



**Land East of Lunce's
Hill, Haywards Heath**

**Landscape and Visual
Impact Assessment**

Prepared by:
**The Environmental Dimension
Partnership Ltd**

On behalf of:
**Catesby Strategic Land Ltd and
Rurban Estates Limited**

August 2025

Report Reference
edp8571_r002e

Document Control

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Client | Catesby Strategic Land Ltd and Rurban Estates Limited |
| Report Title | Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment |
| Document Reference | edp8571_r002e |

VERSION INFORMATION

| | Author | Formatted | Peer Review | Proofed by/Date |
|--------------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 002_ DRAFT | MBe | FMi | LMa | - |
| 002a_ FINAL DRAFT | MBe | - | - | SCh 111224 |
| 002b | MBe | - | - | CTi 150125 |
| 002c | MBe | - | - | CRo 130225 |
| 002d | MBe | - | CMy | CRo 300625 |
| 002e | MBe | - | CMy | CRo 290825 |

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Section 1

Introduction, Purpose and Methodology

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) has been commissioned by Catesby Strategic Land Limited (Catesby Estates) (hereafter referred to as 'the applicant') to undertake a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) of residential development on Land East of Lunce's Hill, Haywards Heath (hereafter referred to as 'the site'). The site falls within Lewes District Council Local Planning Authority (LPA) and the Mid Sussex District Council LPA areas. The site extends to 8.81 hectares (ha) and is briefly described in **Section 2** of this LVIA. Full site details are given in the Design and Access Statement (DAS) accompanying the planning application. This LVIA is part of a suite of documents accompanying an outline planning application for the proposed development summarised in **Section 5** of this LVIA.
- 1.2 EDP is an independent environmental planning consultancy with offices in Cirencester, Cheltenham and Cardiff. The practice provides advice to private and public sector clients throughout the UK in the fields of landscape, ecology, archaeology, cultural heritage, arboriculture, rights of way and masterplanning. Details of the practice can be obtained at our website (www.edp-uk.co.uk). EDP is a Registered Practice of the Landscape Institute¹ specialising in the assessment of the effects of proposed development on the landscape.

THE SITE AND THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 1.3 **Plan EDP 1** (Relevant Planning Designations and Considerations) illustrates the location of the site's boundaries and the study area for the LVIA. The site is located on the southern settlement edge of Haywards Heath, with the B2112 Lunce's Hill running adjacent to the site's western boundary.
- 1.4 The site's character and local context is illustrated on the aerial photograph contained as **Plan EDP 2**.
- 1.5 The site comprises five agricultural field parcels in pasture, primarily compartmentalised by hedgerows with trees and field ditches, with an agricultural outbuilding located on the western boundary. There is an area of Ancient Woodland adjacent to most of the eastern boundary, and ditches that run along the eastern and southern boundaries, which connect to the internal ditch network. Established hedgerows with trees run along the northern and southern boundaries, and several specimen trees are also located within the centre of the site. The western edge of the site is defined by a mix of fencing, hedgerows, tree lines and brick walling, backing onto the B2112 and gardens of private dwellings associated with Hurstwood Lane.

¹ LI Practice Number 1010

- 1.6 The proposed development is an outline planning application for the erection of up to 130 dwellings, together with the change of use of an existing barn for a flexible community and/or commercial use, along with associated outdoor space and landscaping, drainage infrastructure, hard and soft landscaping, parking, access and associated works (all matters reserved except for access). The proposals are illustrated on the Illustrative Masterplan at **Appendix EDP 1**.

PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE OF THIS LVA

- 1.7 The purpose of this LVIA is to identify the baseline conditions of the site and surrounding area and to determine those landscape and visual characteristics that might inform the design of the development proposals, including recommendations for mitigation. It then appraises the likely effects of a development.
- 1.8 In undertaking the assessment EDP has:
- Undertaken a thorough data trawl of relevant designations, planning policies, and background documents, described in **Section 2**;
 - Assessed the existing (baseline) condition and character of the site and its setting, described in **Section 3**;
 - Assessed the existing visual (baseline) context, especially any key views to and from the site (**Section 4**). The establishment of baseline landscape and visual conditions, when evaluated against the proposed development, allow the identification and evaluation of landscape effects later in the LVIA at **Appendix EDP 4** and **Section 6**;
 - Described the landscape aspects of the proposed development that may influence any landscape or visual effects (**Section 5**);
 - In **Appendix EDP 4**, assessed the landscape and visual effects in accordance with the approach described below, and then summarised the findings in **Section 6**; and
 - Provided an analysis of the likely landscape and visual effects of the proposed scheme, which is determined by combining the magnitude of the predicted change with the assessed sensitivity of the identified receptors. The nature of any predicted effects is also identified (i.e. positive/negative, permanent/reversible).

METHODOLOGY ADOPTED FOR THE ASSESSMENT

- 1.9 The proposed development assessed by this LVA is not subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This LVA has, therefore, been undertaken in accordance with the principles embodied in 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment – Third Edition (LI/IEMA, 2013)' (GLVIA3) and other best practice guidance insofar as it is relevant to non-EIA schemes.

- 1.10 **Familiarisation:** EDP's study has included reviews of aerial photographs, web searches, LPA publications and landscape character assessments. EDP has also obtained, where possible, information about relevant landscape and other designations such as National Parks (NP), National Landscapes ((NL) formerly known as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs)), conservation areas, and parks and gardens listed on Historic England's 'Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England' (RPG).
- 1.11 **Consultation:** No consultation has taken place with the LPA regarding landscape and visual matters. As part of the original application, comments were provided by both Mid Sussex and Lewes, but aside from identifying relevant policies, little comment was made in relation to landscape and visual matters. Some comments were made on the landscape strategy, but these will be addressed as part of any future Reserved Matters Applications (RMA).
- 1.12 **Field Assessment:** EDP has undertaken a comprehensive field assessment of local site circumstances, including a photographic survey of the character and fabric of the site and its surroundings, using photography from a number of representative viewpoints. The field assessment was undertaken by a qualified landscape architect in clear conditions, in March 2024.
- 1.13 **Acknowledgement of any shortcomings:** A site assessment has been undertaken in the late winter to early spring months to gather a worst-case scenario. However, due to the timing of the visit, species such as Hawthorn had begun to produce some leaves. However, this did not impede the survey, and the surveyor was able to assess a worst-case scenario.
- 1.14 **Design Inputs:** EDP's field assessment has informed a process whereby the development proposals have been refined to avoid, minimise or compensate for landscape effects, and maximise the opportunities identified for landscape in the development. Such measures are summarised in **Section 5**.
- 1.15 **Assessment Methodology:** Predicted effects on the landscape resource and visual amenity arising from the proposed development (**Section 6**) have been determined in accordance with the principles embedded within published best practice guidance insofar as the assessment adopts the following well-established, structured approach:
- Likely effects on landscape character and visual amenity are dealt with separately;
 - The assessment of likely effects is reached using a structured methodology for defining sensitivity and magnitude (**Appendix EDP 2**). This framework is combined with professional judgement. Professional judgement is an important part of the assessment process; it is neither 'pro' nor 'anti' development but acknowledges that development may result in beneficial change as well as landscape harm;
 - As advised in GLVIA3, the appraisal takes into account the effects of any proposed mitigation; and
 - Typically, a 15-year time horizon is used as the basis for conclusions about the residual levels of effect. Fifteen years is a well-established and accepted compromise between

assessing the shorter-term effects (which may often be rather 'raw' before any proposed mitigation has had time to take effect) and an excessively long time period.

STUDY AREA

1.16 To establish the baseline and potential limit of material effects, the study area has been considered at two geographical scales:

- First, a broad 'study area' was adopted, based mainly on desk-based study, allowing the geographical scope of the assessment to be defined based on the likely extent of views to/from the site, extent of landscape effects and the site's environmental planning context; and
- Second, following initial analysis and subsequent fieldwork, the broad study area was refined down to the land that is most likely to experience landscape effects. The extent of this detailed study area is 1km from the site boundary, although occasional reference may be made to features beyond this area where appropriate. This detailed study area is illustrated on **Plan EDP 1**.

Section 2

Findings of EDP Data Trawl

- 2.1 The findings of EDP's data trawl of relevant environmental and planning designations are illustrated on **Plan EDP 1** and summarised in this section with further detail provided in **Appendix EDP 5** and **6**.

BACKGROUND PUBLISHED EVIDENCE BASE DOCUMENTS

- 2.2 The following documents are relevant and are discussed as appropriate later in this report (Please refer to the submitted Planning and Affordable Housing Statement for a full list of relevant planning documents):

Planning Policies

Lewes District Council

- Lewes District Council - Local Plan, Part 1 Joint Core Strategy 2010-2030 (2016) and Lewes Local Plan Part 2 (2020);
- Lewes District Council - Towards a Local Plan spatial strategy and policies directions (2023); and
- Wivelsfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2015-2030 (Published by Lewes District Council and Wivelsfield Parish Council) (2016, reviewed in 2021).

Mid Sussex District Council

- Mid Sussex District Plan 2014-2031 (2018);
- Mid Sussex District Plan 2021-2039 Submission Draft (2023); and
- Haywards Heath Town Council Neighbourhood Plan Our Bright Future (2016).

Landscape Character

National Level

- National Character Area (NCA) 121: Low Weald (2014).

County Level

- A Strategy for the West Sussex Landscape (2005); and
- The East Sussex County Landscape Assessment (2016).

District Level

- A Landscape Character Assessment for Mid Sussex (2005); and

- Lewes Landscape Character Assessment (2023).

Sensitivity Studies

- Lewes Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (2023).

FINDINGS OF EDP DATA TRAWL

Landscape-related Designations and Other Considerations

2.3 Landscape-related designations and policy considerations within 2km of the site are shown on **Plan EDP 1**. In summary:

- National landscape designations: The site does not lie within or pertinent to a nationally designated landscape. The South Downs National Park (SDNP) is located approximately 3.7km south of the site. There is no intervisibility between the SDNP, and the site does not form part of its setting. Therefore, no further assessment on the SDNP will be included within this report;
- Local landscape designations: The site does not lie within or pertinent to a locally designated landscape; and
- Other landscape-related designations: The site does not lie within Green Belt, Strategic or Green Wedges, or Important Local Gaps.

Heritage Matters

2.4 Heritage assets can influence the visual character of the landscape and enrich its historic value. This LVIA addresses heritage assets only insofar as they are components of the wider contemporary landscape – not in terms of their significance and value as heritage assets, which is a matter addressed by the separate Heritage Assessment (prepared by Orion, report ref. PN4161/HS/1).

2.5 Within the wider study area, the following heritage assets are components of the contemporary landscape:

- Several Grade II listed buildings are located within 1km of the site, the closest being Grade II listed building 'Cleavewater', located approximately 20m north of the site; and
- Three conservation areas are located within 2km of the site.

Ecology Matters

- 2.6 A separate Ecological Assessment (prepared by Derek Finnie Associates) considers the ecological assets on the site and within the study area. The following matters are relevant to the scope of this LVIA:
- The majority of the site is pastoral land of limited ecological value. Some habitats of site to local level value are present, including a network of hedgerows/trees and ditches;
 - There are no international ecological designations (Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Ramsar sites) within 2km of the site; and
 - Three nationally ecological designated sites are located within 2km of the site. Ditchling Common SSSI is located to south of the site, Bedelands Farm Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is located to the west of the site, and Ashenground and Bolnore Woods LNR is located to the north-west of the site.

Arboricultural Matters

- 2.7 A separate Arboricultural Assessment (prepared by EDP, report ref edp8571_r006) considers the arboricultural assets on the site and within the study area. The following matters are relevant to the scope of this LVIA:
- An Ancient Semi-natural Woodland (Cleave water wood) is located adjacent to the site on the eastern boundary; and
 - There are no known Tree Preservation Orders located within or pertinent to the site.

Public Access and Rights of Way

- 2.8 A review of OS mapping data and East/West Sussex's Definitive Map is shown on **Plan EDP 1** and **2**, and reveals that:
- There is a network of PRoW across the detailed study area generally connecting between settlements, and between settlement and roads;
 - PRoW are concentrated to the east and west of the site, with PRoW generally void of the area within 1km of the site. Beyond 1km south, the PRoW becomes more common in the landscape, and to the west, the railway line which runs broadly north south is a linear barrier to movement within the study area with limited crossing points. To the north, PRoW are limited due to the location of the town of Haywards Heath;
 - PRoW within the immediate context of the site are limited to PRoW 3a, 15, and 28CU, adjacent to the western boundary, where they terminate at Lunce's Hill, and PRoW 29 and 25 that runs c.100m east of the site through woodland; and
 - There are no PRoW located within the site.

Planning Matters

- 2.9 The site is located within the LPA of Lewes and Mid Sussex. As shown at **Image EDP 2.1**, the central and eastern area of the site is located within the Lewes District Council (LDC) boundary, and the western area within the Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) boundary. Therefore, policies relevant to each district will be considered below.

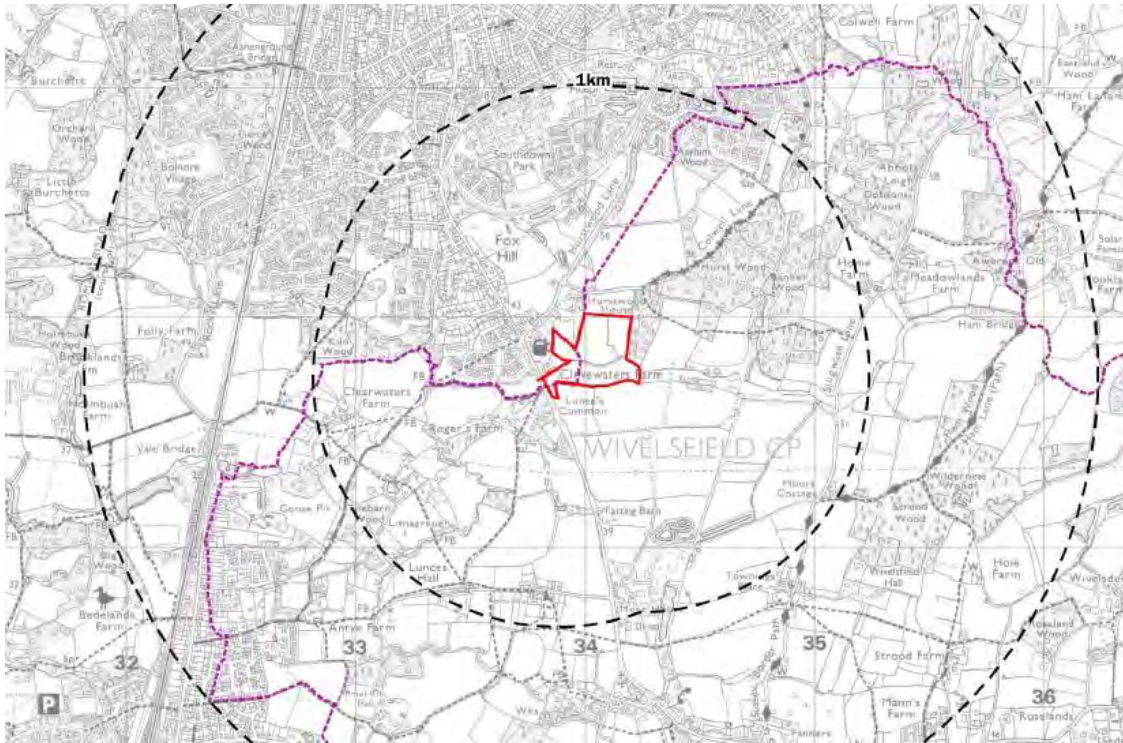


Image EDP 2.1: Map insert showing where the district boundaries cross the site.

Lewes District

Lewes District Local Plan – Part 1 Joint Core Strategy 2010-2030

- 2.10 The Lewes District Local Plan 2010-2030² was adopted in May 2016 and includes overarching general development policies, to which the development proposals will be tested. Policies that are relevant to the site in landscape and visual terms are summarised below, and the full wording can be found at **Appendix EDP 5**. Policy matters in regard to heritage and ecology will be detailed in the respective appraisals but will be supported by this LVA:

- **Core Policy 8 – Green Infrastructure:** Core Policy 8 outlines requirements for making provisions for the retention and enhancement of existing Green Infrastructure (GI) and designing quality GI that provides suitable links into the existing network;
- **Core Policy 10 – Natural Environment and Landscape Character:** Core Policy 10 seeks to protect, conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character of the area, including its natural beauty and cultural heritage. The policy outlines

² https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/media/1718/Adopted-Joint-Core-Strategy-2016/pdf/Adopted_Joint_Core_Strategy_2016.pdf?m=1682440920647 – accessed 02/07/24

requirements for development proposals to engage with the existing distinct landscape character to avoid harmful impact upon landscape character and mitigate any negative impacts through sensitive design; and

- **Core Policy 11 – Built and Historic Environment and High Quality Design:** Policy 11 outlines requirements for providing a design that creates a strong sense of place through drawing on the local context and being complimentary to the locality. Schemes should enhance the local distinctiveness, retain and enhance existing important landscape features, and respond positively to the existing townscape.

Lewes District Local Plan – Part 2 Site Allocations and Development Management Policies

2.11 The Lewes District Local Plan Part 2³ was adopted in February 2020 and seeks to deliver the strategic objectives and spatial strategy of the Local Plan Part 1 by allocating additional sites, and setting out detailed (non-strategic) development management policies. Policies that are relevant to the site in landscape and visual terms are summarised below, and the full wording can be found at **Appendix EDP 5**. Policy matters in regard to heritage and ecology will be detailed in the respective appraisals but will be supported by this LVA:

- **Policy DM2 – Rural Exception Sites:** Policy DM2 states that proposals outside of the planning boundaries must respect its character and setting, and be an appropriate scale and design;
- **Policy DM14 – Multi-functional Green Infrastructure:** Policy DM14 seeks to ensure that Green Infrastructure is incorporated in to development, with a focus on enhancing existing features; and
- **Policy DM27 – Landscape Design:** Policy DM27 states that landscape design should reflect, conserve and enhance the character and distinctiveness of the local landscape, and retain and incorporate existing mature trees and hedgerows into the scheme.

Lewes District Council Towards a Local Plan Spatial Strategy and Policies Directions (Regulation 18 Consultation)

2.12 The LDC are currently updating the adopted Local Plan and are at the early stages of consultation (Regulation 18 Consultation⁴). At the time of writing this assessment, no policy details are available to assess the proposed development against, so the report will remain to assess the site and feed into the design process based on the currently adopted Local Plan.

Wivelsfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2015-2030 (made 2016, revised 2021)

2.13 The Wivelsfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan (WPNP) was made in September 2016⁵, and contains several policies relevant to landscape and visual matters. Policies that are

³ https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/media/1739/Local-Plan-Part-2-2020/pdf/Local_Plan_Part_2_2020.pdf?m=1682441636643 – accessed 02/07/24

⁴ <https://planningpolicyconsult.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/gf2.ti/-/1568674/189608421.1/PDF/-/Local%20Plan%20Spatial%20Strategy.pdf> - accessed 02/07/24

⁵ <https://www.wivelsfield.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Wivelsfield-NP-Final-Version.pdf> - accessed 08/05/24

relevant to the site are summarised below, and the full wording can be found at **Appendix EDP 5**:

- **Policy 5 – Design:** Policy 5 seeks to ensure that new development demonstrates high quality design that reflects the local distinctiveness and integrates with its surroundings. The policy also highlights the importance of linkages to nearby green spaces and existing public routes.
- **Policy 6 – Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity:** Policy 6 states that new development must contribute to and enhance the natural environment by protecting existing features and providing additional habitat resources for wildlife and the community.

Mid Sussex District

Mid Sussex District Plan 2014-2031

2.14 The Mid Sussex District Plan 2014-2031⁶ was adopted in March 2018 and includes over-arching general development policies, to which the development proposals will be tested. Policies that are relevant to the site in landscape and visual terms are summarised below, and the full wording can be found at **Appendix EDP 6**. Policy matters in regard to heritage and ecology will be detailed in the respective appraisals but will be supported by this LVA:

- **Policy DP12: Protection and Enhancement of Countryside:** Policy DP12 refers to the protection of the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, where focus should be on the enhancement of the quality of the rural and landscape character of the District;
- **Policy DP13: Preventing Coalescence:** Policy DP13 states that development should not result in the coalescence of settlements, and people travelling between settlement should have a sense that they have left one before arriving at the next;
- **Policy DP22: Rights of Way and other Recreational Routes:** Policy DP22 seeks to protect Rights of Way from loss and adverse effects;
- **Policy DP26: Character and Design:** Policy DP26 outlines requirements for new development to demonstrate high quality design that reflects the local distinctiveness and integrates with its surroundings; and
- **Policy DP37: Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows:** Policy DP37 sets out criteria to protect existing trees, woodland and hedgerows across the district, and encourages enhancement where possible.

⁶ <https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/media/3406/mid-sussex-district-plan.pdf> – accessed 02/07/24

Mid Sussex District Plan 2021-2039 Submission Draft (Regulation 19)

2.15 The MSDC are currently updating the adopted Local Plan and submitted the draft Local Plan on 08 July 2024 for examination⁷. Once adopted, the policies from the Local Plan will supersede those above in the Mid Sussex District Plan 2014-2031, so are relevant to this proposed development. Policies that are relevant to the site in landscape and visual terms are summarised below, and the full wording can be found at **Appendix EDP 6**:

- **Policy DPN3: Green and Blue Infrastructure:** Policy DPN3 outlines requirements for making provisions for the retention and enhancement of existing Green Infrastructure (GI) and designing quality GI that provides suitable links into the existing network;
- **Policy DPN4: Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows:** Similar to Policy DP37 of the adopted plan, Policy DPN4 sets out criteria to protect existing trees, woodland and hedgerows across the district, and encourages enhancement where possible;
- **Policy DPC1: Protection and Enhancement of Countryside:** Similar to Policy DP12 of the adopted plan, Policy DPC1 refers to the protection of the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, where focus should be on the enhancement of the quality of the rural and landscape character of the District;
- **Policy DPC2: Preventing Coalescence:** Similar to Policy DP13 of the adopted plan, Policy DPC2 states that development should not result in the coalescence of settlements, and people travelling between settlement should have a sense that they have left one before arriving at the next; and
- **Policy DPB1: Character and Design:** Similar to Policy DP26 of the adopted plan, Policy DPB1 outlines requirements for new development to demonstrate high quality design that reflects the local distinctiveness and integrates with its surroundings.

Haywards Heath Town Council Neighbourhood Plan Our Bright Future (made 2016)

2.16 The Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan⁸ was made in February 2016 and contains several policies relevant to landscape and visual matters. Policies that are relevant to the site are summarised below, and the full wording can be found at **Appendix EDP 6**.

- **Policy E5: Local Gap:** Policy E5 details provisions to protect the coalescence of Haywards Heath and neighbouring towns/parishes, and a landscape buffer should be created;
- **Policy E6: Green Infrastructure:** Policy E6 seeks to retain green infrastructure and promote internal green links. Features typical of the Haywards Heath landscape should also be protected;

⁷ <https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/media/a4rft3j0/district-plan-review-reg-19-web-version-with-hyperlinks.pdf> - accessed 02/07/24

⁸ https://www.haywardsheath.gov.uk/_UserFiles/Files/Neighbourhood%20Plan/HHNP%20version%20Final%20Submission%20%20Feb%2016f120.pdf - accessed 02/07/24

- **Policy E9: Character:** Policy E9 requires development to demonstrate how the local character will be protected and reinforced; and
- **Policy E11: Visual Impact:** Policy E11 outlines requirements for sites on the edge of settlement to be supported by an assessment of the views to and from the proposed development, and any identified visual impacts to be addressed through design.

Other Planning Matters

Relevant Planning Applications

DM/22/2272 - Land At Hurst Farm Hurstwood Lane Haywards Heath

- 2.17 An outline application for the erection of up-to 375 new homes, primary school, burial grounds, allotments, and open space, achieved resolution to grant outline planning permission at the District Planning Committee on 10 August 2023⁹. Application DM/22/2272 is located just to the north of the site, with the development boundary located 390m north of the site, and the southern end of the development where a primary school is proposed, located approximately 90m north-west of the site (**Image EDP 2.2**).



Image EDP 2.2: Illustrative masterplan for application DM/22/2272. The site is denoted by the yellow line.

⁹ <https://midsussex.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s16411/DM.22.2272%20Land%20at%20Hurst%20Farm%20Hurstwood%20Lane%20Haywards%20Heath%20-%20Final%20D%2010.8.23.pdf> – accessed 02/12/24

2.18 On landscape and visual impacts, the committee report stated that:

- *“There would be some limited benefit from the undergrounding of the electricity pylons that run across the southern part of the site, which will be a requirement of developing the school.*
- *It is acknowledged that there would be a change to the landscape from the development, however, this would only be of very local significance. No significant environmental effects of more than local significance would result from the proposal and it is not considered necessary to secure any wider mitigation.*
- *Whilst there will be development to the east of Hurstwood Lane on land designated as being within the countryside, it is important to recognise the existing development around the site. There is a relatively new housing development to the northeast that projects further eastwards than the site of this planning application.*
- *The new houses proposed in this development would be seen against the backdrop of the existing well established housing to the north at Birch Way and Greenhill Park. The existing tree belt on the eastern side of Hurstwood Lane would be retained so the development on the eastern side of Hurstwood Lane should not appear unduly prominent from the road.*
- *It is considered that whilst there would be a significant change at the site itself by virtue of new development taking place on a green field site, the wider character of this part of the countryside would be retained and the development would be assimilated into this part of Haywards Heath.”*

DM/22/0733 - Land At Rogers Farm Fox Hill Haywards Heath

2.19 An outline application for the erection of up-to 20 new homes on open, agricultural fields was granted planning permission on 21 October 2022¹⁰. Application DM/22/0733 is located adjacent to the site's western boundary, on the west side of Lunce's Hill, opposite the existing access into the site (**Image EDP 2.3**). The development is located immediately to the south of the recently completed development of 99 homes (application ref. DM/15/3448). At the time of the site visit in March 2024, development DM/22/0733 was still under construction, with several of the dwellings near completion.

DM/19/3121 - Braydells Hurstwood Lane Haywards Heath

2.20 An outline application for the erection of up-to four new homes on open garden land associated with the property of Braydells was granted planning permission in 2021. The development is located adjacent to the northern boundary and was under construction at the time of the site survey.

¹⁰ https://padocs.midsussex.gov.uk/PublicAccess_Live/Document/ViewDocument?id=4FD9F58F34A24226AA62B48788CF4636 – accessed 02/12/24



Image EDP 2.3: Illustrative masterplan for application DM/22/0733. The site is denoted by the yellow line.

2.21 On landscape and visual impacts, the committee report stated that:

- *"It is recommended that the proposed development can be supported as it would have an acceptable impact on local landscape character and views.*
- *The LVIA concludes that the proposed development would have a minor adverse effect on landscape character and that this would be localised. The visual effects of the proposal would also be limited to very local views from the road and the adjacent public footpath. The landscape and visual impacts would be mitigated by the retention of existing boundary trees, which would be reinforced with new planting. It is proposed that these woodland belts would also be brought into positive management to ensure the long-term health of the trees and understorey. The overall conclusions of the LVIA are not disputed".*

2.22 These recent and granted developments illustrate the changing nature of the landscape surrounding the site, and how the site relates well to the emerging development context of the town.

Section 3

Existing (Baseline) Conditions: Landscape Character

- 3.1 This section provides an assessment of the 'baseline' (existing) conditions in respect of the character of the site and its landscape context. It summarises any relevant published landscape assessments that contribute to a better understanding of the landscape context. Such assessments provide a helpful understanding of the landscape context but rarely deliver sufficiently site-specific or up-to-date information to draw robust conclusions about the significance of any change proposed by the development. Accordingly, EDP has undertaken its own assessment of the site, which is included in this section, at paragraph 3.12 et seq.

NATIONAL CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

- 3.2 At the national level, the character of England has been described and classified in the National Character Area (NCA) profiles published by Natural England¹¹. The site and its surroundings fall within NCA 121, namely Low Weald which extends c.120km from Ashford in the east to Milland in the west. NCA 122, High Weald is located c.1km to the north of the site.
- 3.3 For the scale of the development proposed on the site, it is considered that the description of landscape character undertaken at the sub-regional level is more relevant in establishing the landscape resource baseline. As such, of much greater use are the more localised assessments at county and district level, described in the following paragraphs.

COUNTY LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENTS

- 3.4 The site is located across a county border, sitting between East Sussex and West Sussex. The eastern area of the site is located in East Sussex, with the most western area located in West Sussex. Therefore, this LVIA has considered the county level landscape character assessments for both counties.

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles> (Accessed 07.06.2024)

The East Sussex Council Landscape Assessment¹²

LCA 14 - Western Low Weald

3.5 An assessment of the landscape character in the county of East Sussex was undertaken in 2016. The central and eastern extent of the site falls in the Landscape Character Type (LCT) Western Low Weald. The assessment includes over 30 key characteristics for the LCT. Those deemed relevant to the site and detailed study area are listed below, with the full list available in **Appendix EDP 5**:

- *“A gently undulating and low lying topography with highest points on the green sand ridges and lowest in the river and stream valleys.*
- *Fields are generally small and irregular; many formed from woodland clearance and often bounded by remnant woodland strips known as shaws.*
- *A largely pastoral landscape, especially on the heavy clay soils. Red Sussex cattle and Southdown sheep are local breeds which have been present for many centuries.*
- *Scattered tree features including distinctive mature oaks, tree belts, woods, parkland and hedgerow trees give an impression that the area is well wooded.*
- *A few scattered larger woods which are usually ancient in origin notably Plashett, which is an SSSI, and Warningore woods.*
- *Generally across the area there is a strong historic landscape structure with a patchwork of medieval assart fields and hedgerow boundaries.*
- *Areas of tranquillity away from the main centres of settlement and roads.*
- *Few main roads cross the area with the exception of the two north south A26 and A275 roads. The B2112 to the west of the area is a busy commuter route which puts pressure on the historic village of Ditchling.”*

The West Sussex Landscape – Land Management Guidelines¹³

HW4 – High Weald Fringes

3.6 An assessment of the landscape character in the county of West Sussex was undertaken in 2003. Since this assessment, the MSDC produced a district wide landscape character assessment in 2005. This assessment uses the same boundaries and key characteristics as the 2003 assessment. For the purposes of this LVA, the proposed development will be assessed against the MSDC 2005 landscape character assessment, as the two assessments are essentially similar and the Mid Sussex assessment post-dates the county assessment.

¹² <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/environment/landscape/landscape> (accessed 10.06.2024)

¹³ <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/landscape-and-environment/landscape-character-assessment-of-west-sussex/> (accessed 10.06.2024)

LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENTS

- 3.7 The site is covered by several landscape character assessments due to its location across two local authorities, the extent of these character areas are illustrated at **Plan EDP 3**. The majority of the site is located within the Lewes Landscape Character Assessment.

Lewes Landscape Character Assessment

LCA C3 - Ditchling Common Western Low Weald

- 3.8 Lewes District Council undertook a Landscape Character Assessment in 2023 for the rural landscape within the district outside of the South Downs National Park. The central and eastern extent of the site is located in the Landscape Character Area (LCA) C3 Ditchling Common Western Low Weald. The assessment includes several key characteristics for the LCA. Those deemed relevant to the site and detailed study area are listed below, with the full list available in **Appendix EDP 5**:

- *“The landform is undulating between approximately +35m AOD to +75m AOD.*
- *Generally medium-scale field enclosures with some smaller field enclosures in the more settled southern and western parts of the Landscape Character Area, many formed from woodland clearance and often bounded by remnant woodland strips known as shaws.*
- *Predominantly assarted, enclosed agricultural land of ancient form, as well as some amalgamated, enclosed agricultural land of modern form in the northern part of the Landscape Character Area and planned, enclosed agricultural land of pre-modern form in the central and southern parts.*
- *Mixture of arable and pasture land use, with hedgerow and hedgerow tree boundaries of varied condition.*
- *Ancient woodland scattered across the area, including larger areas within the southern part of the Landscape Character Area such as Blackbrook Wood and a number of small to medium-sized areas in close proximity to one another in the northern part, including Strood Wood and Wilderness Wood.*
- *Landscape heavily characterised by the influence of large continuous and amalgamated blocks of woodland, creating high levels of enclosure, a wooded backdrop in views and limiting long-distance views including those towards the rising landform of the South Downs National Park to the south.*
- *Ancient, fairly straight, north to south drove ways include the B2112, Streat Lane, Hundred Acre Lane.*
- *Main transport routes include the B2112 in the western part of the Landscape Character Area and the railway line denoting the southern boundary, which create localised audible and visual detracting features and decrease tranquillity in comparison to the more rural areas.*

- *Often an audible perception of vehicles which increases in proximity to the B2112."*

Landscape Management Guidelines

- 3.9 The assessment provides guidelines for Landscape Management within the LCA C3 Ditchling Common Western Low Weald. It states that blue and green infrastructure should be retained and enhanced, with improvements made to existing hedgerows and vegetation. PRow networks should be preserved and enhanced with aims of relevant designations supported. Measures that combine flood management and ecological initiatives are encouraged, and the setting of the South Downs National Park should be preserved.

Development Guidelines

- 3.10 The assessment provides a series of guidelines for development within the LCA. Guidelines relevant to the site have been included below:
- *"Development should be limited and designed to retain the rural character of the majority of the area, noting that there are several areas with prominent urbanising features.*
 - *Protect and retain existing vegetation across the Landscape Character Area, including ancient woodland and on the edge of settlement areas.*
 - *The height, scale, massing and articulation of any new development to be of a similar character of the existing valued context via locally characteristic building forms, high quality detailing and sympathetic contemporary architecture.*
 - *Any new development should be set within a robust landscape framework as part of a wider blue green infrastructure strategy.*
 - *Any new development should include materials which are well integrated into the wooded backdrop within views through colour studies and references to published guidelines.*
 - *Ensure any development including lighting is assessed for its visual impact, including from the South Downs National Park.*
 - *Reinstatement of historic field boundaries where they have been lost to amalgamation and retain the ancient field pattern."*

Mid-Sussex District Council Landscape Character Assessment

LCA 10 High Weald Fringes

3.11 Mid-Sussex District Council commissioned a Landscape Character Assessment in 2005¹⁴. The western extent of the site is located in the LCA: 10 High Weald Fringes. The assessment includes several key characteristics for the LCA. Those deemed relevant to the site and detailed study area are listed below, with the full list available in **Appendix EDP 6**:

- *“Significant woodland cover, a substantial portion of it ancient, and a dense network of shaws, hedgerows and hedgerow trees.*
- *Pattern of small, irregular-shaped assart fields and larger fields, and small pockets of remnant heathland.*
- *Biodiversity concentrated in the valleys, heathland, and woodland.*
- *Network of lanes, droveways, tracks and footpaths.*
- *Some busy lanes and roads including A and B roads bounding the area to the west, and other roads crossing north to south, including the A23 Trunk Road.*
- *London to Brighton Railway Line crosses the area at Haywards Heath.*
- *Varied traditional rural buildings built with diverse materials including timberframing, Horsham Stone roofing, Wealden stone and varieties of local brick and tile-hanging.”*

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities

3.12 The description of the High Weald Fringes also defines ‘Landscape and Visual Sensitivities’, of which the relevant ones are as follows:

- *“Woodland cover limits the visual sensitivity of the landscape and confers a sense of intimacy, seclusion and tranquillity.*
- *Unobtrusive settlement pattern in many parts.*
- *Settlement pattern currently sits well within the rural landscape although there is a danger of the visual impact of new development, particularly on the south side of Haywards Heath, unless appropriate steps are taken to integrate new development into the landscape.”*

SITE LANDSCAPE FEATURES, FABRIC, AND CHARACTER

3.13 Site visits took place in March 2024. The visits were complemented by a review of aerial photography, mapping and field assessments from publicly accessible locations (e.g. from local roads and Public Rights of Way (PRoW)).

¹⁴ env18-landscape-character-assessment.pdf

- 3.14 The site comprises predominantly pastoral farmland, with the site split into five small field parcels slightly irregular in shape (see **Plan EDP 2**). These are delineated by a network of locally valuable native hedgerows, with sporadic hedgerow trees. A field ditch is also present along the east/west internal field boundary. Boundary treatment varies across the site. Mature treed hedgerows form the southern and northern boundaries (**Image EDP 3.1** and **3.2**), and the western boundary is formed by mature treed hedgerows in the north-west corner, and a mix of buildings and fence lines in the south-western corner (**Image EDP 3.3**). The eastern boundary is delineated by adjacent woodland, with a ditch running down the boundary.



Image EDP 3.1: Vegetation along the southern boundary.



Image EDP 3.2: View from within the site, looking towards the western boundary.



Image EDP 3.3: View from within the site, looking towards the western boundary.

- 3.15 The site is bounded by a small pastoral field to the north, a large Ancient woodland to the east, medium sized arable fields to the south, and settlement to the west and north-west; including the B2112 Lunce's Hill road. The site is accessed from the B2112, on the western boundary. No other access is present on the site, including any PRow.

- 3.16 As shown in **Image EDP 3.4**, the local land use to the north and south is similar to that of the site, albeit more regular shaped agricultural fields predominantly in arable use, and delineated by maintained hedgerows and sporadic trees. The wider land use to the north does however transform into urban settlement, which carries on around to the west where settlement is the prominent land use. **Image EDP 3.5** shows recently developed and approved development in the immediate context of the site, highlighting the changing landscape within the detailed study area. To the east, land use is a mix of large woodlands interspersed by medium to large scale agriculture.



Image EDP 3.4: Google aerial image of the landscape surrounding the site.

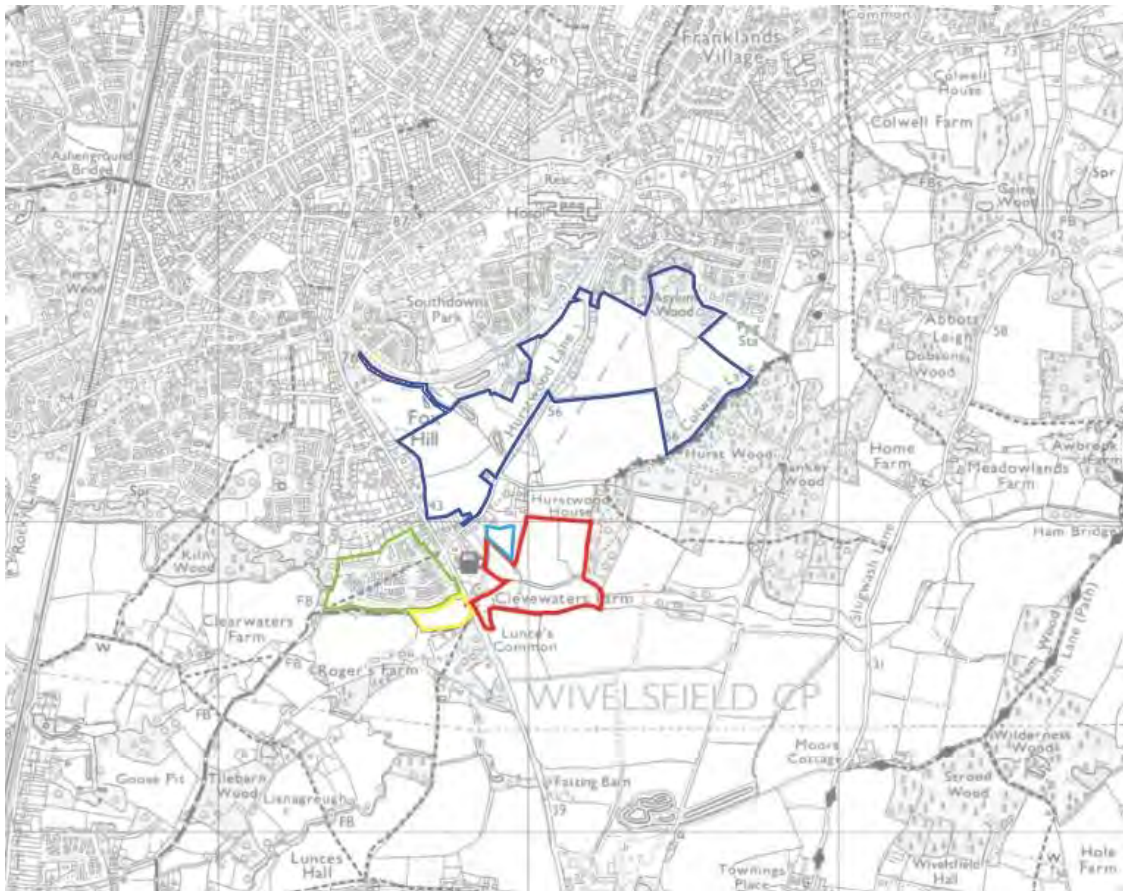


Image EDP 3.5: Map highlighting locations of new and approved developments within the immediate context of the site. The redline area is the site, the dark blue area is approved application DM/22/2272, the light blue area is approved application DM/19/0206, the yellow area is approved application DM/22/0733 currently under construction, and the green area is recently completed Fox Hill development.

- 3.17 As shown on **Plan EDP 3**, the site sits within a 'shallow bowl', with rising undulating landform present to the north, east and south. Landform to the west slightly rises from the site but generally falls towards a watercourse to the west. The site itself is predominantly flat, with the high point found along the northern edge, and the lower ground on the southern edge.
- 3.18 The quality and condition of the landscape varies across the site. Grazing did not appear to be that intense at the time of surveying, and there was little sign of disturbance of the ditches and vegetation from animals. The formalised hedgerows found internally and on the western boundary are more intensely managed, but the key features are the mature trees found along the boundaries and in the internal hedgerows.
- 3.19 Overall, the character of the site is a working agricultural landscape on the edge of a settlement, with suburban influences from the west in the form of residential housing, and the B2112 road adjacent to the west boundary. There is a relatively enclosed, contained feel to the site due to its location within a 'shallow bowl' and well-treed boundaries.

IDENTIFIED RECEPTORS AND THEIR SENSITIVITY

- 3.20 One of the purposes of this LVA is to identify the landscape receptors that will be potentially impacted by the proposals. Landscape receptors can include the constituent elements of the landscape (landscape features and fabric) and the character of the landscape in different areas. It also includes a consideration of the aesthetic and perceptual factors which contribute to landscape character. The landscape receptors identified include those within the site and within the detailed 'study area'. They are summarised as follows.

Landscape Features and Fabric

- Pastoral farmland with irregular sized fields and varied field boundaries;
- Ancient Woodland adjacent to the western boundary;
- Hedgerows and specimen trees along the site's boundaries and internal field boundaries;
- Ditches along the site's boundaries and internal field boundaries; and
- Topography.

Landscape Character

Host Landscape Character Areas:

- LCA 14: Western Low Weald;
 - LCA 3: Ditchling Common Western Low Weald; and
 - LCA 10: High Weald Fringes.
- 3.21 The landscape character of the site is considered representative of the host LCAs, in particular the presence of small, irregular shaped fields, with specimen trees and hedgerows aligned with field boundaries, located within an enclosed, undulating landscape. The site pertains a strong connection to the B2112 to the west, which is a feature commonly recognised in all the character areas.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

- 3.22 The sensitivity of a landscape resource is the product of the inherent value attached to the landscape and its susceptibility to the type of development proposed in a particular location.

Landscape Value

- 3.23 Landscape value is the innate value of the landscape resource irrespective of the type of development proposed and, as such, is determined within the baseline.

The Site and its Context

- 3.24 GLVIA3 and the 2021 LI Technical Note TGN 02-21 assist in delivering a framework for an objective landscape assessment of value. The criteria defined within TGN 02-21 is reproduced below in **Table EDP 3.1**, with EDP's observations alongside, based on published material and from EDP's field assessment. For each of the nine criteria, the site and local area is judged on the basis of a range from 'High', through 'Medium' to 'low' in terms of the performance against these criteria.

Table EDP 3.1: Consideration of Landscape Value

| TGN 02-21 Criteria | The Site and its Landscape Character |
|----------------------------|--|
| Landscape Condition | Medium. The site comprises pastoral field parcels, with field boundaries consisting of hedgerow, trees, ditches and post and rail fencing. The landscape within the site is in a reasonable physical condition with some intact landscape features present along the boundaries. |
| Perceptual (Scenic) | Medium. The site is largely representative of its host character areas, formed of several small field parcels with strong landscape features present along some of the boundaries. The site is well enclosed by woodland and topography to the west and south, limiting its connection to the wider landscape, whereas there is a strong connection with the settlement edge to the north and west. The woodland adjacent to the eastern boundary, and the vegetation along the southern boundary do form a backdrop to the local landscape. As a result, the site has some aesthetic appeal. |
| Distinctiveness | Medium. Beyond being an open area of pastoral land adjacent to the settlement edge of Haywards Heath, the site has no particularly strong sense of identity or distinctiveness. The small irregular field parcels are noted as distinctive features of the site, but these are not rare landscape features. The site is largely representative of its' host character areas. |
| Natural Heritage | Medium/Low. The site does not contain any sensitive features of natural heritage importance. An Ancient Woodland is located adjacent to the eastern boundary, so the site is located within its context. |
| Cultural Heritage | Low The Heritage Impact Assessment confirms that the site has limited archaeological interest. There are pockets of localised historical or cultural interest within the wider context, associated with Haywards Heath. |
| Recreational | Low The site has limited recreation value. There is no public access or PRow that pass through the site. |

| TGN 02-21 Criteria | The Site and its Landscape Character |
|---|---|
| Perceptual (Wilderness and tranquillity) | Medium/Low. The site is predominantly pastoral and is a working farmland landscape. The presence of settlement to the west, and the B2112 road adjacent to the western boundary, reduces the sense of wilderness. Tranquillity does increase along the eastern edge, where the distance from urban influences are greatest, and there is a stronger connection to the adjacent woodland. |
| Associations | Low There are no known associations between the site, or its wider context, and notable people, events or the arts. |
| Functional | Low. The site is predominantly working farmland where soils are disturbed and the diversity of landscape elements is limited. However, the presence of vegetated field boundaries and connection to ancient woodland to the east does somewhat increase its functionality. |

- 3.25 Having assessed the site in accordance with the methodology and TGN 02-21, overall, it is considered of no more than medium value. The condition of the landscape within the site is generally reasonable, with some biodiversity and Green Infrastructure value found internally along field boundaries. Beyond being an open area of agricultural land typical for farmland in close proximity to a settlement, the site has no particularly strong sense of identity or distinctiveness and comprises unremarkable agricultural land. The local context of the site pertains similar attributes as the site (as described above), although the value of the landscape does increase to the east, where ancient woodland is found, and to the south, where there is a separation from urban influences beyond the southern boundary, defined by the existing hedge/tree line associated with the edge of the site.

Landscape Character Areas

- 3.26 LCA 14: Western Low Weald, LCA C3: Ditchling Common Western Low Weald, and LCA 10: High Weald Fringes, are all located within the site. The landscape within the site is considered a typical example of the LCAs that it forms part of, without any particular features or associations that would increase its landscape value above that of the surrounding landscape. Therefore, the value of the landscape within the site associated with the LCAs is considered as medium.

Landscape Susceptibility to Change

- 3.27 The susceptibility of a landscape resource is defined as the ability of the receptor (whether the overall character, individual fabric elements or perceptual aspects of the landscape) to accommodate the type of development proposed without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation.

The Site and its Context

- 3.28 The site is located in a well enclosed landscape, and its predominantly flat and low-lying with gently undulating topography to the north and south, dense woodland to the east, and well-treed settlement to the west. Vegetation along the northern and southern boundaries also add to the sense of containment. The small field pattern with internal field boundary vegetation reduces the scale of the site, with the main potential developable area being pasture. The site is located in the context of settlement and suburban influences, including the B2112, which does reduce the rural perception of the site. Notable landscape features present on-site are found along the boundaries and internal fields. Based on the above, the susceptibility to change for the site and its context for the type of development proposed is medium/low.

Landscape Character Areas

- 3.29 LCA 14: Western Low Weald is a large, county-wide LCA that covers the landscape to the east and south of the site, bordering the settlement of Haywards Heath in places. The majority of the site is covered by LCA 14. The LCA includes several small settlements and the larger settlement of Wivelsfield Green to the south, so settlement is typical within this expansive LCA. The LCA is well-wooded, particularly around the site, which limits intervisibility and provides a sense of enclosure. Where key features are present, they are predominantly found along the boundaries of the site where development of this type is less likely to occur. Therefore, the susceptibility to change for LCA 14 for the type of development proposed is low.
- 3.30 LCA C3: Ditchling Common Western Low Weald is an expansive district LCA that covers parts the landscape to the east and south of the site, bordering the settlement of Haywards Heath in places. The majority of the site is covered by LCA. The LCA is well-wooded, particularly around the site, which limits intervisibility and provides a sense of enclosure. Where key features are present, they are predominantly found along the boundaries of the site where development of this type is less likely to occur. Therefore, the susceptibility to change for LCA C3 for the type of development proposed is low.
- 3.31 LCA 10: High Weald Fringes is a large, district LCA that covers the landscape to the west and north of the site. Only a small section of the site is covered by the LCA (most westerly area adjacent to the B2112), which is isolated from the wider LCA by settlement. The LCA boundary includes the large settlement of Haywards Heath, so settlement is typical within this expansive LCA, and the dominant feature of the LCA within the study area. The LCA is well-wooded to the west of Haywards Heath, which when combined with dense settlement, limits intervisibility and provides a sense of enclosure within the study area. Due to the limited area coverage of the LCA within the site, notable landscape features are limited. Therefore, the susceptibility to change for LCA 10 for the type of development proposed is very low.

LANDSCAPE BASELINE SUMMARY

- 3.32 The landscape character receptors to be assessed within this LVA are summarised in **Table EDP 3.2** for clarity.

Table EDP 3.2: Landscape Character Receptor Summary

| Receptor | Value | Susceptibility | Overall Sensitivity |
|--|--------|----------------|---------------------|
| The Site and its Context | Medium | Medium/Low | Medium/Low |
| LCA 14: Western Low Weald | Medium | Low | Medium/Low |
| LCA C3: Ditchling Common Western Low Weald | Medium | Low | Medium/Low |
| LCA 10: High Weald Fringes | Medium | Very Low | Low |

Section 4

Existing (Baseline) Conditions: Visual Amenity

INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 This section provides an assessment of the 'baseline' (existing) conditions in respect of the visual amenity of the site and its surroundings.
- 4.2 This chapter identifies those visual receptors which merit detailed consideration in the assessment of effects, and those which are not taken forward for further assessment as effects *"have been judged unlikely to occur or so insignificant that it is not essential to consider them further"* (GLVIA3, para. 3.19).
- 4.3 Visual amenity (as opposed to 'visual character' described in the previous section) is not about the visual appearance of the site, but has to do with the number, distribution and character of views towards, from or within the site. An analysis of visual amenity allows conclusions to be reached about who may experience visual change, from where and to what degree those views will be affected by the proposed development.

ZONES OF THEORETICAL AND PRIMARY VISIBILITY

- 4.4 The starting point for an assessment of visual amenity is a computer-generated 'zone of theoretical visibility' (ZTV). The ZTV is derived using digital landform height data only and therefore it does not account for the screening effects of intervening buildings, structures or vegetation, but it does give a prediction of the areas that, theoretically, may be able to experience visual change (see **Plan EDP 5**); it thus provides the basis for more detailed field assessment.
- 4.5 The ZTV is then refined by walking and driving local roads, rights of way and other publicly accessible viewpoints to arrive at a more accurate, 'field-tested' zone of primary visibility (ZPV). The ZPV is where views of the proposed development would normally be close-ranging and open, whether in the public or private domain, on foot, cycling or in a vehicle. In this instance, the field assessment was undertaken by an experienced Landscape Architect in March 2024.
- 4.6 Beyond the ZPV lies a zone of visibility that is less open, being either partly screened or filtered. Views from within this zone would include the proposal – it may not be immediately noticeable, but once recognised would be a perceptible addition to the view.
- 4.7 **Plan EDP 6** illustrates the findings of the visual appraisal from which it can be seen that the ZPV extends as follows:
- **North:** The rising topography and strong field boundary vegetation to the north, limits views of the site to adjacent receptors. No views of the site are experienced beyond 1km, and where views of the site are experienced, they are heavily filtered by vegetation and existing settlement;

- **East:** Dense woodland along the eastern boundary screens views of the site from the east, limiting views to adjacent receptors only, which are located in the dense woodland, which heavily obscures views of the site;
- **South:** The rising topography to the south screens views from receptors to the south, limiting views to local receptors within 200m of the site; and
- **West:** Existing settlement and vegetation associated with Lunce's Hill limits views of the site to adjacent receptors. Existing woodland to the west of the road also heavily filters views towards the site.

VISUAL RECEPTOR GROUPS

- 4.8 Within the ZPV and wider area, the people ('receptors') likely to experience visual change can be considered as falling into a number of discernible groups.

Rights of Way Users

- 4.9 PRoW within, or in proximity to, the detailed study area are shown on **Plans EDP 2** and **5**. Within the Study Area there are a number of PRoW, and below, those deemed to potentially experience views of the site have been addressed.

PRoW 3a

- 4.10 PRoW 3a is located adjacent to the site's western boundary, on the western side of Lunce's Hill, where it terminates. The PRoW runs east/west along the edge of the settlement, predominantly in a woodland belt. Views of the site are generally screened by woodland and settlement, limiting views to a short 10-20m section of PRoW to the most eastern extent where it terminates at Lunce's Hill (**Photoviewpoint EDP 7**).

PRoW 15

- 4.11 PRoW 15 is located adjacent to the site's western boundary, on the western side of Lunce's Hill, where it terminates. The PRoW runs north/south through isolated residential dwellings before heading into open countryside on the other side of the local ridgeline to the south. Views of the site are generally screened by topography, with views at close proximity heavily filtered by woodland (**Photoviewpoint EDP 6**), limiting views to a short 15-20m section of PRoW to the most eastern extent where it terminates at Lunce's Hill (**Photoviewpoint EDP 7**).

PRoW 25

- 4.12 PRoW 25 is located approximately 145m north-east of the site. The PRoW runs north-east/south-west through dense woodland, and terminates 145m from the site, where it meets PRoW 29. Users of the PRoW are surrounded by dense woodland, so views from the PRoW are restricted, and no views of the site are experienced from this short length of by-way. Therefore, effects on this PRoW have been judged unlikely to occur or so negligible that it is not essential to consider them further, so users of PRoW 25 will not be assessed further in this LVA.

PRoW 29

- 4.13 PRoW 29 is located approximately 100m north-east of the site. The PRoW runs east/west through dense woodland and through the centre of agricultural fields. Due to the dense woodland adjacent to the site, the majority of users of PRoW 29 do not experience views of the site (**Photoviewpoint EDP 4**). A 150m section of the footpath runs through the dense woodland adjacent to the site, where heavily obscured views of the site are experienced in winter (**Photoviewpoint EDP 3**).

PRoW 28CU

- 4.14 PRoW 28CU is located approximately 140m north-west of the site. It is located within settlement (recently diverted due to new development) and terminates on the west side of Fox Hill/Lunce's Hill. The majority of the footpath runs through dense settlement to the west, screening views west towards the site. A 20m section runs through the car park of The Fox and Hounds Pub, where glimpses of the site through settlement and vegetation is possible (representative **Photoviewpoint EDP 8**).

Road Users

Minor Road Users

B2112 Lunce's Hill/Fox Hill

- 4.15 The B2112 splits its name at the junction of Cape Road to the west of the site. For the purposes of this assessment, the B2112 will be referred to as Lunce's Hill. The B2112 is a frequently used through road, connecting the large settlement of Haywards Heath to the large settlement of Burgess Hill. The B2112 runs north/south along the majority of the sites western boundary. Views of the site from this road vary from open, where the site is accessed off the road, to heavily filtered by existing settlement.

Hurstwood Lane

- 4.16 Hurstwood Lane is a narrow rural lane that connects the eastern edge of Haywards Heath to the southern edge, serving several individual dwellings, and the emerging Hurst Farm development. Settlement runs along the entirety of the southern side of the lane as it passes the site, which generally screens views of the site. Access points into properties afford fleeting oblique glimpses of the site.

Colwell Lane

- 4.17 Colwell Lane is a narrow rural lane that acts as a connection between the eastern and southern edge of Haywards Heath. Part of the lane is a restricted byway that prohibits four wheeled vehicles using it, so the western section of the lane predominantly acts as a shared driveway to several individual properties. Views of the site from this section are predominantly screened by roadside vegetation, with partial views afforded at a field entrance (**Photoviewpoint EDP 1**). Along the restricted section, intervening vegetation partially screens views of the site (**Photoviewpoint EDP 2**).

Residential Dwellings/Groups

- 4.18 For the purposes of this LVA, residential receptors have been placed into groups where similar attributes and experiences have been identified. **Image EDP 4.1** provides the locations of these groups.



Image EDP 4.1: Residential receptor group locations.

Group A – Properties off Colwell Lane

- 4.19 Properties associated with Colwell Lane are generally low density with large gardens. The landscape surrounding the lane contains hedgerows and is well-treed. This alongside the boundary vegetation of the site, heavily filters views of the site from these properties (**Image EDP 4.2**).



Image EDP 4.2: Reverse view from within the northern area of the site, looking north towards Colwell Lane.

Group B – Properties off Colwell Lane South and Hurstwood Lane

- 4.20 This resident group also includes the properties currently under construction, associated with the Braydells development (DM/19/0206) (see **Image EDP 3.5**). Properties associated with Colwell Lane South and Hurstwood Lane are generally low to medium density with gardens backing onto the site. Due to the proximity, views into the site are experienced from lower and upper storey windows of some of the properties, although these are somewhat filtered by the existing vegetation associated with the site (**Images EDP 4.3** and **4.4**).



Image EDP 4.3: Reverse view from within the western area of the site, looking north-west towards Hurstwood Lane.



Image EDP 4.4: Reverse view from within the western area of the site, looking north-west towards Colwell Lane South.

Group C – Properties on the East side of Lunce's Hill

- 4.21 Properties on the eastern side of Lunce's Hill back on directly to the site. Due to the proximity, open views into the site from lower and upper storey windows are experienced from these properties (**Image EDP 4.5**).

Group D – Properties on the West side of Lunce's Hill

- 4.22 Views from properties on the western side of Lunce's Hill are generally heavily filtered by settlement and vegetation (**Photoviewpoint EDP 8**). Where the western boundary opens up in the south-west corner, views from adjacent properties increase, although existing settlement associated with Lunce's Hill continues to partially screen views into the site (**Image EDP 4.6**).



Image EDP 4.5: Reverse view from within the southern area of the site, looking west towards Lunce's Hill.



Image EDP 4.6: Reverse View from within the western area of the site, looking west towards Lunce's Hill.

Group E – Properties associated with Greenhill Park and Birch Way

- 4.23 Views from properties on the edge of Greenhill Park and Birch Way are located approximately 800m north of the site. The properties are located on elevated ground, which affords filtered distance views of the eastern area of the site (**Image EDP 4.7**).



Image EDP 4.7: Reverse view from within the eastern area of the site, looking north towards Greenhill Park and Birch Way.

Visual Sensitivity

Receptor Value

4.24 As detailed in paragraph 3.21 et seq., in accordance with our methodology and guidance, we have attributed the value of each receptor to be assessed within the study area as the following:

- **PRoW:** The PRoW in the study area being assessed are predominantly used for the purposes of accessing the open countryside with an emphasis on the enjoyment of the views from the designated routes, and therefore, they are considered to be of high value;
- **B2112, Minor Road:** The B2112 is considered a main road, connecting two large settlements. The main focus for drivers along this road is what is in front of them, and travelling from 'A to B', with the enjoyment of the view of less importance. Therefore, users of the B2113 are deemed to have a low value;
- **Hurstwood Lane and Colwell Lane, Minor Roads:** The remaining minor roads in the area are narrow rural lanes, where speeds are much lower and the chances of temporarily stopping are increased. The focus still remains on what is in front of the driver, but the appreciation for the views experienced are higher due to the nature of how users of these roads navigate, resulting in a medium value for users of Hurstwood Lane and Colwell Lane; and

- **Residential Properties:** Views from primary spaces on the lower storey of properties on the edge of settlement, overlooking open countryside, are assessed to pertain a very high value, where enjoyment of the views are a key element of using these primary spaces. Views from upper storey windows, where the focus is less on the view but the function of the room, have a high value attributed to them. Where properties are located within existing settlement, and views are influenced by the urban context, the value attributed to these views reduce to high from lower storey windows, and medium from upper storey windows.

Receptor Susceptibility to Change

4.25 Each receptor group to be assessed within the study area has been judged on its ability to accommodate the type of development proposed on the site, in accordance with our methodology and professional guidance:

- **PRoW 3a and PRoW 15:** Users of the sections of PRoW 3a and PRoW 15 are considered to experience a medium susceptibility to changes arising from development of the type proposed. Views from these PRoW are of countryside in the setting of settlement and infrastructure, so there is some capacity for these receptors to accommodate change;
- **PRoW 29:** PRoW 29 is located in open countryside with minimal influence from settlement or infrastructure. Therefore, the primary focus is on the landscape, and users of PRoW 29 experience a high susceptibility to change;
- **PRoW 28CU:** PRoW 28CU is located in settlement, and in particular a pub car park. Views from this PRoW are predominantly of dense settlement and infrastructure, so there is capacity to accommodate changes to the view of the type of development proposed, resulting in a low susceptibility to change for users of PRoW 28CU.
- **B2112 Lunce's Hill:** The B2112 passes through dense settlement, with residential properties flanking both sides of the road the majority of its length. Views of the site are fleeting, so there is capacity to accommodate changes to the site, resulting in a low susceptibility to change for users of the B2112.
- **Hurstwood Lane and Colwell Lane:** Hurstwood Lane is predominantly sided by low density settlement as it passes the site. A section of Colwell Lane is sided by low density settlement, whilst the eastern section is restricted vehicle use. The site itself is not the primary focus of the views. Therefore, there is capacity for changes to the site, resulting in a medium susceptibility to change for users of Hurstwood Lane and Colwell Lane;
- **Group A, B, C, and E residents:** People at home, and in particular where there are open views from primary living spaces, are considered to have a higher susceptibility to changes arising from development of the type proposed. Therefore, the susceptibility to changes from primary living spaces associated with Group A, B, C and E residents is deemed very high, reducing to high from upper storey windows; and

- **Group D residents:** Residents in Group D are located within settlement, and existing views of settlement and infrastructure is typical of the views experienced from these properties, with the site located in the background of the views. Therefore, the susceptibility to changes from primary living spaces associated with Group D residents is deemed high, reducing to medium from upper storey windows.

Overall Visual Sensitivity

- The overall sensitivity of PRoW 3a and PRoW 15 users is considered to be high/medium;
- The overall sensitivity of PRoW 29 users is considered to be high;
- The overall sensitivity of PRoW 28CU users is considered to be medium;
- The overall sensitivity of B2112 Lunce's Hill users is considered to be low;
- The overall sensitivity of Hurstwood Lane and Colwell Lane users is considered to be medium; and
- The overall sensitivity of Group A, B, C and E residents is very high to high sensitivity, and Group D residents high to medium sensitivity. It is noted that views from private residential properties are not protected by national planning guidance or local planning policy. Accordingly, changes to the character, 'quality' and nature of private views are not a material planning consideration in the determination of a planning application. However, they remain relevant to this review of the predicted extent and nature of visual change.

Summary of Visual Receptors to be Assessed

4.26 **Table EDP 4.1** details the visual receptors that experience views of the site and have the potential to experience larger than negligible effects from the type of development proposed. These receptors will be assessed further in **Section 6**.

Table EDP 4.1: Visual Receptor Summary

| Receptor | Value | Susceptibility | Overall Sensitivity |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| PRoW 3a | High | Medium | High/Medium |
| PRoW 15 | High | Medium | High/Medium |
| PRoW 29 | High | High | High |
| PRoW 28CU | High | Low | Medium |
| B2112 Lunce's Hill | Low | Low | Low |
| Hurstwood Lane | Medium | Medium | Medium |
| Colwell Lane | Medium | Medium | Medium |
| Group A Residents | Very High to High | Very High to High | Very High to High |
| Group B Residents | Very High to High | Very High to High | Very High to High |
| Group C Residents | Very High to High | Very High to High | Very High to High |

| Receptor | Value | Susceptibility | Overall Sensitivity |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Group D Residents | High to Medium | High to Medium | High to Medium |
| Group E Residents | Very High to High | Very High to High | Very High to High |

REPRESENTATIVE VIEWPOINTS

4.27 Within the ZPV, there are clearly many individual points at which views towards the site are gained. A number of viewpoints have been selected that are considered representative of the nature of the views from each of the receptor groups. The selection of the representative viewpoints is based on the principle that the appraisal needs to test the 'worst case' scenario, and in selecting these viewpoints, they have sought to include:

- A range of viewpoints from all points of the compass, north, south, east and west;
- A range of viewpoints from distances at close quarters at the site boundary and up to distant viewpoints at 250m and more from the site; and
- Viewpoints from all the above receptor groups.

4.28 The representation of views is supported by eight photoviewpoints (PVPs), the number and location of which has not been agreed with the LPA. The locations are illustrated on **Plan EDP 6**. Photographs from the selected viewpoints are contained in **Appendix EDP 3**. The purpose of these viewpoints is to aid assessment of a visual receptor(s). These viewpoints are not assessed separately.

4.29 The representative photoviewpoints are listed in **Table EDP 4.2** together with an appraisal of the sensitivity of visual receptors at each location. The sensitivity has been derived from the baseline knowledge of the viewpoints, a knowledge of the type of development proposed, and the criteria set out in the methodology at **Appendix EDP 2**.

Table EDP 4.2: Summary of Representative Photoviewpoints

| PVP No. | Location | Grid Reference | Distance and Direction of View | Reason(s) for Selection and Sensitivity of Receptor |
|-----------|--|----------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 1a and 1b | View from Colwell Lane to the north of the site on the settlement edge, looking south towards the site | 534050, 122114 | 103m, south | Colwell Lane users – medium sensitivity. Resident Group A – very high to high sensitivity. |
| 2a and 2b | View from Colwell Lane to the north of the site, looking south towards the site | 534128, 122114 | 109m, south | Colwell Lane users – medium sensitivity |

| PVP No. | Location | Grid Reference | Distance and Direction of View | Reason(s) for Selection and Sensitivity of Receptor |
|----------------|---|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 3a and 3b | View from WIV/29/1 within the woodland to the north-east of the site, looking south-west towards the site | 534245, 122103 | 114m, south-west | PRoW 29 users – high sensitivity |
| 4 | View from WIV/29/1 to the east of the site, looking west towards the site | 534468, 121941 | 281m, west | PRoW 29 users – high sensitivity |
| 5a and 5b | View from B2112 Lunce's Hill to the south-west of the site, looking north-east towards the site | 533879, 121577 | 70m, north | B2112 road users - low sensitivity |
| 6 | View from PRoW WIV/15/1 to the west of the site, looking east towards the site | 533756, 121568 | 128m, east | PRoW 15 users – high/medium sensitivity |
| 7a and 7b | View from B2112 Lunce's Hill / PRoW WIV/15/1 & WIV/3/1 junction adjacent to the site's western boundary, looking east across the site | 533823, 121703 | 6m, east | PRoW 3a and 15 users – high/medium sensitivity B2112 road users – low sensitivity Resident Group C – very high to high sensitivity Resident Group D – high to medium sensitivity |
| 8a and 8b | View from B2112 Lunce's Hill to the west of the site, looking east towards the site | 533758, 121839 | 102m, east | PRoW 28CU users – medium sensitivity B2112 road users – low sensitivity Resident Group D – high to medium sensitivity |

FUTURE BASELINE

- 4.30 A number of assumptions are made to define the 'no development' scenario or future baseline of the site. The future landscape and visual baseline in this location would largely depend on natural processes, climate and land management practices, as well as the completion of several approved housing developments in line with the agreed designs.

- 4.31 The site's existing topography would remain unchanged without development. However, the visual perception of these landforms could change due to vegetation growth or removal. Conventional tillage practices, especially on slopes or in areas that experience heavy rainfall, can accelerate soil erosion. This can lead to the loss of topsoil, which is the most fertile layer, reducing the land's long-term agricultural productivity. Intensive farming tends to deplete soil nutrients, especially if monoculture practices are used. This may impact on future vegetation growth and potential perceptions on pastoral landscape.
- 4.32 It is assumed that current land management and natural processes will continue, and therefore, the future baseline of the site will remain largely unchanged.
- 4.33 As shown at **Image EDP 2.2**, if built out, development DM/22/2272 would substantially alter the landscape character to the north of the site, with changes to the defined character areas in the county and district landscape character assessments. The development would also bring settlement closer to the site from the north, as well as introduce large areas of public open space with tree planting. The introduction of this development would potentially alter the visual experiences of the site from receptors to the north, either screening views of the site, or altering the focus of the view to that of the DM/22/2272 development.
- 4.34 Development DM/19/0206 is currently under construction at the time of writing this report. The introduction of this development would bring development closer to the north-western boundary, increase density of settlement to the north-west, and alter views from existing residents associated with Hurstwood Lane.
- 4.35 Development DM/22/0733 is recently completed at the time of writing this report. As part of the implementation, areas of landscape are located along the boundary to Lunce's Hill (**Image EDP 2.3**). The proposed planting includes several specimen trees within a 'woodland mix' of planting. If planted and established, views of the site will be changed from receptors to the west of Lunce's Hill, with the landscaping filtering views east from the development towards the site.

Section 5

The Proposed Development and Mitigation

5.1 The proposed development is illustrated in **Appendix EDP 1**. The DAS supporting this application provides full details of the development proposals.

5.2 To summarise the proposed development is:

“an outline planning application for the erection of up to 130 dwellings, together with the change of use of an existing barn for flexible community or commercial use, along with associated outdoor space and landscaping, drainage infrastructure, hard and soft landscaping, parking, access and associated works (all matters reserved except for access)”.

DESIGN EVOLUTION

5.3 Several key constraints and opportunities have been identified as part of the baseline appraisal and early design process. Key themes around landscape and visual matters have been identified, and are as follows:

- **Landscape character:** Retention and reinforcement (and potential reinstatement) of hedgerow boundaries, and potential for planting new hedgerows which contribute to local landscape character;
- **Visual amenity of Public Rights of Way surrounding the site:** Particular consideration of those to the west where open views of the site are apparent;
- **Visual amenity of road users:** Minor routes in close proximity to the site, particularly where the site is seen on the approach to Haywards Heath;
- **Visual amenity of residential receptors:** In particular, receptors adjacent to the north-west and western boundaries;
- **Development relationship with existing landscape features:** Key sensitive features, including the ancient woodland and ditches will be protected and incorporated into the scheme to protect and enhance these features; and
- **Development relationship with existing settlement:** The potential relationship of new development set against the surrounding built environment characteristics, including the distinctive massing, scale and materials of Haywards Heath.

LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

5.4 As highlighted above, the landscape and visual sensitivities of the site and its context have influenced the current masterplan through an iterative design process. Thus, the proposed development incorporates a degree of integral (or embedded) mitigation designed to avoid

or reduce potential landscape and visual effects. These measures are illustrated on the Illustrated Landscape Strategy (**Plan EDP 7**) and can be summarised as follows:

- 5.5 The overall principles of the landscape strategy are to create a new settlement edge with areas of Public Open Space (POS) to form a soft and sympathetic interface between Haywards Heath and the open countryside to the east and south;
- 5.6 The retained specimen tree and hedgerows within the centre of the site will be protected from impact where possible and integrated into the design as a key landscape feature and character of the area. A substantial number of specimen trees are also proposed throughout the site; and
- 5.7 New habitats will be introduced across the site to increase species diversity, reduce risk of pests and diseases, and improve amenity value in the area, achieving a minimum 10% BNG across the site.

Proposed Landscape Mitigation

- 5.8 To soften the perceptual impact of development from the adjacent PRow to the west, the built edge will be offset from this boundary, limiting development to only road infrastructure in close proximity to this part of the site.
- 5.9 To screen and filter views of the proposed development, there will be an integration of green streets, street trees, and layered shrub planting into the development, which will aim to break up the built-form and layer the landscaping through the entire scheme.
- 5.10 The proposed development will likely have impacts on the existing landscape character areas, which is typical of a residential development replacing agricultural land. To mitigate for this change, the proposed development has been offset from the most sensitive edges, with suitable landscaping proposed in those areas to soften and integrate the development into its setting. Development density has also been reduced in the more sensitive areas to change.

Proposed Landscape Enhancement

- 5.11 The existing external and internal field boundaries will be strengthened with additional planting where required. This will enhance the connectivity of these existing landscape features and increase their longevity. The development will also provide (via suitable planning conditions) a long-term management plan for the retained tree and hedgerow stock to enhance the existing condition and ensure its long-term health and vigour.

Section 6 Summary of Effects

INTRODUCTION

- 6.1 The assessment of effects on the landscape resource includes consideration of the potential changes to those key elements and components that contribute towards recognised landscape character or the quality of designated landscape areas, these features are termed 'landscape receptors'. The assessment of visual receptors requires the identification of potential visual receptors that may be affected by the proposed development.
- 6.2 As noted above, following the identification of these various landscape and visual receptors, the effect of the proposed development on each of them is assessed through consideration of a combination of:
- The overall sensitivity to the proposed form of development that includes the value attached to the receptor following the baseline appraisal, combined with the susceptibility of the receptor to the change proposed, determined during the assessment stage;
 - The likely effectiveness of any proposed mitigation; and
 - The overall magnitude of change that will occur - based on the size and scale of the change, its duration and its reversibility.
- 6.3 A full assessment of the potential landscape and visual impacts is provided in the assessment tables found at **Appendix EDP 4**. Below is a summary of those findings.
- 6.4 The effects of the proposed development on the following landscape receptors are assessed at **Appendix EDP 4**:
- Landscape character and fabric of the site itself;
 - Landscape character of the LCA 14 Western Low Weald;
 - Landscape character of the LCA C2 Ditchling Common Western Low Weald; and
 - Landscape character of LCA 10 High Weald Fringes.
- 6.5 The effects of the proposed development on the following visual receptors are assessed at **Appendix EDP 4**:
- Users of PRoW 3a, PRoW 15, PRoW 28CU, and PRoW 29;
 - Users of B2112 Lunce's Hill, Hurstwood Lane, and Colwell Lane; and

- Residents associated with Colwell Lane (Group A), residents off Colwell Lane South and Hurstwood Lane (Group B), residents on the east side of Lunce's Hill (Group C), residents on the west side of Lunce's Hill (Group D), and residents associated with Greenhill Park and Birch Way (Group E).

CONSTRUCTION EFFECTS

- 6.6 Construction activities, movement of site traffic, lighting, noise and sounds will be ever-present during the construction process. This is not unusual and will be carefully controlled by a conditioned construction method statement. Recommendations for protection of retained trees and hedgerows, in accordance with relevant British Standards such as BS 5837, will ensure that the rooting areas of trees and hedgerows are not adversely affected by the construction process.

Construction Effects on Landscape Character

- 6.7 The results of the landscape assessment at **Appendix EDP 4** are summarised in **Table EDP 6.1**.

Table EDP 6.1: Summary of Landscape Character Effects during Construction Phase

| Receptor | Construction Effect |
|--|---|
| Landscape character and fabric of the site itself | Moderate, direct, short term, temporary, adverse. |
| Landscape character of the LCA 14 Western Low Weald | Moderate/Minor, direct, short term, temporary, adverse. |
| Landscape character of the LCA C2 Ditchling Common Western Low Weald | Moderate/Minor, direct, short term, temporary, adverse. |
| Landscape character of LCA 10 High Weald Fringes | Minor, direct, short term, temporary, adverse. |

Construction Effects on Visual Receptors

- 6.8 The results of the visual assessment at **Appendix EDP 4** are summarised in **Table EDP 6.2**.

Table EDP 6.2: Summary of Visual Receptor Effects during Construction Phase

| Receptor | Construction Effect |
|-----------|---|
| PRoW 3a | Moderate, indirect, short term, temporary, adverse. |
| PRoW 15 | Moderate, indirect, short term, temporary, adverse. |
| PRoW 28CU | Minor, indirect, short term, temporary, adverse. |
| PRoW 29 | Moderate/Minor, indirect, short term, temporary, adverse. |

| Receptor | Construction Effect |
|---|---|
| B2112 Lunce's Hill | Moderate/Minor, direct, short term, temporary, adverse. |
| Hurstwood Lane | Minor, indirect, short term, temporary, adverse. |
| Colwell Lane | Moderate/Minor, indirect, short term, temporary, adverse. |
| Residents Group A – Properties off Colwell Lane | Moderate, indirect, short term, temporary, adverse. |
| Residents Group B – Properties off Colwell Lane South and Hurstwood Lane | Major/Moderate, indirect, short term, temporary, adverse. |
| Residents Group C – Properties on the east side of Lunce's Hill | Major, indirect, short term, temporary, adverse. |
| Residents Group D – Properties on the west side of Lunce's Hill | Moderate, indirect, short term, temporary, adverse. |
| Residents Group E – Properties associated with Greenhill Park and Birch Way | Moderate/Minor, indirect, short term, temporary, adverse. |

Summary of Construction Effects

- 6.9 These level of effects on landscape and visual receptors at construction is not uncommon on a greenfield site, and is not an indication of bad design, but an outcome based on the conversion of an edge of settlement greenfield site converted to a residential development. As detailed above, a construction method statement will mitigate for this effect where possible, and where adverse effects are experienced (at a localised level), these will be a short, temporary impact (approximately 3-4 years). The level of effects will also reduce throughout the construction phase, as more of the development is built out and less construction activities are required. Therefore, this assessment has focused on the potential long-term impacts of the development, and the impacts of the construction phase will not be considered as part of the assessment of the proposed development.

OPERATION EFFECTS (YEARS 1 AND 15)

- 6.10 This section assesses effects of the proposed development at Year 1 and Year 15. At Year 1 the principal effects as a result of the proposed development would be as a result of the transition of the site from an agricultural landscape to a predominantly suburban development, in an undesignated landscape, and prior to the maturation of mitigation planting.
- 6.11 At Year 15 any mitigation planting would have matured to an extent that remaining adverse effects are considered to be residual albeit that these effects may diminish further with time and as vegetation continues to mature. At Year 15 the principal effects as a result of the proposed development will be as a result of the transition of the site from an agricultural landscape to a predominantly suburban scene, in an undesignated landscape, and after some maturation of mitigation planting.

Landscape Character Effects (Years 1 and 15)

- 6.12 The effects of the proposed development on the following landscape receptors at Years 1 and 15 are assessed at **Appendix EDP 4**. The results of this landscape assessment are summarised in **Table EDP 6.3**.

Table EDP 6.3: Summary of Landscape Character Effects at Years 1 and 15

| Receptor | Year 1 | Year 15 |
|--|--|--|
| Landscape character and fabric of the site itself | Moderate, direct, long term, permanent, adverse. | Moderate/Minor, direct, long term, permanent, adverse. |
| Landscape character of the LCA 14 Western Low Weald | Moderate/Minor, direct, long term, permanent, adverse. | Minor, direct, long term, permanent, adverse. |
| Landscape character of the LCA C2 Ditchling Common Western Low Weald | Moderate/Minor, direct, long term, permanent, adverse. | Minor, direct, long term, permanent, adverse. |
| Landscape character of LCA 10 High Weald Fringes | Minor, direct, long term, permanent, adverse. | Minor/Negligible, direct, long term, permanent, adverse. |

Predicted Effects on the Character and Fabric of the Site

- 6.13 In terms of the topography and hydrology of the site, the proposals would result in localised land regrading to facilitate the development and would introduce new Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) features across the site.
- 6.14 The landscape fabric and habitats of the site (boundary trees, hedgerows and ditches) would be retained, strengthened and enhanced with further planting to infill gaps and increase diversity where possible. Some loss of the internal boundary hedgerows would occur to accommodate new infrastructure, but this would be fully mitigated by enhancement to existing hedgerows, as well as the addition of species-rich hedgerows across the scheme. Internally, there would be an entire loss of the agricultural land and field margins to accommodate the residential development. This would be replaced by built form, hardstanding and private gardens, as well as substantial areas of soft landscaping formed of grassland, shrub planting, woodland, and trees (equating to c.51% of the total site area).
- 6.15 The introduction of built form and POS to replace agricultural land would change the character of the site and indirectly impact its context; on a site in reasonable condition that is located on the suburban fringe and influenced by surrounding settlement and infrastructure, the type of development proposed is not entirely out of character for the site. The design process has also taken into consideration existing key features typical of the landscape and integrated them into the scheme by offsetting built form from these features and designing them into green corridors where possible.

Predicted Effects on the Published Landscape Character Areas

- 6.16 Naturally, the host LCAs containing the site and the area immediately surrounding the site would be subject to the greatest change, and this is predicted to diminish with distance

from the site and intervening landform and features. The proposed development would introduce built form to a small area of the host LCAs where recent changes to the landscape from nearby development has also changed the perception of the site and LCAs within this area. The site relates to the existing settlement edge to the north and west, and is more divorced from the more rural, open, rolling landscape to the south of the site. The proposals would minimise impacts on the more rural character to the south through enhancing the natural boundary found along the southern boundary.

- 6.17 Part of the scheme within the LCAs is proposed landscape mitigation and open spaces (including natural open space, woodland, parks, amenity spaces, and SuDS). Features beneficial to the LCA would also be introduced (hedgerow networks, trees etc), and key features already found on the site typical of the LCA would be retained and protected in green corridors where possible. The footprint of the built form would be offset from the more sensitive edges to allow for a suitable development buffer that would provide a transition from urban to rural landscape and would limit intervisibility between the proposed development and wider LCAs.

Summary of Landscape Character Effects

- 6.18 The assessment finds that the residual level of effect of the proposed development on the landscape character and fabric of the site would be at most, **moderate/minor adverse**. This is primarily as a result of the change of use from agriculture to residential at a local scale. The proposals have sought to retain and enhance the existing landscape fabric of quality within the site, wherever practical, and respond to the site's urban context to the west. Proposed landscaping and open space accounts for c.51% of the total site area, which has sought to introduce high quality landscape features onto the site to balance the adverse changes and improve on the overall landscape fabric and recreational values of the site character.
- 6.19 The residual level of effect of the proposed development on the character and fabric of the immediate context, would be **moderate/minor adverse**. Development has been offset from the most sensitive edges, with landscape buffering proposed to reduce potential impacts. Development has been focused to link closely with existing settlement and suburban influences are already present in the immediate context, so is more typical of the local character. The proposals also offer stronger connectivity of green spaces and habitats with the immediate context.
- 6.20 LCA 14 Western Low Weald and LCA C2 Ditchling Common Western Low Weald would have **minor adverse** residual effects, and LCA 10 High Weald Fringes would have **minor/negligible** adverse residual effects. This is in part due to the limiting impact on existing quality features typical of the character areas, existing settlement forming part of the LCAs, and the site being located on settlement edge. The proposed development has aimed to engage with the existing landscape character to mitigate adverse impacts and introduce features that are beneficial to the LCAs, such as woodland belts.

Visual Effects (Years 1 and 15)

- 6.21 Visual effects relate to changes that arise in the composition of available views as a result of changes to the landscape, to people's responses to the changes and to the overall

effects with respect to visual amenity. Effects upon these receptors are derived through the changes to the views experienced and through this, the change to the overall visual amenity of the study area as brought about by the proposed development.

- 6.22 The effects of the proposed development on the following visual receptors at Years 1 and 15 are assessed at **Appendix EDP 4**. The results of this landscape assessment are summarised in **Table EDP 6.4**.

Table EDP 6.4: Summary of Visual Receptor Effects at Years 1 and 15

| Receptor | Year 1 | Year 15 |
|---|--|--|
| PRoW 3a | Moderate, indirect, long term, permanent, adverse. | Moderate/Minor, indirect, long term, permanent, adverse. |
| PRoW 15 | Moderate, indirect, long term, permanent, adverse. | Moderate/Minor, indirect, long term, permanent, adverse. |
| PRoW 28CU | Minor, indirect, long term, permanent, adverse. | Negligible, indirect, long term, permanent, adverse. |
| PRoW 29 | Moderate/Minor, indirect, long term, permanent, adverse. | Negligible, indirect, long term, permanent, adverse. |
| B2112 Lunce's Hill | Moderate/Minor, direct, long term, permanent, adverse. | Minor, direct, long term, permanent, adverse. |
| Hurstwood Lane | Minor, indirect, long term, permanent, adverse. | Negligible, indirect, long term, permanent, adverse. |
| Colwell Lane | Moderate/Minor, indirect, long term, permanent, adverse. | Minor, indirect, long term, permanent, adverse. |
| Residents Group A – Properties off Colwell Lane | Moderate, indirect, long term, permanent, adverse. | Moderate/Minor, indirect, long term, permanent, adverse. |
| Residents Group B – Properties off Colwell Lane South and Hurstwood Lane | Major/Moderate, indirect, long term, permanent, adverse. | Moderate, indirect, long term, permanent, adverse. |
| Residents Group C – Properties on the east side of Lunce's Hill | Major, indirect, long term, permanent, adverse. | Major/Moderate, indirect, long term, permanent, adverse. |
| Residents Group D – Properties on the west side of Lunce's Hill | Moderate, indirect, long term, permanent, adverse. | Moderate/Minor, indirect, long term, permanent, adverse. |
| Residents Group E – Properties associated with Greenhill Park and Birch Way | Moderate/Minor, indirect, long term, permanent, adverse. | Negligible, indirect, long term, permanent, adverse. |

Public Rights of Way Network

PRoW 3a and PRoW 15

- 6.23 Users of PRoW 3a and 15, would experience changes to the view from a c.25m section of the PRoW, located on the edge of existing settlement and infrastructure. Views from the majority of the PRoW within the detailed study area would not experience views of the proposed development. The proposed development would introduce additional settlement to the views from these sections and would form a focus in the views experienced. However, existing settlement and infrastructure are the primary focus in the foreground, so the proposals would be seen within the wider context of development.

PRoW 28CU

- 6.24 Users of PRoW 28CU would experience very limited changes to the view from a c.20m section of the PRoW, located within existing settlement and infrastructure. Views from the majority of the PRoW within the detailed study area would not experience views of the proposed development. The proposed development would introduce additional settlement to the views from this section of PRoW but would not form a focal point in the views experienced. Existing settlement and infrastructure would continue to form the primary focus of the views and, alongside existing vegetation, would heavily obscure views of the proposals.

PRoW 29

- 6.25 Users of PRoW 29 would experience very limited changes to the view from a c.100m section of the PRoW, located within dense woodland to the east of the site. Views from the majority of the PRoW within the detailed study area would not experience views of the proposed development. Due to the existing woodland and the offsetting of built form along the eastern boundary, the proposals would be barely discernible in the view, limiting impacts on this PRoW.

Minor Road Users

B2112 Road

- 6.26 The B2112 Lunce's Hill road runs adjacent to the western boundary of the site and would be directly impacted along a c.100m section where the new site access would be linked to the road. Views from the majority of the B2112 within the detailed study area would not experience views of the proposed development. Due to the constant motion of vehicle users in a busy suburban environment, views would be fleeting and typical of the roads surroundings, with the primary focus remaining on the road ahead, and views of the proposals experienced in the background.

Hurstwood Lane

- 6.27 Users of Hurstwood Lane would experience very limited changes to the view from a section of the road that runs near the north-west of the site. Views from the majority of the road within the detailed study area would not experience views of the proposed development. Due to the existing settlement and vegetation associated with the road, the proposals would be barely discernible in the view, limiting impacts on this road.

Colwell Lane

- 6.28 Colwell Lane runs to the north of the site in an east/west direction, and views of the proposals would be experienced from a c.175m section of the road. Views from the majority of Colwell Lane within the detailed study area would not experience views of the proposed development. The orientation of the road would result in oblique views of the site, heavily filtered by layers of field boundary vegetation. The primary focus of the road ahead would be maintained and impacts on the wider view minimal.

Residential Dwellings

- 6.29 Views from residential properties are limited to those located within close proximity of the site, with the main impacts experienced from properties adjacent to the site. Properties that face onto the site will experience changes in the view due to the proposed development. Existing vegetation associated with the site will somewhat filter these views, and the majority of residential views will be obscured by existing settlement and vegetation.

Summary of Visual Effects

- 6.30 The proposed development would be most noticeable in close-range views i.e. from within the immediate context, where existing settlement already has particular influence. Users of PRoW adjacent to the site would experience, at most, **moderate/minor adverse** effects. This level of effect is assessed in the balance on the impacts across the total length of the PRoW within the detailed study area, as impacts on the local PRoW would be very limited to small sections of the PRoW, and views of the proposals would be experienced within the wider view of existing settlement.
- 6.31 Road users adjacent to the site would experience, at most, **minor adverse** effects due to the wider presence of settlement and reduced intervisibility screened by existing vegetation and settlement along the majority of the roads.
- 6.32 Residents immediately surrounding the site would experience the most elevated change due to the proposed development. This is due to the orientation of windows facing the site and the use of those rooms throughout the day, resulting in at most, **major/moderate adverse** effects for a small number of residents, reducing to **moderate** and **moderate/minor adverse** for the majority of impacted residents. Impacts on residents beyond the immediate vicinity of the site are limited due to intervening landform, vegetation and settlement.

Section 7

Conclusions

- 7.1 It is clear that the site, albeit in a semi-rural location, is impacted by existing, future planned and emerging development, and sits largely divorced from the wider landscape to the east and south. It is not designated, nor does it sit within the setting of landscape designation. As a result, it is less constrained than other parts of the two districts that are located in or near the setting of the High Weald National Landscape and South Downs National Park. The site sits adjacent to an area of ancient woodland, and contains mature trees and hedgerows, which would be retained as part of the proposals. Built form has been offset a suitable distance from the ancient woodland, and the existing vegetation framework has been incorporated into green corridors where possible.
- 7.2 Based upon the consideration of sensitivity herein, it is considered that the site exhibits a worst case medium/low sensitivity and is therefore able to accommodate development assuming care is taken to protect and enhance existing valued features.
- 7.3 It is considered that the Illustrative Landscape Strategy for the scheme has been sensitively designed, with a particular focus on the eastern edge of the scheme. On-site opportunities and constraints, as well as matters relating to landscape character and visual amenity, have been considered to ensure that the scale, form and appearance of the development proposal is consistent with the local context, and retains the distinctive features of the site.
- 7.4 As a result of the proposals, there would be an inevitable change to land use from agriculture to residential properties and POS. The location of the site is on the edge of the settlement of Haywards Heath and would extend the settlement into the site and urbanise its appearance. Landscape mitigation equating to c.51% of the site area is proposed along all boundaries and throughout the scheme, which would break up the element of built form, balance the adverse impacts on the existing landscape fabric, and soften its character to create a strong sense of place.
- 7.5 The assessed visual effects are tempered by the fact the site is already urbanised to some degree by the settlement and infrastructure on the western boundary. The resultant level of visual effects is due primarily to the high sensitivity of visual receptors within close proximity of the change in land use and is not a reflection on the quality of the proposals. The introduction of a layered approach to the landscape, whereby wide 'green corridors' will be accommodated in the layout will further reduce impact on the surrounding receptors by breaking up the built form and creating a development that will be typical of the settlement pattern found in the local context.
- 7.6 Accordingly, this LVIA concludes that the site has the capacity for the development as proposed on the masterplan, and that there is no 'in principle' policy, landscape or visual reason why the site should not be developed. The scheme is an example of high-quality design that has evolved to work with the existing landscape and will provide long lasting beneficial features to complement the local distinctiveness of the area.

Appendix EDP 1

Illustrative Masterplan



Do not scale from this drawing.
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PLANNING

- Site boundary (8.88ha)
- Public Right of Way (PRoW)
- Historic byway
- Proposed point of vehicular, cycle and pedestrian access
- Proposed primary street with 2m footpaths
- Proposed shared space street
- Proposed private drive
- Brook crossing area
- Proposed recreational footpaths
- Proposed attenuation basin
- Existing vegetation and trees retained and enhanced
- Proposed boundary planting
- Proposed play area
- Proposed wildflower meadow
- Scrub planting bordered by fencing to provide 15m buffer from Ancient Woodland
- Flexible commercial and/or community use – retention and restoration of existing barn and boundary wall
- Proposed puffin crossing
- Proposed pumping station
- Proposed swale
- Proposed earthworks bund

| | | |
|---|------------|--|
| C | 28/08/2025 | Amendments to footpath and middle parcel. Addition of swale, bund and pumping station. |
| B | 31/07/2025 | Amendments to south-eastern parcel to reduce hardstanding on southern edge |
| A | 19/06/2025 | Amendments post submission to address consultee comments |

| Rev. | Date | Description |
|------|------|-------------|
|------|------|-------------|

Land east of Lunces Hill
HAYWARDS HEATH

Illustrative Masterplan

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Job ref: | Drawing number: | Revision: |
| 604 | P01 | C |
| Scale: | Date: | |
| 1:2000 @ A3 | August 2025 | |



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Appendix EDP 2

EDP LVIA Assessment Methodology

INTRODUCTION

- A2.1 This section provides a methodology for landscape and visual impact assessment as used by EDP.

METHODOLOGY

- A2.2 The assessment methodology for assessing landscape and visual effects prepared by EDP is based on the following best practice guidance:
- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment – Third Edition (LI/IEMA, 2013);
 - An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (Natural England 2014); and
 - Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note (TNG) 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals (17 September 2019).
- A2.3 Other reference documents used to understand the baseline position in landscape terms comprise published landscape character assessments appropriate to the site's location and the nature of the proposed development.
- A2.4 The nature of landscape and visual assessment requires both objective analysis and subjective professional judgement. Accordingly, the following assessment is based on the best practice guidance listed above, information and data analysis technique, it uses quantifiable factors wherever possible and subjective professional judgement where necessary and is based on clearly defined terms.

Landscape Assessment

- A2.5 Landscape effects derive from changes in the physical landscape fabric that may give rise to changes in its character and how this is experienced. These effects need to be considered in line with changes already occurring within the landscape and which help define the character of it.
- A2.6 Effects upon the wider landscape resource, i.e. the landscape surrounding the development, requires an assessment of visibility of the proposals from adjacent landscape character areas, but remains an assessment of landscape character and not visual amenity.

Visual Assessment

- A2.7 The assessment of effects on visual amenity draws on the predicted effects of the development, the landscape and visual context, and the visibility and viewpoint analyses,

and considers the significance of the overall effects of the proposed development on the visual amenity of the main visual receptor types in the study area.

Identifying Landscape and Visual Receptors

A2.8 This assessment has sought to identify the key landscape and visual receptors that may be affected by the changes proposed.

A2.9 The assessment of effects on landscape as a resource in its own right draws on the description of the development, the landscape context and the visibility and viewpoint analysis to identify receptors, which, for the proposed development may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- The landscape fabric of the development site;
- The key landscape characteristics of the local context;
- The 'host' landscape character area that contains the proposed development;
- The 'non-host' landscape character areas surrounding the host character area and may be affected by the proposals (where relevant); and
- Landscape designations on a national, regional or local level (where relevant).

A2.10 The locations and types of visual receptors within the defined study areas are identified from Ordnance Survey maps and other published information (such as walking guides), from fieldwork observations and from local knowledge provided during the consultation process. Examples of visual receptors may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Settlements and private residences;
- Users of National Cycle Routes and National Trails;
- Users of local/regional cycle and walking routes;
- Those using local rights of way – walkers, horse riders, cyclists;
- Users of open spaces with public access;
- People using major (motorways, A and B) roads;
- People using minor roads; and
- People using railways.

Assessment of Landscape and Visual Effects

A2.11 The assessment of effects on the landscape resource includes consideration of the potential changes to those key elements and components that contribute towards recognised landscape character or the quality of designated landscape areas; these

features are termed landscape receptors. The assessment of visual amenity requires the identification of potential visual receptors that may be affected by the development. As noted, following the identification of each of these various landscape and visual receptors, the effect of the development on each of them is assessed through consideration of a combination of:

- Their overall sensitivity to the proposed form of development, which includes the susceptibility of the receptor to the change proposed and the value attached to the receptor; and
- The overall magnitude of change that will occur - based on the size and scale of the change, its duration and reversibility.

Defining Receptor Sensitivity

- A2.12 A number of factors influence professional judgement when assessing the degree to which a particular landscape or visual receptor can accommodate change arising from a particular development. Sensitivity is made up of judgements about the 'value' attached to the receptor, which is determined at baseline stage, and the 'susceptibility' of the receptor, which is determined at the assessment stage when the nature of the proposals, and therefore the susceptibility of the landscape and visual resource to change, is better understood.
- A2.13 Susceptibility indicates *"the ability of a defined landscape or visual receptor to accommodate the specific proposed development without undue negative consequences"*¹⁵. Susceptibility of visual receptors is primarily a function of the expectations and occupation or activity of the receptor. A degree of professional judgement applies in arriving at the susceptibility for both landscape and visual receptors and this is clearly set out in the technical appendices to this assessment.
- A2.14 A location may have different levels of sensitivity according to the types of visual receptors at that location and any one receptor type may be accorded different levels of sensitivity at different locations.
- A2.15 With reference to Box 5.1 within GLVIA3 (Page 84), **Table EDP A2.1** provides an indication of the criteria by which the overall value of a landscape receptor may be judged. Within the assessment, further reference to the Landscape Institute's 'TGN 02-21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations' may be applied where appropriate. **Table EDP A2.2** provides an indication of the criteria by which the overall susceptibility of the landscape in relation to the type of development proposed.

¹⁵ Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition Page 158

Table EDP A2.1: Assessment of Landscape Value

| Landscape Character Area Value | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| Very Low | Low | Medium | High | Very High |
| Undesignated countryside and landscape features; absence of distinctive landscape characteristics; despoiled/-degraded by the presence of many landscape detractors. | Undesignated countryside and landscape features; few distinctive landscape characteristics; presence of landscape detractors. | Undesignated countryside and landscape features; some distinctive landscape characteristics; few landscape detractors. | Locally designated/valued countryside (e.g. Areas of High Landscape Value, Regional Scenic Areas) and landscape features; many distinctive landscape characteristics; very few landscape detractors. | Nationally/internationally designated/valued countryside and landscape features; strong/distinctive landscape characteristics; absence of landscape detractors. |
| Consideration of Other Value Criteria | | | | |
| Condition/Quality | | | | |
| A landscape with no or few areas intact and/or in poor condition. | A landscape with few areas that are intact and/or in a reasonable condition. | A landscape with some areas that are intact and/or in reasonable condition. | A landscape with many areas that are intact and/or in a reasonable condition. | A landscape with most areas intact and/or in good condition. |
| Scenic Quality | | | | |
| A landscape of little or no aesthetic appeal. | A landscape of low aesthetic appeal. | A landscape of some aesthetic appeal. | A landscape of high aesthetic appeal. | A landscape of very high aesthetic appeal. |
| Rarity and Representativeness | | | | |
| A landscape that does not contain rare landscape types or features. | A landscape that contains few distinct landscape types or features. | A landscape that contains distinct but not rare landscape types or features. | A landscape that contains one or more rare landscape types or features. | A landscape that is abundant in rare landscape types or features. |

| Landscape Character Area Value | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Conservation Interests | | | | |
| A landscape with no or very limited cultural, geological and/or nature conservation content. | A landscape with limited cultural, geological and/or nature conservation content. | A landscape with some cultural, geological and/or nature conservation content. | A landscape with rich cultural, geological and/or nature conservation content. | A landscape with abundant cultural, geological and/or nature conservation content. |
| Recreation Value | | | | |
| A landscape with no or very limited contribution to recreational experience. | A landscape with no or limited contribution to recreational experience. | A landscape that provides some contribution to recreational experience. | A landscape that provides a good contribution to recreational experience. | A distinct landscape that forms a strong contribution to recreational experience. |
| Perceptual Aspects | | | | |
| A landscape with prominent detractors, probably part of the key characteristics. | A landscape with landscape detractors, and is not particularly wild, tranquil or unspoilt. | A landscape with few detractors that also retains some perceptual values. | A landscape with very few detractors that has a relatively wild, tranquil or unspoilt landscape. | A wild, tranquil or unspoilt landscape without noticeable detractors. |
| Cultural Associations | | | | |
| A landscape without recorded associations. | A landscape with few recorded associations. | A landscape with some and/or moderately valued associations. | A landscape with numerous and/or highly valued associations. | A landscape of rich and/or very highly valued associations. |
| Overall Judgement of Landscape Value | | | | |
| Very Low value – receptor largely reflects very low value criteria above. | Low value – receptor largely reflects low value criteria above. | Medium value – receptor largely reflects medium value criteria above. | High value – receptor largely reflects high value criteria above. | Very High value – receptor largely reflects very high value criteria above. |

Table EDP A2.2: Assessment of Landscape Susceptibility

| Very Low Susceptibility to Change | Low Susceptibility to Change | Medium Susceptibility to Change | High Susceptibility to Change | Very High Susceptibility to Change |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| Pattern, Complexity and Physical Susceptibility to Change to the Proposed Development | | | | |
| A simple, monotonous and/or degraded landscape with common/indistinct features and minimal variation in landscape pattern. | A landscape with an occasionally intact pattern and/or with a low degree of complexity and with few features in reasonable condition. | A landscape with some intact pattern and/or with a degree of complexity and with features mostly in reasonable condition. | A landscape with mostly patterned/-textured or a simple but distinctive landscape and/or with high value features and essentially intact. | A strongly patterned/-textured or a simple but distinctive landscape and/or with high value features intact. |
| Visual Susceptibility to Change to the Proposed Development | | | | |
| A very enclosed landscape that contains or strongly filters views, with an absence of visual landmarks and a lack of intervisibility with designated landscapes. | A predominantly enclosed landscape that contains or filters most views, with very few views of visual landmarks or intervisibility with designated landscapes. | A partially enclosed landscape with some visual containment and filtering, possible limited intervisibility with visual landmarks and designated landscapes. | An open landscape with intervisibility and limited visual filtering or enclosure. Prominent visual landmarks may be present, and/or intervisibility with designated landscapes may occur. | An open or exposed landscape with extensive intervisibility and no or very limited visual filtering or enclosure. Prominent visual landmarks are present, and/or intervisibility with designated landscapes occurs. |

| Very Low Susceptibility to Change | Low Susceptibility to Change | Medium Susceptibility to Change | High Susceptibility to Change | Very High Susceptibility to Change |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| Experiential Susceptibility to Change to the Proposed Development | | | | |
| <p>A landscape with prominent visual and/or aural intrusion and close relationship with large scale built development/-infrastructure.</p> <p>A landscape that contains many light sources and essentially suffers from widespread light pollution.</p> | <p>A busy landscape with frequent visual and/or aural intrusion and nearby relationship with large scale built development/-infrastructure.</p> <p>A landscape that contains frequent light sources and suffers from light pollution.</p> | <p>A partially tranquil landscape with limited visual and/or aural intrusion, some relationship with built development/ infrastructure may be present. A landscape that contains some light sources.</p> | <p>A tranquil landscape with limited visual and/or aural intrusion, some relationship with built development/-infrastructure may be present. A landscape that contains few light sources.</p> | <p>A very tranquil, wild or remote landscape with little or no sense of visual or aural intrusion.</p> <p>A landscape that contains very few light sources and provides dark skies.</p> |
| Overall Judgement of Susceptibility to Change to the Proposed Development | | | | |
| Very Low susceptibility – receptor largely reflects very low criteria above. | Low susceptibility – receptor largely reflects low criteria above. | Medium value – receptor largely reflects medium criteria above. | High susceptibility – receptor largely reflects high criteria above. | Very High susceptibility – receptor largely reflects very high criteria above. |

A2.16 **Table EDP A2.3** provides an indication of the criteria by which the overall sensitivity of the landscape resource is judged within this assessment and considers both value and susceptibility independently.

Table EDP A2.3: Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity

| | | Susceptibility of Landscape Receptor | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | Very High | High | Medium | Low | Very Low |
| Receptor Value | Very High | Very High | Very High/High | High | High/Medium | Medium |
| | High | Very High/High | High | High/Medium | Medium | Medium/Low |
| | Medium | High | High/Medium | Medium | Medium/Low | Low |
| | Low | High/Medium | Medium | Medium/Low | Low | Low/Very Low |
| | Very Low | Medium | Medium/Low | Low | Low/Very Low | Very Low |

A2.17 For visual receptors, judgements of susceptibility and value are closely interlinked considerations. For example, the most valued views are those that people go and visit because of the available view, and it is at those viewpoints that their expectations will be highest and thus most susceptible to change.

A2.18 **Table EDP A2.4** provides an indication of the criteria by which the overall sensitivity of a visual receptor is judged within this assessment and considers both value and susceptibility independently.

Table EDP A2.4: Visual Receptor Sensitivity

| Category | Visual Receptor Criteria |
|------------------|---|
| Very High | <p>Designed view (which may be to or from a recognised heritage asset or other important viewpoint), or where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience. Key promoted viewpoint, e.g. interpretative signs. References in literature and art and/or guidebooks tourist maps. Protected view recognised in planning policy designation.</p> <p>Visual receptors with a very high susceptibility to change may include those with views from residential properties, especially from rooms normally occupied in waking or daylight hours; national public rights of way, e.g. National Trails and nationally designated countryside/landscape features with public access, which people might visit purely to experience the view; and visitors to heritage assets of national importance.</p> |

| Category | Visual Receptor Criteria |
|-----------------|---|
| High | View of clear value but may not be formally recognised, e.g. framed view of high scenic value, or destination hill summits. It may also be inferred that the view is likely to have value, e.g. to local residents. Visual receptors with a high susceptibility to change are considered to be those whose attention or interest is focussed on their surroundings and may include those with views from recreational receptors where there is some appreciation of the landscape, e.g., golf and fishing; local public rights of way, access land and National Trust land, also panoramic viewpoints marked on maps; road routes promoted in tourist guides for their scenic value. |
| Medium | View is not promoted or recorded in any published sources and may be typical of the views experienced from a given receptor. Visual receptors with a medium susceptibility to change may include people engaged in outdoor sport other than appreciation of the landscape, e.g. football and rugby, or road users on minor routes passing through rural or scenic areas. |
| Low | View of clearly lesser value than similar views experienced from nearby visual receptors that may be more accessible. Visual receptors with a low susceptibility to change may include road users on main road routes (motorways/A roads) and users of rail routes or people at their place of work (where the place of work may be in a sensitive location). Also views from commercial buildings where views of the surrounding landscape may have some limited importance. |
| Very Low | View affected by many landscape detractors and unlikely to be valued. Visual receptors with a very low susceptibility to change may include people at their place of work, indoor recreational or leisure facilities or other locations where views of the wider landscape have little or no importance. |

A2.19 **Tables EDP A2.1 to A2.4** offer a template for assessing overall sensitivity of any landscape or visual receptor as determined by combining judgements of their susceptibility to the type of change or development proposed and the value attached to the landscape as set out at paragraph 5.39 of GLVIA3. However, the narrative in this report may demonstrate that assessment of overall sensitivity can change on a case-by-case basis.

A2.20 For example, a high susceptibility to change and a low value may result in a medium overall sensitivity, unless it can be demonstrated that the receptor is unusually susceptible or is in some particular way more valuable. A degree of professional judgement applies in arriving at the overall sensitivity for both landscape and visual receptors.

Magnitude of Change

A2.21 The magnitude of any landscape or visual change is determined through a range of considerations particular to each receptor. As set out within GLVIA3 (Page 39), the following steps are considered in defining the magnitude of change.

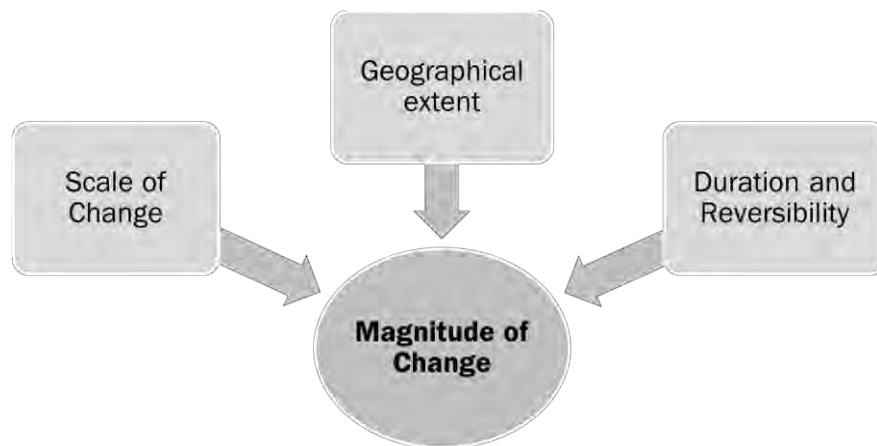



Figure EDP A2.1: Assessing the magnitude of change.

A2.22 Receptor locations from which views of the proposed development are not likely to occur will receive no change and therefore no effect. With reference to the ZTV and site survey, the magnitude of change is defined for receptor locations from where visibility of the proposed development is predicted to occur.

A2.23 **Table EDP A2.5** provides an indication of the criteria by which the size/scale of change at a landscape or visual receptor is judged within this assessment.


Table EDP A2.5: Landscape and Visual Receptor Size/Scale of Change Criteria

| Category | Landscape Receptor Criteria | Visual Receptor Criteria |
|------------------------|---|--|
| Large Scale | Total loss of or major alteration to key elements/features/characteristics of the baseline condition. Addition of elements which strongly conflict with the key characteristics of the existing landscape. | There would be a substantial change to the baseline, with the proposed development creating a new focus and having a defining influence on the view. |
| | Notable loss or alteration to one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the baseline condition. Addition of elements that are prominent and may conflict with the key characteristics of the existing landscape. | The proposed development will be clearly noticeable, and the view would be fundamentally altered by its presence. |
| | Partial loss or alteration to one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the baseline condition. Addition of elements that may be evident but do not necessarily conflict with the key characteristics of the existing landscape. | The proposed development will form a new and recognisable element within the view which is likely to be recognised by the receptor. |

| Category | Landscape Receptor Criteria | Visual Receptor Criteria |
|---|---|--|
|  Small Scale | Minor loss or alteration to one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the baseline landscape. Addition of elements that may not be uncharacteristic within the existing landscape. | The proposed development will form a minor constituent of the view being partially visible or at sufficient distance to be a small component. |
| | Barely discernible loss or alteration to key elements/features/characteristics of the baseline landscape. Addition of elements not uncharacteristic within the existing landscape. | The proposed development will form a barely noticeable component of the view, and the view whilst slightly altered would be similar to the baseline situation. |

A2.24 **Table EDP A2.6** provides an indication of the criteria by which the geographical extent of the area affected is judged within this assessment.

Table EDP A2.6: Geographical Extent Criteria

| | Landscape Receptors | Visual Receptor Criteria |
|---|---|---|
| Largest  Smallest | Large scale effects influencing several landscape types or character areas. | Direct views at close range with changes over a wide horizontal and vertical extent. |
| | Effects at the scale of the landscape type or character areas within which the proposal lies. | Direct or oblique views at close range with changes over a notable horizontal and/or vertical extent. |
| | Effects within the immediate landscape setting of the site. | Direct or oblique views at medium range with a moderate horizontal and/or vertical extent of the view affected. |
| | Effects at the site level (within the development site itself). | Oblique views at medium or long range with a small horizontal/vertical extent of the view affected. |
| | Effects only experienced on parts of the site at a very localised level. | Long range views with a negligible part of the view affected. |

A2.25 The third, and final, factor, in determining the predicted magnitude of change is duration and reversibility. Duration and reversibility are separate but linked considerations. Duration is judged according to the defined terms set out below, whereas reversibility is a judgement about the prospects and practicality of the particular effect being reversed in, for example, a generation. The categories used in this assessment are set out below.

Duration

- Long-term (15 years+);
- Medium to long-term (10 to 15 years);
- Medium-term (5 to 10 years);

- Short-term (1 year to 5 years); or
- Temporary (less than 12 months).

Reversibility

- Permanent with unlikely restoration to original state, e.g. major road corridor, power station, urban extension, etc.;
- Permanent with possible conversion to original state, e.g. agricultural buildings, retail units;
- Partially reversible to a different state, e.g. mineral workings;
- Reversible after decommissioning to a similar original state, e.g. wind energy development; or
- Quickly reversible, e.g. temporary structures.

A2.26 With consideration of the judgements set out above, **Table EDP A2.7** combines these judgements to provide the overall criteria by which the magnitude of change may be judged. While not all of the criteria may apply, the size/ scale, geographical extent Criteria and the duration/reversibility of effects on receptors are taken together to form a reasoned assessment of the magnitude of change. The overall magnitude of change is derived using professional judgement.

Table EDP A2.7: The Assessment of the Overall Magnitude of Change

| Category | Receptor Criteria |
|------------------|---|
| Very High | Total loss of, or major alteration to key elements/features/characteristics of the baseline condition. Addition of elements which strongly conflict with the key characteristics of the existing landscape. The proposed development would create a new focus and have a defining influence on the view. Landscape and visual effects are typically large in scale, resulting in a permanent and irreversible change, influencing several landscape types or character areas. Visual changes would be experienced in direct, close ranging views with changes over a wide horizontal and vertical extent. |
| High | Notable loss or alteration to one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the baseline condition. Addition of elements that are prominent and may conflict with the key characteristics of the existing landscape. The proposed development would be clearly noticeable, and the view would be fundamentally altered by its presence. Direct or oblique views at close range with changes over a notable horizontal and/or vertical extent. Notable landscape and visual effects may be experienced in the medium to long-term, with possible conversion to original state, at the scale of the landscape type or character area/s within which the proposal lies. |

| Category | Receptor Criteria |
|-----------------|---|
| Medium | Partial loss or alteration to one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the baseline condition. Addition of elements that may be evident but do not necessarily conflict with the key characteristics of the existing landscape within the immediate setting of the site. The proposed development would form a new and recognisable element within the view which is likely to be recognised by the receptor. Visual change would be experienced in direct or oblique views at medium range with a moderate horizontal and/or vertical extent of the view affected. Effects may be partially reversible to a different state, being experienced in the medium term. |
| Low | Minor loss or alteration to one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the baseline landscape. Addition of elements, largely at the site level, that may not be uncharacteristic within the existing landscape. The proposed development would form a minor constituent of an oblique view, being partially visible or at sufficient distance to be a small component at medium or long range and with a small horizontal/vertical extent of the view affected. The duration of the change may be short-term, being reversible to a similar original state. |
| Very Low | Barely discernible loss or alteration to key elements/features/characteristics of the baseline landscape. Addition of elements, experienced on parts of the site at a very localised level, not uncharacteristic within the existing landscape. The proposed development would form a barely noticeable component of the view, often being seen as a small component in a long-range view where, although slightly altered, the change would be similar to the baseline situation. Effects may be temporary and quickly reversible to the original state of the baseline context. |

Significance of Effect

A2.27 The purpose of the EIA process is to identify the significant environmental effects (both beneficial and adverse) of development proposals. Schedule 4 to the EIA Regulations specifies the information to be included in all environmental statements, which should include a description of:

"The description of the likely significant effects ...should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short-term, medium-term and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development".

A2.28 In order to consider the likely significance of any effect, the sensitivity of each receptor is combined with the predicted magnitude of change to determine the significance of effect, with reference also made to the geographical extent, duration and reversibility of the effect within the assessment. Having taken such a wide range of factors into account when assessing sensitivity and magnitude at each receptor, the significance of effect can be derived by combining the sensitivity and magnitude in accordance with the matrix in **Table EDP A2.8**.

Table EDP A2.8: Level of Effects Matrix

| Overall Sensitivity | Overall Magnitude of Change | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Very High | High | Medium | Low | Very Low |
| Very High | Very Substantial | Substantial | Major | Major/ Moderate | Moderate |
| High | Substantial | Major | Major/ Moderate | Moderate | Moderate/ Minor |
| Medium | Major | Major/ Moderate | Moderate | Moderate/ Minor | Minor |
| Low | Major/ Moderate | Moderate | Moderate/ Minor | Minor | Minor/ Negligible |
| Very Low | Moderate | Moderate/ Minor | Minor | Minor/ Negligible | Negligible |

A2.29 In certain cases, where additional factors may arise, a further degree of professional judgement may be applied when determining whether the overall change in the view will be significant or not. For example, in cases where a moderate effect is experienced by a high or very high sensitivity receptor, this may be considered to be significant. Similarly, where a moderate effect is experienced by a very low sensitivity receptor, this may not be considered significant. Where this occurs, further explanation is given within the assessment.

Definition of Effects

A2.30 Taking into account the levels of effect described above, and with regard to effects being either adverse or beneficial, the following table represents a description of the range of effects likely at any one receptor.

Table EDP A2.9: Definition of Effect

| Category | Definition of Adverse Effects | Definition of Beneficial Effects |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Very Substantial | Typically, the landscape or visual receptor is very highly sensitive with the proposals representing a very high adverse magnitude of change. The changes would be at complete variance with the landscape character and would permanently diminish the integrity of a valued landscape or view. | The removal of substantial existing incongruous landscape or visual elements and the introduction or restoration of highly valued landscape elements or built form which would reinforce local landscape character and substantially improve landscape condition and visual amenity. |
| Substantial | Typically, the landscape or visual receptor has a very high to high sensitivity with the proposals representing a very high to high adverse magnitude of change to the view or landscape resource. Changes would result in a fundamental change to the landscape resource or visual amenity. | The removal of existing incongruous landscape/visual elements and the introduction or restoration of some valued landscape or visual elements would complement landscape character and improve landscape condition and improve the local visual amenity. |

| Category | Definition of Adverse Effects | Definition of Beneficial Effects |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Major | Typically, the landscape or visual receptor has a high to medium sensitivity with the proposals representing a high to medium magnitude of change. The proposals would represent a material but non-fundamental change to the landscape resource or visual amenity. | The removal of some existing incongruous landscape elements and/or the introduction or restoration of some potentially valued landscape elements which reflect landscape character and result in some improvements to landscape condition and/or visual amenity. |
| Moderate | Typically, the landscape or visual receptor has a medium sensitivity with the proposals representing a medium magnitude of change. The proposals would result in a slight but non-material change to the landscape resource or visual amenity. | Some potential removal of incongruous landscape features or visual amenity, although more likely the existing landscape and/or resource is complemented by new landscape features or built features compliant with the local landscape and published landscape character assessments. |
| Minor | Typically, the landscape or visual receptor has a low sensitivity with the proposals representing a low magnitude of change. There would be a detectable but non-material change to the landscape resource or visual amenity. | The proposals would result in minimal positive change to the landscape or visual resource, either through perceptual or physical change, and any change would not be readily apparent but would be coherent with ongoing change and process, and coherent with published landscape character assessments. |
| Negligible | Typically, the landscape receptor has a very low sensitivity with the proposals resulting in very limited loss or alteration to the landscape resource or change to the view. There would be a barely perceptible change to the landscape resource or visual amenity. | There would be a barely perceptible positive or negative change to the landscape resource or visual amenity. |

A2.31 Effects can be adverse (negative), beneficial (positive) or neutral. The landscape effects will be considered against the landscape baseline, which includes published landscape strategies or policies if they exist. Changes involving the addition of large-scale man-made objects are typically considered to be adverse as they are not usually actively promoted as part of published landscape strategies. Accordingly, the assessment of landscape effects as a result of these aspects of the proposed development will be assumed to be adverse, unless otherwise stated within the assessment.

A2.32 Visual effects are more subjective as people's perception of development varies through the spectrum of negative, neutral and positive attitudes. In the assessment of visual effects, the assessor will exercise objective professional judgement in assessing the level of effects and, unless otherwise stated, will assume that all effects are adverse, thus representing the worst-case scenario.

Appendix EDP 3

Representative Photoviewpoints

(edp8571_d008a 13 December 2024 VMS/MBe)

Photoviewpoint EDP 1a and 1b: View from Colwell Lane to the north of the Site on the settlement edge, looking south towards the Site

Photoviewpoint EDP 2a and 2b: View from Colwell Lane to the north of the Site, looking south towards the Site

Photoviewpoint EDP 3a and 3b: View from WIV/29/1 within the woodland to the north-east of the Site, looking south-west towards the Site

Photoviewpoint EDP 4: View from WIV/29/1 to the east of the Site, looking west towards the Site

Photoviewpoint EDP 5a and 5b: View from B2112 Lunce's Hill to the south-west of the Site, looking north-east towards the Site

Photoviewpoint EDP 6: View from PRoW WIV/15/1 to the west of the Site, looking east towards the Site

Photoviewpoint EDP 7a and 7b: View from B2112 Lunce's Hill/PRoW WIV/15/1 and WIV/3/1 junction adjacent to the Site's western boundary, looking east across the Site

Photoviewpoint EDP 8a and 8b: View from B2112 Lunce's Hill to the west of the Site, looking east towards the Site















Photoviewpoint EDP 5a: View from B2112 Lunce's Hill to the south-west of the Site, looking north-east towards the Site



To be viewed at comfortable arm's length



the environmental
dimension partnership

Registered office: 01285 740427
www.edp-uk.co.uk
info@edp-uk.co.uk

Grid Coordinates: 533879, 121577
Date and Time: 27/03/2024 @ 10:40
Projection: Cylindrical
Visualisation Type: 1

Horizontal Field of View: 90°
Height of Camera: 1.6m
Make, Model, Sensor: Sony A7 MK2, FFS
Enlargement Factor: 96% @ A1 width

Direction of View: N
Distance: 70m
aOD: 41m
Focal Length: 50mm

date
drawing number
drawn by
checked
QA
13 DECEMBER 2024
edp8571_d008a
VMS
MBe
DJo

client
project title
drawing title
Catesby Strategic Land Ltd and Rurban Estates Ltd
Land East of Lunce's Hill
Photoviewpoint EDP 5a



Photoviewpoint EDP 6: View from PRoW WIV/15/1 to the west of the Site, looking east towards the Site







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dimension partnership

Registered office: 01285 740427
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Grid Coordinates: 533823, 121703
Date and Time: 27/03/2024 @ 10:47
Projection: Cylindrical
Visualisation Type: 1

Horizontal Field of View: 90°
Height of Camera: 1.6m
Make, Model, Sensor: Sony A7 MK2, FFS
Enlargement Factor: 96% @ A1 width

Direction of View: E
Distance: 6m
aOD: 43m
Focal Length: 50mm

date
drawing number
drawn by
checked
QA

13 DECEMBER 2024
edp8571_d008a
VMS
MBe
DJo

client
project title
drawing title

Catesby Strategic Land Ltd and Rurban Estates Ltd
Land East of Lunce's Hill
Photoviewpoint EDP 7b





the environmental
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Registered office: 01285 740427
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info@edp-uk.co.uk

Grid Coordinates: 533758, 121839
Date and Time: 27/03/2024 @ 14:08
Projection: Cylindrical
Visualisation Type: 1

Horizontal Field of View: 90°
Height of Camera: 1.6m
Make, Model, Sensor: Sony A7 MK2, FFS
Enlargement Factor: 96% @ A1 width

Direction of View: E
Distance: 102m
aOD: 37m
Focal Length: 50mm

date
drawing number
drawn by
checked
QA

13 DECEMBER 2024
edp8571_d008a
VMS
MBE
DJo

client
project title
drawing title

Catesby Strategic Land Ltd and Rurban Estates Ltd
Land East of Lunce's Hill
Photoviewpoint EDP 8b

Appendix EDP 4

Assessment of Effects Tables

Notes:

Each receptor is attributed a degree of sensitivity using the thresholds in **Appendix EDP 2** and takes into account the ‘susceptibility’ of the receptor to change to the type of development proposed.

| |
|-------------------------------------|
| Effects of moderate or greater |
| Effects of moderate/minor or lesser |

Table of Effects: Assessment of Landscape Effects

| Receptor | Value | Susceptibility | Sensitivity | Construction: Magnitude of Change: Level of Effect: Nature of Effect | Operation Year 1: Magnitude of Change: Level of Effect: Nature of Effect | Operation Year 15 and Beyond: Magnitude of Change: Level of Effect: Nature of Effect |
|--|--------|----------------|-------------|--|--|---|
| The Site – Its Landscape Features and Character | Medium | Medium/Low | Medium/Low | High. Moderate. Adverse | High. Moderate. Adverse | Medium. Moderate/Minor. Adverse |
| Sensitivity of Receptor Explanation | | | | Magnitude of Change | | Summary |
| <p>The condition of the landscape features within the site is generally reasonable, with some intact patten and complexity. Beyond being an open area of agricultural land in close proximity to a settlement, the site has no particularly strong sense of identity or distinctiveness and comprises unremarkable agricultural land. Key landscape features are found in the form of specimen trees located within internal field boundaries and hedgerows with trees along the external boundaries.</p> <p>The site is located in a well enclosed landscape, and its predominantly flat and low-lying with gently undulating topography to the north and south, dense woodland to the east, and well treed settlement to the west. Vegetation along the northern and southern boundaries also add to the sense of containment. The small field pattern with internal field boundary vegetation reduces the scale of the site, with the main potential developable area being pasture. The site is located in the context of settlement and suburban influences, including the busy B2112, which does reduce the rural perception of the site. Notable landscape features present on-site are found along the boundaries and internal fields.</p> | | | | <p>Construction Phase: As would be expected for any development on a greenfield site, there will be a change to the character of the site itself, particularly during the construction phase. Activities would be limited to the site and to the surrounding road network, but tranquillity would be notably reduced within these areas. Indirect effects of the proposed development would also be felt – although to a much lesser extent – on the landscape surrounding the site. Construction activities would limit impacts on the existing features of the site, protecting the majority of the higher quality landscape features and the key characteristics of the character of the site. Therefore, there will be a high magnitude of change, as construction activities will result in an alteration to the site, but will not represent a total loss of features or character.</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): The nature of the proposed development means that the visual and sensory character of the site would change as a result of implementation. The magnitude of this level of change is not an indication of bad design but is to be expected as the result of the change of use of any green field site to mixed-use development. The proposed development has protected key features of natural heritage, such as the ancient woodland adjacent to the site, by implementing a sizeable development buffer. Impacts on key landscape features, including trees and hedgerows, have been limited through the design process, protecting features of higher quality and representative of the character of the site. The introduction of the development would also increase the sites recreational and functional values.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would be high, as the proposed development will result in an alteration to the site, but will key features of value and typical of the character of the site.</p> <p>Operation (Year 15 and beyond): The character of the site would continue to be altered. The proposed landscaping within and around the proposed development includes approximately 51% of the scheme as landscaped green space across the site, and the reinforcement of the existing vegetation along all boundaries, including existing internal boundaries. This would soften the appearance of built form and help to integrate the proposed development into the landscape, as well as introducing higher quality and diversity of habitats to the site.</p> | | <p>During construction, and at Year 1 of the proposed development, the proposals would give rise to moderate adverse effects.</p> <p>By Year 15, the effect would reduce to moderate/minor adverse as the landscape mitigation establishes.</p> |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | The magnitude of change to the character of the proposed development would reduce to medium as the existing features are integrated into the scheme and certain values of the site, such as recreation and function, increase. | |
|--|---|--|

| Receptor | Value | Susceptibility | Sensitivity | Construction: Magnitude of Change: Level of Effect: Nature of Effect | Operation Year 1: Magnitude of Change: Level of Effect: Nature of Effect | Operation Year 15 and Beyond: Magnitude of Change: Level of Effect: Nature of Effect |
|---|--------|----------------|-------------|---|---|--|
| LCA 14: Western Low Weald | Medium | Low | Medium/Low | Medium. Moderate/Minor. Adverse | Medium. Moderate/Minor. Adverse | Low. Minor. Adverse |
| Sensitivity of Receptor Explanation | | | | Magnitude of Change | | Summary |
| <p>The landscape within the site is considered a typical example of the LCA that it forms part of, without any particular features or associations that would increase its landscape value above that of the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>The majority of the site is covered by LCA 14. The LCA includes several small settlements and the larger settlement of Wivelsfield Green to the south, so settlement is typical within this expansive LCA. The LCA is well wooded, particularly around the site, which limits intervisibility and provides a sense of enclosure. Where key features are present, they are predominantly found along the boundaries of the site where development of this type is less likely to occur.</p> | | | | <p>Construction Phase: During construction, there would be minor alterations to locally valued features within the LCA, including the alteration to some very localised views. Along with expected construction activities, the proposed development may result in some minor changes to the existing topography within the site, where residential development would occur. Due to the high sense of containment of the surrounding landscape, construction activities would be limited to local views, and the changes from construction would only be experienced within a limited area of the LCA, giving rise to a medium magnitude of change.</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Effects would remain broadly the same as during the construction phase. Direct effects on landscape character would be limited to the site. Indirect/perceptual effects would occur within the immediate environs to the site, but this would be minimised by offsetting the built edge from the more sensitive edges. The high containment of the site would continue to limit intervisibility with the wider LCA.</p> <p>The magnitude of change to LCA 14 would be medium.</p> <p>Operation (Year 15 and beyond): The growth and establishment of the proposed landscape towards the edge of the site and through the introduction of green corridors through the centre of the development that utilise the existing internal field boundary vegetation, would reduce indirect/perceptual effects on the LCA. The provision of 51% open space across the scheme would provide a stronger transition from suburban to rural. The magnitude of change would reduce to low.</p> | | <p>During construction, and at Year 1 of the proposed development, the proposals would give rise to moderate/minor adverse effects.</p> <p>By Year 15, the effect would reduce to minor adverse as the landscape mitigation establishes.</p> |

| Receptor | Value | Susceptibility | Sensitivity | Construction: Magnitude of Change: Level of Effect: Nature of Effect | Operation Year 1: Magnitude of Change: Level of Effect: Nature of Effect | Operation Year 15 and Beyond: Magnitude of Change: Level of Effect: Nature of Effect |
|---|--------|----------------|-------------|---|--|--|
| LCA C3: Ditchling Common Western Low Weald | Medium | Low | Medium/Low | Medium. Moderate/Minor. Adverse | Medium. Moderate/Minor. Adverse | Low. Minor. Adverse |
| Sensitivity of Receptor Explanation | | | | Magnitude of Change | | Summary |
| <p>The landscape within the site is considered a typical example of the LCA that it forms part of, without any particular features or associations that would increase its landscape value above that of the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>The majority of the site is covered by LCA C3. The LCA is well wooded, particularly around the site, which limits intervisibility and provides a sense of enclosure. Where key features are present, they are predominantly found along the boundaries of the site where development of this type is less likely to occur.</p> | | | | <p>Construction Phase: During construction, there would be minor alterations to locally valued features within the LCA, including the alteration to some very localised views. Along with expected construction activities, the proposed development may result in some minor changes to the existing topography within the site, where residential development would occur. Due to the high sense of containment of the surrounding landscape, construction activities would be limited to local views, and the changes from construction would only be experienced within a limited area of the LCA, giving rise to a medium magnitude of change.</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Effects would remain broadly the same as during the construction phase. Direct effects on landscape character would be limited to the site. Indirect/perceptual effects would occur within the immediate environs to the site, but this would be minimised by offsetting the built edge from the more sensitive edges. The high containment of the site would continue to limit intervisibility with the wider LCA.</p> <p>The magnitude of change to LCA C3 would be medium.</p> <p>Operation (Year 15 and beyond): The growth and establishment of the proposed landscape towards the edge of the site and through the introduction of green corridors through the centre of the development that utilise the existing internal field boundary vegetation, would reduce indirect/perceptual effects on the LCA. The provision of 51% open space across the scheme would provide a stronger transition from suburban to rural. The magnitude of change would reduce to low.</p> | | <p>During construction, and at Year 1 of the proposed development, the proposals would give rise to moderate/minor adverse effects.</p> <p>By Year 15, the effect would reduce to minor adverse as the landscape mitigation establishes.</p> |

| Receptor | Value | Susceptibility | Sensitivity | Construction: Magnitude of Change: Level of Effect: Nature of Effect | Operation Year 1: Magnitude of Change: Level of Effect: Nature of Effect | Operation Year 15 and Beyond: Magnitude of Change: Level of Effect: Nature of Effect |
|--|--------|----------------|-------------|---|--|--|
| LCA 10: High Weald Fringes | Medium | Very Low | Low | Low. Minor. Adverse | Low. Minor. Adverse | Very Low. Minor/Negligible. Adverse |
| Sensitivity of Receptor Explanation | | | | Magnitude of Change | | Summary |
| <p>The landscape within the site is considered a typical example of the LCA that it forms part of, without any particular features or associations that would increase its landscape value above that of the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>Only a small section of the site is covered by the LCA (most westerly area adjacent to the B2112), which is isolated from the wider LCA by settlement. The LCA boundary includes the large settlement of Haywards Heath, so settlement is typical within this expansive LCA, and the dominant feature of the LCA within the study area. The LCA is well wooded to the west of Haywards Heath, which when combined with dense settlement, limits intervisibility and provides a sense of enclosure within the study area. Due to the limited area coverage of the LCA within the site, notable landscape features are limited.</p> | | | | <p>Construction Phase: During construction, there would be minor alterations to locally valued features within the LCA, including the alteration to some very localised views. Along with expected construction activities, the proposed development may result in some minor changes to the existing topography within the site, where residential development would occur. Due to the high sense of containment of the surrounding landscape and existing settlement found within the LCA, construction activities would be limited to local views, and the changes from construction would only be experienced within a very limited area of the LCA, giving rise to a low magnitude of change.</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Effects would remain broadly the same as during the construction phase. Direct effects on landscape character would be limited to the site. Indirect/perceptual effects would occur within the immediate environs to the site, but this would be limited to existing settlement within the LCA. The high containment of the site and existing settlement would continue to isolate the site from the wider LCA.</p> <p>The magnitude of change to LCA 10 would be low.</p> <p>Operation (Year 15 and beyond): Within the limited area of the site in the LCA, landscape is proposed to soften and integrate the scheme into its surroundings. It would be typical of the adjacent features of the LCA in this area, and the proposals would introduce stronger boundary treatment along the western edge. The magnitude of change would reduce to very low.</p> | | <p>During construction, and at Year 1 of the proposed development, the proposals would give rise to minor adverse effects.</p> <p>By Year 15, the effect would reduce to minor/negligible adverse as the landscape mitigation establishes.</p> |

Table of Effects: Assessment of Visual Effects

| Receptor | Sensitivity | Relevant Photoviewpoint (PVP) No. | Photoviewpoint Name | Construction: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. | Year 1: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. | Operation Year 15 and Beyond: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. |
|---|-------------|--|--|---|------------------------------------|---|
| PRoW 3a | High/Medium | PVP EDP 7a and 7b | B2112 Lunce's Hill/PRoW 15 & PRoW 3 junction adjacent to the site's western boundary | Medium. Moderate. Adverse | Medium. Moderate. Adverse | Low. Moderate/Minor. Adverse |
| Sensitivity of Receptor Explanation | | Description of View | | Magnitude of Change | | Summary |
| Users of the PRoW are likely to be using the PRoW as part of a local walk and not necessarily as part of enjoyment of a wider view in the open countryside. Receptors at this location are considered to be less susceptible to the type of change proposed given the more urban context on the edge of settlement location. Therefore, PRoW 3a users are considered to have a high/medium sensitivity. | | <p>Photoviewpoint EDP 7a and 7b best represent views of the site from this section of PRoW 3a.</p> <p>The view is from the end of the PRoW where it terminates at Lunce's Hill, on the edge of Haywards Heath. The presence of settlement and infrastructure influences the semi-urban character of the view, with existing settlement partially screening views into the site. Views across the southern area of the site are possible from this 25m section of PRoW, with the existing woodland to the east of the site and some of the internal vegetation visible.</p> <p>Views of the site decrease with distance from this PRoW as users head west. Existing settlement and vegetation heavily filters and screens views towards the site from the majority of this PRoW.</p> | | <p>Construction Phase: Construction activities (movement of site traffic, lighting, noise and, in time, the construction of new built form and the implementation of the proposed landscaping) would be ever-present during the construction process, with the new site access located opposite this section of the PRoW. Activities would be mainly limited to the southern area of the site and to the surrounding road network, and views would be experienced within the wider view of settlement. The majority of the PRoW within the detailed study area would not experience views of the construction, with views limited to this 25m section of PRoW that terminates in settlement. Therefore, on balance over the entire PRoW, the magnitude of change would be medium for users of PRoW 3a.</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Views of the proposed development would primarily be focused on the new site access infrastructure, with new residential dwellings in the background, within the wider view of settlement. The existing view would be partially changed by the introduction of development, and would increase the urban nature of the view. At Year 1, the landscape mitigation along the western edge would not have established sufficiently to provide screening qualities. The majority of the PRoW within the detailed study area would not experience views of the proposals, with views limited to this 25m section of PRoW that terminates in settlement. Therefore, on balance over the entire PRoW, the magnitude of change would be medium for users of PRoW 3a.</p> <p>Operation (Year 15 and beyond): The establishment of the landscape mitigation along the western edge and key corridors within the scheme would soften and filter views from the PRoW. Views of the infrastructure would still form a focus of the view, but overall, the landscaping would integrate the proposals into the surroundings. Therefore, the magnitude of change would reduce to low.</p> | | <p>During construction, and at Year 1 of the proposed development, the proposals would give rise to major/moderate adverse effects.</p> <p>By Year 15, the effect would reduce to moderate adverse as the landscape mitigation establishes.</p> |

| Receptor | Sensitivity | Relevant Photoviewpoint No. | Photoviewpoint Name | Construction: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. | Year 1: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. | Operation Year 15 and Beyond: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. |
|---|-------------|---|---|---|------------------------------------|--|
| PRoW 15 | High/Medium | PVP EDP 7a and 7b PVP EDP 6 | B2112 Lunce's Hill/PRoW 15 & PRoW 3 junction adjacent to the site's western boundary PRoW 15 to the west of the site | Medium. Moderate. Adverse | Medium. Moderate. Adverse | Low. Moderate/Minor. Adverse |
| Sensitivity of Receptor Explanation | | Description of View | | Magnitude of Change | | Summary |
| Users of the PRoW are likely to be using the PRoW as part of a local walk and not necessarily as part of enjoyment of a wider view in the open countryside. Receptors at this location are considered to be less susceptible to the type of change proposed given the more urban context on the edge of settlement location. Therefore, PRoW 15 users are considered to have a high/medium sensitivity. | | <p>Photoviewpoint EDP 7a and 7b best represent 'worst-case' views of the site from PRoW 15.</p> <p>The view is from the end of the PRoW where it terminates at Lunce's Hill, on the edge of Haywards Heath. The presence of settlement and infrastructure influences the semi-urban character of the view, with existing settlement partially screening views into the site. Views across the southern area of the site are possible from this 25m section of PRoW, with the existing woodland to the east of the site and some of the internal vegetation visible.</p> <p>Views of the site decrease with distance from this PRoW as users head south-west. Existing settlement and vegetation heavily filters and screens views towards the site from the majority of this PRoW (Photoviewpoint EDP 6).</p> | | <p>Construction Phase: Construction activities (movement of site traffic, lighting, noise and, in time, the construction of new built form and the implementation of the proposed landscaping) would be ever-present during the construction process, with the new site access located opposite this section of the PRoW. Activities would be mainly limited to the southern area of the site and to the surrounding road network, with views experienced within the wider view of settlement. The majority of the PRoW within the detailed study area would not experience views of the construction, with views limited to this 25m section of PRoW that terminates in settlement. Therefore, on balance over the entire PRoW, the magnitude of change would be medium.</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Views of the proposed development would primarily be focused on the new site access infrastructure, with new residential dwellings in the background, within the wider view of settlement. The existing view would be partially changed by the introduction of development, and would increase the urban nature of the view. At Year 1, the landscape mitigation along the western edge would not have established sufficiently to provide screening qualities. The majority of the PRoW within the detailed study area would not experience views of the proposals, with views limited to this 25m section of PRoW that terminates in settlement. Therefore, on balance over the entire PRoW, the magnitude of change would be medium.</p> <p>Operation (Year 15 and beyond): The establishment of the landscape mitigation along the western edge and key corridors within the scheme would soften and filter views from the PRoW. Views of the infrastructure would still form a focus of the view, but overall, the landscaping would integrate the proposals into the surroundings. Therefore, the magnitude of change would reduce to low.</p> | | <p>During construction, and at Year 1 of the proposed development, the proposals would give rise to moderate adverse effects.</p> <p>By Year 15, the effect would reduce to low adverse as the landscape mitigation establishes.</p> |

| Receptor | Sensitivity | Relevant Photoviewpoint No. | Photoviewpoint Name | Construction: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. | Year 1: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. | Operation Year 15 and Beyond: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. |
|--|-------------|--|---|--|------------------------------------|--|
| PRoW 29 | High | PVP EDP 3a and 3b | PRoW 29 within the woodland to the north-east of the site | Very low. Moderate/Minor. Adverse | Very low. Moderate/Minor. Adverse | Very low. Negligible. Adverse |
| | | PVP EDP 4 | PRoW 29 to the east of the site | | | |
| Sensitivity of Receptor Explanation | | Description of View | | Magnitude of Change | | Summary |
| Users of the PRoW are likely to be using the PRoW as part of a local walk, but the enjoyment of views of the surrounding landscape is likely to be important to users of this PRoW. No views of settlement or other urban influences are experienced from this PRoW. Therefore, PRoW 29 users are considered to have a high sensitivity. | | Photoviewpoint EDP 3a and 3b best represent ‘worst-case’ views of the site from this section of PRoW 29. | | Construction Phase: Construction activities (movement of site traffic, lighting, noise and, in time, the construction of new built form and the implementation of the proposed landscaping) would be barely discernible from PRoW 29. The existing woodland would continue to heavily obscure views towards the site, which would minimise views of construction activities. The magnitude of change would be very low for users of PRoW 29. | | During construction, and at Year 1 of the proposed development, the proposals would give rise to moderate/minor adverse effects. |
| | | The view is from within the woodland adjacent to the site’s eastern boundary. A section of this PRoW runs through the woodland along a designated route. The woodland is dense with trees, understorey, and shrub layers throughout, which heavily obscures views of the site, limiting sporadic glimpses through trees from a 100m section of the PRoW. | | Operation (Year 1): The existing woodland would continue to heavily obscure views towards the site, which would minimise views of the proposed development. Built form would be set back from the eastern edge of the site, which would further minimise views of development. Therefore, the magnitude of change would be very low for users of PRoW 29. | | By Year 15, the effect would reduce to negligible adverse as the landscape mitigation establishes and the proposed development is barely discernible in the view. |
| | | Views of the site decrease with distance from this PRoW as users head east. The dense woodland adjacent to the site’s eastern boundary fully screens views towards the site from the majority of this PRoW (Photoviewpoint EDP4). | | Operation (Year 15 and beyond): The establishment of the landscape mitigation along the eastern edge of the scheme would further reduce already heavily obscured views of the proposed development that the scheme would be barely discernible, with the primary focus being the woodland setting in the foreground. Therefore, the magnitude of change would remain very low . | | |

| Receptor | Sensitivity | Relevant Photoviewpoint No. | Photoviewpoint Name | Construction: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. | Year 1: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. | Operation Year 15 and Beyond: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. |
|---|-------------|---|--|--|------------------------------------|---|
| PRoW 28CU | Medium | PVP EDP 8a and 8b | B2112 Lunce’s Hill to the west of the site | Very Low. Minor. Adverse | Very Low. Minor. Adverse | Very Low. Negligible. Adverse |
| Sensitivity of Receptor Explanation | | Description of View | | Magnitude of Change | | Summary |
| Users of the PRoW are likely to be using the PRoW as part of a local walk and not necessarily as part of enjoyment of a wider view in the open countryside. Receptors at this location are considered to be less susceptible to the type of change proposed given the more urban context within a settlement location (pub car park). Therefore, PRoW 28CU users are considered to have a medium sensitivity. | | Photoviewpoint EDP 8a and 8b best represent views of the site from PRoW 28CU, located on the edge of the car park approximately 30m south of the PRoW. | | Construction Phase: Construction activities (movement of site traffic, lighting, noise and, in time, the construction of new built form and the implementation of the proposed landscaping) would be experienced during the construction process, with the new site access located in view of the PRoW. Activities would be mainly limited to the central area of the site, with existing settlement in the foreground, and to the surrounding road network. The majority of the PRoW within the detailed study area would not experience views of the construction, with heavily filtered views limited to this 20m section of PRoW that terminates in settlement. Therefore, on balance over the entire PRoW, the magnitude of change would be very low . | | During construction, and at Year 1 of the proposed development, the proposals would give rise to moderate/minor adverse effects. |
| | | Views of the site from this 20m section of PRoW are predominantly obscured by existing settlement and vegetation. Distance views of the western boundary are possible from this PRoW, and sporadic glimpses into the site are experienced through small gaps in vegetation. The primary focus for users of this section of the PRoW is the pub car park and the B2112 road. | | Operation (Year 1): Views of the proposed development would be heavily filtered views of the upper storeys and rooflines of the development along the western edge. Existing settlement and vegetation would continue to obscure views of the proposals, and the primary focus of the views would remain as the pub car park and the B2112 road. The majority of the PRoW within the detailed study area would not experience views of the proposals, with views limited to this 20m section of PRoW that terminates in settlement. Therefore, on balance over the entire PRoW, the magnitude of change would be very low . | | By Year 15, the effect would reduce to minor adverse as the landscape mitigation establishes. |
| | | Views of the site diminish as users of the PRoW head west. Existing settlement and vegetation screens views towards the site from the majority of this PRoW. | | Operation (Year 15 and beyond): The establishment of the landscape mitigation along the western edge of the scheme would fill in some of the gaps in vegetation, furthering softening and filtering views from the PRoW. Therefore, the magnitude of change would reduce to very low . | | |

| Receptor | Sensitivity | Relevant Photoviewpoint No. | Photoviewpoint Name | Construction: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. | Year 1: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. | Operation Year 15 and Beyond: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. |
|---|-------------|---|---|---|------------------------------------|--|
| B2112 Lunce's Hill | Low | PVP EDP 5a and 5b PVP EDP 7a and 7b PVP EDP 8a and 8b | B2112 Lunce's Hill to the south-west of the site B2112 Lunce's Hill/PRoW 15 & PRoW 3 junction adjacent to the sites western boundary B2112 Lunce's Hill to the west of the site | Medium. Moderate/Minor. Adverse | Medium. Moderate/Minor. Adverse | Low. Minor. Adverse |
| Sensitivity of Receptor Explanation | | Description of View | | Magnitude of Change | | Summary |
| Users of the B2112 road are likely to be less observant of the surrounding landscape due to the higher density of traffic on the road and increased potential hazards within a settlement location. Therefore, B2112 Lunce's Hill users are considered to have a low sensitivity. | | <p>Photoviewpoint EDP 7a and 7b best represent 'worst-case' views of the site from the B2112.</p> <p>The view is from a 100m section of the road that runs adjacent to the western boundary, on the edge of Haywards Heath. The presence of settlement and infrastructure influences the semi-urban character of the view, with existing settlement partially screening views into the site. Views across the site are possible from north and south travelling road users, with the existing woodland to the east of the site and some of the internal vegetation visible.</p> <p>Views of the site decrease either side of this section of road. Existing settlement and vegetation obscures views towards the site from the north (Photoviewpoint EDP 8), and views from the road to the south are heavily filtered by roadside vegetation and topography (Photoviewpoint EDP 5a and 5b). Views of the site from the majority of this busy road are screened.</p> | | <p>Construction Phase: Construction activities (movement of site traffic, lighting, noise and, in time, the construction of new built form and the implementation of the proposed landscaping) would be ever-present during the construction process, with the new site access connecting to this 100m section of road. There would be direct impacts on this section of road, but due to the constant motion of vehicle users in a busy suburban environment, views would be fleeting and typical of the roads surroundings. The majority of the B2112 within the detailed study area would not experience views of the construction, with views limited to this 100m section of the road within settlement. Therefore, on balance over the entire B2112, the magnitude of change would be medium.</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Views of the proposed development from the 100m section of the road would primarily be focused on the new site access infrastructure, with new residential dwellings in the background as part of fleeting views for road users within settlement. The existing view from this section of road would be partially changed by the introduction of development. At Year 1, the landscape mitigation along the western edge would not have established sufficiently to provide screening qualities, but due to the constant motion of vehicle users in a busy suburban environment, views would be fleeting and typical of the roads surroundings. The majority of the B2112 within the detailed study area would not experience views of the proposed development, with views limited to this 100m section of the road within settlement. Therefore, on balance over the entire B2112, the magnitude of change would be medium.</p> <p>Operation (Year 15 and beyond): The establishment of the landscape mitigation along the western edge and key corridors within the scheme would soften and filter views from the 100m section of the B2112. Views of the infrastructure would still form a focus of the view, but they would be fleeting and overall, the landscaping would integrate the proposals into the surroundings. Therefore, the magnitude of change would reduce to low.</p> | | During construction and at Year 1, the proposals would give rise to moderate/minor adverse effects. By Year 15, the effect would reduce to minor adverse as the landscape mitigation establishes. |

| Receptor | Sensitivity | Relevant Photoviewpoint No. | Photoviewpoint Name | Construction: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. | Year 1: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. | Operation Year 15 and Beyond: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. |
|---|-------------|---|---------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|
| Hurstwood Lane | Medium | N/A (Only views towards site are through private driveways) | N/A | Very Low. Minor. Adverse | Very Low. Minor. Adverse | Very low. Negligible. Adverse |
| Sensitivity of Receptor Explanation | | Description of View | | Magnitude of Change | | Summary |
| Users of Hurstwood Lane are likely to be somewhat observant of the surrounding landscape due to the lower density of traffic on the road and naturally slower speeds along a narrow rural road. However, the primary focus is on the road ahead, so Hurstwood Lane users are considered to have a medium sensitivity. | | <p>Views of the site are generally fully screened by roadside vegetation and existing settlement. Transient, oblique views towards the site are experienced where private driveways connect with the lane, and even then vegetation and buildings associated with the property heavily filters views of the site.</p> <p>Views are not experienced from the majority of Hurstwood Lane.</p> | | <p>Construction Phase: Construction activities (movement of site traffic, lighting, noise and, in time, the construction of new built form and the implementation of the proposed landscaping) would be barely discernible from Hurstwood Lane. Existing settlement and roadside vegetation would continue to heavily obscure views towards the site, which would minimise views of construction activities. The magnitude of change would be very low for users of Hurstwood Lane.</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Views of the proposed development would continue to be heavily obscured by existing settlement and roadside vegetation. If views are experienced, they would be transient, oblique views of the upper storey and rooflines of development on the western edge of the scheme, with the primary focus remaining on the road ahead. Therefore, the magnitude of change would be very low for users of Hurstwood Lane.</p> <p>Operation (Year 15 and beyond): The establishment of the landscape mitigation along the western edge of the scheme would further reduce already heavily obscured views of the proposed development that the scheme would be barely discernible in the transient, oblique views across residential land, with the primary focus being the road. Therefore, the magnitude of change would remain very low.</p> | | <p>During construction, and at Year 1 of the proposed development, the proposals would give rise to minor adverse effects</p> <p>By Year 15, the effect would reduce to negligible adverse as the landscape mitigation establishes.</p> |

| Receptor | Sensitivity | Relevant Photoviewpoint No. | Photoviewpoint Name | Construction: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. | Year 1: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. | Operation Year 15 and Beyond: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. |
|---|-------------|--|---|---|------------------------------------|---|
| Colwell Lane | Medium | PVP EDP 1a and 1b | Colwell Lane to the north of the site, on settlement edge | Low. Moderate/Minor. Adverse | Low. Moderate/Minor. Adverse | Very Low. Minor. Adverse |
| | | PVP EDP 2a and 2b | Colwell Lane to the north of the site, along the restricted section | | | |
| Sensitivity of Receptor Explanation | | Description of View | | Magnitude of Change | | Summary |
| <p>Users of Colwell Lane are likely to be somewhat observant of the surrounding landscape due to the lower density of traffic on the road and naturally slower speeds along a narrow rural road.</p> <p>A section of the road is restricted to two wheeled vehicles, so Colwell Lane predominantly acts as a ‘dead-end’ road that serves a small number of properties, reducing the focus to residential setting. Therefore, the sensitivity for users of Colwell Lane is medium.</p> | | <p>Photoviewpoints EDP 1a, 1b, 2a and 2b, best represent ‘worst-case’ views of the site from Colwell Lane.</p> | | <p>Construction Phase:</p> <p>Construction activities (movement of site traffic, lighting, noise and, in time, the construction of new built form and the implementation of the proposed landscaping) would be mainly limited to the central and northern areas of the site. Glimpsed, oblique views of the construction process would be possible through layers of vegetation, resulting in a magnitude of change of low for users of this section of Colwell Lane.</p> | | <p>During construction, and at Year 1 of the proposed development, the proposals would give rise to moderate/minor adverse effects</p> |
| | | <p>The view is from a 175m section of the lane that runs approximately 70m north of the site, parallel to the boundary. Views across the site are possible from a field access gap, and general vegetation gaps adjacent to the lane, but these are oblique to the focus of the lane ahead. The northern boundary vegetation filters views of the site, and the western area of the site is generally obscured by existing settlement.</p> | | <p>Operation (Year 1):</p> <p>Views of the proposed development would continue to be filtered by existing vegetation, and predominantly limited to the northern extents of the scheme. The primary focus of the road ahead would be maintained and impacts on the wider view minimal. Therefore, the magnitude of change would be low for users of Colwell Lane.</p> | | <p>By Year 15, the effect would reduce to minor adverse as the landscape mitigation establishes.</p> |
| | | <p>Views of the site diminish either side of this section, with existing settlement screening views south from the western section of the road, and woodland screening views from the eastern section.</p> | | <p>Operation (Year 15 and beyond):</p> <p>Enhancements to the vegetation along the northern boundary would be proposed to strengthen and layer the landscaping along this edge. This mitigation would further reduce views of the proposed development. Therefore, the magnitude of change would reduce to very low for this section of Colwell Lane.</p> | | |

| Receptor | Sensitivity | Relevant Photoviewpoint No. | Photoviewpoint Name | Construction: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. | Year 1: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. | Operation Year 15 and Beyond: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. |
|---|-------------------|--|---|---|------------------------------------|--|
| Group A Residents - Properties off Colwell Lane | Very High to High | PVP EDP 1a and 1b | Colwell Lane to the north of the site, on settlement edge | Low. Moderate. Adverse | Low. Moderate. Adverse | Very Low. Moderate/Minor. Adverse |
| Sensitivity of Receptor Explanation | | Description of View | | Magnitude of Change | | Summary |
| <p>People at home, and in particular where there are open views from primary living spaces, are considered to be of very high susceptibility to changes arising from development of the type proposed.</p> <p>Receptors with views from rooms other than the main habitable rooms, such as 1st floor bedrooms, are considered to be of lower susceptibility. The overall sensitivity of Group A residential occupiers is therefore assessed as very high to high.</p> | | <p>Photoviewpoint EDP 1a and 1b best represent views of the site from Group A residents, located in front of the properties, on a public road.</p> <p>Vegetation associated with Colwell Lane and field boundary vegetation of adjacent fields predominantly screen views of the site. Where views of the site are possible, these would be heavily filtered by the vegetation along the northern boundary.</p> <p>Views of the site increase from upper storey windows, where the elevated location affords views above the field boundary vegetation. However, the vegetation along the northern boundary would filter views into the site.</p> | | <p>Construction Phase: Construction activities (movement of site traffic, lighting, noise and, in time, the construction of new built form and the implementation of the proposed landscaping) would be mainly limited to the central and northern areas of the site. Views from lower storey windows would continue to be heavily obscured by vegetation, whilst views of the proposals from upper storey windows would be possible, but filtered by the boundary vegetation, resulting in an overall magnitude of change of low for Group A residents.</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Views of the proposed development from lower storey windows would continue to be heavily obscured by existing vegetation, and filtered from upper storey windows. The scheme would be a focus within the views, but the built development would be experienced within the local context of settlement to the west and somewhat filtered by existing vegetation. Therefore, the overall magnitude of change would be low for Group A residents.</p> <p>Operation (Year 15 and beyond): Enhancements to the vegetation along the northern boundary would be proposed to strengthen and layer the landscaping along this edge. This mitigation would further reduce views of the proposed development, with the scheme becoming barely discernible from lower storey windows. Therefore, the overall magnitude of change would reduce to very low for Group A residents.</p> | | <p>During construction, and at Year 1 of the proposed development, the proposals would give rise to moderate adverse effects</p> <p>By Year 15, the effect would reduce to moderate/minor adverse as the landscape mitigation establishes.</p> |

| Receptor | Sensitivity | Relevant Photoviewpoint No. | Photoviewpoint Name | Construction: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. | Year 1: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. | Operation Year 15 and Beyond: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. |
|---|-------------------|--|---------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|
| Group B Residents - Properties off Colwell Lane South and Hurstwood Lane | Very High to High | N/A – Reverse imagery available at section 4 in main report | N/A | Medium. Major/Moderate. Adverse | Medium. Major/Moderate. Adverse | Low. Moderate. Adverse |
| Sensitivity of Receptor Explanation | | Description of View | | Magnitude of Change | | Summary |
| <p>People at home, and in particular where there are open views from primary living spaces, are considered to be of very high susceptibility to changes arising from development of the type proposed.</p> <p>Receptors with views from rooms other than the main habitable rooms, such as 1st floor bedrooms, are considered to be of lower susceptibility. The overall sensitivity of Group B residential occupiers is therefore assessed as very high or high.</p> | | <p>Due to the proximity, views into the site are experienced from lower and upper storey windows that face the site of the closest properties, although these are somewhat filtered by the existing vegetation associated with the site. Vegetation along the western boundary is a mix of mature trees, and scrubby hedgerows, with views of the site experienced beyond.</p> <p>Views into the site slightly increase from upper storey windows, where the elevated location affords views above the lower growing vegetation. However, the mature trees along the western boundary would provide some filtering qualities, and the majority of views of the site from properties within this group include existing settlement.</p> | | <p>Construction Phase: Construction activities (movement of site traffic, lighting, noise and, in time, the construction of new built form and the implementation of the proposed landscaping) would be experienced across the entire site. Views from lower storey windows from adjacent properties would continue to be filtered by vegetation, whilst views of the proposals from upper storey windows would be possible, but again, slightly filtered by the boundary vegetation. The majority of views of the construction from properties within this group would be partially obscured by existing settlement and vegetation. Therefore, the overall magnitude of change would be medium for Group B residents.</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Views of the proposed development from lower storey windows would continue to be filtered by existing vegetation, and slightly filtered from upper storey windows, with landscape mitigation yet to establish, views of the proposed development would be experienced. The built edge would be offset from the north-west corner of the site, which would reduce visual impacts, but overall, the scheme would be a focus within the views from adjacent properties. The majority of views of the proposed development from properties within this group would be partially obscured by existing settlement and vegetation. Therefore, the overall magnitude of change would be medium for Group B residents.</p> <p>Operation (Year 15 and beyond): Enhancements to the vegetation along the northern and western boundaries would be proposed to strengthen and layer the landscaping along these edges. This mitigation would further filter views of the proposed development, and the proposed development would become less of a focus within the views. Therefore, the magnitude of change would reduce to low for Group B residents.</p> | | <p>During construction, and at Year 1 of the proposed development, the proposals would give rise to major/moderate adverse effects</p> <p>By Year 15, the effect would reduce to moderate adverse as the landscape mitigation establishes.</p> |

| Receptor | Sensitivity | Relevant Photoviewpoint No. | Photoviewpoint Name | Construction: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. | Year 1: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. | Operation Year 15 and Beyond: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. |
|---|-------------------|--|---------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|
| Group C Residents - Properties on the east side of Lunce's Hill | Very High to High | N/A – Reverse imagery available at section 4 in main report | N/A | High. Major. Adverse | High. Major. Adverse | Medium. Major/Moderate. Adverse |
| Sensitivity of Receptor Explanation | | Description of View | | Magnitude of Change | | Summary |
| <p>People at home, and in particular where there are open views from primary living spaces, are considered to be of very high susceptibility to changes arising from development of the type proposed.</p> <p>Receptors with views from rooms other than the main habitable rooms, such as 1st floor bedrooms, are considered to be of lower susceptibility. The overall sensitivity of Group C residential occupiers is therefore assessed as very high or high.</p> | | <p>Properties on the eastern side of Lunce's Hill back directly onto the site. Due to the proximity, open views into the site from lower and upper storey windows are experienced from these properties. The boundary vegetation on the western edge does partially screen views of the northern area of the site.</p> | | <p>Construction Phase: Construction activities (movement of site traffic, lighting, noise and, in time, the construction of new built form and the implementation of the proposed landscaping) would be ever-present during the construction process from west and south facing windows of the properties, with the new site access road located along the section of boundary nearest to the properties. The overall magnitude of change would be high for Group C residents.</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Views of the proposed development from lower and upper storey windows would continue to be open, with little existing vegetation present to filter views. The scheme would be set back from the properties, with a parcel of existing field located between the properties and the proposals, but the scheme would form a prominent focus within the views from west and south facing windows of the properties, Therefore, the overall magnitude of change would be high for Group C residents.</p> <p>Operation (Year 15 and beyond): Landscape mitigation would be introduced along the western boundary in the form of trees and hedgerows, with landscape further integrated into the wider scheme to break up the built form and soften views. Views from lower storey windows would reduce with the implemented mitigation, but due to the proximity of the properties and lack of intervening vegetation outside of the site, views from upper storey windows would continue to be experienced. Therefore, the overall magnitude of change would reduce to be medium for Group C residents.</p> | | <p>During construction, and at Year 1 of the proposed development, the proposals would give rise to major adverse effects</p> <p>By Year 15, the effect would reduce to major/moderate adverse as the landscape mitigation establishes.</p> |

| Receptor | Sensitivity | Relevant Photoviewpoint No. | Photoviewpoint Name | Construction: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. | Year 1: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. | Operation Year 15 and Beyond: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. | |
|--|----------------|---|--|---|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Group D Residents - <i>Properties on the west side of Lunce’s Hill</i> | High to Medium | PVP EDP 7a and 7b | B2112 Lunce’s Hill/PRoW 15 & PRoW 3 junction adjacent to the site’s western boundary | Medium. Moderate. Adverse | Medium. Moderate. Adverse | Low. Moderate/Minor. Adverse | |
| | | PVP EDP 8a and 8b | B2112 Lunce’s Hill to the west of the site | | | | |
| Sensitivity of Receptor Explanation | | Description of View | | Magnitude of Change | | Summary | |
| <p>People at home, and in particular where there are open views from primary living spaces, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes arising from development of the type proposed, when located within existing settlement.</p> <p>Receptors with views from rooms other than the main habitable rooms, such as 1st floor bedrooms, are considered to be of lower susceptibility. The overall sensitivity of Group D residential occupiers is therefore assessed as high or medium.</p> | | <p>Photoviewpoint EDP 7a, 7b, 8a and 8b best represent views of the site from Group D residents, located on the western side of Lunce’s Hill, to the south and north of the properties.</p> | | <p>Construction Phase:</p> <p>Construction activities (movement of site traffic, lighting, noise and, in time, the construction of new built form and the implementation of the proposed landscaping) would be ever-present during the construction process, with the new site access and renovation of the existing barn located on the western boundary; the planting on the western side of Lunce’s Hill would have also yet to establish. Views of the construction activities would be mainly limited to the southern area of the site as existing settlement continues to screen most of the site. The overall magnitude of change would be medium for Group D residents.</p> <p>Operation (Year 1):</p> <p>Views of the proposed development would primarily be focused on the new site access infrastructure, with new residential dwellings in the background, seen within the context of existing settlement, infrastructure, and the renovated barn. Existing views would be partially changed by the introduction of development, and would be typical of the existing urban nature of the view. At Year 1, the landscape mitigation along the western edge would not have established sufficiently to provide screening qualities, nor would the planting on the west side of Lunce’s hill. Therefore, the overall magnitude of change would be medium for Group D residents.</p> <p>Operation (Year 15 and beyond):</p> <p>The establishment of the landscape mitigation along the western edge and key corridors within the scheme would soften and filter views from Group D residents, including the planting on the western side of Lunce’s Hill. Views of the infrastructure would still form a focus of the view, but overall, the landscaping would integrate the proposals into the surrounding settlement context. Therefore, the overall magnitude of change would reduce to low for Group D residents.</p> | | <p>During construction, and at Year 1 of the proposed development, the proposals would give rise to moderate adverse effects</p> <p>By Year 15, the effect would reduce to moderate/minor adverse as the landscape mitigation establishes.</p> | |
| | | <p>Views from properties on the western side of Lunce’s Hill are generally filtered by settlement and vegetation associated with Haywards Heath. The presence of settlement and infrastructure influences the semi-urban character of the views from these properties. Where the western boundary opens up in the south-west corner, views from adjacent properties increase, although existing settlement associated with Lunce’s Hill and the site continues to partially screen views into the site.</p> | | | | | |
| | | <p>Views from upper storey windows would slightly increase, as the elevated locations afford views of the site through gaps in settlement.</p> | | | | | |

| Receptor | Sensitivity | Relevant Photoviewpoint No. | Photoviewpoint Name | Construction: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. | Year 1: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. | Operation Year 15 and Beyond: Magnitude. Effect. Nature. |
|---|-------------------|---|---------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|
| Group E Residents - Properties associated with Greenhill Park and Birch Way | Very High to High | N/A – Reverse imagery available at section X in main report | N/A | Very Low. Moderate/Minor. Adverse | Very Low. Moderate/Minor. Adverse | Very Low. Negligible. Adverse |
| Sensitivity of Receptor Explanation | | Description of View | | Magnitude of Change | | Summary |
| <p>People at home, and in particular where there are open views from primary living spaces, are considered to be of very high susceptibility to changes arising from development of the type proposed.</p> <p>Receptors with views from rooms other than the main habitable rooms, such as 1st floor bedrooms, are considered to be of lower susceptibility. The overall sensitivity of Group E residential occupiers is therefore assessed as very high or high.</p> | | <p>Views from properties on the edge of Greenhill Park and Birch Way are located approximately 800m north of the site. The properties are located on elevated ground, which affords filtered distance views of the eastern area of the site from upper storey windows. However, existing woodland and field boundary vegetation heavily filters views of the entire site.</p> <p>Views from lower storey windows are unlikely, or at the most the site would be barely discernible in the view.</p> | | <p>Construction Phase: Construction activities (movement of site traffic, lighting, noise and, in time, the construction of new built form and the implementation of the proposed landscaping) would be seen as a small part in the wider views from these properties. Views from lower storey windows would continue to be screened by vegetation and topography to the point that construction activities would be barely discernible, whilst views of the proposals from upper storey windows would be possible, but heavily filtered by intervening vegetation, resulting in an overall magnitude of change of very low for Group E residents.</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Views from lower storey windows would continue to be screened by vegetation and topography and barely discernible, and partially screened from upper storey windows. The proposed development would form a small part of the wider view, and would not be a focus in the view. Therefore, the overall magnitude of change would be very low for Group E residents.</p> <p>Operation (Year 15 and beyond): The proposed landscaping throughout the scheme would have established, breaking up the built form and integrating the development into its surroundings. The proposed development would become barely discernible in the views. Therefore, the overall magnitude of change would reduce to be very low for Group E residents.</p> | | <p>During construction, and at Year 1 of the proposed development, the proposals would give rise to moderate/minor adverse effects</p> <p>By Year 15, the effect would reduce to Negligible adverse as the landscape mitigation establishes.</p> |

Appendix EDP 5

Lewes District Council Landscape Planning Policies and Character Information



Lewes District Local Plan

Part 1

Joint Core Strategy 2010-2030

May 2016



Core Policy 8 – Green Infrastructure

Key Strategic Objectives:

- **To work with other agencies to improve the accessibility to key community and facilities and to provide the new and upgraded infrastructure that is required to create and support sustainable communities.**
- **To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area.**
- **To take advantage of the richness and diversity of the district's natural and heritage assets to promote and achieve a sustainable tourism industry in and around the district.**
- **To conserve and enhance the high quality and character of the district's towns, villages, and rural environment by ensuring that all forms of new development are designed to a high standard and maintain and enhance the local vernacular and 'sense of place' of individual settlements.**

7.80 Green infrastructure refers to a multi-functional linked network of green spaces that provide opportunities for biodiversity and recreation. It includes:

- parks and gardens
- natural and semi-natural urban greenspaces – including woodlands, scrub, grasslands, wetlands, open and running water, cliff tops and foreshore, disused quarries and pits.
- green corridors – including river banks and rights of way
- outdoor sports facilities (with natural or artificial surfaces, either publicly or privately owned) and cycleways
- amenity greenspace (most commonly, but not exclusively, in housing areas)
- provision for children and teenagers
- allotments and community gardens
- cemeteries and churchyards
- accessible countryside in urban fringe areas
- river corridors
- green roofs and walls

7.81 Green infrastructure is essential for conserving and enhancing biodiversity and for meeting a wide range of social and environmental needs. It plays a vital role in terms of contributing to the distinctive character of the district and enhancing the quality of life for residents, workers and visitors. It also helps to promote healthy living and social inclusion by increasing opportunities for recreation, exercise and relaxation. In the district's towns, green spaces perform an important function in terms of mitigating the impacts of climate change. In the National Park, green infrastructure can also provide opportunities for greater appreciation and enjoyment of the landscape and cultural heritage of the Downs.

- 7.82 In order to maximise the multiple community and environmental benefits that can be delivered by green infrastructure, it is considered important that the existing green infrastructure network within the district is protected, enhanced and appropriately managed where possible. Opportunities need to be assessed for new or enhanced green infrastructure assets and how they can be delivered. It is also important to improve the connectivity of the existing green infrastructure network and increase its accessibility for the benefit of both residents and visitors.
- 7.83 Whilst access to green infrastructure in Lewes district is generally adequate, the Lewes District Outdoor Playing Space Review 2004, the Lewes District Informal Recreation Study 2005, the East Sussex Strategic Open Space Study 2011 and the Access Network and Accessible Natural Green Space Study 2014 identified localities where there are deficiencies in provision compared to identified needs/demand. Most of the towns, for example, are deficient in terms of children's equipped play areas and access to natural and semi-natural green space. New development cumulatively contributes towards the community's need for green space and, in areas with an identified shortfall, will exacerbate the pressure on existing assets. The District Council has adopted standards for the provision of outdoor playing space in relation to new housing development, based on the Fields in Trust recommended level of provision.

Core Policy 8 – Green Infrastructure

The local planning authority will promote a connected network of multi-functional green infrastructure by protecting and enhancing the quantity, quality and accessibility of open spaces throughout the district. This will be achieved by:

- 1. Identifying in the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD or SDNPA Local Plan areas where there is potential for the enhancement or restoration of existing green infrastructure and opportunities for the provision of new green space.**
- 2. Ensuring that development maintains and/or manages identified green infrastructure, where appropriate.**
- 3. Requiring development to contribute to the green infrastructure network and make provision for new green infrastructure and/or linkages to existing green infrastructure, where appropriate.**
- 4. Resisting development that would undermine the functional integrity of the green infrastructure network or would result in the loss of existing green spaces, unless either mitigation measures are incorporated within the development or alternative and suitable provision is made elsewhere in the locality.**
- 5. Working in partnership with other organisations to increase walking, cycling and public transport access to the countryside.**

Core Policy 10 – Natural Environment and Landscape Character

Key Strategic Objectives:

- **To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area.**
- **To conserve and enhance the high quality and character of the district's towns, villages, and rural environment by ensuring that all forms of new development are designed to a high standard and maintain and enhance the local vernacular and 'sense of place' of individual settlements.**

- 7.91 Lewes District contains high quality and diverse landscapes, including heathland, river valleys and floodplains, rolling downland, chalk cliffs, shingle beaches, rural fields and ancient woodlands. Most notably, part of the district's valued landscape has been recognised through the designation of the South Downs National Park. The National Park covers much of the southern part of the district, and although it excludes the coastal towns it provides a strong and stunning landscape setting for them. The National Park Authority has statutory National Park purposes²⁷ as specified in the Environment Act 1995, which will be fundamental as the SDNPA implements the National Park Management Plan and develops its Local Plan.
- 7.92 The Low Weald, which offers a gentle rolling landscape north of the National Park, has its own special character of low lying land with a patchwork of small fields, hedgerows, ancient woodland and shaws, ponds and streams which collectively form an enclosed and intimate landscape. There are also areas of ancient common land with a rich diversity of plant and animal life (e.g. Chailey Common and Markstakes Common). Although not afforded the same national level of recognition as the South Downs, the Low Weald is a landscape that is highly valued. Of particular value, are the extensive views that are obtained from the escarpment on the South Downs looking north over the Low Weald area. These landscapes and the natural environments that have evolved in the district, continue to be a resource for agricultural practices, forestry, tourism, healthy activity and recreation.
- 7.93 National planning policy for conserving and enhancing the natural environment is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework. This states that the planning system should protect and enhance natural landscapes, biodiversity, geological interests and soils and should take account of the different roles and character of different areas, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. It requires that great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, which

²⁷ - (1) To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park, and; (2) To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area by the public.

have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty.

- 7.94 East Sussex County Council has produced a County Landscape Assessment, which identifies a number of different landscape character areas, a number of which relate to Lewes District. This assessment identifies the characteristics of each character area and describes some of the pressures and priorities for them. A Landscape Capacity Study has been produced to inform the Core Strategy, and any subsequent planning policy documents in the area. This study considers land that is located adjacent to the main settlements within the district and refers to “the degree to which a particular landscape character type or area is able to accommodate change without significant effects on its character, or overall change of landscape character type”.²⁸
- 7.95 As well as protecting the significant landscape qualities in the district, stewardship of natural habitats is of prime importance and ensuring that development is sustainable in environmental terms, is a central theme in planning. In this role, Lewes District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority will develop programmes, projects and strategies which aim to conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity and promote improved access to and understanding of biodiversity and the landscape. Current examples of this include working with neighbouring authorities and other partners, to contribute to the delivery of biodiversity improvements and the ‘South Downs Way Ahead Nature Improvement Area’ and the ‘Brighton and Lewes Downs Biosphere project’, which encompasses much of the downland within the district.
- 7.96 The district is fortunate to have a plethora of sites designated for their biodiversity value. This includes Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI), National Nature Reserves (NNR), Local Nature Reserves (LNR) and Wildlife Trust Reserves. There is also a significant resource of ancient woodland in the district, as evidenced in the Revision of the Ancient Woodland Inventory²⁹.
- 7.97 Two sites in the district are designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), a designation made to protect flora, fauna and habitats of European-wide interest. The sites in question are the Lewes Downs SAC and the Castle Hill SAC. Both of the sites are designated for their chalk grassland and the species that are found in these locations, including rare orchids. In addition to the two SACs in Lewes District, there are also two other European designated sites within close proximity to the district’s borders. These are the Ashdown Forest, which is designated as both a SAC and Special Protection Area (SPA), and the Pevensey Levels, designated as a Ramsar Site (wetland of international importance) and also a candidate SAC.
- 7.98 A Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) of the Core Strategy has been undertaken. The assessment has concluded that the Core Strategy will not

²⁸ Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) guidance, Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage (2002)
²⁹ http://www.lewes.gov.uk/Files/plan_Lewes_ancient_woodland_survey_report.pdf

generate any significant negative effects in relation to the Lewes Downs SAC, Castle Hill SAC and the Pevensey Levels Ramsar Site and candidate SAC.

- 7.99 With regard to the Ashdown Forest, the HRA found that the Core Strategy would not have a significant negative effect in relation to air pollution resulting from additional traffic generated by new development in the district. However, the HRA concluded that development in the part of Lewes District within 7km of the Ashdown Forest, in combination with development in neighbouring districts, could have a significant negative effect on protected birds in the site, caused by increasing recreational pressure.
- 7.100 As such, additional residential development within the 7km zone will be required to mitigate their potential harm by aiding in the delivery of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs) and the Ashdown Forest Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Strategy (SAMMS). The District Council and National Park Authority, working in partnership with neighbouring authorities, will develop guidance that details the costs that will be sought from such development towards mitigation measures.
- 7.101 As a consequence of the need to protect the Ashdown Forest from such potential harm, development in the 7km zone will be resisted until a sufficient area of SANGs is delivered. In order to ensure a consistent approach, a rate of provision of 8ha of SANGs per additional 1,000 residents is being applied across the 7km zone by all the relevant planning authorities. This rate reflects the one set out for the Thames Basin Heaths SPA in retained Policy NRM6 of the South East Plan. The District Council and Natural England are confident that such a suitable area of SANGs can be delivered at an appropriate location. A site(s) will be allocated in the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD. A background paper to the Habitats Regulations Assessment has been prepared in support of this policy. It provides further details on the HRA in relation to the Ashdown Forest, including the reasons behind the SANG ratio rate.
- 7.102 Watercourses are integral to biodiversity, health and landscape character of the district. A River Basin Management Plan for the South East³⁰ has been prepared by the Environment Agency under the European Water Framework Directive. The plan focuses on the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. The way that land is managed has given rise to complex pollution issues and planning policies can be used to facilitate enhancements to watercourses. This can be through amongst other things; preventing deterioration of aquatic ecosystems, protecting and improving the ecological condition of waters; conserving habitats and species that depend directly on water and contributing to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts.

³⁰ <http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/PDF/GESO0910BSTA-E-E.pdf>

Core Policy 10 – Natural Environment and Landscape Character

- 1. The natural environment of the district, including landscape assets, biodiversity, geodiversity, priority habitats and species and statutory and locally designated sites, will be conserved and enhanced by:**
 - i. Maintaining and where possible enhancing the natural, locally distinctive and heritage landscape qualities and characteristics of the district including hedgerows, ancient woodland and shaws, as informed by the East Sussex County Landscape Assessment and the Lewes District Landscape Capacity Study;**
 - ii. Ensuring that new development will not harm nature conservation interests, unless the benefits of development at that location clearly outweigh the harm caused. In such cases appropriate mitigation and compensation will be required;**
 - iii. Maintaining and where possible enhancing local biodiversity resources including through maintaining and improving wildlife corridors, ecological networks and avoiding habitat fragmentation in both rural and urban areas;**
 - iv. Working with neighbouring local authorities to contribute to the delivery of biodiversity improvements within the South Downs Way Ahead Nature Improvement Area and the Brighton and Lewes Downs Biosphere Project, as well as other projects and partnerships that are established during the plan period.**
- 2. The highest priority will be given to the first purpose of the South Downs National Park and the integrity of European designated sites (SACs and SPAs) in and around Lewes District. Within and in the setting of the South Downs National Park, development will be resisted if it fails to conserve and appropriately enhance its rural, urban and historic landscape qualities, and its natural and scenic beauty, as informed by the South Downs Integrated Landscape Character Assessment.**
- 3. To ensure that the Ashdown Forest (SAC and SPA) is protected from recreational pressure, residential development that results in a net increase of one or more dwellings within 7km of the Ashdown Forest will be required to contribute to:**
 - i. The provision of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs) at the ratio of 8 hectares per additional 1,000 residents; and**
 - ii. The implementation of an Ashdown Forest Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Strategy (SAMMS).**

Until such a time that appropriate mitigation is delivered, development that results in a net increase of one or more dwellings within 7km of Ashdown Forest will be resisted. Applicants may consider mitigation solutions other than SANGs in order to bring forward residential development. Such solutions would need to be agreed with the District Council and Natural England.

- 4. Ensure that water quality is improved where necessary or maintained when appropriate (including during any construction process) and that watercourses (including groundwater flows) are protected from encroachment and adverse impacts in line with the objectives of the South East River Basin Management Plan. Where appropriate, the local planning authority will seek the enhancement and restoration of modified watercourses.**

Core Policy 11 – Built and Historic Environment and High Quality Design

Key Strategic Objectives:

- **To conserve and enhance the high quality and character of the district's towns, villages, and rural environment by ensuring that all forms of new development are designed to a high standard and maintain and enhance the local vernacular and 'sense of place' of individual settlements.**
- **To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area.**
- **To ensure that the district reduces locally contributing causes of climate change, and is proactive regarding climate change initiatives.**

- 7.103 The quality of the district's historic and built environment is highly valued and enjoyed by residents and visitors alike throughout the countryside, towns and villages. Buildings and the spaces around them contribute significantly to the quality of life for those living and working in the district, which in turn is essential to the continued economic and social well-being of the area. The local planning authority therefore attaches great importance to protecting and enhancing the built heritage of the district's towns, villages and countryside for future generations. This means encouraging good quality design, respecting the historic environment, and enhancing local character and distinctiveness whenever the opportunity arises.
- 7.104 There is growing recognition of the need to achieve a high standard of design in all forms of development. Good design is essential in order to produce attractive and sustainable places in which people will want to live, work, study and relax. It can help to reinforce community identity, create a sense of place, reduce crime, improve accessibility, and contribute to energy efficiency and biodiversity. The National Planning Policy Framework clearly establishes the responsibility of local planning authorities to secure good design and the importance of achieving high quality development that respects the environment.

- 7.105 Buildings and areas of architectural or historic interest are particularly important to protect since, by definition, they are impossible to replace. Lewes District has a rich and valued legacy of listed buildings and conservation areas, as well as historic parks and gardens, scheduled ancient monuments, and sites of archaeological importance. Such assets contribute to the district's cultural identity and unique sense of place and they need to be protected and treated with due sensitivity and care. The NPPF urges local planning authorities to give great weight to the conservation of designated heritage assets in considering the impact of development proposals.
- 7.106 Development is never too small to be considered in design terms. It is often the cumulative effects of extensions and alterations, rather than major new buildings, which impact on people's perceptions of a place. The local planning authority will seek to ensure that development at every scale responds appropriately to its context, protecting what is of value whilst enhancing the environmental qualities of the district for future generations. It will encourage the creation of functional, accessible, safe and sustainable development, which utilises its siting, layout, orientation and design to achieve the highest practicable degree of resource and energy efficiency.
- 7.107 The purpose of Core Policy 11 is to ensure a consistency of approach, whilst providing scope for innovative and imaginative design. In the consideration of development proposals, the local planning authority will also have regard to the *Manual for Streets* (DCLG/DETR 2007) and the *Lewes District Public Realm Framework* (LDC 2013).

Core Policy 11 – Built and Historic Environment and High Quality Design

The local planning authority will seek to secure high quality design in all new development in order to assist in creating sustainable places and communities. This will be achieved by ensuring that the design of development:

- i. Respects and, where appropriate, positively contributes to the character and distinctiveness of the district's unique built and natural heritage;**
- ii. Within the South Downs National Park is in accordance with the National Park purposes and outside the SDNP has regard to the setting of the National Park and its purposes;**
- iii. Adequately addresses the need to reduce resource and energy consumption;**
- iv. Responds sympathetically to the site and its local context and is well-integrated in terms of access and functionality with the surrounding area;**
- v. Is adaptable, safe and accessible to all and, in relation to housing development, is capable of adapting to changing lifestyles and needs;**
- vi. Incorporates measures to reduce opportunities for crime or anti-social behaviour, including the provision of active ground floor frontages in town, district and local centres to assist with the informal surveillance of the public realm;**
- vii. Makes efficient and effective use of land, avoiding the creation of public space which has no identified use or function;**
- viii. Provides a satisfactory environment for existing and future occupants including, in relation to housing development, adequate provision for daylight, sunlight, privacy, private outdoor space and/or communal amenity areas;**
- ix. Minimises flood risk in accordance with Core Policy 12.**

The local planning authority will safeguard historic assets, including scheduled ancient monuments, listed buildings (both statutory and locally listed), registered parks and gardens, the Lewes Battlefield (1264), and archaeological remains. Proposals which conserve or enhance the historic environment, including the sensitive use of historic assets through regeneration, will be encouraged and supported.

The local planning authority will seek opportunities to enhance the character and appearance of designated Conservation Areas, in accordance with the Conservation Area character appraisals.



Lewes District Local Plan

Part 2

Site Allocations and Development Management Policies

February 2020



Lewes District Council

Rural Exception Sites

- 4.8. The shortage of affordable housing for local people can result from high house prices driven up by demand from people moving to rural areas, coupled with restricted scope for new house building. The strategic housing sites allocated in the Local Plan Part 1 at Lewes town, Newhaven, Peacehaven and Ringmer will help to increase the supply of affordable housing in the towns and larger villages in the district. However, in smaller villages and rural areas which have very limited or no facilities, new housing development will be focused on providing affordable homes which meet an identified housing need among local people who are unable to compete in the private housing market.
- 4.9. 'Rural Exception Sites' can be used to release sites to deliver affordable housing in rural communities where such land would not otherwise be used for housing. The Coastal West Sussex Strategic Housing Market Assessment recommends this as one of a number of mechanisms which should be used to increase the supply of affordable housing in rural areas. At the national level, the 2008 Taylor Review of Rural Economy and Affordable Housing urges the need for more proactive engagement to bring forward sites for affordable homes to meet local needs in smaller rural communities (generally defined as settlements with populations under 3,000).
- 4.10. It is important that housing schemes should be needs led, the starting point being that a need for housing exists in the parish, rather than the availability of a particular site. Proposed developments must be based on sound evidence of housing need and must fulfil the criteria as stated in Policy DM2 below. The ability of the proposed scheme to meet identified local housing needs must be clearly demonstrated to the satisfaction of Lewes District Council. This will be assessed using the Council's Housing Register and other available up-to-date housing needs assessments. It should also be demonstrated that the proposal is financially viable and deliverable.
- 4.11. Given that housing permitted through this policy is an exception to normal countryside policies, it is important that it remains 'affordable' in perpetuity. Only tenures which can be guaranteed to remain affordable in the long term will be permitted in such schemes. For example, general shared ownership schemes where occupiers can potentially purchase 100% of the equity will not be considered appropriate. Where planning permission would not normally be permitted for housing, it can still be difficult to encourage landowners to sell their land below open market residential values. In order to address this, a proportion of market housing may be permitted where it can be demonstrated that an affordable housing scheme would be unviable

without cross-subsidy. Viability will be independently assessed by the District Valuer, or equivalent, at the applicant's expense.

Policy DM2: Rural Exception Sites

Outside the planning boundaries, as defined on the Policies Map, proposals for affordable housing to meet local needs will be permitted where the following criteria are met:

- (1) the proposed development will assist in meeting an identified and genuine local need in terms of the sizes, types, and tenures of the dwellings;**
- (2) the proposed development is within, adjacent to, or otherwise well related to an existing village or other settlement;**
- (3) the scale and design of the development is appropriate to the nature of the settlement and will respect its character and setting;**
- (4) the affordable housing is made available to, and will be retained in perpetuity for, households with a local connection;**
- (5) the proposed scheme is subject to an appropriate legal agreement to ensure that it is able to be properly managed by a partner Registered Provider or other approved body;**
- (6) development proposals within 7km of the Ashdown Forest comply with Core Policy 10(3) of the Local Plan Part 1.**

The inclusion of open market housing will not normally be supported unless it can be demonstrated that an affordable housing scheme that meets the above criteria would be unviable without cross-subsidy. In such exceptional circumstances, the amount of market housing must be lower than the amount of affordable housing and at the lowest proportion that will enable the delivery of significant affordable housing.

Accommodation for Agricultural and Other Rural Workers

- 4.12. The NPPF states that one of the few circumstances where an isolated new home may be justified within the countryside is when the accommodation is essential to enable a rural worker to live permanently at or near their place of work. In Lewes district, it may often be as convenient and sustainable for such workers to live in nearby towns or villages, so avoiding new and potentially intrusive development in the countryside. However, it is acknowledged that there will be some instances where the nature and demands of certain rural businesses will make it essential for one or more

layout of development proposals and increasing opportunities for recreation, exercise and relaxation. The aim is to achieve an improved network of multi-functional green infrastructure that will open up opportunities for physical activity and social inclusion and provide wider community benefits, such as the conservation and enhancement of landscape character and biodiversity.

- 4.46. Since the adoption of the Local Plan Part 1, 11.8 ha of public open space has been provided at Newick, funded by new housing development in the village. This area comprises meadows, woodland, streams and ponds, providing Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) to help mitigate the impact of new development on the Ashdown Forest Special Protection Area. Significant improvements to outdoor play space provision have also been achieved at Newhaven, Peacehaven, Telscombe, Seaford and Wivelsfield, funded by housing development in these locations.
- 4.47. The Council expects the design of new open spaces in development proposals to take account of the range of technical guidance available through organisations such as Fields in Trust, Sport England and the Landscape Institute.

Green Infrastructure

- 4.48. Core Policy 8 (*Green Infrastructure*) of the Local Plan Part 1 sets out the overall strategic framework for managing and enhancing the green infrastructure network across the plan area. Green infrastructure maintains critical ecological links between town and country and provides us with essential ecosystem services such as flood protection, clean air and water, carbon storage, food and materials. It also provides us with cultural services, such as access to the wider countryside, and health and well-being benefits through opportunities for walking, cycling and other activities, as well as contributing to the economy through the creation of attractive environments which can encourage business investment.
- 4.49. Unless development is carefully managed, there is a risk that it could result in increased pressure on existing green infrastructure resources and contribute to the future fragmentation, loss and deterioration of the district's habitats and species. However, at an individual site level, development can provide an opportunity to enhance the quality and quantity of green infrastructure, as well as improving its accessibility and connectivity, and ecological and social value. Policy DM14 therefore seeks to ensure that green infrastructure is delivered as an integral part of the design of new development proposals and achieves multiple environmental, social and economic benefits where appropriate.

Policy DM14: Multi-functional Green Infrastructure

Development will be permitted where opportunities for the provision of additional green infrastructure have been fully considered and would be provided where justified by the character of the area or the need for outdoor playing space. Green infrastructure provided as part of new development should incorporate features to encourage biodiversity and retain or, where possible, enhance existing features of nature conservation value within the site. Existing ecological networks should be identified and ecological corridors should, where practical and appropriate, form an essential component of green infrastructure provision to ensure habitat connectivity.

Outdoor Playing Space

- 4.50. In line with Government guidance, it is considered essential that adequate provision for outdoor playing space is made in association with new housing developments in order to meet the recreational needs of new residents and to avoid exacerbating existing deficiencies. The existence of outdoor playing space encourages people to adopt an active lifestyle and also helps residents, both young and old, to play and socialise with others.
- 4.51. The Council therefore seeks to ensure that the provision of outdoor play and informal recreation space meets the needs arising from new development. The Council's adopted standards for outdoor playing space are based on benchmark guidelines published by Fields in Trust (FiT) to address issues of quantity, quality and accessibility (*Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard, FiT 2015*).
- 4.52. Currently the overall provision of outdoor playing space in the district's towns and villages indicates that most fall below the FiT recommended levels, with a particular deficiency in the provision of children's play space. Consultation with the town councils confirms the overall deficiency at a local level, a situation that is often emphasised by local sports clubs and organisations.
- 4.53. The opportunities for providing additional outdoor sports facilities are limited due to the lack of sites in Council ownership. However, the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) provides a source of funding to enhance existing facilities, for example by the improved drainage of pitches, the provision of all-weather pitches, or the upgrading of ancillary facilities, to enable them to be used more intensively.

This is particularly important in terms of communal amenity areas for the benefit of occupiers or the wider community. Further tree and landscape advice is available on the Council's website.

Policy DM27: Landscape Design

Where appropriate, development proposals should demonstrate a high quality of landscape design, implementation and management as an integral part of the new development. Landscape schemes will be expected to:

- (1) reflect, conserve or enhance the character and distinctiveness of the local landscape or streetscape and integrate the development into its surroundings, adding visual interest and amenity;**
- (2) encourage adaptation to climate change by, for example, providing areas to assist with flood mitigation or tree planting to assist with carbon capture and urban cooling;**
- (3) retain and incorporate existing healthy mature trees and hedgerows and replace any trees that need to be removed with trees of an appropriate species;**
- (4) where practicable, use material excavated from the site for re-contouring, infilling and top-soiling, ensuring that any land re-modelling respects the local topographic character;**
- (5) where appropriate, take opportunities to connect the development site to the existing green infrastructure network.**

Residential Extensions

- 4.94. Extensions and alterations to dwellings are often a means of enabling people to better meet their housing needs without moving. Not all such proposals need planning permission (although they generally require approval under the Building Regulations). However, where permission is required they will be considered in terms of:
- relationship with the character and appearance of the principal building
 - compatibility with the general character of the locality
 - impact on the amenities of neighbouring properties
- 4.95. In order to demonstrate that a proposal will contribute positively to the character of the site and the surroundings and that due regard is given to how it will relate to both the dwelling and neighbouring development,