

## Appendix 3: Site assessment methodology

### Existing landscape character

The character area and policy zone that the site and study area falls within are noted. The site/study area are assessed with consideration of the following elements:

Landform: Flat/gently undulating, strongly undulating, steep, valley side/floor and if there are any other natural features present e.g. river/stream

Settlement Pattern: Nucleated/ribbon/dispersed/planned/ industrial/urban/suburban/village

Landcover: Arable/mixed/pastoral/ wetland/open water/recreational/disturbed/commercial/mineral extraction/horticulture/brown field/equestrian

Tree cover: broadleaf/mixed/conifer/plantation/semi natural (NFI) /ancient woodland (NE)/riparian/orchard/coppice/coverts/field trees/hedgerow trees

Spatial character: exposed/large/medium-open/ medium framed/ small/ intimate /variable

Boundary Treatment: Walls/fences/hedges/ditches/unenclosed

Tree patterns: Continuous, scattered, linear, groups

### Landscape Value

**Landscape quality: (condition)** This is “a measure of the physical state of the landscape. It may include the extent to which typical character is represented in individual, the intactness of the landscape and the condition of individual elements” (GLVIA 2013).

This included an assessment of how intact elements such as hedgerows/tree cover are, how they are managed and how intensely the land is used. Score High =3 medium =2 low =1

**Scenic quality**: “The term used to describe landscape that appeals primarily to the senses (Primarily but not wholly the visual senses)” (GLVIA 2013). High =3 usually some form of landscape designation and appeals to all senses. Medium=2 some senses moderate quality. Low= 1 landscape is of low scenic quality, doesn't appeal to the senses.

**Rarity**: The presence of rare elements or features in the landscape or the presence of a rare character type. High =3 rare character or several rare elements (e.g. Willow holts/ridge and furrow) medium =2 few. Low =1 none.

**Representativeness** Whether the landscape contains features or elements which are considered particularly important examples. High =3 displays most of characteristics. Medium =2 some characteristics. Low =1 Lacks a sense of place, few positive perceptual qualities.

**Conservation interests** The presence of wildlife, earth science or archaeological /historical and cultural interest can add to the value of the landscape as well as having value in their own right High =3, medium=2, low =1 few or no characteristics.

**Recreation** value Evidence that the landscape is valued for recreational activity where experience of the landscape is important. High =3. Many ROW/national trails well used

destination public open space/ medium =2 some/ low =1 not used for recreation, no ROW or public space.

**Perceptual aspects** A landscape may be valued for its perceptual qualities, notably wildness and/or tranquillity. High =3 Aesthetically pleasing tranquil remote strong sense of place medium =2 low =1 lacks sense of place.

**Associations** Some landscapes are associated with particular people, such as artists or writers, or events in history that contribute to perceptions of the natural beauty of the area. High =3 Strong associations with people/literature/historic events with elements of the landscape, medium =2 some low =1 no associations

### Landscape Susceptibility

**Loss:** High = Several key characteristics or landscape elements which add value will be removed because of development. Medium = Few characteristics which add value will be removed because of development. Low = No key characteristic which add value will be removed.

**Incongruity:** High = Development will add incongruous elements within the landscape and devalue several of its key characteristics. Medium = development is incompatible with surrounding landscape and devalue some if its key characteristics. Low = development assimilated/compatible or may add value.

**Perception:** High = The development on site will result in a distinct change in the perception of the landscape. Medium = minor change ad low = no change.

**Policy:** High= Development conflicts with policy in Policy Zone, Medium = Development on site conflicts with the policy in Policy Zone, Low = Development does not conflict with policy zone or works with them.

Total = 1 + scores above out of total of 25

### Overall Landscape Sensitivity

Scores on landscape value and susceptibility are combined to give a total out of 50. The higher the score the more sensitive is the landscape.

### Visual Value

**Recognition of value (Setting):** Recognition of the value attached to views, e.g. in relation to heritage assets or through planning decisions. High = Views occur from areas where designations add considerable value to the visual amenity. Medium = 2, Low = 1 Views occur from areas where designations do not add value to visual amenity.

**Indicators of value:** Indicators of the value attracted to views by visitors, guide books/tourist maps ref to art/visitor facilities. High = Views occur from areas where there are many indicators of value. Medium= some views. Low= No views

**Other value:** High = Views from areas where there are many rights of way. Low = No rights of way.

Total = 1 + scores above out of total of 25

### Visual Susceptibility

**Receptors:** Sensitivity and number of the receptors. High = Primary receptors e.g. Residential, ROW recreation or heritage sites. Medium = Road, rail, travellers, and low = work places

**Magnitude of effect:** scale of change, nature of view (Full, partial, glimpsed), proximity and extent to which development integrated into the view. High- significant adverse change to views, Low = minor adverse change.

Total = 1+ 2 scores multiplied to a maximum value 25

### **Overall Visual Sensitivity**

Combine visual value and visual sensitivity to give a score of sensitivity to the specific development. Total score out of 50

### **Mitigation Opportunities**

Whilst these have not been included in the scoring process, notes provide an opportunity for consideration of potential mitigation opportunities at both operational and restoration stages can be included.

### **Conclusion**

Total site sensitivity score derived from combining overall Landscape Sensitivity with Visual Sensitivity.

Total score out of 100

Note: For both landscape and visual susceptibility a score for during both the operational stage and the restoration stage are given which gives two overall scores for the operational phase and the post restoration phase.