; the M27, A326, A336 and A31, which support a lot of through-traffic, are barriers to movement within the locality. The A326 is a major route into the forest from the M27, and also supports a large volume of traffic. The settlement pattern is particularly distinctive; linear ribbon settlements such as Cadnam, Bartley

and Winsor, occur along minor lanes. These linear strings of dense settlement show a high proportion of recent infill development and have all but merged into one along the lanes which join them. The traditional building styles and materials are hard to distinguish because of the large variety of modern styles and materials in the area.

Key Environmental Features

- *ancient deciduous woodlands* which have a high biological diversity and contribute a flavour of the New Forest scenery;
- *historic ditch and bank fields boundaries* which are traditional field boundary features and are sensitive to changes in agricultural practices or disruption by new development.
- *open hill tops* which allow rare long distance views over the surrounding area.

Principles for Landscape Management

- Small scale field patterns are typical of the area; management of hedgerows will maintain the characteristic landscape pattern.
 - Ditch and bank boundaries are distinctive features; hedgerows should be managed to prevent them from obscuring the ditch feature.
 - Replacement of hedgerow oaks will maintain these trees as positive features of area.
 - Sunken lanes contribute to the character of the area; any road improvements which would threaten these features should be resisted if possible.
-

Principles for Built Form

- New built development should reflect to the local vernacular where possible to restore built character and identity to the area.
 - Maintaining rural hedges outside dwellings will ensure suburban style boundaries do not dominate.
 - Local building materials are red brick, slate and thatch. Two storey cottages are the traditional form with and larger farm houses
 - Conversion of under-used or derelict agricultural buildings could provide opportunities for rural development.
 - The removal of rusting corrugated iron agricultural buildings and replacement with outbuildings of red brick, weatherboarding, thatch and painted corrugated iron would improve the visual quality of the landscape.
 - Although linear settlements are characteristic of the area they are usually focused at cross-roads and further extension of built development along roadsides is likely to lead to the coalescence of adjacent settlements.
-

Key Characteristics

- Settled farmland on the edge of the forest heaths with large copses and some wood pasture;
 - small-medium scale pastures (from both formal and informal enclosure) bordered by hedgerows with hedgerow trees;
 - period of predominant character is 17th-18th century farmland;
 - shaded leafy lanes, sometimes sunken, wind their way through wooded areas;
 - major infrastructure, including the A326, A35 and Totton to Fawley railway line, cuts across the area;
 - scattered farm houses of red brick or white render with slate or thatch; outbuildings often characterised by use of weatherboarding;
 - dense linear development close to settlements exhibiting a variety of modern housing styles and materials;
 - views are short, most usually to the next field boundary or woodland edge.
-

Formative Influences

The present pattern has developed from assarted fields interspersed with woods during the Medieval period. Large tracts of land were then re-organised during the parliamentary enclosures of 17-18th centuries. Large areas of woodland (traditionally managed as copses) have remained.

Landscape Description

This area is a small scale settled farmland landscape on the edge of the *Eastern Forest Heaths*. It occupies an undulating area of land above the flat River Test floodplain reaching 41m at Yards Hill from where there are views over the *Waterside Parishes*. The area is underlain by Barton Clays and Sands giving rise to brown forest soils which support good tree growth.

Small-medium sized geometric fields and large areas of deciduous woodland dominate the scenery. However, medieval assarted fields are also visible in some areas, eg along Deersleap Lane and Beaulieu Road. Many of these woodlands were traditionally managed as copses although there is also some managed as wood pasture and coniferous plantations managed for timber. These woodlands provides a strong sense of enclosure. The area is drained by Bartley Water and Jacob's Gutter which flow east, through the *Waterside Parishes*, into the River Test.

The A35 and A326 draw the majority of traffic through the area without stopping; these also create barriers to movement within the area. As a result the area has a peaceful 'backwater' character at its heart. The presence of

infrastructure has encouraged settlements such as Ashurst to grow. Ashurst, by far the largest settlement in the area, has expanded between the A35 and railway line, creating a triangular shaped settlement which bears no relationship to its landscape. The traditional settlement pattern of dispersed farmsteads and hamlets in a predominantly rural landscape remains across much of the area. Traditional building styles and materials include red brick farmhouses, agricultural outbuildings with weatherboarding, thatched cottages with white render and tiled Victorian cottages.

Key Environmental Features

- *ancient deciduous copses* which have a high biological diversity (many hold SINC designations) and contribute a flavour of the New Forest;
- *Bartley Water* which is designated as a SSSI;
- *wood pastures* which are traditional Forest features and rely on tradition management practices and grazing pressure.
- *open hill tops and ridges* which are particularly visible.

Principles for Landscape Management

- Small scale field patterns are characteristic of the area; management of hedgerows will maintain the scale and pattern of the landscape.
 - Replacement of hedgerow oaks will maintain these trees as positive features of area.
 - Sunken lanes contribute to the character of the area; any road improvements which would threaten these features should be resisted if possible.
 - Traditional management techniques such as coppicing should be employed or re-introduced where possible to retain the traditional character of these woodlands.
 - Management of wood pasture by encouraging co-existence of trees and grazing animals will conserve this ancient form of land use.
 - Removal of non-native shrubs such as Rhododendron will ensure these invasive species do not dominate the woodlands.
-

Principles for Built Form

- Local building materials are red brick or white render, slate and thatch. White rendered thatched cottages or two storey red brick cottages are the traditional form with some tiled Victorian cottages and larger red brick farm houses.
 - The removal of rusting corrugated iron agricultural buildings and replacement with outbuildings of red brick, weatherboarding, thatch and painted corrugated iron would improve the visual quality of the landscape.
 - Built development is typically scattered across the countryside or focused in small roadside settlements. Large estates are unsuitable in this forest edge landscape.
-

Appendix 3: Methodology



Landscape / Townscape and Visual Appraisal Methodology Summary of Approach and Criteria Tables

The key terms used within assessments are:

- Susceptibility and Value – which contribute to Sensitivity; and
- Scale, Geographical Extent, Duration and Reversibility – which contribute to the Magnitude of Change.

Sensitivity

Overall Sensitivity lies along a continuum of low to high. The *Value and Susceptibility* of a receptor are both considered understanding its overall sensitivity.

Susceptibility is assessed for both landscape receptors including, landscape character areas, and for visual receptors (people). It indicates the ability of a defined landscape receptor to accommodate the proposed development "*without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies.*" (GLVIA, 3rd edition, para 5.40) and identifies "*the occupation or activity of people experiencing views at particular locations and the extent to which their attention may be focused on the views and the visual amenity they experience at a particular locations.*" (GLVIA, 3rd edition, para 6.32). An example of how Susceptibility can be described at each end of the continuum of low to high is provided in the tables below (**Table 1** and **Table 2**) for both landscape and visual receptors.

Landscape **Value** is "*the relative value that is attached to different landscapes by society*" (GLVIA, 3rd edition, page 157). Box 5.1 (GLVIA 3rd version, page 84) and LI Technical Guidance Note | 02/21 Assessing landscape value outside national designations sets out factors to be considered in the identification of valued landscapes. These can be broadly described as: Landscapes recognised and valued for their quality and and/or cultural associations; key characteristics and features as recognised in published landscape character assessments; Landscape constrictions and the degree to which the landscape is intact and legible. An example of how Value can be described at each end of the continuum of low to high is provided in the following table 1 for landscape receptors. In visual terms, Value relates to that attached to views experienced by receptors (people). An example of how Value can be described at each end of the continuum of low to high is provided below for visual receptors in the following Table 2.

Magnitude of Change

Overall magnitude of change lies along a continuum of low to high. Together the *Scale, Geographical Extent, and Duration and Reversibility* of effect are all considered in understanding the overall Magnitude of Change.

Scale of effect is assessed for both landscape and visual receptors and identifies the degree of change which would arise from the development. An example of how Scale of effect can be described at each end of the continuum of low to high is provided in the following **Table 3** and **Table 4** for both landscape and visual receptors.

Geographical Extent of effect of is assessed for both landscape and visual receptors and indicates the geographic area over which the effects will be felt. An example of how Geographical Extent can be described at each end of the continuum of low to high is provided in the following **Table 3** and **Table 4** for both landscape and visual receptors.

Duration and Reversibility of effect is assessed for all landscape and visual receptors and identifies the time period over which the change to the receptor would arise as a result of the development. An example of how Duration and Reversibility can be described at each end of the continuum of low to high is provided in the following **Table 3** and **Table 4** for both landscape and visual receptors.

Table.1 Sensitivity of Receptors: Landscape/Townscape Receptors

As set out below, the Sensitivity lies along a continuum of low to high. The Value and Susceptibility of a receptor are both considered in understanding its overall Sensitivity.


	Designations and Conservation Interests/Associations <i>Landscapes recognised and valued for their quality and / or cultural associations / recreational value</i>	Landscape Value Key Characteristics and Features <i>As recognised in published Landscape Character Assessments or policy</i>	Landscape Condition <i>Degree to which the landscape is intact and legible & its scenic quality</i>	Landscape Susceptibility <i>The ability of a defined landscape to accommodate the specific proposed development without undue negative consequences</i>
<p>High</p>  <p>Low</p>	National / Regional Importance (e.g. AONB, National Park, Registered Parks and Gardens)	<p>Features which are dominant within the landscape and are fundamental to defining the distinct landscape character of an area.</p> <p>Important characteristics and features recognised as forming intrinsic part of nationally and regionally designated landscapes.</p> <p>Distinctive individual or rare features.</p>	<p>Distinct landscape structure with strong pattern and intact features.</p> <p>Few detractors or uncharacteristic features or elements present.</p>	The landscape is such that changes in terms of the proposed development would be entirely at odds with the character of the local area, related to matters including pattern, grain, use, scale and mass.
	Local importance (e.g. Conservation Areas, Special Landscape Areas / Features)	<p>Locally important and notable features that contribute to the overall character of an area.</p> <p>Features and elements protected by local policy.</p>	<p>Landscape exhibits recognisable structure and characteristic patterns.</p> <p>Some detracting features present.</p>	The proposed development has a degree of consistency with the existing scale, pattern, grain, land use of the prevailing character, although mitigation may be appropriate to enhance assimilation.
	No Designation	<p>Features or elements that are uncharacteristic and detract from the landscape character of an area.</p>	<p>Degraded landscape structure with fragmented pattern and poor legibility of character.</p> <p>Detracting features notable within the landscape.</p>	The proposed development is entirely consistent with the character of the local area, related to matters including pattern, grain, use, scale and mass.

Table.2 Sensitivity of Receptors: Visual Receptors

As set out below, the Sensitivity lies along a continuum of low to high. The Value and Susceptibility of a receptor are both considered understanding its overall Sensitivity.


	Value (attached to views)	Visual Susceptibility <i>The occupation or activity of people experiencing the view and the extent to which their attention or interest may be focused on the views and their visual amenity at particular locations</i>
<p>High</p>  <p>Low</p>	<p>Recognised national / Important Viewpoints, including those identified within and protected by policy.</p> <p>These viewpoints may be tourist destinations and marked on maps.</p> <p>Designed views, including from within historic landscapes.</p> <p>Users of nationally recognized routes e.g. National Cycle Network, National Trails.</p> <p>Land with public access (i.e. Open Access Land and National Trust Land).</p> <p>Locally important views/ views.</p> <p>Views from within locally designated landscapes e.g. Conservation Areas and local planning policy.</p> <p>Views from local routes identified on maps</p> <p>Permissive routes, not recognised by policy or identified on maps.</p> <p>No designations present</p>	<p>People visiting recognised viewpoints with views towards the development.</p> <p>People using Public Rights of Way and Access Land as part of recreational routes with extensive views towards the development.</p> <p>People using recreational facilities or playing outdoor sports with views of the development but for whom views are not the main focus.</p> <p>Users of Public Rights of Way and Access Land with intermittent views towards the development.</p> <p>People travelling along roads or using transport routes where the focus is not on the views and views of the development are fleeting.</p> <p>People at places of work where attention is not on the views.</p> <p>Users of Public Rights of Way and Access Land where views towards the development are limited to glimpses and are not the main focus of attention.</p>

Table.3 Magnitude of Change: Landscape/Townscape Receptors

As set out below, magnitude of change lies along a continuum of low to high. Together the Scale, Geographical extent, and Duration and Reversibility of effect are all considered in understanding the overall magnitude of change.



	Scale <i>identifies the degree of change which would arise from the development</i>	Geographical Extent <i>of effect indicates the geographic area over which the effects will be felt</i>	Duration and Reversibility <i>of effect identifies the time period over which the change to the receptor would arise as a result of the development.</i>
 <p>Major</p>	Highly noticeable change, affecting most key characteristics and dominating the experience of the Landscape/Townscape; introduction of highly conspicuous new development; and the baseline situation will be fundamentally changed.	Extensive affecting the majority or all the Landscape/Townscape Character Area.	Long-term or permanent, the change is expected to be in place for 10+ years and there may be no intention for it to be reversed or only partially reversed.
	Partial alteration to key elements, features, qualities or characteristics, such that post development the baseline situation will be largely unchanged but noticeable despite discernible differences.	Localised, affecting the site and a proportion of the wider Landscape/Townscape Character Area.	Medium-term, the change is expected to be in place for 5-10 years and the effects may be reversed or partially reversed.
	Minor alteration to few elements, features qualities or characteristics resulting in a barely perceptible change.	Affecting the site and immediate setting only.	Short-term, the change is expected to be in place for 0-5 years and the effects are likely to be reversed.
Minor			

Table.4 Magnitude of Change: Visual Receptors

As set out below, magnitude of change lies along a continuum of low to high. Together the Scale, Geographical extent, and Duration and Reversibility of effect are all considered in understanding the overall magnitude of change.

	Scale <i>identifies the degree of change which would arise from the development</i>	Geographical Extent <i>Wide, and/or within close proximity, and/or open views.</i>	Duration and Reversibility <i>identifies the time period over which the change to the receptor would arise as a result of the development.</i>
 <p>Major</p> <p>Minor</p>	Intensive/dominant or major alteration to key elements of the baseline view.	Extensive, open and/or close proximity, and/or direct and/or affecting unscreened views.	Long-term or permanent, the change is expected to be in place for 10+ years and there may be no intention for it to be reversed or only partially reversed.
	Partial/noticeable or minor alteration to key elements of the baseline view.	Framed, and/or contained, and/or medium distance, and/or partially screened views.	Medium-term, the change is expected to be in place for 5-10 years and the effects may be reversed or partially reversed.
	Minor alteration to few elements of the baseline view.	Narrow, and/or fragmented, and/or long distance, and/or heavily screened views.	Short-term, the change is expected to be in place for 0-5 years and the effects are likely to be reversed.

Plans:

Plan 1: 13865_P01 Site Location Plan

Plan 2: 13865_P02 Site Context

Plan 3: 13865_P03 Topography

Plan 4: 13865_P04_A Zone of Theoretical Visibility

Plan 5: 13865_P05_A Viewpoint Location Plan

Plan 6: 13865_P07 Landscape Planning Policy

Plan 7: 13865_P08 Landscape Character Assessment

Plan 8: 13865_P09 Photosheets

Plan 9: 13865_P10 Soft Landscape Proposals Sheet 1 of 4

Plan 10: 13865_P11 Soft Landscape Proposals Sheet 2 of 4

Plan 11: 13865_P13 Soft Landscape Proposals Sheet 3 of 4

Plan 12: 13865_P14 Soft Landscape Proposals Sheet 4 of 4





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