

Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report.

Land at Halsnead Garden Village, Phase 2b and Phase 3.

On behalf of Taylor Wimpey UK Limited.

Date: 23/01/2025 | Pegasus Ref: P24-1099



Document Management.

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1. Introduction

1.1. Overview

- 1.1.1. This Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report has been prepared by Pegasus Group¹ on behalf of Taylor Wimpey Limited ('the Applicant') in respect of land within Halsnead Garden Village, Knowsley, known as Phase 2b and Phase 3 (collectively referred to as 'the Sites').
- 1.1.2. Both the Phase 2b parcel and Phase 3 parcel form part of a large sustainable urban extension 'South of Whiston and Land South of M62' which is allocated for development within the Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy (January 2016) under Policy SUE2c for approximately 1,500 dwellings, 22ha of employment and a country park. The allocation was subsequently named one of 14 new Garden Villages in January 2017. Phase 2b extends to approximately 8.2ha and Phase 3 extends to approximately 9.12ha, within the administrative area of Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council (KMBC). A Site Location Plan is included at **Appendix A**.
- 1.1.3. It is the intention that one planning application will be submitted to encompass approximately 425 dwellings, c. 225 residential dwellings on Phase 2b and c. 200 residential dwellings on Phase 3, in addition to an Independent Living apartment building comprising c. 85 apartments (use class C3) and Residential Care Home development comprising c. 72 beds (use class C2), approximately 4,000sqft Convenience Store on Phase 2b, and associated open space, access and related infrastructure on both parcels (the 'Proposed Development'). Whilst this is being sought under one planning application, it is acknowledged these could be delivered separately and therefore needs to be considered and assessed appropriately in accordance with EIA Regulations.
- 1.1.4. This Scoping Report seeks to agree the content of the forthcoming Environmental Statement (ES) to support development on each of these phases and has been prepared to accompany a formal EIA Scoping Request to Knowsley Council under Regulation 15 of *The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017*, as amended ² ('the EIA Regulations'). In accordance with the EIA Regulations, a person who is minded to make an EIA application may ask the relevant planning authority to state in writing their opinion as to the scope and level of detail of the information to be provided in the Environmental Statement (ES) (a 'Scoping Opinion'). EIA Scoping is a statutory, albeit not mandatory process, through which the content and detailed methodology of the EIA process is agreed, formally with the local planning authority and statutory consultees. It is best practice and ensures that any future and/or subsequent planning application is accompanied by a suitably proportionate and focused ES that takes all significant environmental issues into account.
- 1.1.5. The Applicant has appointed a team of specialist consultants to consider planning and environmental matters in relation to the forthcoming ES and to provide input into the production of this Scoping Report, as listed below.

¹ Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) qualified assessors.

² SI 2017/571 as amended by SI 2018/695

Table 1.1 Consultant Team

Topic	Consultant
Planning	Pegasus Group
Environmental Impact Assessment	Pegasus Group
Landscape and Visual	Randall Thorp
Socio-Economics and Health	Pegasus Group
Climate Change	Pegasus Group
Air Quality	SLR consulting
Noise and Vibration	Hepworth Acoustics
Cultural Heritage	GHC Archaeology & Heritage
Transport and Access	Eddisons
Flood Risk and Drainage	Betts
Ecology	TEP
Arboriculture	TEP
Ground Conditions and Land Contamination	Betts

- 1.1.8. The Scoping Report has been produced on behalf of the Applicant by Pegasus Group. Pegasus Group is registered to the EIA Quality Mark, a scheme operated by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) which allows consultancies that lead the co-ordination of statutory EIAs in the UK to make a commitment to excellence in their EIA activities and have this commitment independently reviewed.

1.2. Requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Process

- 1.2.1. The EIA process is the mechanism by which development proposals are appraised in terms of environmental and socio-economic criteria, in addition to the engineering and technical considerations. The EIA process defines the context of the Proposed Development and its construction, and examines the issues considered pertinent.
- 1.2.2. The purpose of the EIA is to establish the nature of the Site and its surroundings (i.e., the baseline) and the nature of the Proposed Development and compare the baseline with the scenario once the proposals are in place, so to identify the likely significant effects that may arise as a result. This requires consideration of effects during construction, including any enabling works, and effects once operational. The document produced as a result of the EIA process is known as the Environmental Statement (ES).
- 1.2.3. The EIA Regulations require that any Proposed Development falling within the description of a 'Schedule 2 Development' within the meaning of the EIA Regulations, may be subject to an EIA where such development is considered likely to have 'significant' effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size or location (Regulation 2 (b)).

- 1.2.4. The Proposed Development falls under Schedule 2, Category 10 (b) of the EIA Regulations as an 'Infrastructure Project'; specifically, an 'urban development project'.
- 1.2.5. The applicable thresholds from Schedule 2, Category 10 (b) of the EIA Regulations above which EIA may be required are as follows:
- i) The development includes more than 1 hectare of urban development which is not dwellinghouse development; or*
 - ii) the development includes more than 150 dwellings; or*
 - iii) the overall area of the development exceeds 5 hectares.*
- 1.2.6. Further indicative criteria and thresholds to assist whether EIA is likely to be required are set out within the National Planning Policy Guidance (EIA section)³. With respect to Category 10 (b) developments, the further indicative criteria in relation to sites which have not previously been intensively developed, are:
- (i) area of the scheme is more than 5 hectares; or*
 - (ii) it would provide a total of more than 10,000 m² of new commercial floorspace; or*
 - (iii) the development would have significant urbanising effects in a previously non-urbanised area (e.g. a new development of more than 1,000 dwellings)."*
- 1.2.7. Having regard to the Application Site, the nature of the Proposed Development and considering the surrounding approved and potential future development, in the context of the above it is considered the proposals may lead to likely significant effects on the environment. Therefore, it is the intent of the Applicant to prepare and submit an ES in support of the forthcoming planning application, the content or 'scope' of which is set out and discussed throughout this document for Knowsley Council's comment.

1.3. Purpose of the Scoping Report

- 1.3.1. This Scoping Report has been prepared to accompany a formal EIA Scoping Request under Regulation 15 of the EIA Regulations. The purpose of the Scoping Request is to seek a formal view from Knowsley Council (and other consultees where relevant) on the information to be contained within the ES which will accompany the forthcoming planning applications on the above Application Site.
- 1.3.2. In accordance with Regulation 15, paragraph 2, this Scoping Report contains:
- *"A plan sufficient to identify the land;*
 - *A brief description of the nature and purpose of the development, including its location and technical capacity;*
 - *An explanation of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment; and*

³ MHCLG, 2020, PPG Environmental Impact Assessment (published March 2014 and updated 13 May 2020).

- *Such other information or representations as the person making the request may wish to provide or make."*

1.3.3. Specifically, this Scoping Report seeks to identify those potential likely significant environmental effects which could occur as a result of the Proposed Development and are subsequently proposed to be assessed in the EIA process and reported within the ES. Discussion and reasoned justification will also be provided within this report on topics which are proposed to be 'scoped out' of the EIA process.

1.3.4. This Scoping Report is submitted to Knowsley Council as part of the formal request for a Scoping Opinion and we welcome comment on the proposed scope and content of the ES from the LPA and other consultees that they wish to nominate, in accordance with Regulation 15 of the EIA Regulations. It is anticipated such consultees may include the following:

- Knowsley Council (various departments that include transport, environmental health, landscape and ecology);
- Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS);
- Other nearby Local Planning Authorities;
- Other Consultees such as:
 - The Environment Agency;
 - National Highways;
 - Natural England; and
 - Historic England.
- Relevant Parish Councils.

1.3.5. It is requested that the Applicant is informed of those consultees who are notified of this EIA Scoping Opinion Request.

1.4. Structure of the EIA Scoping Report

1.4.1. The remainder of this EIA Scoping Report is divided into the following Sections:

- **Chapter 2: The Site and Project Overview**
 - An overview of the Site and the Proposed Development.
- **Chapter 3: Legislative Requirements and the EIA Process**
 - A summary of the relevant EIA legislation and EIA process which will be undertaken.
- **Chapter 4: Topic to be 'Scoped In' and Proposed Layout of the ES**
 - Topic to be included in the ES and the proposed layout of the ES.
- **Chapters 5 – 10: Technical Chapters**

- Individual discussions on the topics to be assessed within the ES, including information regarding specific methodology.
- **Chapter 11: Topics proposed to be Scoped Out of the ES**
 - Each environmental topic not proposed to be considered in the ES is discussed in turn.
- **Chapter 12: Structure of the ES**
 - The structure and format of the ES document is outlined.
- **Chapter 13: Environmental Statement Scoping Summary**

2. The Site and Project Overview

2.1. Site Location

- 2.1.1. The Site (see **Appendix A** – Site Location Plan) is located in Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council (KMBC), which forms part of the Liverpool City Region and is located to the east of Liverpool. The Site is located to the north of the M62 and east of Junction 6 and Windy Arbor Road and is formed by two distinct parcels of land which are referred to as Phase 2b and Phase 3.
- 2.1.2. Both the Phase 2b and Phase 3 parcels form part of a large Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) 'South of Whiston and Land South of M62' which is allocated for development within the Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy (January 2016) under Policy SUE2 for approximately 1,500 dwellings, 22ha of employment and a country park. This covers land north and south of the M62. The site parcels subject to this scoping (Phase 2b and Phase 3), fall within the parcel north of the M62. The allocation was subsequently named one of 14 new Garden Villages in January 2017 and Halsnead Garden Village Masterplan SPD was adopted in June 2017.
- 2.1.3. Together the Phase 2b and Phase 3 parcels extend to approximately 17.32 ha. Phase 2b parcel lies adjacent to Fox's Bank Lane and extends to approximately 8.2ha and Phase 3 lies further to the south west adjacent to the M62 and extends to approximately 9.12ha. Areas of blue land are also identified which are currently under the control of the applicant. A Site Location Plan is included at **Appendix A**. A description of each parcel comprising the Site is set out below.

The Phase 2b Parcel

- 2.1.4. The Phase 2b parcel is centred at National Grid reference 347665 (Easting), 390225 (Northing) and is bound to the north by Fox's Bank Cemetery, an open field which is included in the masterplan for Halsnead Garden Village, and a plot of land consented for residential development (under planning application reference 22/00600/FUL). To the east, the Phase 2b parcel is bound by Fox's Bank Lane, beyond which lies a small pocket of residential settlement with open fields and Blundells Hill Golf Club beyond. The south of the Phase 2b parcel is bound by the consented and under construction Fox's Bank residential scheme (under planning application reference 20/00417/FUL), beyond which lies the M62 Motorway. Halsnead Caravan Park is located at the south-western most point of the Phase 2b parcel. To the west the Phase 2b parcel is bound by the consented and under construction Land south of Lickers Lane residential scheme (under planning application reference 20/00399/OUT), beyond which lies Cock Glades and Whiston Juniors Playing Ground.
- 2.1.5. All of the completed or under construction schemes set out in the above paragraph form part of the wider South of Whiston and Land South of M62 SUE2c Allocation and are shown on the Cumulative sites plan at **Appendix B**.
- 2.1.6. The Phase 2b is accessed from Fox's Bank Lane, which in turn provides access to Whiston Cross to the north, and Symmetry Park to the south. There are no Public Rights of Way (PROWs) on or adjacent to the Site.

The Phase 3 Parcel

- 2.1.7. The Phase 3 parcel is centred at National Grid reference 347329 (Easting), 389861 (Northing) and is bound to the north by Halsnead Caravan Park, beyond lies a field and the under construction Land south of Lickers Lane residential scheme (under planning application reference 20/00399/OUT). To the east, the Phase 3 parcel is bound by the consented and under construction Fox's Lane residential scheme under planning application reference 20/00417/FUL, beyond which lies Fox's Bank Lane and Blundell's Hill Golf Club. The M62 Motorway bounds the south of the Phase 3 parcel, beyond which lies Symmetry Park. To the west, the Phase 3 parcel is bound by an area of woodland (with an associated pond known as 'Big Water'), beyond which lies the consented and under construction land north of M62 motorway residential scheme under planning application reference 18/00283/HYB, with Windy Arbor Road and the M62 Motorway further west.
- 2.1.8. The Phase 3 parcel is proposed to be accessed via Taylor Wimpey's Phase 2a scheme which is approved and currently under construction (planning application reference 20/00417/FUL).
- 2.1.9. All of the completed or under construction schemes set out in the above paragraph form part of the wider South of Whiston and Land South of M62 SUE2c Allocation.
- 2.1.10. The wider area beyond the Phase 2b parcel and the Phase 3 parcel forming the Sites is predominantly residential in nature, further characterised by pockets of woodland, industrial development, the local and strategic road network, and open fields.

2.2. Site Context

- 2.2.1. There are no statutory designated sites for ecology and nature conservation located within the Sites. Within 10km of the Sites boundaries there is one European designated sites, Mersey Estuary designated as a Ramsar site, a Special Protection Area (SPA) and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) located c. 6.4km south of Phase 3. Within 5km of the Sites boundaries there are no national designated sites for ecology and nature conservation.
- 2.2.2. In total, there are 25 non-statutory locally designated sites within 2km. The three closest to the site are The Old Wood Local Wildlife Site (LWS), Big Water and Big Water Wood LWS, both located directly adjacent to the west of the Phase 3 Site and Lickers Lane Wood LWS located 0.2km north of the Phase 2b Site.
- 2.2.3. The Sites are located within an Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) for the Mersey Estuary SSSI, however the development is not of a type listed within Natural England's risk categories for that zone.
- 2.2.4. The Old Wood located adjacent to the western boundary and c. 150m south west of Phase 3 is an Ancient Woodland.
- 2.2.5. There are no heritage assets located within the Sites. Within the area surrounding the Sites there are the following heritage assets:
- Scheduled Monument, known as Rainhill Hall Farm moated site and twelve fishponds in The Rough (ref 1017860) located c. 1.2km east of the Phase 2b Site;
 - Grade II listed Gate Piers beside North East Lodge to Halsnead Park (ref 1253429) located adjacent to the south eastern boundary of the Phase 2b Site;

- Grade II listed North East Lodge of Halsnead Park (ref 1253249) located adjacent to the south eastern boundary of the Phase 2b Site;
- Grade II listed Old Halsnead (ref 1261787) located c. 160m south of the Phase 3 Site;
- Grade II listed Sandfield House (ref 1253251) located c. 200m north of the Phase 2b Site;
- Grade II listed Church of St Nicholas (ref 1261894) located c. 520m north west of Phase 3 and c. 720m west of the Phase 2b Site;
- Grade II listed Barn at Snape Gate (ref 1253250) located c. 340m south of the Phase 2b Site and c. 360m east of the Phase 3 Site;
- Grade II listed the Paddocks and the Stakes (ref 1253505) located c. 530m west of the Phase 3 Site;
- Grade II listed Carr House Farmhouse (ref 1253441) located c. 530m west of the Phase 3 Site;
- Grade II listed range of adjoining farm buildings in L plan (rear of Dean's Farmhouse) (ref 1261893) c. 540m east of the Phase 2b Site;
- Grade II listed Dean's Farmhouse (ref 1253345) located c. 590m east of the Phase 2b Site; and
- Grade II listed Ropers Bridge (ref 1392301) located c. 900m north west of the Phase 2b Site.

- 2.2.6. The nearest Conservation Area is located 1.2km to the north-east of the study Site; Rainhill Area 2 Conservation Area.
- 2.2.7. Stadt Moers Country Park is located c. 840m north west of the Phase 3 Site and c. 960m west of the Phase 2b Site. The closest Conservation Area to the Sites is the Rainhill Conservation Area located c. 1.2km north east of the Phase 2b Site and c. 1.9km north east of the Phase 3 Site.
- 2.2.8. There are two further non-designated assets that are not recorded on the HER and that have been identified from historic mapping and noted during a site visit. These comprise the former east drive that crosses through the north of the study Site in an east/west direction from the North East Lodge on Fox's Bank Lane to the site of Halsnead Hall and the former ornamental lake, Big Water, to the west of the study Site. These assets are of local importance.
- 2.2.9. There are no statutory landscape designations within the Sites, nor are there any Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) within 5km of the Sites boundaries nor any other landscape designations located in close proximity.
- 2.2.10. According to Natural England's Provision Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Map both Sites are located within Grade 2 land which is considered best and most versatile (BMV).
- 2.2.11. According to the Environment Agency's Flood Map for Planning both Sites are located entirely within Flood Zone 1 which has the lowest probability of flooding. The majority of the Phase 3

Site has no risk of surface water flooding with a small section within the north western corner of the Site of low to high risk of surface water flooding. The majority of the Phase 2b Site has no risk of surface water flooding with small patches of low to high risk in the north eastern, south eastern and north western corners of the Phase 2b Site.

- 2.2.12. Neither Site is located within an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). St Helens Council (SHC), the administrative boundary for which is situated immediately east of the Phase 2B Site, has four declared AQMAs. The closest of the SHC AQMAs is situated c. 5km to the north-east of the Phase 2B Site and c. 5.5km to the north-east of the Phase 3 Site (the AQMA No.3 (Borough Rd)).
- 2.2.13. The closest AQMA to the Sites is the Liverpool City AQMA, located c.2.7km to the west of the Phase 3 Site and c.3.3km to the west of the Phase 2b Site. The Halton Borough Council (HBC) 'AQMA No.2' is located c.5.5km to the south-west of both the Phase 2B and Phase 3 Sites. The Warrington Borough Council (WBC) 'AQMA No.1' is located c.7.6km to the east of the Phase 2B Site and c.8km to the east of the Phase 3 Site. All of the AQMAs discussed here have been declared due to exceedances of the annual mean nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) Air Quality Assessment Level (AQAL).

2.3. Proposed Development

- 2.3.1. Although the proposals are continuing to develop as the technical work progresses, it is likely that Taylor Wimpey will be seeking detailed planning permission for approximately 425 dwellings, elderly care accommodation/retirement living, convenience store, open space, access and associated infrastructure over the two identified parcels. Each parcel however is capable of being progressed and delivered independently.
- 2.3.2. Specifically, the proposals for Phase 2b are likely to include c. 225 dwellings, an Independent Living apartment building comprising c. 85 apartments (use class C3) and Residential Care Home development comprising c. 72 beds (use class C2), approximately 4,000sqft Convenience Store, along with open space, access and associated infrastructure. The primary access to the parcel will be from Fox Bank's Lane, with further vehicular and pedestrian links to wider parts of the Garden Village.
- 2.3.3. The proposals for Phase 3 are likely to include approximately 200 dwellings, open space access and associated infrastructure including SUDS. The parcel will be accessed from the committed and under construction Phase 2a, Fox's Bank residential development (ref: 20/00417).
- 2.3.4. Both parcels will include a mix of housing type and tenure, ranging from 1 storey to 2.5 storey (maximum height 11.5m).
- 2.3.5. It is reasonable to assume, for assessment purposes, that construction could commence for Phase 3 in 2026 and last for approximately 5 years and could commence for Phase 2b in 2030 and last for approximately 6 years. This would result in completion c. 2031 for Phase 3 and c. 2036 for Phase 2b. These timescales are provided for indicative purposes and may alter as matters progress.
- 2.3.6. Whilst the planning application seeks full permission, the EIA will be based upon a set of defined parameters, which will identify the extent of different land use areas (e.g. residential, open space, roads etc), maximum heights of buildings and key landscape mitigation proposals integral to the scheme. This ensures that key elements are assessed accordingly,



however allows some flexibility should there be detailed changes post submission following discussion with consultees e.g. certain house types for example. Separate detailed layout plans will be submitted with the planning application, outside of the ES. The applicant seeks confirmation that this approach is acceptable.

3. Legislative Requirements and the EIA Process

3.1. Legislative Requirements

3.1.1. The EIA process will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the EIA Regulations. Specifically, Schedule 4 (Regulation 18 (3)), sets out the information for inclusion in ESs, as replicated within Appendix C and summarised as follows:

Part 1:

- *'A description of the development' – including information on the location of the development, the physical characteristics of the development, the main characteristics of the operational phase, and estimate of expected residues and emissions.*

Part 2:

- *'A description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the developer' – for example with regard to development design, technology, location, size and scale, and an indication of the main reason for selecting the chosen option.*

Part 3:

- *'A description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (baseline scenario)'– including how the baseline might evolve if the development were not to proceed.*

Part 4:

- *'A description of the factors specified in regulation 4(2) likely to be significantly affected by the development' – including with regard to population, human health, biodiversity (for example fauna and flora), land (for example land take), soil (for example organic matter, erosion, compaction, sealing), water (for example hydromorphological changes, quantity and quality), air, climate (for example greenhouse gas emissions, impacts relevant to adaptation), material assets, cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological aspects, and landscape.*

Part 5:

- *'A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment' – including with regard to: construction, existence and demolition works, the use of natural resources, emission of pollutants and the disposal of waste, the risks to human health, cultural heritage or the environment (for example due to accidents or disasters), cumulative effects with other developments, vulnerability with respect to climate change and the technologies and substances to be used.*
- *The description of the likely significant effects should cover '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'*

Part 6:

- *'A description of the forecasting methods or evidence, used to identify and assess the significant effects on the environment' – including details of difficulties (technical deficiencies or lack of knowledge) encountered compiling the required information and the main uncertainties involved.*

Part 7:

- *'A description of the measures envisaged to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any identified significant adverse effects on the environment' – including where appropriate with regard to: any proposed monitoring arrangements (for example the preparation of a postproject analysis).*
- *The description should explain the 'extent, to which significant adverse effects on the environment are avoided, prevented, reduced or offset', and should cover both the construction and operational phases.*

Part 8:

- *'A description of the expected significant adverse effects of the development on the environment deriving from the vulnerability of the development to risks of major accidents and/or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned'. Where appropriate, this description should include measures envisaged to prevent or mitigate the significant adverse effects of such events on the environment and details of the preparedness for and proposed response to such emergencies.*

Part 9:

- *'A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 8'.*

Part 10:

'A reference list detailing the sources used for the descriptions and assessments included in the environmental statement'.

3.2. The EIA Process

3.2.1. The topic area 'scoped in' the EIA, will undergo the following main steps:

Baseline Study

3.2.2. In the case of many of the environmental topics which will be covered in the ES, or which are proposed to be scoped-out of the ES, baseline studies have already been undertaken, and details of this work, where relevant, are discussed within each environmental topic within this Report. Baseline conditions will be established within each of the individual environmental assessments through the use of a number of sources including, desk top review of existing available data; site specific survey work; and consultation.

Assessment of Environmental Effects and Evaluation of Significance

- 3.2.3. The EIA Regulations require that the ES identifies 'likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on the environment'. It is recognised in the EIA Regulations however that not all environmental effects are considered significant.
- 3.2.4. The evaluation and determination of significant effects will be carried out using specific criteria defined within each of the technical chapters of the ES. Where available, published standards and guidelines will be used as the basis for the significance criteria.
- 3.2.5. The proposed methodologies for individual environmental topics are discussed in the subsequent section. However, in many disciplines the following basic approach is utilised:
- The sensitivity of the receiving environmental receptor is evaluated using defined criteria;
 - The nature of the impact is established in terms of its duration, extent, frequency, likelihood of occurrence, reversibility, and compliance with recognised standards;
 - The magnitude of the impact is determined. The magnitude of change is a consideration of how much the impact alters the baseline condition; and
 - The significance of the effect is determined by cross referencing the sensitivity of the receptor with the magnitude of change on the receptor.
- 3.2.6. Environmental effects arising from the Proposed Development may be direct or indirect; secondary; cumulative; short; medium; long-term; permanent; temporary; each of which could be positive or negative and will be noted where relevant within the ES. Effects will be considered both during the construction phase when the Proposed Development is being built out (often temporary effects) and following completion of the Proposed Development (often permanent effects). Given the nature and intended longevity of the Proposed Development's operational life, decommissioning is not appropriate to consider. Accordingly, the ES will focus on the potential likely significant effects during the construction and operational phases only. Consideration will however be given to effects from major accidents and disasters where relevant.

Mitigation Measures and Residual Effects

- 3.2.7. Following the assessment of effects, mitigation measures to reduce and avoid these effects will be identified. Mitigation measures may include modification of the proposals, integral mitigation, or secondary measures. Any residual effects following the implementation of mitigation measures will be determined accordingly. The residual effects represent the overall likely significant effect of the Proposed Development on the environment having taken account of practicable/available mitigation measures.

3.3. Cumulative and In-combination Effects

- 3.3.1. The ES will respond to the requirement within the EIA Regulations to assess the cumulative effects of the Proposed Development which will specifically consider two types of effect:
- Intra-project Cumulative Effects: The combined effect of individual effects (for example noise, airborne dust or traffic) on a single receptor where deemed potentially significant; and
 - Inter-project Cumulative Effects: The combined effects of development schemes which may, on an individual basis be insignificant but, cumulatively, have significant effect.
- 3.3.2. With respect to inter-project cumulative effects, the EIA Regulations state that consideration should be given to *“other existing and/or approved projects”* (Schedule 4, 5e). This is further supported by the National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) which states *“There are occasions.....when other existing or approved development may be relevant in determining whether significant effects are likely as a consequence of a proposed development.”* (Paragraph: 024 Reference ID: 4-024-20170728).
- 3.3.3. Regard will therefore be had to relevant *“existing and/or approved projects”*, which alongside the Proposed Development, could potentially result in significant cumulative effects (discussed further below). It is relevant to note however that not all these projects will necessarily have significant cumulative impacts and the extent to which these developments need to be considered within each environmental discipline will inevitably vary.
- 3.3.4. It is also acknowledged that there may be other proposals which are considered as *“reasonably foreseeable”* as referred to within the European Guidance in relation to the definition of cumulative impacts. It is important to recognise that it is not the role of the ES to assess all these types of potential developments and a staged approach in identifying which of these ‘other sites’ are relevant to consider is appropriate.
- 3.3.5. In this context, a review of the surrounding potential ‘other sites’ within 3km of the Proposed Development has been undertaken, which can be categorised into the below: (for the purposes of the Proposed Development and its setting, a proximity of 3km from the Site boundary and major applications has been considered appropriate)
- committed schemes (i.e. proposals with planning permission/consented which are either under construction or yet to commence);
 - applications pending determination (i.e schemes with live planning applications which may or may not be within adopted allocations), and
 - other potential schemes (e.g. remaining areas of Halshead Garden Village, adopted allocation or schemes which have screening / scoping submitted – some of these maybe considered relevant to include in cumulative assessment).
- 3.3.6. The below table sets out these schemes and which of these are proposed to be considered as part of the cumulative assessment. Those proposed to be considered are also identified on the Cumulative Sites plan within **Appendix B**.

Table 3.1 Potential Cumulative Schemes

Site and Planning Reference	Within Halsnead Park allocation?	Description of Development	Approximate Distance from the nearest Site boundary	Status	Certainty and relevance to include	Proposed to be considered?
Fox's Bank, Halsnead Garden Village, Land West of Fox's Bank Lane and North of M62, Whiston, Knowsley, L35 3SS Applicant Taylor Wimpey 20/00417/FUL	Yes – Phase 2a	Residential development comprising the erection of 350 dwellings together with the construction of vehicular access off fox's bank lane, and supporting infrastructure.	Adjacent to the south, and to the east, of the northern, and western parcels, respectively.	Consented 9 th February 2022 Construction underway	Certain: Planning permission granted and construction is underway. Given the nature of this scheme and its proximity to the Proposed Development, it is considered relevant to consider as part of the cumulative assessment	YES (likely to be in the baseline)
Land South of Lickers Lane and Site of Former Saunder's Nursery, Windy Arbor Road, Halsnead Garden Village, Whiston Applicant Nuvu/Your Housing 20/00399/OUT Varied under 23/02755/FUL RM 23/02378/REM	Yes – Phase 1b/1c/2c	Outline application for Proposed Residential Development of up to 277 Dwellings and an Apartment Development of up to 100 units for over 50s and supporting infrastructure and associated works.	Adjacent to the western boundary of the northern parcel.	Consented August 2023 RM for 239 dwellings granted 26 th January 2024	Likely: Planning permission granted but construction has not yet started. Given the nature and location of the scheme, it is considered relevant to consider as part of the cumulative assessment	YES (likely to be part of cumulative scenario)
Land North of M62 Motorway off Windy Arbor Road (Halsnead) Whiston Knowsley L35 1RB Applicant Bloor 18/00283/HYB RM 22/00213/REM	Yes – Phase 1a	Hybrid Application comprising full details for 123 dwellings and supporting infrastructure and works; outline application for 237 dwellings, car park and associated works	Adjacent to the west of the western parcel	Consented 17 th March 2021 Full 123 dwellings under construction RM for 208 dwellings granted 10 th May 2023	Certain: Planning permission granted and construction is underway. Given the nature of this scheme and its proximity to the Proposed Development, it is considered relevant to consider as part of the cumulative assessment	YES (likely to be in the baseline)

Site and Planning Reference	Within Halsnead Park allocation?	Description of Development	Approximate Distance from the nearest Site boundary	Status	Certainty and relevance to include	Proposed to be considered?
Land to the South of Lickers Lane, Halsnead Garden Village, Whiston, Knowsley Applicant Vistry 22/00600/FUL	Yes – Phase 2c	Erection of 120 dwellings with 1 vehicular access off Lickers lane and other associated works.	Adjacent to the north of the northern parcel.	Approved (30 th May 2024)	Likely: Planning permission granted but construction has not yet started. Given the nature and location of the scheme, it is considered relevant to consider as part of the cumulative assessment	YES (likely to be part of cumulative scenario)
Former Site of Cronton Colliery Cronton Road Halsnead Garden Village Knowsley Applicants Tritax Symmetry Huyton Ltd (Symmetry Park) 20/00494/HYB RM applications: 22/00162/REM 23/01949/REM 24/00145/REM	Yes within Garden Village	Hybrid Application comprising: full application for 161,900 sqft of storage and distribution floorspace and associated infrastructure and works; outline application for the development of up to 838,100 sqft of storage and distribution floorspace and supporting infrastructure	Adjacent to the south of the M62, beyond the southern boundary of the western parcel.	Consented 4 th March 2022 Full consented section complete RM 22/00162/REM 23/01949/REM consented June 2023 and March 2024 24/00145/REM awaiting decision.	Certain: Planning permission granted and part complete. Given the nature of this scheme and its proximity to the Proposed Development, it is considered relevant to consider as part of the cumulative assessment	YES (likely to be in the baseline)
Land to the North of Cronton Road and South of the M62, Cronton, Knowsley (known as Mercury 62)	Yes within Garden Village	Erection of 1 no. commercial unit (312,000 sq ft use class b8) with ancillary offices and outbuildings together with access works,	420m to the south-west	Awaiting decision	Whilst the proposals are yet to be approved, given its location within the Garden Village and	YES (likely to be part of

Site and Planning Reference	Within Halsnead Park allocation?	Description of Development	Approximate Distance from the nearest Site boundary	Status	Certainty and relevance to include	Proposed to be considered?
Applicant: Maro Developments 22/00587/FUL		landscaping, service yard, car parking, servicing and other associated works		(validated 30 th Sept 2022)	proximity to the Proposed Development, this is proposed to be considered as part of the cumulative assessment	cumulative scenario)
Land at Windy Arbor Brow / Windy Arbor Road Whiston Knowsley Applicant Forth Homes 20/00329/FUL S73 Application (23/01417/FUL)	Within South of Whiston allocation (SUE2) but outside the masterplan and phased development area	Erection of a residential development of 43 dwellings	600m to the west of the western parcel	Consented 8th December 2021 S73 application awaiting determination	Likely: Planning permission granted but construction has not yet started. Given the nature and location of the scheme, it is considered relevant to consider as part of the cumulative assessment	YES (likely to be part of cumulative scenario)
Olympic Fallows Way Whiston Knowsley L35 1RZ 23/02738/FUL	No	Erection of Extension to Main Building for Use as A Storage Unit (B8) and associated works.	700m to the west	Awaiting decision	Uncertain: Planning application yet to be determined. Given the nature of this scheme, it is considered unlikely this would result in significant cumulative impacts.	NO
John Mason International Ltd 35 Wilson Road Huyton Knowsley L36 6AE 22/00284/OUT	No	Demolition of existing buildings and outline application for the erection of a logistics warehouse (Use Class B8) – Approval Sought for Access (Appearance, Layout, Landscaping and Scale Reserved for Future Approval).	1.3km to the west	Consented March 2023	Likely: Given the nature of this scheme and that it replaces existing employment development, this scheme is considered unlikely to incur significant cumulative effects. This scheme replaces former employment development with a logistics warehouse and as such, significant alterations to	NO

Site and Planning Reference	Within Halsnead Park allocation?	Description of Development	Approximate Distance from the nearest Site boundary	Status	Certainty and relevance to include	Proposed to be considered?
					the existing baseline with respect to traffic are not expected. No significant cumulative effects are anticipated.	
Sovereign Industrial Park Wilson Road Huyton Knowsley 23/02782/FUL	No	Erection of 1.no retail unit (Use Class E(A) with External Display Area and Car Parking and Servicing Arrangements. Partial demolition, reconfiguration and refurbishment of existing employment building to create 2.no industrial / warehouse buildings with ancillary offices (Use Classes E(G)(III), B2 and B8) with servicing and car parking; retention and amendment of existing site accesses along with internal estate roads, 2no. substations, landscaping and associated works.	1.6km to the west.	Awaiting decision	Uncertain: Planning application yet to be determined. Given the nature of this scheme, it is considered unlikely this would result in significant cumulative impacts. This scheme will however be taken into account in relation to transport traffic data for completeness.	YES: FOR THE TRANSPORT AND ACCESS CUMULATIVE ASSESSMENT ONLY.
Parcel C at Prescott Cables Site Prescott Park Way Knowsley Prescott L34 1AH 15/00022/OUT 20/00767/REM	No	Application for Approval of Reserved Matters Pursuant to Outline Planning Permission 15/00022/OUT (Outline Application for mixed use development comprising up to 750 dwellings, and up to 929 sqm of commercial / industrial buildings (use classes B1/B2/B8). Approval sought for appearance, access, layout and landscaping for the erection of 53 dwellings	1.7km to the north-west	Consented 12th August 2021 Under construction with majority of the site built out.	Certain: Planning permission granted and the majority complete. Given the nature of this scheme and its proximity to the Proposed Development, it is considered relevant to consider as part of the cumulative assessment	YES (likely to be in the baseline)
Land East of Prescott Park Way Prescott Cables Prescott L34 1AH 20/00789/FUL	No	Erection of 28 no. dwellings (use class c3) together with access and associated works	1.8km to the north-west of the northern parcel	Consented 1st March 2022.	Certain: This falls under 15/00022/OUT. The site is mostly built out. Given the small nature of this scheme, it is	YES (likely to be in the baseline)

Site and Planning Reference	Within Halsnead Park allocation?	Description of Development	Approximate Distance from the nearest Site boundary	Status	Certainty and relevance to include	Proposed to be considered?
				Under Construction.	considered unlikely this would result in significant cumulative effects, however is considered as part of the above.	
Dogs Trust Whiston Lane Huyton Knowsley L36 6HP 23/O2351/FUL	No	Redevelopment (and part retention) of existing dog's trust rehoming centre to deliver new facilities including new rehoming building, vets and puppy suite, an intake and booking building and training barn, works to vehicular and pedestrian accesses, landscaping and layout including outdoor furniture and associated works.	2km to the north-east	Consented September 2024	Likely: Although the planning application has been consented, given the nature of this scheme, it is considered unlikely this would result in significant cumulative impacts.	NO
Land at Carr Lane Prescott Knowsley 23/O2677/FUL	No	Erection of 88 No. affordable residential dwellings and associated infrastructure	2.2km to the north-east	Awaiting decision	Uncertain: No formal planning permission has yet been granted for the scheme, given the nature and the distance from the Proposed Development, it is considered unlikely this would result in significant cumulative impacts.	NO
Whitakers Garden Centre Liverpool Road Prescott Knowsley L34 3LX 19/OO684/FUL	No	Erection of 227 no. dwellings together with vehicular/pedestrian accesses, landscaping & associated infrastructure	2.7km to the north-west	Consented December 2020. Under Construction.	Certain: Substantial proportion of the site is already built out. Given the nature of this scheme and distance from the site, it is considered unlikely this would result in significant cumulative impacts. The TA confirms that the study areas do not overlap.	NO
Earlsfield Park Land at Knowsley Lane Knowsley L34 4AH	No	Outline planning permission for 30,530 sq m of employment floor space (use class b1	3km to the north-west	Consented Feb 2021	Likely: Given the nature of this scheme, it is considered	No

Site and Planning Reference	Within Halsnead Park allocation?	Description of Development	Approximate Distance from the nearest Site boundary	Status	Certainty and relevance to include	Proposed to be considered?
20/00376/OUT		/ b8) - access to be considered at this stage (all other matters reserved)			unlikely this would result in significant cumulative impacts. The TA confirms that the study areas do not overlap. As such, there is no need to take account of this within the transport analysis	
Land to North and East of Rose Farm, Chapel Lane, Widnes, Knowsley / Cheshire 23/01037/OUT	No	Outline planning application (with all matters other than access reserved) (to be determined by Halton borough council only) for the development of up to 350 dwellings, public open space, landscaping and associated infrastructure works. full details for site access arrangements via a new junction on chapel lane (to be determined by Knowsley borough council only) and emergency access via sandy lane (to be determined by Halton borough council)	3km to the south-east	Awaiting decision	Uncertain: Planning application yet to be determined. Given the nature of this scheme, it is considered unlikely this would result in significant cumulative impacts. This scheme will however be taken into account in relation to transport traffic data for completeness	YES FOR TRANSPORT DATA PURPOSES ONLY
Linkway Distribution Park and Adjacent Land Elton Head Road St Helens WA9 5BW * P/2018/0060/FUL (within the administrative authority of St Helens Borough Council)	No	Hybrid Planning Application comprising of a full planning permission for demolition of existing buildings and structures and outline application all matters reserved except for access for residential development (up to 352 dwellings) and associated open space/green infrastructure.	3km to the north-east.	Consented Jun 2018	Given the nature of this scheme, it is considered unlikely this would result in significant cumulative impacts. The proposals would replace existing development and there would be no material change in traffic. As such, there is no need to take account of this within the transport analysis.	NO

Site and Planning Reference	Within Halsnead Park allocation?	Description of Development	Approximate Distance from the nearest Site boundary	Status	Certainty and relevance to include	Proposed to be considered?
South of Whiston/Land north of the M62 SUE, 'Halsnead Park' (allocated within the Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy)	Yes	Notional capacity: 1,503 dwellings plus 22.5ha employment and country park	Covers the site and its surroundings,	Adopted in current local plan	The remaining areas of Halsnead Park which are not reflected in the above proposals will be considered to an appropriate level of detail, proportionate to the level of information that is available.	YES
Land at Civic Way Huyton Knowsley 23/02803/FUL	No	Enabling and engineering works comprise of demolition of the municipal building and computer building; existing car parks and hardstanding, removal of trees, ground reprofiling and remediation, installation and diversion of below ground infrastructure, formation of a temporary car park, installation of security hoarding and associated works.	3km to the west north-west	Consented March 2024	Certain: Although the planning application has been consented, given the nature of this scheme, it is considered unlikely this would result in significant cumulative impacts.	NO
The following open space proposals have also been identified						
Disused Railway Line Extending from M62 Motorway Extending North Through Halsnead Park And to Rear of Cronton Avenue, Whiston, Knowsley 19/00651/FUL	Yes	Construction of Multi Use Path and Associated Groundworks	430m to the west of the western parcel	Consented March 2021 Construction has not yet commenced.	Likely: Planning permission granted but construction has not yet started.	YES
Former Site of Cronton Colliery Cronton Road Cronton Knowsley L35 1QR 20/00578/FUL	Yes	Construction of a new country park comprising the creation of sculpted landscape, habitat/wetland creation, associated works and infrastructure. This planning application also comprises the erection of a single storey visitor centre	500m to the south-west	Awaiting decision	Uncertain: Whilst the proposals are yet to be approved, given its location within the Garden Village and proximity to the Proposed Development, this is proposed to be considered as	YES

Site and Planning Reference	Within Halsnead Park allocation?	Description of Development	Approximate Distance from the nearest Site boundary	Status	Certainty and relevance to include	Proposed to be considered?
(This planning application is related to 20/00494/HYB above).		including reception, education space and outdoor classroom and access into the Site.			part of the cumulative assessment	
From Fox's Bank Lane Following the Northern Boundary of Agricultural Land South of Penny Lane to Opposite Oak Lodge 22/00195/KMBC1	No	Construction of a multi user route for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians including a new equestrian, cyclist and pedestrian crossing on fox's bank lane, installation of 2 no. k-barriers and access gates, regrading of land, landscaping, boundary treatments, signage and other associated works to connect fox's bank lane at Halsnead park to the existing penny lane highway	750m to the south-east of the western parcel	Consented 27th January 2023 Construction has not yet commenced.	Likely: Planning permission granted but construction is not yet underway.	YES

3.3.7. Confirmation of the schemes within the above table, and confirmation on the approach described below is sought from Knowsley Council as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion.

3.4. EIA Approach and Proposed Scenarios

- 3.4.1. It is intended that the planning application be accompanied by one ES, however in order to ensure any permission is severable and that sufficient consideration is given to relevant cumulative effects, it is proposed that the ES would assess the following different scenarios for each 'scoped in' discipline:
- Phase 2b site (with relevant consideration to what is in the 'baseline');
 - Phase 3 site (with relevant consideration to what is in the 'baseline');
 - Phase 2b and 3 together (with relevant consideration to what is in the 'baseline'); and
 - Cumulative assessment (remaining sites which are not considered as part of the baseline)
- 3.4.2. Given the need to assess various scenarios, an example structure chapter is provided in **Appendix D** for comment.
- 3.4.3. Confirmation is sought from KMBC on the progress and predicted phasing of the schemes listed in the above table, however it is proposed that where schemes are consented and are likely to be predominantly built out by the time the Proposed Development commences construction, these are to be assumed within the baseline for the purposes of the above assessment scenarios. Where the other schemes are committed but unlikely to be built out by the time the Proposed Development commences construction, these are to be assumed within the cumulative assessment scenario. Consideration to whether each scheme is to be part of 'the baseline' or 'cumulative' is also set out in the above table.
- 3.4.4. **Confirmation of the schemes within the above table and the proposed scenario assessments is sought from Knowsley Council as part of the EIA Scoping Opinion.**

3.5. Strategic Environmental Assessment & Habitats Regulation Assessment

- 3.5.1. It is relevant to acknowledge that the Site has already been assessed, albeit at a strategic level, through the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessments undertaken in the process of the Site's allocation. Whilst this does not negate the need for the submission of an EIA, it is useful to understand the overall Site has been rigorously environmentally assessed previously. This is discussed within the Halsnead Garden Village Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document as repeated below:

"Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment

2.24 European Directive 2001/42/EC (the SEA Directive) requires a formal environmental assessment [Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)] to be carried out for plans and programmes that are likely to have significant effects on the environment⁶. The SEA Directive requires that an environmental report is prepared in which the likely significant effects on the environment and reasonable alternatives taking account of the objectives and geographical scope of the plan are identified, described and evaluated.

2.25 A full Sustainability Appraisal and SEA was prepared for the Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy. A separate Screening Opinion was sought to assess the need for an individual SEA

for this Masterplan SPD. The Screening Opinion was independently prepared by Urban Vision Partnership who concluded that a full SEA would be required for the SPD. The full SEA report is available alongside this SPD.

2.26 Although both the Local Plan and SPD have been subject of SEA this does not negate the requirement for planning applications on the site to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations [the EIA Regulations]7. Most planning applications are likely to fall within Category 10(b) of Schedule 2 to the Regulations. The need for EIA to accompany all planning applications is confirmed in Section 8 of the SPD; each planning application will need to assess the cumulative environmental impacts of the whole Halsnead development, in addition to the individual application site.

2.27 Article 6 of the EC Habitats Directive 1992 [the Habitats Directive] sets out the requirement for a Habitats Regulation Assessment [HRA]; this is interpreted into British law by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. The aim of the Habitats Directive is to:

“...maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of Community Interest”

2.28 The Habitats Directive applies the precautionary principle to protected areas; plans and projects can only be permitted once it has been established that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the sites in question. A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening, prepared by AECOM and Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service, indicated that this SPD does not present any potential for project-specific impacts that were not identified during the HRA for the Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy.

2.29 Accordingly there was no requirement for the Halsnead Masterplan SPD to be subject to any further detailed assessment either as a stand-alone document or in combination with any other plans or projects.”

3.6. Preparation of the ES

- 3.6.1. In accordance with the EIA Regulations, the ES will be prepared by competent experts, as listed at the outset of this report. A statement outlining the relevant experience of the experts who have undertaken the assessment and drafted the technical chapters within the ES will be provided. The EIA Regulations also require decision makers to ensure they have ‘necessary skills in house’.

4. Topics to be 'Scoped In' and Layout of the ES

4.1. Environmental Topics

4.1.1. **Table 4.1** lists the environmental topics specified within the EIA Regulations as to potentially be considered as part of the EIA process. The table also summarises whether these topics are considered relevant to include within the EIA process, and where such topics will be considered within the ES where applicable. Where a topic has been scoped out, the reasoning is provided within Chapter 11 of this EIA Scoping Report.

Table 4.1 Environmental Topics as per EIA Regulations

EIA Topic	Scoped In / Out	Where Addressed within ES
Population	Scoped in	To be assessed within the Socio-Economic Chapter
Human Health	Scoped in	To be assessed within various chapters as follows: Socio-Economic, Air Quality, Noise, Landscape and Visual and Transport
Biodiversity (e.g. flora and fauna)	Scoped out	Assuming standard mitigation measures, it is not considered that the Proposed Development is likely to result in significant effects on ecology or arboriculture features on Site. It is therefore not proposed to include a specific chapter regarding biodiversity (further details are provided in Chapter 11).
Land (e.g. land take)	Scoped in	To be assessed within the Landscape and Visual Chapter
Soil	Scoped out	Given the Site is unlikely to include significant areas of contamination, and the loss of any BMV soils would be under 20ha, it is proposed soil, land contamination and Agricultural Resources is scoped out. It is also noted that the principle of development has been accepted through its allocation.
Water	Scoped out	Assuming standard mitigation measures, it is not considered the Proposed Development is likely to result in significant effects on the

		water environment and has been proposed to scope out this discipline.
Air	Scoped in	To be assessed within the Air Quality Chapter
Climate	Scoped in	Climate to be assessed within other chapters, such as Air Quality. Given the nature of the proposals, it is not considered that there will be a significant impact in relation to 'climate change' in EIA terms relating to greenhouse gas emissions or any future significant impacts arising from climate change that would require adaptation within the Proposed Development. It is therefore not proposed to include a specific chapter regarding climate change mitigation and adaptation (refer to Chapter 11 for further discussion).
Material Assets ⁴	Scoped out	It is not considered there are any further 'material assets' to those already addressed within other EIA topics that may result in further significant effects
Cultural Heritage (Architectural & Archaeological aspects)	Scoped in	To be assessed within the Cultural Heritage Chapter
Landscape	Scoped in	To be assessed in the Landscape and Visual Chapter
Interrelationship between above factors	Scoped in	Within each topic chapter and Summary

4.1.2. In the context of the above environmental topic, it is proposed that the resultant ES will include the following discipline / chapters each of which is further discussed below:

- Introduction;

⁴ Material Assets can be defined as follows: "The EIA Regulations refer to 'material assets', including architectural and archaeological heritage aspects. The phrase 'material assets' has a broad scope, which may include assets of human or natural origin, valued for socioeconomic or heritage reasons. Material assets are in practice considered across a range of topic areas within an ES, in particular historic environment and socio-economics". Source: <https://digital-eia.rpsgroup.com/EnvironmentalAssessment.html>

- EIA Scope and Methodology;
- The Application Site
- The Proposed Development and Alternatives;
- Socio-Economics;
- Landscape and Visual;
- Cultural Heritage;
- Transport and Access;
- Noise and Vibration;
- Air Quality; and
- Summary.

4.1.3. A Standalone Non-Technical Summary (NTS) will also be provided.

4.1.4. The proposed scope of the technical ES Chapters are discussed in Chapters 5–10 of this report, and those topics proposed to be scoped out of the ES are discussed in Chapter 11.

4.1.5. The below sets out the content of the proposed ES non-technical chapters.

4.2. Introduction Chapter

4.2.1. This chapter of the ES will provide an introduction to the document and present details of the ES's structure and context, in addition to how consultees and members of the public can comment on the document or obtain additional copies.

4.3. EIA Scope and Methodology Chapter

4.3.1. This chapter of the ES will provide a summary of the agreed scope of assessments to be considered, with reference to consultation responses and will explain the methodology used to prepare the technical chapters, including reference to the general approach in determining significance (proposed significance assessment criteria for each 'scoped in' topic is set out in the discipline specific proposed Chapters 5–10). Information in relation to cumulative impacts will also be set out in this chapter, along with any limitations or assumptions used throughout the ES.

4.4. The Application Site, Proposed Development and Alternatives Chapters

4.4.1. These chapters of the ES will describe the Site's location, context, existing use and features and will also provide a comprehensive description of the Proposed Development, including the construction process, and any relevant details on assumed timescales and phasing.

4.4.2. The EIA will be based upon a set of defined parameters, which will identify the extent of different land use areas (e.g., residential, open space etc), maximum heights of buildings and

proposed ground levels (with appropriate flexibility) and key landscape mitigation proposals integral to the scheme.

4.4.3. The parameters approach ensures that subsequent approvals and/or reserved matters will remain the same as that assessed within the ES. These parameters and controls define those aspects of the Proposed Development capable of having significant effects, as defined in the EIA Regulations. This ensures that key elements are assessed accordingly, however allows some flexibility for detail post submission.

4.4.4. The chapter will also provide a description of the reasonable alternatives (for example in terms of development design, technology, location, size and scale) studied by the Applicant, which are relevant, and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option.

4.5. Discipline Specific Chapters

4.5.1. The technical disciplines will be covered in individual chapters; further information and the assessment methodologies is provided below in Chapter 5–10.

4.6. Summary Chapter and Non-Technical Summary

4.6.1. A chapter summarising each of the above discipline's findings will be presented.

4.6.2. A separate NTS will also be provided in accordance with the EIA Regulations.

5. Socio-Economics

5.1. Introduction

5.1.1. This chapter of the ES will provide an assessment of the likely significant socio-economic and health effects generated by the Proposed Development. This will include the identification and assessment of likely effects during the construction phase, the operational phase, and cumulative effects.

5.1.2. The assessment chapter will be prepared by the economics team within Pegasus Group.

5.2. Relevant Policy and Guidance

5.2.1. Relevant local plans and strategies will be reviewed, including:

- The **National Planning Policy Framework 2024**⁵ (NPPF), which is built around a policy commitment to sustainable development and establishes the social and economic role of the planning system.
- The **Knowsley Local Plan Technical Report – Planning for Employment Growth (July 2013)**⁶ which supports the Local Plan Core Strategy and its policies around planning for employment.
- The **Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy (January 2016)**⁷ which sets out the vision, objectives and policies that will guide Knowsley's development up to the year 2028.
- The **Knowsley 2030 Evidence Base Report – Economy and Enterprise**⁸ which outlines the key messages about the current state of and opportunities within Knowsley's economy.
- The **Knowsley 2030 Strategy**⁹ which sets out five strategic outcomes for Knowsley to achieve by 2030.

The National Planning Policy Framework 2024

5.2.2. The most recent National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in December 2024. The NPPF outlines the building blocks for sustainable development within planning sectors across the nation and the overall planning system. This requires three distinct objectives that must be carried out in a mutually supportive way: Economic; Social; and Environmental.

⁵ National Planning Policy Framework: MHCLG, December 2024. Available at: [National Planning Policy Framework](#).

⁶ The Knowsley Local Plan Technical Report – Planning for Economic Growth. Available at: https://www.knowsley.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-11/TRO2_Planning-for-EmploymentGrowth-TechnicalReport-Submission.pdf.

⁷ The Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy January 2016. Available at: <https://www.knowsley.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-11/knowsley-local-plan-adopted-core-strategy.pdf>.

⁸ The Knowsley 2030 Evidence Base Report – Economy and Enterprise. Available at: <https://knowsleyknowledge.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/5-Economy-and-enterprise.pdf>.

⁹ The Knowsley 2030 Strategy. Available at: <https://www.knowsley.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-09/Knowsley%202030.pdf>.

The Knowsley Local Plan Technical Report – Planning for Employment Growth (July 2013)

- 5.2.3. This Technical Report supports the Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy and sets out relevant influences and policy parameters affecting land requirements and employment provision which could be delivered in Knowsley. The national and local policy backgrounds in which Knowsley sits are discussed in relation to the Borough's economy.

The Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy (January 2016)

- 5.2.4. The Core Strategy outlines the objectives and policies which Knowsley has adopted to achieve its ambition of delivering significant and accelerated economic growth. It aims to meet the needs and demands of existing businesses while attracting new economic investment to the Borough, subsequently delivering a stronger and increasingly diverse local economy.

The Knowsley 2030 Evidence Base Report – Economy and Enterprise

- 5.2.5. This report outlines Knowsley's key assets and trends regarding economy and enterprise, giving an overview of the Borough's economic state and status. Knowsley's economy is a major contributor to the economic growth of the Liverpool City Region and a key location for employment across Liverpool and the North West. Knowsley is home to many established businesses, with a strong reputation as a manufacturing and logistics hub.

The Knowsley 2030 Strategy

- 5.2.6. The Knowsley 2030 Strategy is informed by the 'Let's Talk 2030' project, which is an ongoing conversation with communities to shape the 2030 Strategy and the future of Knowsley. By engaging with and talking to local people and businesses alongside working closely with community groups, organisations and schools, a clearer picture has been developed regarding how residents want life in the Borough to be, further establishing community aspirations for Knowsley in 2030.

5.3. Preliminary Assessment of Baseline Conditions

- 5.3.1. The assessment will establish baseline socio-economic conditions within those areas likely to be affected by the Proposed Development. Study areas are defined based on an understanding of relevant local and wider economic geographies, and the extent to which socio-economic effects are likely to be contained within these established statistical geographies. It is proposed to analyse data (where available) for the following geographies: Knowsley (LPA); North West region; and England. Where available, ward and Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) level data will also be analysed, including from the 2021 Census for relevant indicators.
- 5.3.2. Baseline socio-economic conditions will be established using the most up-to-date available secondary data, establishing the extent to which the following key indicators have changed over time:
- **Population:** Between 2013 and 2023 the population of Knowsley grew by 8.8% (12,873). This compares to growth of 7.0% in both the North West and England. The fastest

growing age group in Knowsley in this time period was the 65+ age group which increased by 15.0%. This compares to the 0–15 age group in Knowsley increasing by 11.4% and the 16–64 age group increasing by 6.4% between 2013 and 2023.

- **Employment:** Based on data from the Office for National Statistics, as of 2023, there are 69,000 jobs in Knowsley, including self-employment. This is a rise of 4.5% (3,000) since 2015. This was below the increase in employment experienced in the North West (11.3%) and England (8.9%) over the same timeframe.
- **Economic Output:** Between 2012 and 2022, gross value added (GVA) in Knowsley grew by 50.9% in current prices (£1.4billion) to reach £4.0billion. This was above the growth in GVA that was seen in the North West (50.7%) and the England (48.9%).
- **Deprivation:** The Proposed Development is located within the Knowsley 017C LSOA (2011-based). Analysing data from the Index of Multiple Deprivation, Knowsley 017C LSOA has an overall rank of 12,478, putting it in the top 40% most deprived LSOAs in England.

5.3.3. Other key indicators that will be included in the baseline analysis are:

- Construction;
- Unemployment, including the claimant count;
- Economic activity;
- Education provision;
- Healthcare provision;
- Open space and public realm;
- Crime;
- Health profile of the local area; and
- Community infrastructure provision.

5.4. Potential Effects (including identification of specific receptors)

5.4.1. During the construction phase, it is anticipated that the Proposed Development will generate the following socio-economic and health effects:

- Employment – direct, indirect and induced jobs based in the local and wider impact areas, growing employment levels in their respective economies.
- Economic output – measured in Gross Value Added (GVA) generated by the employment supported during the construction phase).
- Disturbance to neighbourhood amenity – potential for disturbance to nearby receptors as a result of construction activities.

5.4.2. Once complete and operational, it is anticipated that the socio-economic effects associated with the Proposed Development will include the following:

- Employment – direct, indirect and induced jobs.
- Economic Output – measured in GVA (generated by the employment supported once operational).
- Housing – measured in terms of the contribution of the Proposed Development towards the housing delivery target in Knowsley.
- Council Tax – measured in uplift in Council Tax as a result of the Proposed Development in Knowsley.
- Economy – measured by consideration of household spend, first occupation and the increase in economically active people in Knowsley.
- Access to education provision – potential impacts on education provision as a result of the Proposed Development once operational for up to three miles from the Site.
- Access to healthcare provision – potential impact on healthcare provision as a result of the Proposed Development once operational.
- Access to open space – considering the impact on the provision of public realm for public use up to 1km from the Site.
- Health and wellbeing – potential for effects on health and wellbeing of nearby existing and future residents as a result of the Proposed Development once operational.

5.4.3. **Table 5.1** presents a summary of the scope of the assessment, including consideration of potential effects, the study areas within which the effect is applicable, and the relevant receptors.

Table 5.1: Summary of assessment scope

Potential effect	Relevant study area	Potential receptor(s)
CONSTRUCTION		
Employment opportunities	• Local scale	• Local workforce
Economic contribution	• Local scale	• Local economy
Neighbourhood amenity	• Local Scale	• Local Residents
OPERATION		
Employment	• Local scale	• Local workforce
Economic contribution	• Local scale	• Local economy
Housing	• Local scale	• Local economy
Council Tax	• Local scale	• Local economy & local workforce
Economy	• Local Scale	• Local Economy and local Residents
Access to Education	• Local Scale	• Local Residents
Access to Healthcare	• Local Scale	• Local Residents
Access to Open Space	• Local Scale	• Local Residents
Health and Wellbeing	• Local Scale	• Local Residents

5.5. Scope and Methodology of Assessment (including significance criteria)

- 5.5.1. Given the intention to submit one planning application which will cover both Phase 2b and Phase 3, consideration will be given to the scenarios set out in Section 3.4 of this Report.
- 5.5.2. There is no overarching Government guidance that sets out the preferred methodology for assessing the likely socio-economic effects of development proposals. Accordingly, the approach adopted for the assessment will be based on professional experience and best practice, and in consideration of the policy requirements/tests set out within the NPPF and Knowsley's Local Plan.
- 5.5.3. The first step in the assessment will be to identify the sensitivity of the receptors. In socio-economic assessments, receptors are not sensitive to changing environmental conditions in the same way as many environmental receptors are. To address this, the assessment will draw on a combination of measurable indicators (jobs, population, etc.) and a consideration of the importance of the receptor in policy terms to gauge the receptor's sensitivity. The sensitivity criteria proposed to be used in the Socio-Economics ES chapter is presented in **Table 5.2**.
- 5.5.4. The magnitude of change upon each receptor will then be determined by considering the predicted deviation from baseline conditions, both before and, if required, after mitigation. The magnitude of effect criteria proposed to be used in the Socio-Economics ES chapter is presented in **Table 5.3**.
- 5.5.5. Wherever possible the magnitude of change will be quantified. Where this is not possible, for example in relation to the social related considerations, consideration of magnitude of change will be on a qualitative basis and justified through baseline research, a review of relevant policy, and consultations undertaken.

Table 5.2: Criteria for Sensitivity of Receptor

Sensitivity	Evidence for Sensitivity Assessment
High	Evidence of direct and significant socio-economic challenges relating to receptor. Accorded a high priority in local, regional or national economic regeneration policy. Evidence of direct and significant socio-economic challenges including: • Areas of population increase / decrease well in excess of / below regional / national averages. • Areas with levels of unemployment well in excess of / below regional / national averages and high levels of relative deprivation (i.e. top 10%). • Areas with claimant count well in excess of / below regional / national averages. • Areas with economic activity rate well in excess of / below regional / national averages. • Areas with GVA increase / decrease well above / below regional / national averages. • Areas with a significant undersupply of housing against the housing target. • Areas within which social and community infrastructure (e.g. education, healthcare and community facilities) have no capacity / are over-subscribed. • Areas with a considerable shortfall of open and recreational spaces / poor quality resources.
Medium	Some evidence of socio-economic challenges linked to receptor, which may be indirect. Change relating to receptor has medium priority in local, regional and national economic and regeneration policy. Some evidence of socio-economic challenges, including: • Areas of population increase / decrease in excess of / below regional / national averages. • Areas with levels of unemployment above / below regional / national averages and levels of relative deprivation (i.e. top 50%). • Areas with claimant count well above / below regional / national averages. • Areas with economic activity rate above / below regional / national averages. • Areas with GVA increase / decrease above / below regional / national averages. • Areas with moderate oversupply / undersupply of housing against the housing target. • Areas within which social and community infrastructure (e.g. education, healthcare and community facilities) have limited capacity. • Areas with a shortfall of open and recreational spaces / moderate-quality resources.
Low	Little evidence of socio-economic challenges relating to receptor. Receptor is accorded a low priority in local, regional and national economic and regeneration policy. Little evidence of socio-economic challenges, including: • Areas of population increase / decrease in line with regional / national averages. • Areas with levels of unemployment in line with regional / national averages and levels of relative deprivation (i.e. bottom 50%). • Areas with claimant count in line with regional / national averages. • Areas with economic activity rate in line with regional / national averages.

Sensitivity	Evidence for Sensitivity Assessment
	- Areas with GVA increase / decrease in line with regional / national averages. - Areas with an oversupply of housing against the housing target. - Areas within which social and community infrastructure (e.g. education, healthcare and community facilities) have some capacity. - Areas with a surplus of open and recreational spaces / high-quality resources or recreational provision of local importance only.
Negligible	No socio-economic issues relating to receptor. Receptor is not considered a priority in local, regional and national economic development and regeneration policy. No socio-economic issues relating to a receptor, including: - No or little change in population. - Areas with levels of unemployment less than regional / national averages and low levels of relative deprivation (i.e. bottom 10%). - Areas with claimant count higher than average regional / national averages. - Areas with economic activity rate higher than average regional / national averages. - Areas with GVA increase / decrease higher than regional / national averages. - Areas with a considerable oversupply of housing against the housing target. - Areas within which social and community infrastructure (e.g. education, healthcare and community facilities) have substantial surplus capacity. - Areas with a considerable surplus of open and recreational space / high-quality resources.

Table 5.3: Criteria for Magnitude of Effect

Magnitude of Impact	Description / Criteria
High	Proposed Development would cause a large change to existing socio-economic conditions in terms of absolute and/or percentage change. - Greater than 5% increase / decrease on existing baseline levels of employment. - Greater than 5% increase / decrease in GVA from baseline. - Greater than 10% of total housing target. - Considerable increase / decrease in provision/quality of open and recreational space generated. - Considerable increase in demand on social and community infrastructure with no capacity / decrease in demand on social and community infrastructure with ample surplus capacity.

Magnitude of Impact	Description / Criteria
Medium	Proposed Development would cause a moderate change to existing socio-economic conditions in terms of absolute and/or percentage change. • 1% – 5% increase / decrease on existing baseline levels of employment. • 1% – 5% increase / decrease in GVA from baseline. • 1% – 5% increase / decrease of total housing target. • Moderate increase / decrease in provision/ quality of open and recreational space generated. • Moderate increase / decrease in demand on social and community infrastructure with limited capacity.
Low	Proposed Development would cause a minor change to existing socio-economic conditions in terms of absolute and/or percentage change. • Limited increase / decrease on existing baseline levels of 0.1% – 0.99% increase / decrease on existing baseline levels of employment. • 0.1% – 0.99% increase / decrease in GVA from baseline. • 0.1% – 0.99% of total housing target. • Limited increase / decrease in provision/quality of open and recreational space impacts. • Limited increase / decrease in demand on social and community infrastructure with surplus capacity.
Negligible	No discernible change in baseline socio-economic conditions.

- 5.5.6. There are no industry standard significance criteria for the assessment of socio-economic effects. The assessment is quantitative where possible. In circumstances where this is not possible, the assessment is qualitative in nature and based on professional judgement. The significance of effect is identified by combining the sensitivity of the receptor against the magnitude of impact using the matrix in **Table 5.4**.

Table 5.4: Significance of Effect

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

5.6. Preliminary Discussions of Potential Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

- 5.6.1. Requirements for mitigation and opportunities for enhancement measures will be identified and discussed with relevant consultees and the Applicants as soon as practicable.

6. Landscape and Visual

6.1. Introduction

6.1.1. This chapter will assess the effects of the Proposed Development on landscape character and visual amenity. In particular it will identify and assess the anticipated effects of change resulting from the Proposed Development on the character and features of the landscape; and on people's views and visual amenity within the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Study Area.

6.1.2. The chapter will describe the methods used to assess the likely significant effects, the baseline conditions currently existing at the Site and surroundings, the potential direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Development on landscape and visual amenity, the mitigation measures required to prevent, reduce, or offset the identified significant effects and the residual effects. It will be written by Randall Thorp LLP.

6.2. Relevant Policy and Guidance

National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024)

6.2.1. Of most relevance is:

- Section 12, Achieving well-designed places (paragraphs 131 and 135–137)
- Section 15, Conserving and enhancing the natural environment (paragraph 187)¹⁰

Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy (January 2016)¹¹

6.2.2. Of most relevance is:

- **CS8 Green Infrastructure:** states that new development must be served by Green Infrastructure to meet the needs of residents and the local environment.
- **SUE2 Sustainable Urban Extensions Development Principles:** states that development within the Sustainable Urban Extensions must be of a high design quality which enhances local distinctiveness and identity, and includes appropriate provision for public open space.
- **SUE2c Sustainable Urban Extensions South of Whiston and Land South of M62:** confirms that the land north of the M62 is expected to deliver approximately 1,500 units.
- **CS19 Design Quality and Accessibility in New Development:** seeks to enhance local distinctiveness, requiring development (among other things) to respond to and integrate positive characteristics of the immediate surroundings, including local

¹⁰ National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024), Section 12, Achieving well-designed places (paras. 131, 135–137); Section 15, Conserving and enhancing the natural environment (para. 187).

¹¹ *The Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy January 2016*. Available at: <https://www.knowsley.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-11/knowsley-local-plan-adopted-core-strategy.pdf>.

materials, scale, mass, form, layout, alignment and density of the existing built environment, and, to complement and enhance (where possible) existing landscape, topography, Green Infrastructure.

- **CS21 Greenspace and Trees:** seeks to enhance natural and semi-natural greenspace and to protect trees.

Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan (June 2006)¹²

6.2.3. The following 'saved' policy is of relevance:

- **DQ4 – Trees and Development:** states proposals for new development should include appropriate planting of trees or other soft landscaping, the location and details of which should be determined as an integral part of the development, and which shall have regard to the character of the surrounding area.

Trees and Development SPD (2016)¹³

6.2.4. The Trees and Development SPD explains the Council's approach in relation to Trees and Development setting out guidance relating to: promoting best practice for proposals incorporating trees and landscaping within new developments; development proposals affecting existing trees, woodlands and other vegetation; requirements for detailed survey of all existing trees; and requirements for provision of replacement trees.

Halsnead Masterplan SPD (2017)¹⁴

6.2.5. The SPD was produced in line with Core Strategy Policy SUE2 and sets out the Council's vision and objectives for the SUE, establishing key development requirements that planning applications will be expected to incorporate. The Masterplan defines the development parameters, including land use, access, movement, and green infrastructure.

Guidance

6.2.6. The LVIA chapter will be prepared in accordance with the following guidance:

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3), Third Edition, 2013¹⁵; Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment;
- Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third edition (GLVIA) – Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01 (August 2024)¹⁶;

¹² Knowsley Borough Council (2006). *Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan: Saved Policies*.

¹³ Knowsley Borough Council (2016). *Trees and Development Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)*.

¹⁴ Knowsley Borough Council (2017). *Halsnead Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)*.

¹⁵ Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3), Third Edition (2013), Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment.

¹⁶ Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition (GLVIA) – Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01 (August 2024), Landscape Institute.

- Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19 (2019)¹⁷ – Visual Representation of Development Proposals will be followed in respect of Type 1, Annotated Viewpoint Photographs;
- Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 02/21¹⁸ – Assessing landscape value outside national designations will be followed in respect of the assessment of valuing the landscape; and
- Landscape Institute Note 01/2017 Tranquillity¹⁹ – an overview will be considered in respect of judgements on tranquillity.

6.3. Preliminary Assessment of Baseline Conditions

Landscape within the Site

- 6.3.1. Phase 2b parcel comprises agricultural land divided into a large, broadly rectangular field parcel and two smaller field parcels, by hedgerow and fencing. There are several trees along the boundary with Fox's Bank Lane to the east, within the field boundary and on the western boundary with the adjacent grassland.
- 6.3.2. Phase 3 parcel comprises part of the agricultural land between the M62 to the south and Halsnead Park to the north. It includes a small part of the woodland associated with Old Wood at its south-western corner.
- 6.3.3. The field parcels are part of the former Halsnead Estate.
- 6.3.4. There are no Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) within or adjacent to the Site.

Landscape Context

- 6.3.5. To the north of both Phase 2b and Phase 3 parcel, the wider landscape context includes Knowsley Cemetery, an open field, land consented for residential development as part of the Halsnead Garden Village, woodland growing along Lickers Lane and, to the north of Lickers Lane, there is existing residential development within the southern extents of Whiston.
- 6.3.6. Fox's Bank Lane runs to the east of the Phase 2b parcel, beyond which lies a small cluster of residential development, open fields, and Blundells Hill Golf Club beyond.
- 6.3.7. To the south of the Phase 2b parcel and to the east of Phase 3 parcel, is the consented and under construction Fox's Bank residential scheme.
- 6.3.8. The M62 Motorway runs to the south of Phase 3 parcel, beyond which is Symmetry Park, an industrial/employment park located on the former Cronton Colliery.

¹⁷ Landscape Institute (2019). *Technical Guidance Note 06/19: Visual Representation of Development Proposals*. Landscape Institute.

¹⁸ Landscape Institute (2021). *Technical Guidance Note 02/21: Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations*. Landscape Institute.

¹⁹ Landscape Institute (2017). *Note 01/2017: Tranquillity – An Overview*. Landscape Institute.

- 6.3.9. Central within the Halsnead Garden Village allocation, and lying to the immediate north of Phase 3 parcel, is the Halsnead Caravan Park which is located on the site of the former Halsnead Hall. Broadleaf woodland associated with the Halsnead Estate, to the west of the Phase 3 parcel, includes Round Clump and The Old Wood, the later comprising Ancient Woodland. Big Water lies to the west of the Phase 3 parcel. This is now used for fishing but was designed to be an attractive feature in views from the Hall and is a key feature of the historic landscape. The Old Wood, Big Water and Big Water Wood are designated Local Wildlife Sites.
- 6.3.10. To the west of Big Water and Old Wood there is the recently constructed housing development of Elowen Garden Village, accessed off Windy Arbor Road. Further residential and commercial land uses are located off Windy Arbor Road and to the west of the M57 motorway.
- 6.3.11. Stadt Moers Country Park is located c. 840m north west of the Phase 3 Site and c. 960m west of the Phase 2b Site and is separated from both phases of the Proposed Development by intervening housing and woodland. The land upon which the park lies was a former coal mine and was used for clay extraction. In more recent years it was a landfill site before being reclaimed in the 1980's. Stadt Moers Country Park is a Local Wildlife Site.
- 6.3.12. The landscape within the wider area therefore includes predominantly residential land uses, with industrial development, transport corridors including the M62 and M57, recreational and leisure uses, along with agricultural land mainly to the south of the M62.

National Landscape Character

- 6.3.13. The Site is identified by Natural England as falling within National Character Area (NCA) 56 Lancashire Coal Measures²⁰. NCA 56 surrounds the towns of St Helens and Wigan, and abuts the Mersey Valley NCA 60 to the south and the Mersey Conurbation NCA 58 to the west. The summary for NCA 56 states: *"This is an area of urban and industrial development. The settlement pattern is based around the historical development of mines and industry centred on Wigan and St Helens, leading to a scattered layout and close intermingling of housing and industry"*.

Knowsley Landscape Character Assessment

- 6.3.14. The Knowsley Landscape Character Assessment (2007)²¹ divides the National Landscape Character Areas within Knowsley into geographically smaller Local Authority Landscape Character Types. The landscape character types at the local authority scale are defined by patterns of drainage, landform, land use and the proximity of the urban areas. The Site is identified as lying within the 'Urban Fringe Parkland' Landscape Character Type. This is described as: *"Urban fringe farmed parkland – The landscape is defined by a managed county estate close to the urban fringe and major transport corridors close to a number of its boundaries. These exert little influence as there is a great degree of enclosure arising from the high level of woodland cover and the presence of the sandstone wall that borders the estate. Within the estate the character is defined both by designed historic parkland at the core of and the agricultural use at the periphery"*.

²⁰ Natural England (2014). *National Character Area Profile: 56 Lancashire Coal Measures*.

²¹ Knowsley Borough Council (2007). *Knowsley Landscape Character Assessment*. Knowsley Borough Council.

- 6.3.15. The Local Landscape Character Types are further divided into a number of different Character Areas. The Sites lie within the 'Halsnead Estate' Character Area. This is described as: *"The character of this area is strongly influenced by the former Halsnead Estate that existed to the south of Whiston. The character is defined by the existence of remnants of the former Estate, including long sections of the sandstone boundary wall, a gate house, and small woodland clumps. The M62 motorway dissects the former estate and has a negative influence on the character of the area. It is both a visual and physical intrusion, with noise pollution being a major distraction."*

Coal mining activity occurred south of the M62 at the former Cronton Colliery. The spoil heap from this colliery still remains, but its presence and visual intrusion has been masked by reclamation and tree planting carried out in the 1990s.

The area is gently rolling lowland, rising gradually to Prescott and Rainhill in the North. Arable fields are medium sized with either degraded hedgerows or no defined field boundaries. Some enclosure occurs from the proximity of wooded shelter belts on field margins. Tree cover is restricted to small woodland clumps, isolated trees and shelterbelts, often located around dwellings and along roads and tracks. There is a dispersed pattern of farmsteads and wayside dwellings. These are predominately red brick with slate roofs, but there are also properties with either red sandstone or white render".

Landscape Character Assessment for St Helens

- 6.3.16. Land to the east of Fox's Bank Lane is within the jurisdiction of St Helens Borough Council and is covered by the Landscape Character Assessment for St Helens (2006)²².
- 6.3.17. The landscape to the north of the M62 corridor, east of Fox's Bank Lane and to the south of Blundell's Lane falls within the Broad Rural Slopes Landscape Character Type and within Landscape Character Area BRS5 Rainhill Slopes. The area description is as follows:
- *"the area lies on gently undulating slopes with southern aspect which runs down from the adjacent broad summit of Blundell's Hill at 78m AOD to the flatter landscape which extends up to and is defined by the prominent embankments to the M62;*
 - *the area is predominantly arable farmland with medium to large scale irregular fields overlaying the slope and highlighting the fall of the contours. The field boundaries are mostly drainage ditches with degraded hedgerows with some remnant mature trees, which give a degraded character to the landscape. In many cases the hedgerows have been lost;*
 - *a golf course is located on the slopes within the area and creates a contrast in character by the smooth uniform green of the fairways and associated planting to the rural character of the fields;*
 - *'water pits' are a distinctive landscape feature located within depressions in the fields and are generally associated with small blocks of mature deciduous woodland;*

²² St Helens Borough Council (2006). *Landscape Character Assessment for St Helens*. St Helens Borough Council.

- *the M62 and a line of pylons cross the area to the south and are both dominant visual features. The embankments of the M62 create an unnatural defined hard edge to the character area. The frequent movement and noise of traffic along the motorway imposes a strong urban character on the rural landscape;*
- *area limited number of small residences and a farm steading is located off the B road which runs between Rainhill and Whiston. The historic urban edge of Rainhill is visually prominent on the ridgeline to the north. In particular the historic skyline with a prominent church tower is a distinct visual horizon in views from along the M62;*
- *views from the upper elevated slopes to Rainhill are across the M62 embankments to the floodplains of the Mersey which progressively flatten out to the highly developed Mersey Valley. The large cooling towers at Fiddlers Ferry Power Station are prominent features on the distant skyline”.*

6.4. Potential Effects (including identification of specific receptors)

Potential Landscape Effects

- 6.4.1. The study area and landscape character areas are shown in **Appendix E – Figure 6.1**.
- 6.4.2. Potential effects on landscape will consider both the landscape character and landscape features. Taking into account the published character assessments and baseline landscape context as described above, effects upon the following landscape receptors which fall within the study area will be considered:
- The landscape within Knowsley Landscape Character Area ‘Halsnead Estate’;
 - The landscape within St Helens Landscape Character Area BRS5 Rainhill Slopes; and
 - Existing landscape features within the Sites.
- 6.4.3. Effects upon the National Character Area 56 Lancashire Coal Measures are not deemed to be significant and are scoped out of the assessment. The size and scale of the area encompassed by NCA 56 is large, the area includes urban development, and the addition of residential land uses would not be uncharacteristic. In addition, finer grain local landscape character assessments are available.
- 6.4.4. The effects upon the character of the Sites in isolation from its perceived setting will not be assessed, as the site is always perceived in its wider context. TGN’21 paragraph 2.4.5, bullet 5, recognises that “*Value is best appreciated at the scale at which a landscape is perceived – rarely is this on a field-by-field basis*”.

Potential Visual Effects

- 6.4.5. The selection of visual receptors will be informed by desk study and site visits and will include people with views towards the Sites from publicly accessible locations such as public rights of way, public open spaces and roads.
- 6.4.6. **Appendix E – Figure 6.2** shows the Visual Context and Potential Visual Receptors. The extent of the areas which will be assessed for visual receptors include the following locations:

- Views from paths around Big Water;
- Views from paths within Knowsley Cemetery;
- Views from routes within Halsnead Park;
- Views from Blundell's Hill Golf Course;
- Views from Blundell's Lane;
- Views from the M62 motorway; and
- Views from Hall Lane to the south-east.

6.4.7. These areas will be walked during the site visit and photographs will be taken, however should the site survey reveal that the Sites/future development proposals would not be visible from these locations, they will be scoped out of the assessment with valid reasoning.

6.5. Scope and Methodology of Assessment (including significance criteria)

6.5.1. Given the intention to submit one planning application which will cover both Phase 2b and Phase 3, consideration will be given to the scenarios set out in Section 3.4 of this Report.

Study Area

6.5.2. The extent of the study area will be informed by desk study and site survey but is expected to include an area of 2km radius from the central part of the two parcels. Beyond this distance, the Proposed Development is considered to have no meaningful influence on landscape character, however in some instances it may be necessary to extend this distance in order to consider the potential for impacts on specific longer distance viewpoints.

Establishing the Landscape and Visual Baseline

6.5.3. Baseline information will be gathered through a combination of desk studies and field surveys. In addition, desk studies will include:

- Review and analysis of landform, field and settlement patterns using Ordnance Survey mapping and public rights of way mapping;
- Review of townscape characteristics and landscape grain using aerial photographs;
- Review of available relevant site-specific technical reports, including ecology, arboriculture, and heritage reports; and
- Review of local published literature (local guidebooks, tourism leaflets etc) which may indicate the importance of trails, views, or landscape areas.

6.5.4. The value of the landscape will be established taking into account the landscape planning designations and the range of factors identified in box 5.1 of GLVIA and Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note O2/21 – Assessing landscape value outside national designations.

Landscape and Visual Assessment

- 6.5.5. The assessments will consider daytime effects. Night-time effects will not be considered because the Sites are not located within an intrinsically dark landscape (settlement is a feature of the landscape within the study area). It is expected that views from residential properties include existing sources of light from other nearby properties and cars and as such any change with regards to artificial lighting is expected to be negligible.
- 6.5.6. The assessments will consider effects during construction, at initial completion of development and 15 years post completion i.e. when landscape treatments have matured. For the purposes of this assessment the height of structural planting 15 years post planting will be assumed to be at least 8m. The 15-year post planting assessment will represent the residual effects. The assessment will be based on the site layouts and landscape proposals which accompany the planning application.
- 6.5.7. Effects on residential receptors outside of public areas will not be included in the assessment as private views are not protected by national planning guidance or planning policy and impacts on living conditions are generally considered through a separate Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA).
- 6.5.8. A photographic survey will be carried out to obtain views from readily accessible public viewpoints. A digital SLR camera (Nikon D3300) with a 35mm fixed lens will be used with the camera hand-held to obtain normal eye height. Photographs included in the assessment will be presented with the intention of aiding the understanding of the descriptive text. Where appropriate, frames will be joined together to create panoramas which are representative of normal forward vision with a horizontal field of view of 120 degrees, and which may be extended up to a maximum of 180 degrees. This complies with the Visual Representation of Development Proposals, Technical Guidance Note 06/19 in respect of Type 1, Annotated Viewpoint Photographs.
- 6.5.9. In line with GLVIA3, the assessments will be based on consideration of the sensitivity of landscape character, landscape features, and views/viewers to the type of development being proposed, (i.e. – residential) and on the magnitude of change likely to occur. The sensitivity and magnitude are then considered together, and conclusions drawn on the likely effects on the landscape or on people's visual amenity. For each landscape and visual receptor, a wide range of considerations are drawn together as indicated by **Plates 6.1 and 6.2** below.

Plate 6.1: Considerations contributing to establishing the significance of Landscape Effects.

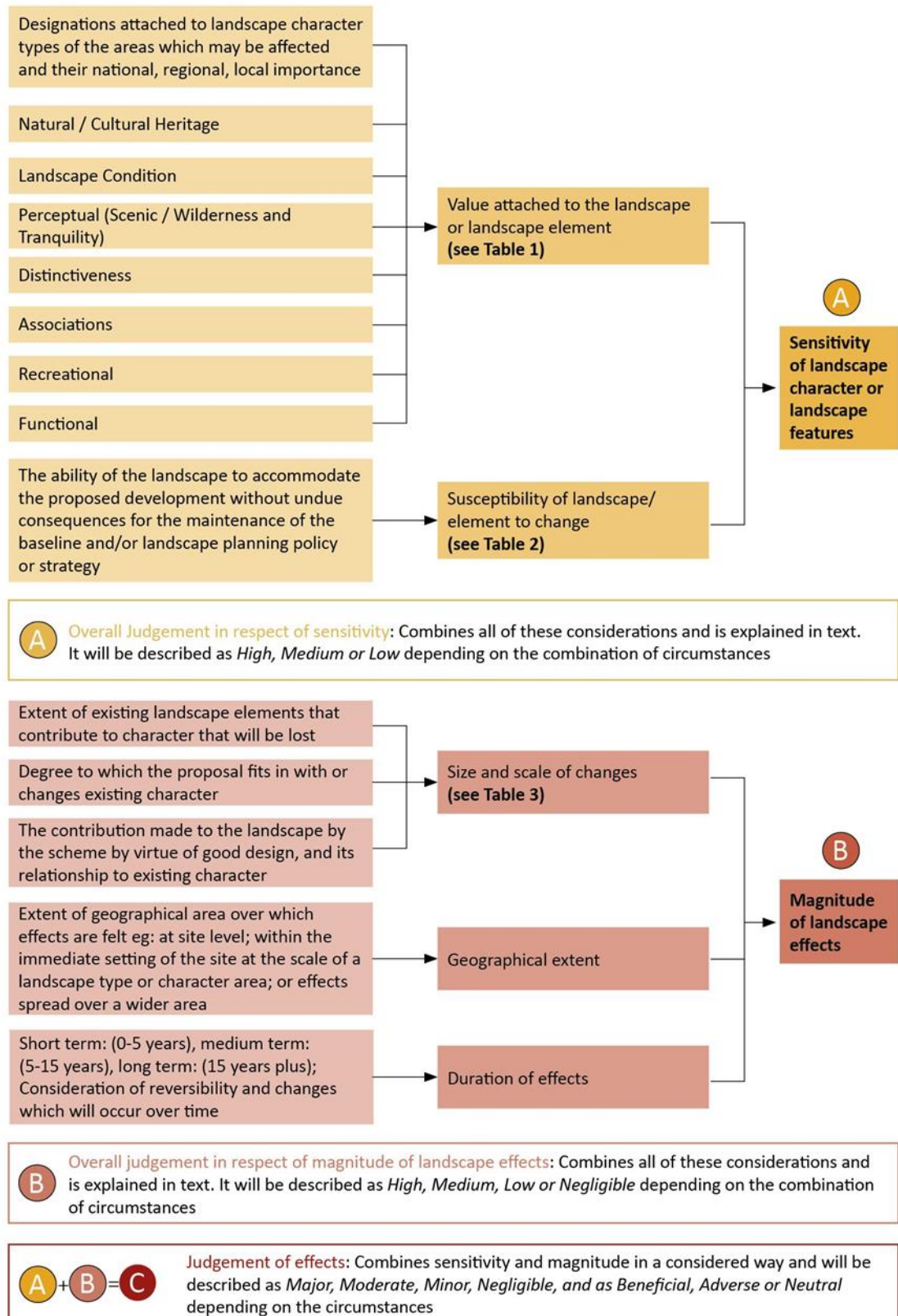
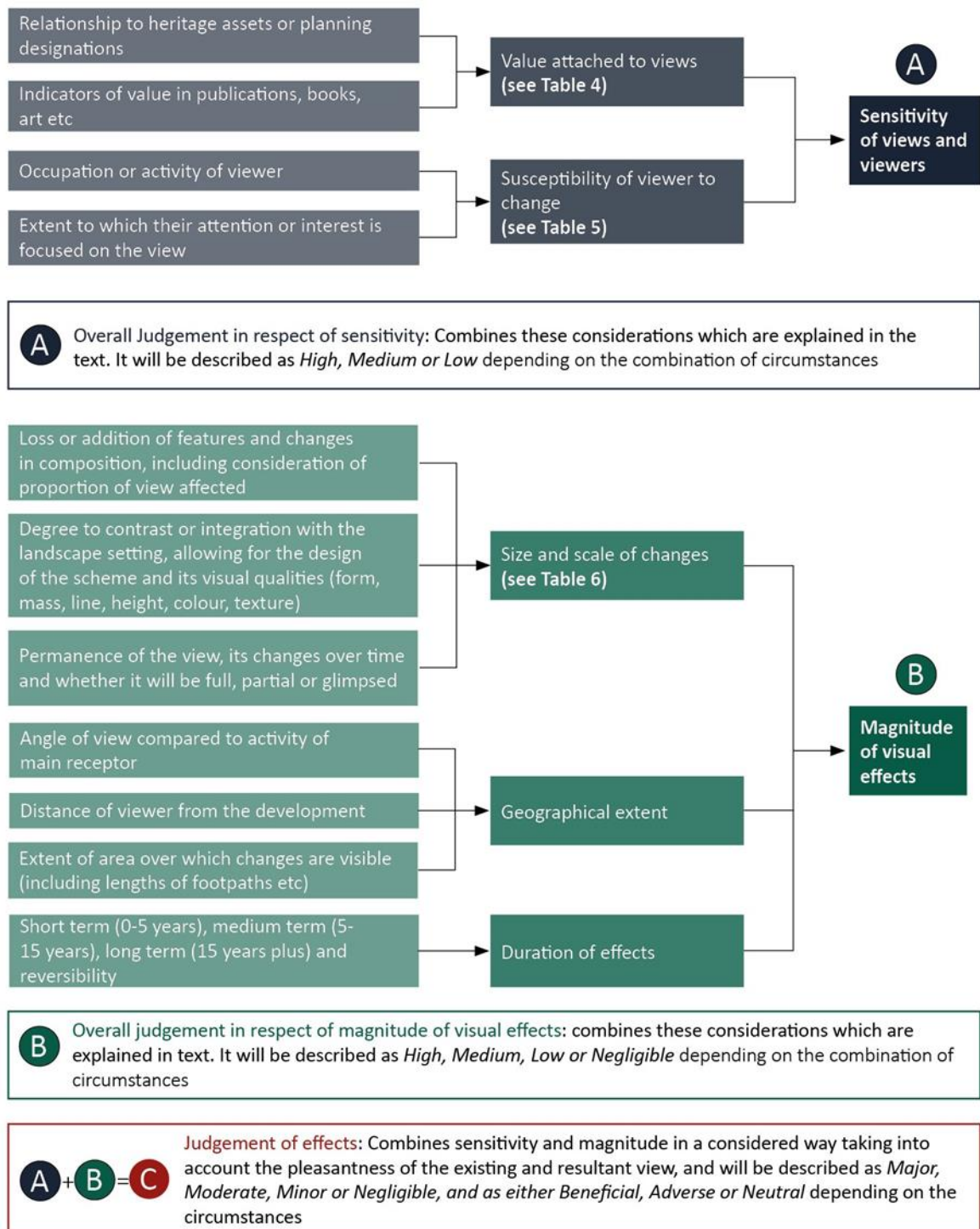


Plate 6.2: Considerations contributing to establishing the significance of Visual Effects



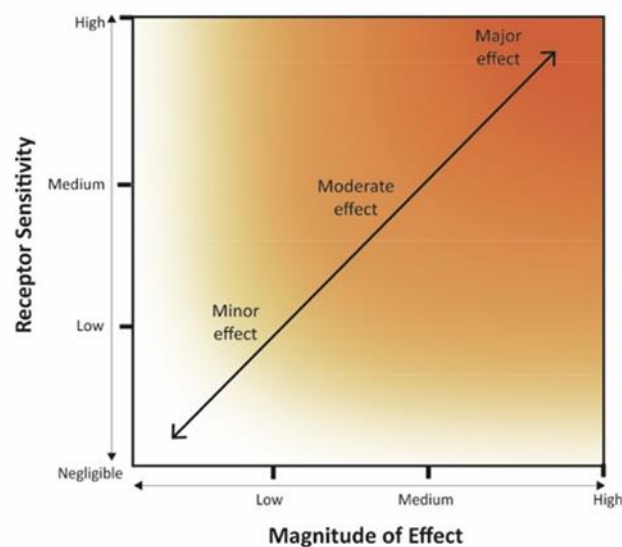
6.5.10. The level of effect of the Proposed Development on the landscape and visual receptors identified is described as being Major, Moderate, Minor or Negligible. Negligible change refers to a barely perceptible change.

6.5.11. The effects are categorised as either Adverse, Beneficial or Neutral. Adverse changes would cause harm to the landscape character, features or views, whilst beneficial changes would

be an improvement. Neutral change recognises that there would be a change, but this would be a combination of both adverse and beneficial changes where the overall the proposals would be in keeping with the existing characteristics, causing neither degradation or enhancement.

- 6.5.12. **Plate 6.3** below indicates the general relationship between sensitivity and magnitude of change. However, this is not applied in a prescriptive manner and professional judgement is used to assess the balance of the effect according to the individual circumstances.

Plate 6.3: Indicative guide to the relationship between sensitivity and magnitude of change.



Cumulative Landscape and Visual Effects

- 6.5.13. A cumulative effects assessment will be presented at the end of the Chapter. This will assess the cumulative impacts of the Proposed Development in conjunction with the committed developments within the vicinity of the Sites identified through the scoping process.
- 6.5.14. Cumulative effects will be assessed in line with the GLVIA 3.

Assumptions

- 6.5.15. Unless specifically requested by the LPA, it is not proposed that photomontages will be required as part of the LVIA. The visual effects of the proposals will be considered using baseline site photographs, with heights of existing buildings and vegetation used to consider the potential visibility of Proposed Development from the identified visual receptors.
- 6.5.16. Unless specifically requested by the LPA, a computer-generated Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) will not be undertaken as part of the visual analysis. We do not consider that this would be a useful tool for assessment given the type of development proposed. Visual analysis will be determined by a combination of desk study and field work, with site observations considering the existing terrain, vegetation and intervening development.

Significance of Effect

- 6.5.17. Effects that will be deemed to be significant for the purposes of this assessment are those that are described as being of a Major or Moderate-major effect. Moderate, Minor-moderate, Minor, Negligible and Neutral effects will not be considered significant.

6.6. Preliminary Discussions of Potential Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

- 6.6.1. The assessment will refer to the following types of mitigation in line with GLVIA paragraph 4.21:

"1. primary measures, developed through the iterative design process, which have become integrated or embedded in the project design;

2. standard construction and operational management practices for avoiding and reducing environmental effects;

3. secondary measures designed to address any residual adverse effects remaining after primary measures and standard construction practices have been incorporated into the scheme."

- 6.6.2. The assessments will consider embedded mitigation including primary measures and standard construction management practices. The assessment of construction effects therefore assumes that a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to avoid effects would be implemented as an integral part of the scheme. Embedded mitigation will also include the retention and protection of as much of the existing vegetation as possible.

- 6.6.3. A comprehensive landscape scheme which includes the provision of public/private open space, connectivity with surrounding areas and pedestrian/cycle links, native and locally appropriate planting proposals, provision of sustainable drainage solutions, green infrastructure and landscape buffers has the potential to provide enhancement of the landscape beyond its baseline condition.

7. Cultural Heritage

7.1. Introduction

7.1.1. The ES technical chapter will assess the likely direct and indirect impact on both designated and non-designated heritage assets within the Sites and within the surrounding area. The chapter will assess the significance and setting of these heritage assets and assess the effect that the Proposed Development will have on the significance of any known or unknown archaeological deposits within the Sites and on the setting of designated heritage assets in the vicinity.

7.2. Relevant Policy and Guidance

7.2.1. Key policy and guidance which will be considered in the chapter include the following:

- Chapter 16 of the revised NPPF²³;
- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990²⁴;
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment* (2020)²⁵;
- Historic England Good Practice Advice (GPA) documents; GPA 1: *The Historic Environment in Local Plans* (2015); GPA 2: *Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment* (2015), and the revised GPA3: *The Setting of Heritage Assets* (2017)²⁶;
- Historic England Advice Notes (HEANs), specifically *HEAN2: Making Changes to Heritage Assets* (2016), *HEAN3: The Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans* (2015) and *HEAN12: Statement of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets* (2019)²⁷;
- Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance (English Heritage, April 2008)²⁸; and

²³ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2024). *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2024*. Chapter 16.

²⁴ Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. *UK Legislation*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/9/contents/enacted> [Accessed 16 December 2024].

²⁵ Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2020. *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment*. Reading: CIfA.

²⁶ Historic England, 2015. *Good Practice Advice (GPA) 1: The Historic Environment in Local Plans*. London: Historic England. Available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/hps/strategic-planning/gpa1/>.

²⁷ Historic England, 2016. *Advice Note 2: Making Changes to Heritage Assets*. London: Historic England. Available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/buildings/hen2/>.

²⁸ English Heritage, 2008. *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance*. London: English Heritage. Available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-principles-policies-and-guidance/>.

- Policy CS20: Managing the Borough's Historic Environment in the Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy (January 2016)²⁹.

7.3. Preliminary Assessment of Baseline Conditions

- 7.3.1. There are no designated heritage assets within the Sites. However, there are 11 Grade II Listed Buildings within a 1km radius of the Sites, two of which are adjacent to the south-east boundary of Phase 2b on Fox's Bank Lane and are considered sensitive to the Proposed Development. These comprise the North East Lodge to Halsnead Park (LB ref. 1253249) and Gate Piers Beside the North East Lodge to Halsnead Park (LB ref. 1253429).
- 7.3.2. The nearest Scheduled Monument is located just over 1km to the east of the Sites; Rainhill Hall Farm moated site and twelve fishponds in The Rough (SM no.1017860).
- 7.3.3. The nearest Conservation Area is located 1.2km to the north-east of the study Site; Rainhill Area 2 Conservation Area.
- 7.3.4. There are 198 heritage assets recorded on the Merseyside Historic Environment Records database (HER) within a 1km radius of the Sites, although eleven of these are also Listed Buildings. There are three HER records within or on the Site's boundary; Halsnead Park (MME15147) recorded as being of post-medieval date although it is believed to have Early Medieval origins, the Estate Park Wall (MME15681) along the east perimeter of Phase 2b and the probable site of a Ha-ha on the northern boundary of Phase 3. There are two further non-designated assets that are not recorded on the HER and that have been identified from historic mapping and noted during a site visit. These comprise the former east drive that crosses through the north of the study site in an east/west direction from the North East Lodge on Fox's Bank Lane to the site of Halsnead Hall (known as 'The Ride') and the former ornamental lake, Big Water, to the west of the study site. These assets are of local importance.
- 7.3.5. A geophysical survey was undertaken in September 2018 to inform the previous application (ref. 20/OO417/FUL). This included Phases 2a and 2b and the central and southern portions of Phase 3. The results showed several weak linear trends that form partial patterns indicating an unknown or potential anthropogenic origin. None of these features appear to relate to any of the former boundaries shown on historic mapping or any agricultural or land management practices such as drainage. Therefore, they may be of archaeological interest, although there is insufficient information from the data to determine their date or function.
- 7.3.6. Those geophysical anomalies recorded in Phase 2a were targeted during a programme of archaeological trial trenching. Of the 25 trenches excavated only five were found to contain archaeological remains located in the central and north-eastern area. These related to modern or late post-medieval ditches and pits. Along the south of Phase 2a the area was devoid of archaeological remains due to the disturbance associated with the construction of the M62.
- 7.3.7. There are no recorded archaeological assets of prehistoric, Roman or medieval date recorded within the Sites, although it is considered that Halsnead Park has Early Medieval origins. It is considered that the potential for the discovery of significant sub-surface remains for all

²⁹ Knowsley Borough Council, 2016. *Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy: Policy CS20: Managing the Borough's Historic Environment*. Knowsley: Knowsley Borough Council.

archaeological periods is considered to be low, although the geophysical survey identified potential archaeological features with the Sites that would require further investigation.

7.4. Potential Effects (including identification of specific receptors)

- 7.4.1. Potential impacts can be either direct or indirect. Direct effects are physical impacts resulting from groundworks to create access roads, service trenches, house foundations, balancing ponds, etc. which can result in damage and destruction to any surviving sub-surface archaeological features (unless mitigated first). Indirect effects are caused by development within the setting of heritage assets.
- 7.4.2. Due to proximity of the Proposed Development on the two Grade II Listed Buildings adjacent to the south-east corner of Phase 2b there are likely to be effects on their setting during construction and operation which may impact on the significance of the designated heritage assets.
- 7.4.3. In terms of non-designated heritage assets, the proposals will have a cumulative effect with other development phases on Halsnead Park (MME15147), together with the Park Wall (MME15681). The latter has seen a beneficial effect regarding portions of which that have been rebuilt and its long-term conservation.
- 7.4.4. Given the constructional techniques employed in modern development, it is unlikely that any surviving archaeological sub-surface remains, should they be present on the Sites, would survive the development process.

7.5. Scope and Methodology of Assessment (including significance criteria)

- 7.5.1. The ES technical chapter will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the EIA Regulations and with reference to best practice and prepared by competent heritage professionals. The assessment will include a consideration of relevant policy and legislation as well as considering comments received by consultees (in this case Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS) and the Knowsley Conservation Officer) during the pre-submission period. The chapter will comprise:
 - Brief review of relevant policy and legislative context;
 - Confirmation of the assessment methodology, consultation undertaken and confirmation on how the assessment relates to the standard significance criteria adopted for the EIA (see below);
 - Consideration of Baseline Conditions drawn from a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (HEDBA) and previous geophysical survey, including information from the Merseyside HER, National Heritage List, County Record Offices, Local Studies Library, together with the site history, current environmental conditions and future trends/anticipated changes to current conditions that could be anticipated without the scheme;
 - An assessment of the significance of designated and non-designated assets within or in close proximity to the Sites will be undertaken;

- Identification of the potential effects including a summary of those receptors likely to be affected, the sensitivity of those receptors to accommodate change; the degree of change resulting from the proposal; the change of events or pathways linking cause to effect and a prediction of the significance of effects in terms of nature, extent and magnitude including whether it is direct/indirect, short/long term, permanent/temporary, beneficial/adverse;
- The scope for incorporating mitigation measures to avoid, reduce, remedy or compensate for any identified effects; and
- Identification of any effects remaining after mitigation.

8.5.2 The effects of individual environmental matters will be transcribed against a common list of significance criteria based on a seven-point scale:

- Substantial beneficial;
- Moderate beneficial;
- Minor beneficial;
- Neutral/negligible;
- Minor adverse;
- Moderate adverse; and
- Substantial adverse.

8.5.2 This criteria is based on the following:

- Substantial – considerable effects (by extent, duration, or magnitude) or of more than local significance or breaching identified standards or policy;
- Moderate – limited effects which may be considered significant;
- Minor – slight, very short or highly localised effects.

8.5.3 A clear description of the likely significant environmental effects on the environment will be provided, including direct/indirect effects, secondary, cumulative, short/medium/long term, permanent/temporary and beneficial/adverse effects arising from the Proposed Development.

8.5.4 Given the intention to submit one planning application which will cover both Phase 2b and Phase 3, consideration will be given to the scenarios set out in Section 3.4 of this Report.

7.6. Preliminary Discussions of Potential Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

7.6.1 Depending upon the assessment results, it may be necessary to identify suitable mitigation options to reduce impacts to an acceptable level. These may include:

- Incorporating an appropriate set back or screening around the Listed Buildings along Fox's Bank Lane to ensure that there is not a significant adverse effect on their setting and, therefore, heritage significance; and
- Agreeing the scope of any post-planning permission archaeological investigation to record any archaeological interest of the Sites prior to development.

8.6.2 Consequently, an appropriate level of input to the masterplanning process may be necessary to ensure that direct and indirect effects to designated and non-designated assets are avoided, minimised or mitigated.

8. Transport and Access

8.1. Introduction

- 8.1.1. It is proposed to include the assessment of transport in the ES. This will describe and, where applicable, quantify the likely significant effects that the Proposed Development will have on the transport network surrounding the development. The Transport study will screen nearby links and nodes to establish which may be regarded as sensitive receptors.
- 8.1.2. The transport chapter of the ES will be informed by a Transport Assessment (TA) which is currently being prepared by Eddisons. This will consider the impact of the Proposed Development on transport infrastructure surrounding the Sites. Whilst the TA will be used as source material, it predominately identifies the compliance of the development proposal with national and local transport policy and establishes that a safe and acceptable access will be provided to serve the Sites.
- 8.1.3. The TA quantifies the transport and highways impact of the Proposed Development, and will form an Appendix to the ES. The environmental impact of the road traffic generated by the Proposed Development requires an assessment against different criteria, as detailed in the following sections.

8.2. Relevant Policy and Guidance

National Planning Policy Framework

- 8.2.1. The latest version of the National Planning Policy Framework was updated in December 2024³⁰. The presumption in favour of sustainable development is a central theme running through the Framework, which states at paragraph 109 that 'Transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals, using a vision-led approach to identify transport solutions that deliver well-designed, sustainable and popular places. This should involve:
 - a) *making transport considerations an important part of early engagement with local communities;*
 - b) *ensuring patterns of movement, streets, parking and other transport considerations are integral to the design of schemes, and contribute to making high quality places;*
 - c) *understanding and addressing the potential impacts of development on transport networks;*
 - d) *realising opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure, and changing transport technology and usage – for example in relation to the scale, location or density of development that can be accommodated;*

³⁰ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2024). *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) December 2024*.

- e) *identifying and pursuing opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport use; and*
- f) *identifying, assessing and taking into account the environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure – including appropriate opportunities for avoiding and mitigating any adverse effects, and for net environmental gains.'*

8.2.2. Para 118 states that *'All developments that will generate significant amounts of movement should be required to provide a travel plan, and the application should be supported by a vision-led transport statement or transport assessment so that the likely impacts of the proposal can be assessed and monitored.'*

8.2.3. The provision of a Travel Plan as part of the Proposed Development is in accordance with the guidance.

Planning Practice Guidance

8.2.4. The Government has produced the National Planning Practice Guidance to supplement the NPPF. Within the guidance, there is a specific section clarifying the over-arching principles on Travel Plans, Transport Assessments and Transport Statements. There are also sections advising further on each of the three documents discussed.

8.2.5. The guidance advises that in determining whether a TA or Statement will be needed for a proposed development, local planning authorities should take into account a number of considerations. It is considered that the size and nature of this development requires a full TA.

8.2.6. The guidance on Travel Plans reinforces the benefits a Travel Plan, the scope of the document, and need for monitoring to continue the strategy into the future.

Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy³¹

8.2.7. The Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy was adopted in January 2016, setting the strategic framework for the growth and development of Knowsley up to 2028 and beyond.

8.2.8. Strategic Objective 6 Sustainable Transport states:

'To ensure new development in Knowsley encourages a reduction in the overall need to travel, and prioritises sustainable transport such as walking, cycling and public transport. This will help to ensure accessibility and linkage between housing areas and employment locations, shopping, leisure, culture, health care, education, community and sporting facilities, green spaces and other services.'

Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan³²

8.2.9. The Knowsley UDP was adopted in June 2006, covering the period up to 2016. In the transition to the Local Plan system, seventy-eight out of the original eighty-two UDP policies were saved by the Secretary of State on 12th June 2009. Three additional UDP policies were

³¹ Knowsley Borough Council (2016). *Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy*, Adopted January 2016.

³² Knowsley Borough Council (2006). *Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan*, Adopted June 2006.

replaced upon the adoption of the Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Local Plan. Subsequently, thirty-six policies were deleted with the adoption of the Local Plan Core Strategy. As a result, thirty-nine UDP Policies remain in effect. Appendix C of the Local Plan Core Strategy provides a comprehensive list of the UDP Policies that continue to be saved.

8.2.10. The saved UDP policies include the following transport policies:

- T5 Location of Major Traffic Generating New Development,
- T6 Ensuring Choice of Travel to Serve New Developments (edited),
- T7 New Development and Walking & Cycling Routes,
- T8 Transport Assessments,
- T9 Travel Plans,
- T10 Access for the Less Mobile, and
- T11 Taxi Facilities.

Ensuring a Choice of Travel³³

8.2.11. The Ensuring a Choice of Travel SPD was adopted by the Council in September 2010 to provide detailed guidance about the council's transport policies. The main objective of the SPD is to ensure a good choice of travel modes to all new developments in Knowsley.

Adopted Halshead Garden Village Masterplan³⁴

8.2.12. Knowsley Council has adopted the Halshead Garden Village Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) following Cabinet approval in June 2017.

8.2.13. The Masterplan is a clear statement of the council's ambitions for Knowsley's largest development site. It sets out the vision and objectives for a vibrant, new settlement, including a new residential community, a large employment area, a new country park, a new primary school, and early years provision and other new or improved outdoor community facilities.

8.3. Preliminary Assessment of Baseline Conditions

8.3.1. The ES transport and traffic chapter and the supporting TA will include a detailed analysis of accessibility to the Sites. A site audit has been undertaken, which identifies key pedestrian attractors, pedestrian and cycle crossing points and other areas of pedestrian activity.

³³ Knowsley Borough Council (2010). *Ensuring a Choice of Travel Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)*, Adopted September 2010.

³⁴ Knowsley Borough Council (2017). *Halshead Garden Village Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)*, Adopted June 2017.

- 8.3.2. Classified junction turning counts and other survey source information, journey time information has been obtained from surveys undertaken on 19 June 2024 and this information will inform detailed modelling within the TA and the ES assessment.
- 8.3.3. An assessment of the likely change in traffic flows resulting from the Proposed Development will be undertaken as part of the ES based on the area of assessment agreed for the TA. This will include the following junctions:
- Windy Arbor Road/Lickers Lane/Willis Lane staggered T- junction;
 - Dragon Lane/Stoney Lane/Meadway signalised junction;
 - Stoney Lane/Cumber Lane signalised junction;
 - Lickers Lane/Fox's Bank signalised junction; and
 - A5080 Cronton Road/Fox's Bank Lane roundabout.

8.4. Potential Effects (including identification of specific receptors)

- 8.4.1. The assessment will consider the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on the highway network in the vicinity of the Sites.
- 8.4.2. The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) guidelines 'Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movement' was published in July 2023 form the basis for the assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on traffic and movement, including the consideration of the following potential impacts:
- Severance of communities;
 - Road vehicle driver and passenger delay;
 - Non-motorised user delay;
 - Non-motorised amenity;
 - Fear and intimidation on and by road users;
 - Road user and pedestrian safety; and
 - Hazardous/large loads.
- 8.4.3. The potential groups and special interests that may be affected by the Proposed Development have been considered and the following list of 'receptors' has been identified:
- Sensitive groups including children, elderly and disabled;
 - Accident 'black spots';
 - Vehicle Drivers – Highway corridors / junctions identified from scoping discussions;
 - People walking;

- People cycling; and
- Schools/Hospitals.

8.4.4. The Environmental Effects from the Proposed Development have been assessed in the following terms:

- Beneficial – Meaning that they produce environmental benefits in transportation terms, i.e. where overall traffic flows or percentage HGV decrease, or there are improved facilities for pedestrians, cyclists, or public transport users;
- Negligible – Meaning that changes are too small to meaningfully measure;
- Adverse – Meaning that they produce environmental disbenefits in transportation terms, i.e. where overall traffic flows or percentage HGV increase, or there are reductions in facilities for pedestrians, cyclists, or public transport users;

8.4.5. Beneficial and adverse effects are further characterised as:

- Minor – highly localised changes in traffic flows/patterns of between 10% and 30%;
- Moderate – Limited change where, changes in traffic flows/patterns are between 30% and 60%; and
- Major – Considerable change, where changes in traffic flows/patterns are greater than 60%.

8.5. Scope and Methodology of Assessment (including significance criteria)

Assessment scenarios

- 8.5.1. It is anticipated that the Proposed Development will have a completion year of 2033 and the assessment will consider the impact of development traffic on the 2038 Reference Case. The surveyed traffic data will be factored to the Reference Case using TEMPro.
- 8.5.2. Given the intention to submit one planning application which will cover both Phase 2b and Phase 3, consideration will be given to the scenarios set out in Section 3.4 of this Report.

Committed Development

- 8.5.3. Known committed developments in the vicinity will be included in the assessments undertaken within the transport and traffic chapter. This will capture the anticipated traffic growth in the area.

Construction traffic

- 8.5.4. A high-level quantitative assessment will be undertaken to determine the likely volume of construction traffic to be generated and identify any potential significant effects of the construction works. It will be based on an estimate of reasonable worst-case conditions and consider aspects of the construction works that could lead to significant effects.

- 8.5.5. It is assumed that a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP), which can be secured through an appropriately worded condition, will be implemented to manage construction works for the Proposed Development.

Operational development traffic

- 8.5.6. Trip generation will be calculated using trip rates derived using the TRICS database. The operational development trips will be assigned to the network based on journey to work census data for the Middle Super Output Area within which the Sites lie (MSOA Knowsley 013).
- 8.5.7. As advised within the IEMA guidelines *'The purpose of these updated and replacement Guidelines remains unchanged from the 1993 Guidelines, i.e. to provide practitioners with good practice advice on how to carry out the assessment of traffic and movement of people as part of a statutory EIA or non-statutory environmental assessment.'*
- 8.5.8. The IEMA guidelines suggest two broad rules-of-thumb as criteria to assist in delimiting the scale and extent of the environmental assessment:
- Include highway links where traffic flows will increase by more than 30% (or the number of heavy goods vehicles will increase by more than 30%); and
 - Include highway links of high sensitivity where traffic flows have increased by 10% or more.
- 8.5.9. However, it adds that *'It should be noted that the Rule 1 and Rule 2 'criteria' process may not be appropriate for some impacts, and it is generally accepted by regulators and practitioners that it should not be applied to assessments of air quality, noise, road safety and driver delay. For these impacts, a separate study area and assessment criteria should be agreed with the relevant stakeholders.'*
- 8.5.10. The assessment methodology on identifying and applying receptor sensitivity, effect magnitude and how these combine to establish the significance of effects is set out below.

Receptor Sensitivity

- 8.5.11. The sensitivity of receptors is described in **Table 9.1**.

Table 9.1 Receptor Sensitivity

Receptor value / sensitivity	Receptor type
High	Sensitive groups, including children, elderly and disabled. Sensitive locations, e.g. hospitals and schools Accident 'black-spots'
Medium	People walking People cycling
Low	Vehicle drivers
Negligible	n/a

Impact Magnitude

- 8.5.12. The degree of magnitude of impacts that the Proposed Development would have upon the resource/receptor is considered within the range of high, medium, low and negligible. Consideration is given to scale, duration of impact/effect (e.g., for construction, short-term for 1-2 years, medium-term for 3-5 years, long-term for 5 years and greater, and permanent, dependent upon project timeframes) and extent of Proposed Development with reference to the definitions in **Table 9.2**.

Table 9.2 Magnitude of Impact

Magnitude	Potential Impact				
	Severance	Driver Delay	Pedestrian Delay and Non-motorised User Amenity	Fear and Intimidation	Road Safety
High	Change in highway link traffic flow of over 60%	Substantial increase in delay	Change in highway link traffic flow of over 60%	Two step changes in level	Personal injury accident rate changed and above national average
Medium	Change in highway link traffic flow of 30% to less than 60%	Moderate increase in delay	Change in highway link traffic flow of 30% to less than 60%	One step change in level, but with • >400 veh increase in average 18hr AV two-way all vehicle flow; and/or • >500 HV increase in total 18hr HV flow	Personal injury accident rate changed but below national average
Low	Change in highway link traffic flow of 10% to less than 30%	Slight increase in delay	Change in highway link traffic flow of 10% to less than 30%	One step change in level, with • <400 veh increase in average 18hr AV two-way all vehicle flow; and/or • <500 HV increase in total 18hr HV flow Change in highway link traffic flow of 10% to less than 30%	Slight change to personal injury accident rate
Negligible	Change in highway link traffic flow of less than 10%	No change in delay	Change in highway link traffic flow of less than 10%	No change in step changes	No change to personal injury accident rate

Effect Significance

- 8.5.13. The assessment of effects is based upon the assessments of magnitude of impacts and sensitivity of the resource/receptor to come to a transparent conclusion of how important or significant this effect is. This is shown in **Table 9.3**, although professional judgement can also be used to adjust the significance of an effect.

Table 9.3 Significance of Effect

Receptor Sensitivity	Magnitude of Impact			
	High	Medium	Low	Negligible
High	Major	Major	Moderate	Negligible
Medium	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible
Low	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Negligible
Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

- 8.5.14. All effects moderate and major are considered significant.
- 8.5.15. To assess the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development in transportation terms, the following scale set out in **Table 9.4** has been used. The significance scale is derived from the interaction of receptor sensitivity and magnitude of change of effect but can be adjusted based on professional judgement.

Table 9.4 Significance Scale

Significance Scale	Description
Major beneficial	Change that would delay the need for planned modification to off-site infrastructure.
Moderate beneficial	Increased perception of changing conditions that may delay the need for planned modifications to off-site infrastructure.
Minor beneficial	Perception of changing conditions e.g. reduction in delay
Negligible	No perceptible change
Minor adverse	Perception of changing conditions e.g. increase in delay
Moderate adverse	Increased perception of changing conditions that may require modifications to off-site infrastructure
Major adverse	Change requiring modifications to off-site infrastructure

8.6. Preliminary Discussions of Potential Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

- 8.6.1. If the effect on a road link is identified to be significant, that is, moderate or greater, mitigation will be proposed to seek to reduce the effect to a level that is not significant.

9. Air Quality

9.1. Introduction

9.1.1. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is being prepared for Phase 2b and Phase 3 of Halsnead Garden Village and form the Proposed Development, as detailed in Chapter 2 of this Scoping Report. This Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter relating to air quality will be prepared by SLR Consulting Ltd.

9.1.2. The EIA will consider the potential for the Proposed Development to influence local air quality during both the construction and operational phases.

9.2. Relevant Policy and Guidance

National Planning Policy

9.2.1. The National Planning Policy Framework³⁵ (NPPF) states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment, by preventing new development from contributing to or being adversely affected by unacceptable concentrations of air quality and development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air quality. Under Chapter 15 of the NPPF, Paragraph 199 states that *“planning policies and decisions should sustain and contribute towards compliance with relevant limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones, and the cumulative impacts from individual sites in local areas. [...] Planning decisions should ensure that any new development in Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones is consistent with the local air quality action plan”*.

9.2.2. The NPPF is accompanied by the web based supporting Planning Practice Guidance³⁶ (PPG), which includes guiding principles on how planning can take account of the impacts of new development on air quality. The PPG further sets out the information that may be required within the context of a supporting air quality assessment.

Local Planning Policy

9.2.3. The Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy³⁷ was adopted in January 2016 and sets out KMBC’s vision, objectives and policies which will guide development within Knowsley up to 2028. It is the Statutory Development Plan for KMBC and is the basis for the determination of planning applications. Within the Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy air quality is mentioned under Principle 4 of Policy CS2 ‘Development Principles’, within Policy CS7 ‘Transport Networks’ and within Policy CS23 ‘Renewable and Low Carbon Infrastructure’.

³⁵ National Planning Policy Framework, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government. December 2024.

³⁶ Planning Practice Guidance: Air Quality. Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government. November 2019.

³⁷ Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council, The Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy, 6 January 2016.

Guidance

9.2.4. The following guidance documents relevant to air quality will be utilised within the ES:

- KMBC: Halsnead Garden Village Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document³⁸ (SPD);
- KMBC: New Residential Development SPD³⁹;
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra): Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance (LAQM.TG(22))⁴⁰;
- Defra: COVID-19: Supplementary Guidance. Local Air Quality Management Reporting in 2021⁴¹;
- Defra: PM_{2.5} Targets: Interim Planning Guidance^{Error! Bookmark not defined.} (the 'PM_{2.5} IPG');
- National Highways: Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) LA 105 Air Quality (Vertical Barriers)⁴²;
- Environmental Policy Implementation Community (EPIC) (previously Environmental Protection UK (EPUK)) and the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM): Land-Use Planning and Development Control: Planning for Air Quality⁴³ (hereafter referred to as the 'EPIC & IAQM guidance');
- IAQM: A Guide to the Assessment of Air Quality Impacts on Designated Nature Conservation Sites⁴⁴ (hereafter referred to as the 'IAQM Nature Guidance');
- IAQM: Guidance on the Assessment Dust from Demolition and Construction⁴⁵; and
- IAQM: Use of 2020 and 2021 Monitoring Datasets⁴⁶; and
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Guidance on Decision-making Thresholds for Air Pollution⁴⁷.

³⁸ Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Knowsley Halsnead Garden Village Masterplan Supplementary Planning Guidance, June 2017.

³⁹ Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council, New Residential Development Supplementary Planning Guidance, September 2018.

⁴⁰ Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance (22), Published by Defra in partnership with the Scottish Government, Welsh Assembly Government and Department of the Environment Northern Ireland. August 2022.

⁴¹ Defra and the Greater London Authority, COVID-19: Supplementary Guidance. Local Air Quality Management Reporting in 2021. April 2021.

⁴² DMRB, LA 105–Air Quality (Vertical Barriers), National Highways, 2019.

⁴³ EPIC and IAQM, Land-Use Planning and Development Control: Planning for Air Quality, v1.2 2017.

⁴⁴ IAQM, A guide to the assessment of air quality impacts on designated nature conservation sites, v1.1, 2020.

⁴⁵ IAQM, Guidance on the Assessment Dust from Demolition and Construction, v2.2, January 2024.

⁴⁶ IAQM, Use of 2020 and 2021 Monitoring Datasets, v1.1, December 2023.

⁴⁷ CHAPMAN, C. & KITE, B. 2021. Guidance on Decision-Making Thresholds for Air Pollution. JNCC Report No.696 (Main Report), JNCC, Peterborough, ISSN 0963-8091.

9.3. Preliminary Assessment of Baseline Conditions

Local Air Quality Management

- 9.3.1. As discussed in Paragraph 2.2.12 of this Scoping Report, neither Site is located within an AQMA. KMBC presently has not declared any AQMAs within its administrative area. St Helens Council (SHC), the administrative boundary for which is situated immediately east of the Phase 2B Site, has four declared AQMAs. The closest of the SHC AQMAs is situated c. 5km to the north-east of the Phase 2B Site and c. 5.5km to the north-east of the Phase 3 Site (the AQMA No.3 (Borough Rd)).
- 9.3.2. In the wider area, the closest AQMA to the Sites is the Liverpool City AQMA, located c. 2.7km to the west of the Phase 3 Site and c. 3.3km to the west of the Phase 2b Site. The Halton Borough Council (HBC) 'AQMA No.2' is located c. 5.5km to the south-west of both the Phase 2B and Phase 3 Sites. The Warrington Borough Council (WBC) 'AQMA No.1' is located c. 7.6km to the east of the Phase 2b Site and c.8km to the east of the Phase 3 Site.
- 9.3.3. All of the AQMAs discussed here have been declared due to exceedances of the annual mean NO₂ AQAL (i.e. 40µg/m³).

Local Air Quality Monitoring

- 9.3.4. KMBC currently undertake air quality monitoring at numerous locations within its administrative area, using a network of 32 passive NO₂ diffusion tubes. KMBC decommissioned its network of four automatic monitors in September 2021. Within 2km of the Sites, there was one automatic monitor (with available monitoring datasets up until 2021) and 15 passive diffusion tube monitoring locations.
- 9.3.5. The closest monitoring location to the Sites is diffusion tube 'H12a, H12b', situated c.490m to the west of the Phase 3 Site and c. 1.1km to the south-west of the Phase 2B Site. Diffusion tube 'H12a, H12b' is of a 'roadside' location. Also nearby is diffusion tube monitoring location 'H11a, H11b', situated c. 590m to the west of the Phase 3 Site and c. 1.1km to the south-west of the Phase 2B Site. Diffusion tube 'H11a, H11b' is of a 'suburban' location. Neither of these monitoring locations have exceeded the annual mean NO₂ AQAL at any point between 2019 and 2023. In 2023, the 'H12a, H12b' and 'H11a, H11b' diffusion tubes recorded annual mean NO₂ concentrations of 26.3µg/m³ and 22.4µg/m³, representing 65.8% and 56.0% of the AQAL, respectively (i.e. 'well-below' the AQAL (<75% of the AQAL)).
- 9.3.6. During 2023, annual mean NO₂ concentrations recorded at the remaining monitoring locations within 2km of the Sites ranged from 15.3µg/m³ (at diffusion tube 'H10a, H10b') to 33.6µg/m³ (at diffusion tube 'H3a, H3b'). All <90% of the AQAL.
- 9.3.7. Particulate matter (as PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) was recorded at the 'Huyton' automatic monitor until 2019. The 'Huyton' automatic monitor was situated c.1.4km to the east of the Phase 3 Site and c.2.0km to the south-east of the Phase 2B Site. In 2019, the 'Huyton' automatic monitor recorded an annualised annual mean PM₁₀ concentration of 22.9µg/m³, representing 57.3% of the AQAL (i.e. 40µg/m³). Two 24-hour mean PM₁₀ concentrations in excess of 50µg/m³ were recorded in 2019, compared to an allowance of 35 24-hour means in excess of 50µg/m³ across the year as part of the AQAL. Furthermore, in 2019 the 'Huyton' automatic monitor recorded an annualised annual mean PM_{2.5} concentration of 10.8µg/m³, representing 54% of the AQAL (i.e. 20µg/m³). However, low data capture may have caused particular pollution episodes to have been missed.

- 9.3.8. Wider baseline air quality monitoring data may be considered once the extent of the 'affected road network' is understood.

Background Concentrations

- 9.3.9. Defra provide background concentrations of NO₂, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} across the UK for 1km x 1km grid squares, based upon a reference year of 2021 (the year in which comparisons between modelled and monitoring data are made). The maximum 2024 background concentrations for the grid squares which cover the Sites are 14.6µg/m³ as an annual mean NO₂ concentration, 15.0µg/m³ as an annual mean PM₁₀ concentration and 7.6µg/m³ as an annual mean PM_{2.5} concentration.
- 9.3.10. Background pollutant concentrations are therefore 'well-below' the respective AQALs for each pollutant.

Dust

- 9.3.11. From a review of aerial imagery, there are considered to be no significant dust sources in the area around the Sites. Notable sources include the construction works associated with the wider 'South of Whiston and Land South of M62 SUE' allocated land. However, dust emission from these sources is anticipated to be appropriately mitigated in accordance with their respective Construction Environment Management Plans (CEMP).

9.4. Potential Effects (including identification of specific receptors)

- 9.4.1. The Proposed Development has the potential to impact local air quality during both the construction and operational phases.

Construction Phase

- 9.4.2. Construction phase air quality effects can arise from the emission of nuisance dust and particulate matter (as PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) associated with demolition, earthworks, construction and trackout activities. To a lesser extent, construction phase air quality effects can arise from construction vehicles including road traffic emissions and on-site plant. The effects of construction works will generally be short-term and temporary.
- 9.4.3. Dust emissions arising from the construction phase of the Proposed Development have the potential to effect sensitive receptor locations up to 250m from the Site boundaries, and up to 50m from the edge of the road where construction vehicles are likely to travel, up to 250m from the Site entrances. Ecological receptors up to 50m from the Site boundaries, and up to 50m from the edge of the road where construction vehicles are likely to travel, up to 250m from the Site entrances, also have the potential to be affected. Despite this, the majority of the deposition occurs within 50m.
- 9.4.4. The surrounding residential developments associated with the wider 'South of Whiston and Land South of M62 SUE' allocated land would constitute 'highly sensitive receptors' to nuisance construction dust impacts. However, background PM₁₀ concentrations are sufficiently low enough that construction dust health impacts are unlikely to occur as a result of particulate matter emissions.
- 9.4.5. Construction activities will be carried out in accordance with a CEMP which will be inclusive of dust mitigation measures determined by a commensurate risk-based assessment.

- 9.4.6. Any emissions arising from construction vehicles and on-site plant will be temporary and of a low volume when compared to the operational phase vehicle trips. Legislation requires for emission controls to be applied to on-site construction plant.

Operational Phase

- 9.4.7. When operational, the predominant source of air pollution will be from road traffic emissions associated with the Sites. Emissions associated development trips will have the potential to impact local air quality, notably concentrations of NO₂, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} are the main pollutants of concern arising from road-traffic emissions. As discussed above, the Sites are in close proximity to the Liverpool City AQMA where development trips have the potential to distribute to. Receptors within the Sites locale and adjacent to the affected road network include existing residential dwellings.
- 9.4.8. The proximity of the Phase 3 Site to the M62 means there is potential for new receptors to be introduced into an area of existing poor air quality, due to the anticipated emission contribution associated with high volumes of road traffic.
- 9.4.9. With regard to designated ecological sites, consideration of emissions from road traffic emissions must be given where development trips are predicted to occur on roads within 200m of a designation where habitats are potentially sensitive to air pollution. Operational phase development trips can impact upon sensitive habitats through ambient concentrations of oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and nitrogen and acid deposition. Of note is The Old Wood Ancient Woodland (AW), located immediately adjacent (and partially within) the south-western boundary of the Phase 3 Site. A review of the distributed trip generation will identify potential ecological receptors of relevance and inform further assessment requirements.

Scoped Out

- 9.4.10. Given the likely short-term nature of the construction phase, and the low volume of vehicle movements that will likely arise on a daily basis (when compared to the operational phase, for which it is proposed a detailed assessment will be undertaken), there is not considered to be any potential for significant air quality effects arising from road traffic emissions during the construction phase of the Proposed Development. Therefore, it is not proposed to consider construction phase road traffic emissions within the scope of the EIA.
- 9.4.11. With regard to construction phase Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM), IAQM guidance⁴⁵ states that *"experience of assessing the exhaust emissions from on-site plant (NRMM) and site traffic suggests that they are unlikely to make a significant impact on local air quality, and in the vast majority of cases they will not need to be quantitatively assessed"*. On this basis, it is considered unlikely that significant air quality effects from NRMM emissions will occur during the construction phase of the Proposed Development. Therefore, it is not proposed to consider construction phase plant (as NRMM) emissions within the scope of the EIA.

9.5. Scope and Methodology of Assessment (including significance criteria)

- 9.5.1. Given the intention to submit one planning application which will cover both Phase 2b and Phase 3, consideration will be given to the scenarios set out in Section 3.4 of this Report, and therefore each Site will be assessed individually and cumulatively. For example in the assessment of operational road traffic emission impacts for Phase 2b, we will base the

assessment on the impact of trip generation associated with Phase 2b but trips associated with Phase 3 will be considered as committed development in order to a cumulative impact assessment on air quality (and vice-versa for Phase 3).

- 9.5.2. The main sources of the pollutants of concern (NO₂, PM₁₀, PM_{2.5} and nuisance dust) constitute road traffic and construction activities. The impacts of these will be assessed via a Construction Phase Dust Assessment and an Operational Phase Detailed Road Traffic Emissions Assessment.
- 9.5.3. Baseline information to inform the assessments will be sought from KMBC Local Air Quality Management reports and Defra mapped background concentrations. A desktop study will be undertaken to evaluate the baseline information and the locations of sensitive receptors for inclusion within the respective assessments. The finer details of the assessments will be discussed with the Environmental Health Officer (EHO) at KMBC.

Construction Phase Dust Assessment

- 9.5.4. A qualitative construction phase dust assessment will be undertaken in accordance with the IAQM *Guidance on the Assessment Dust from Demolition and Construction*⁴⁵. The assessment will consider the magnitude of dust emissions associated with demolition, earthworks, construction and trackout activities and determine the level of risk in order to identify the required level of mitigation.

Operational Phase Road Traffic Emissions Assessment – Human Receptors

- 9.5.5. Vehicle trips associated with the operational phase of the Proposed Development will provisionally be compared to the *indicative criteria for assessment* (the 'criteria') as presented within the EPIC & IAQM Guidance⁴³ (i.e. >500 Light-Duty Vehicles (LDV: <3.5t) as an Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flow and/or >100 Heavy-Duty Vehicles (HDV: >3.5t) as an AADT for areas outside of an AQMA OR >100 LDVs as an AADT and/or >25 HDVs as an AADT for areas within or adjacent to an AQMA). Where the applicable criteria is not exceeded, a numerical screening assessment of development trips will be completed.
- 9.5.6. Where development trips are in excess of the *criteria*, a detailed assessment of road traffic emissions will be undertaken utilising the ADMS-Roads atmospheric dispersion modelling software to predict pollutant concentrations at locations of relevant exposure.
- 9.5.7. Annual mean concentrations of NO₂, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} will be predicted at existing and proposed sensitive receptor locations and compared against the relevant AQALs. Compliance with the 1-hour mean NO₂ and 24-hour mean PM₁₀ AQALs will be assessed following LAQM.TG(22).
- 9.5.8. Receptors for inclusion within the operational phase assessment of change of development trips will be based upon those roads projected to witness a 'significant' change in traffic flow, as defined by 'indicative criterion for assessment' within EPIC & IAQM guidance and based upon the extent of roads considered as part of the Transport Impact Assessment.
- 9.5.9. Road traffic emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} will be calculated from the most up-to-date Emissions Factors Toolkit (EFT) published by the Defra, presently v12.1. Modelling will be undertaken with appropriate 'do minimum' and 'do something' scenarios.

- 9.5.10. Modelled concentrations will be verified using monitoring data in the Proposed Development locale (as referred to above) in line with the methodology outlined within LAQM.TG(22). Verification factors will be calculated and applied across the modelling domain.
- 9.5.11. The overall significance of the 'effect' at human receptors, including those proposed receptors considered as part of the site-suitability assessment, will be determined based upon EPIC & IAQM guidance, which includes through the application of professional judgement.
- 9.5.12. The assessment will be completed by team members who carry appropriate membership with the IAQM and reviewed by a Chartered Scientist.

Operational Phase Road Traffic Emissions Assessment – Ecological Receptors

- 9.5.13. With regard to the previously identified ecological receptor (i.e. the Old Wood AW), vehicle trips associated with the operational phase of the Proposed Development will be screened following the approach defined by the JNCC Guidance on Decision-making Thresholds for Air Pollution⁴⁷, on the basis that it is adjacent to the strategic road network.
- 9.5.14. Any further ecological receptors later identified as being within 200m of the 'affected road network', and which include relevant sensitive habitats, will provisionally be screened following the approach defined by the IAQM Nature Guidance⁴⁴ and the JNCC⁴⁷, as relevant. Where the applicable criterion is not exceeded, a numerical screening assessment of development trips will be completed.
- 9.5.15. Where the criteria are exceeded, detailed dispersion modelling will be undertaken using the ADMS Roads dispersion model to predict NO_x road traffic emission impacts arising from Proposed Development trip generation, with corresponding 'do-minimum' and 'do-something' scenarios. The assessment will follow the 'simple assessment' procedure outlined in the IAQM Nature Guidance to calculate the change in annual mean NO_x concentrations to the Critical Level, and contributions to the nutrient nitrogen and acid Critical Loads in the Proposed Development opening year.
- 9.5.16. The overall significance of the 'effect' at ecological receptors will be determined based upon IAQM Nature Guidance. The overall significance of effect of any impacts predicted to be >1% of the applied criteria will be discussed with the ecology reporting.

Cumulative Effects

- 9.5.17. During the construction phase, cumulative effects can arise where committed development are being constructed concurrently or sequentially with the Proposed Development, if the committed developments and the Proposed Development share sensitive receptors within 250m of each other.
- 9.5.18. To ensure an assessment of cumulative effects during the operational phase road traffic emissions assessment, trip generation / distribution associated with relevant committed developments will be included within applied future year traffic data. This will ensure predicted absolute concentrations are inclusive of the additional road traffic associated with wider committed development, in addition to wider future traffic growth. Where any ecological receptors comprising 'European' habitats are identified, relevant trip 'in-combination' trip generation will be considered from committed developments and local plan allocations.

9.6. Preliminary Discussions of Potential Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

Construction Phase

- 9.6.1. The construction phase dust assessment, undertaken in accordance with the IAQM guidance, will provide a series of commensurate mitigation measures based upon the defined risk. It is not possible to determine the full extent of the mitigation measures prior to undertaking the assessment. However, the mitigation measures presented within the ES following the assessment will be suitable for inclusion within a CEMP.

Operational Phase

- 9.6.2. Prior to undertaking an appropriate assessment, it is not possible to advise on the required mitigation measures. Nonetheless, it is understood that the Proposed Development will include provision for Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points commensurate with the requirements of Approved Document S: Infrastructure for Charging Electric Vehicles of the Building Regulations.

Furthermore, a Travel Plan will be provided inclusive of measures to encourage future residents to switch to more sustainable modes of transport and reduce reliance on private car use. This will have a benefit on local air quality as it will promote fewer trips on the local road network.

10. Noise and Vibration

10.1. Introduction

- 10.1.1. An environmental noise chapter will be prepared by Hepworth Acoustics Ltd. This input to the scoping report is based upon our experience of carrying out noise assessments in connection with previous phases of development on the wider scheme, as well as undertaking an initial noise constraints assessment for this development. This experience has included making a number of site inspections and carrying out environmental noise surveys in the area.
- 10.1.2. The scope of the noise chapter will cover the noise impact of the Proposed Development primarily on existing noise-sensitive receptors in the area. This will include a noise assessment of the construction phase and the operational phase.
- 10.1.3. The latter will comprise a comparative study to investigate any likely increases in traffic noise on the local highway network as a result of traffic generated by the Proposed Development. Thus, the study area will include the development Site itself and extending outwards to residential areas adjacent to a sample of roads in the wider area, the extent/details of which will be informed by the project transportation consultants.
- 10.1.4. The impact of noise on the Proposed Development itself (i.e. from nearby roads will also be fully assessed and will be described within a separate report that will form a technical appendix to the noise chapter. Unless there are unfavourable ground conditions that would necessitate extensive pile driving or dynamic compaction works during the construction phase, we would propose to scope ground vibration out of the assessment for this Proposed Development.

10.2. Relevant Policy

Legislation

- 10.2.1. Additional statutory powers to control noise exist outside of the planning system, and the granting of planning permission does not remove the need to comply with these controls. The Control of Pollution Act 1974⁴⁸ contains powers for local authorities to deal with noise from construction sites.
- 10.2.2. The Environmental Protection Act 1990⁴⁹, as amended by the Noise and Statutory Nuisance Act 1993, which requires local authorities to serve notices where noise emitted from premises constitutes a statutory nuisance.

⁴⁸ Control of Pollution Act 1974. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1974/40/contents/enacted>

⁴⁹ Environmental Protection Act 1990, as amended by the Noise and Statutory Nuisance Act 1993. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents/enacted>

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)⁵⁰

- 10.2.3. Paragraph 187 of the NPPF states that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability.
- 10.2.4. The NPPF states at paragraph 198 that planning policies and decisions should also ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment, as well as the potential sensitivity of the Sites or the wider area to impacts that could arise from the development. In doing so they should:
- (a) mitigate and reduce to a minimum potential adverse impacts resulting from noise from new development – and avoid noise giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and the quality of life.
 - (b) identify and protect tranquil areas which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason.

Local Planning Policy

- 10.2.5. In relation to noise, the Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy includes policies aimed at controlling noise pollution to protect residential amenity and environmental quality.
- 10.2.6. Policy CS19⁵¹: Design Quality and Accessibility in New Development states that new development should not result in unacceptable impacts on the amenity of existing or future residents, including from noise pollution. Developments are expected to incorporate appropriate mitigation measures to minimize noise impacts. The policy emphasizes safeguarding recreational and other areas that are dependent on quiet conditions for their proper enjoyment. Development that introduces unacceptable noise levels will not be permitted. Additionally, developments that would result in an unacceptable impact on the occupiers of dwellings or other environmentally sensitive properties in terms of vibration will also not be allowed.
- 10.2.7. The Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan (UDP)⁵² saved policies, such as Policy ENV7: Environmental Protection, also place constraints on developments to avoid significant adverse effects from noise pollution.

10.3. Preliminary Assessment of Baseline Conditions

- 10.3.1. At the time of preparing the scoping study, noise monitoring at the Sites has been restricted to measurements in connection with establishing the potential impact of existing noise on the proposed residential elements of the Proposed Development. This has included an

⁵⁰ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2024). *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) December 2024*.

⁵¹ Knowsley Borough Council, 2016. *Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy: Policy CS19: Design Quality and Accessibility in New Development*. Knowsley: Knowsley Borough Council.

⁵² Knowsley Borough Council, 2006. *Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan (UDP) Saved Policies: Policy ENV7: Environmental Protection*. Knowsley: Knowsley Borough Council.

inspection of the Sites and daytime and night-time noise measurements around the perimeter of the Sites.

- 10.3.2. The Sites are located to the north of and in relatively close proximity to the M62 motorway. The main noise source in the area is therefore road traffic.
- 10.3.3. Other noise sources are likely to include aircraft, intermittent agricultural noise (vehicles, plant and livestock) and local traffic. It is proposed that the existing noise environment will be quantified for the ES.

10.4. Potential Effects

- 10.4.1. Potential impacts from the Proposed Development will likely be from the following:
 - Site Preparation;
 - Earthworks;
 - Construction;
 - Any noise associated with non-residential elements of the scheme; and
 - Increase in traffic on surrounding road network.
- 10.4.2. The above impacts include those which are likely to affect the residents of both existing and/or proposed dwellings. The impact of existing traffic noise on future residents of proposed dwellings will be considered and the corresponding noise impact assessment will be included as an appendix.
- 10.4.3. Construction noise impacts have the potential to be noticeable given the close proximity of existing receptors on the Halsnead Caravan Park and the size of the Proposed Development. However, construction noise will mainly be restricted to the Site preparation and earthworks phases at the start of the project.
- 10.4.4. The project proposes approximately 425 dwellings, c. 225 residential dwellings on Phase 2b and c. 200 residential dwellings on Phase 3, in addition to an Independent Living apartment building comprising c. 85 apartments and Residential Care Home development comprising c. 72 beds. The increase in road traffic associated with this Proposed Development on the local road network will be quantified as part of the ES.

10.5. Scope and Methodology of Assessment (including significance criteria)

- 10.5.1. Given the intention to submit one planning application which will cover both Phase 2b and Phase 3, consideration will be given to the scenarios set out in Section 3.4 of this Report.
- 10.5.2. The following is proposed as part of preparation of the ES Chapter:
 - Consultation exercise with Local Planning Authorities;
 - Review of noise impact assessment for proposed residential elements of the scheme;

- Quantifying baseline noise conditions at appropriate locations representative of existing dwellings nearest to the Proposed Development and at the location of proposed dwellings nearest to the non-residential elements of the development;
- Assessment of construction noise;
- Assessment of noise associated with potential changes in traffic flows due to the development; and
- Determining appropriate noise limits for non-residential elements of the scheme.

- 10.5.3. No specific operational phase sources of ground vibration are anticipated. As such unless any specific ground preparation works are identified that could potentially give rise to significant ground vibration, we anticipate scoping vibration out of the assessment and therefore is not referred to further below.
- 10.5.4. A baseline noise monitoring survey is proposed for representative periods of the daytime and night/early hours at a sample of existing residential locations and at a location representative of the nearest proposed dwellings to the non-residential elements of the development. The baseline noise monitoring will be undertaken in line with standard acoustic measurement practices and fully calibrated noise monitoring equipment will be used.
- 10.5.5. For the operational phase, a traffic noise assessment will be provided in a comparative study, evaluating the impact of potential changes in traffic noise on existing roads from traffic flow situations with and without development. Noise increases will be calculated in accordance with relevant guidance in calculation of "Road Traffic Noise" (1988) based on appropriate traffic flow data used in the Transport Assessment and impacts based upon the IEMA noise impact assessment guidelines. Cumulative noise impact considering relevant committed developments for which traffic data is available will also be undertaken.
- 10.5.6. Potential noise impact associated with the proposed non-residential elements of the scheme will be assessed in outline terms in line with relevant guidance (e.g. BS 4142:2014 for any fixed plant).
- 10.5.7. At this stage of the scheme development, it is not possible to undertake detailed calculations of construction noise levels as the information is not available regarding construction timetabling, plant types and specific build techniques on which to base a detailed assessment. However, due to the type of development, proposed construction impacts are highly unlikely to present any significant planning constraints and can be adequately mitigated by standard construction practices/measures.
- 10.5.8. A qualitative assessment will therefore be provided highlighting general requirements and best practice in terms of mitigation of construction noise based on the advice in BS 5228-1:2009+A1:2014. Reference will also be made to the ABC threshold approach in BS 5228 considering the results of the baseline noise survey.
- 10.5.9. The results of the baseline survey and assessment of noise associated with the development proposal during the operational phase and construction phase, along with any impacts/requirements for mitigation will be reported in an ES chapter in line with other subjects.

10.5.10. The significance of noise impacts will be assessed based on a matrix combining the magnitude of impact and the sensitivity of receptors. The following terminology is used to define noise effects.

- No Effect – No positive and/or negative influence from the Proposed Development;
- Adverse – detrimental or negative effects to an environmental resource or receptor;
- Negligible – imperceptible effects to an environmental resource or receptor; and
- Beneficial – advantageous or positive effects to an environmental resource or receptor.

10.5.11. Where adverse or beneficial noise effects have been identified, these are described using the following scale:

- Negligible – beneath levels of perception, within normal bounds of variation;
- Minor – slight, very short or highly localised effect;
- Moderate – limited effect (by extent, duration or magnitude), which may be important at a local scale; or
- Major – considerable effect (by extent, duration or magnitude) of more than local significance or in breach of recognised acceptability, legislation, policy or standards.

10.5.12. The duration of noise and vibration effects is defined as follows:

- Temporary – demolition and construction phase; or
- Permanent – completed and occupied development.

10.5.13. **Table 11.1** provides a matrix showing the significance of effects depending on the sensitivity of receptors and magnitude of impact.

Table 11.1 Significance of effect matrix

Sensitivity or Value of Resource / Receptor	Magnitude of Impact			
	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
High	Major	Major	Moderate	Minor
Medium	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible
Low	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	Negligible
Very Low	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

10.6. Preliminary Discussions of Potential Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

10.6.1. Where necessary appropriate outline noise mitigation measures will be recommended to adequately ameliorate noise impact on the proposed residential development. The outline noise mitigation measures will take account of guidance in British Standard 8233:2014.

- 10.6.2. For the construction phase, measures to mitigate noise impact will be recommended in accordance with guidance in BS 5228.
- 10.6.3. At this stage, during the operational phase, no noise mitigation measures are considered likely to be necessary for existing receptors on or near the existing highway network, but this will be reviewed as part of the assessment.

11. Topics to be 'Scoped Out'

11.1.1. The below topics are not proposed to be considered as separate chapters, however relevant information to support other disciplines will be provided where necessary as set out below.

11.2. Ecology and Biodiversity

Baseline Conditions

- 11.2.1. An ecology desktop survey consisting of a 10km search for international statutory designated sites, 5km for national statutory designated sites and 2km search for local statutory and non-statutory designated sites as well as protected and priority species has been undertaken, including information pertaining to the current Local Wildlife Site designations in the area.
- 11.2.2. Mersey Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) is situated 6.4km south of the Phase 3 Site. There are no designated sites of national importance within 5km of the Sites and there are none of regional or local importance within 2km of the Sites.
- 11.2.3. In total, there are 25 non-statutory locally designated sites within 2km. The three closest to the Site are The Old Wood Local Wildlife Site (LWS), Big Water and Big Water Wood LWS, both located directly adjacent to the west of the Phase 3 Site and Lickers Lane Wood LWS located 0.2km north of the Phase 2b Site.
- 11.2.4. Other LWS' that lie within 0.5km of the Sites include Woodland, Sandfield Park and Parrens Covert 0.2km north of the Phase 2b site; The Old Wood, South 0.2km south of the Phase 3 site, beyond the M62; Blundell Hills Golf Course 0.3km east of the Phase 2b site; Land, east of Fox's Bank Brook 0.5km southeast of the Phase 3 site, beyond the M62; and Strettles Bog and Minewaste, Cronton 0.5km south of the Phase 3 site, beyond the M62.
- 11.2.5. The Sites do not lie within any SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) – these are zones determined by Natural England that identify likely impacts upon SSSIs, SACs, SPAs or Ramsar sites that may result from planned development.
- 11.2.6. An extended Phase 1 habitat survey of the Sites and immediately adjoining land was carried out in Summer 2024. A tree survey, in accordance with BS 5837:2012, of the Sites was also undertaken in Summer 2024.
- 11.2.7. Protected habitat and species surveys were undertaken throughout Spring, Summer and Autumn of 2024 including a ground level tree assessment for bats, surveys for great crested newt (GCN) *Triturus cristatus*, bat activity surveys (including night-time bat walkover and static monitoring), and badger *Meles meles*.
- 11.2.8. The above surveys were carried out for the application Site and the adjoining landscape.
- 11.2.9. The Sites predominantly consists of mostly large arable fields, with some small areas of modified neutral grassland, woodland/scrub edge and tall ruderal habitat also present. There are also some treelines and scattered mature trees present on the Sites.
- 11.2.10. There is an area of ancient woodland (Old Wood) within the Sites, to the west of the Phase 3 area. This extends off-site and there are multiple other areas of deciduous woodland (S41) within 250m of the Sites. This area of ancient woodland will not be impacted as a result of

the development and an additional protective buffer of 15m from the woodland canopy edge will be retained, in accordance with Natural England's Standing Advice, between the development footprint and this area of important habitat. No construction works will be undertaken within this buffer.

- 11.2.11. A stand of Japanese knotweed *Reynoutria japonica* is present adjacent to the Phase 2b Site boundary to the southwest.
- 11.2.12. No confirmed breeding or sheltering habitats were found on Site in respect of any species that receive specific legal protection (GCN, badger or bats). Two trees on the Phase 3 Site were assessed to have suitability for roosting bats, although these are currently planned to be retained within the development plans as they lie on the western boundary of the Site, adjacent to Big Water and the ancient woodland..
- 11.2.13. However, habitats on Site provide suitable foraging and hibernating opportunities for common amphibians, reptiles, hedgehog, brown hare, badger and nesting birds. The habitats also provide some suitability for a range of invertebrates.
- 11.2.14. The treelines, woodland strips, grassland and scrub on Site provide suitable habitat for foraging and commuting bats.
- 11.2.15. Tree cover within the Sites is typical of open farmland with trees generally present along field and road boundaries. There are occasional open grown trees on these boundaries, but the most significant areas of tree cover comprise predominantly collective screening groups. The majority of tree cover is of moderate quality. There are some high quality trees, with the majority of these located within a single tree belt within the Phase 2B Site. This tree belt is also the only significant arboreal feature located internally within the Site and will largely be retained as part of the development proposals.
- 11.2.16. Larger individual trees tend to be beech and oak with groups of trees and outgrown hedgerows including oak, sycamore, hawthorn, ash, beech, silver birch, and willow amongst others.
- 11.2.17. A high-quality ancient woodland, known as Old Wood, forms the south-western boundary of the Phase 3 Site. The southern boundary of the Phase 3 Site is demarcated by a long linear screening belt located on the embankment of the M62 motorway. The eastern boundary of the Phase 2b Site is demarcated by a screening belt of trees adjacent to Fox's Bank Lane, all of which are to be largely retained as a result of the development proposals.

Assessment

- 11.2.18. Based on this review of the Sites and its surroundings, informed by a suite of surveys undertaken by TEP in 2024, it has been determined that there are no identified ecological receptors that would require detailed consideration within the main Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report. The key ecological receptor is the ancient woodland to the west of the Phase 3 Site. However, a 15m protective buffer from the ancient woodland canopy edge would be retained, with no construction works in this buffer, and therefore there would be no direct impacts as a result of development. Measures will also be included within the Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to avoid any indirect impacts on the woodland.

- 11.2.19. The ecological considerations for the project, including measures to manage indirect impacts on the ancient woodland, can be effectively addressed through standard mitigation measures typically employed in developments of this nature; such as the production of Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS), CEMP and Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS).
- 11.2.20. In addition, it is noted that the Proposed Development may have potentially indirect effects on locally designated sites. This will also be effectively addressed through standard measures outlined in the CEMP, such as dust, pollution and run off prevention measures, as well as addressing increased recreational pressure prevention measures. Information provided in the CEMP outside the ES, will allow the council to undertake the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Site.
- 11.2.21. In summary, while potential indirect and cumulative effects on local ecological designations will be acknowledged and addressed through the CEMP and separate HRA process, these effects are not considered significant for the purposes of the EIA. The development is not expected to result in likely significant effects on the integrity of any protected sites when considered in isolation or in combination with other developments, and therefore, these effects can be effectively assessed outside of the ES through standalone reporting and are therefore proposed to be Scoped out of the EIA.
- 11.2.22. Furthermore, no protected species, habitats, or key ecological features have been identified on-site that would necessitate inclusion in a dedicated Ecology chapter within the EIA. The potential ecological and arboricultural impacts associated with the development are anticipated to be minor, and therefore not considered significant in EIA terms, and can be adequately managed through established best practices, including the implementation of mitigation measures such as habitat creation, species protection plans, and avoidance strategies where appropriate.
- 11.2.23. As such, it is proposed that standalone Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) reports for each parcel will be prepared to address the ecological aspects in detail. These reports will outline the relevant baseline conditions, potential impacts, and mitigation measures in accordance with industry standards and regulatory requirements, ensuring that all ecological concerns are comprehensively managed outside of the EIA and resultant ES.
- 11.2.24. In addition to the EcIA reports, specific species survey reports for both amphibians (including GCN) and bats, will be produced and provided as standalone reports outside of the ES.
- 11.2.25. An Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) will also be undertaken for each parcel, following the approach advocated by BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations.
- 11.2.26. This approach will streamline the assessment process and ensure that the key ecological and arboricultural issues are addressed in a focused, efficient manner, without duplicating information already covered in the EcIA and AIA. For these reasons it is proposed that Ecology and Biodiversity is scoped out of the ES.

Biodiversity Net Gain

- 11.2.27. Although not considered within the remit of the EIA, for the avoidance of doubt, a biodiversity impact assessment will also be made of the Sites and the Proposed Development, using the metric in use at the time the planning application is submitted. The current version of the

metric is the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. This assessment examines the effect of the Proposed Development on all types of vegetation present on the Site, including those of limited ecological interest that fall outside the scope of Ecological Impact Assessment.

- 11.2.28. The current national and local planning policy framework requires mandatory 10% biodiversity net gain to be achieved by all development schemes (as of February 2024). The biodiversity net gain assessment is being undertaken at an early stage. Alternative development options (in terms of the amount, layout, and landscaping of the development) are being tested against the metric in order to maximise the potential for on-site biodiversity net gain to be achieved, as well as using adjoining land within the control of the applicant to create or restore habitats where feasible in order to achieve a net gain.
- 11.2.29. The biodiversity metric and the principles of “net gain” will be applied to the layout and design of new habitats to be incorporated into the Proposed Development. This will include surface water and sustainable drainage features, tree planting and new species-rich grasslands. The habitats will be designed and laid out in such a way as to connect and screen the development from the retained areas of the Green Belt in the north, in so far as is possible given technical and land-ownership constraints.
- 11.2.30. If, as is possible, there is a net loss of biodiversity units within Application Site boundary, additional measures will be identified on adjoining and nearby land under the control of the applicant to reduce the net loss. Advice will be sought from the Council on appropriate means to offset any residual net loss and secure a measurable net gain.
- 11.2.31. For the avoidance of doubt, whilst a biodiversity impact calculation will be submitted to the Council, using the biodiversity metric contemporary at the time of making the planning application, the applicant considers that the calculation is not part of the formal scope of the Environmental Statement, since it measures effects on a range of ecological features which are not sensitive and have no significance in respect of the purpose of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.
- 11.2.32. In addition to the above, in order to fully meet BNG requirements, a detailed 30-year habitat management and monitoring plan (HMMP) will also be provided. It is assumed that this information can be committed to using a suitably worded condition attached to the application's decision notice and so will not be required as part of the EIA.

11.3. Flood Risk and Drainage

- 11.3.1. A Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy is currently being prepared for each parcel in support of the application and will be submitted separately to the ES. From preparing this report, it is considered there are unlikely to be significant effects on the water environment, provided that the proposed drainage strategy for each parcel is implemented, alongside standard construction/practical mitigation measures.
- 11.3.2. The Sites lie solely within Flood Zone 1 based on the Environment Agency Flood Map for Planning, which, providing there is no increase in flood risk elsewhere due to the proposals, is appropriate for residential development. In the drafting of the FRAs, all sources of flood risk both to and resulting from the Proposed Development has been considered. Consultations with the Environment Agency, United Utilities, and Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council have been undertaken and responses from the Environment Agency and United Utilities did

not identify any historical incidents of flooding to the Sites. Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority are yet to respond.

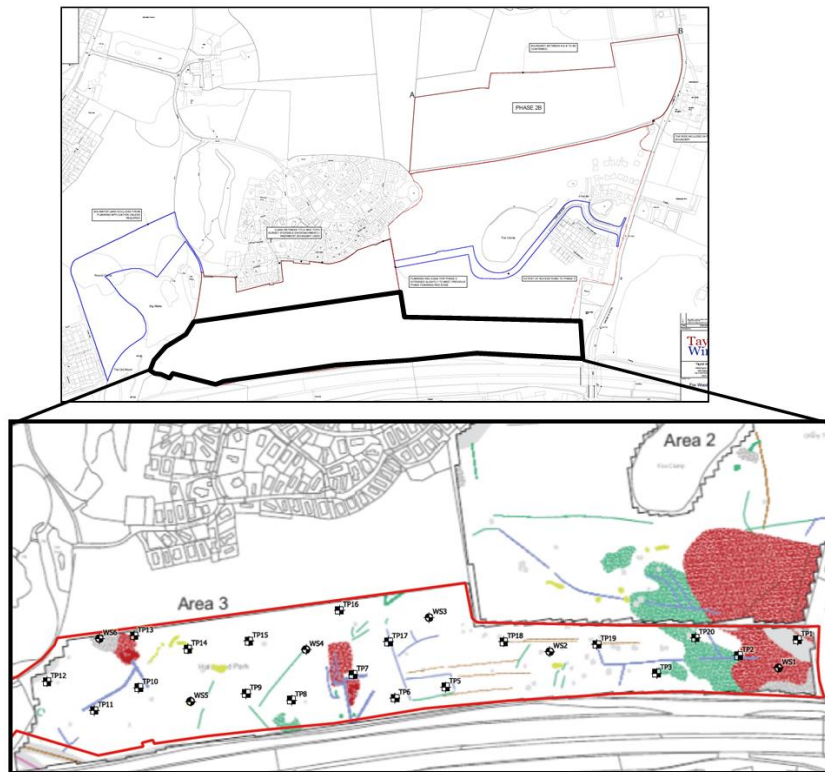
- 11.3.3. The nearest watercourse is Fox's Bank Brook located approximately 270m east of the Phase 2b Site and Whiston Brook approximately 600m south of the Phase 3 Site, which are both considered a 'Main River' by the Environment Agency. Whiston Brook flows south and connects into Foxes Bank Brook which ultimately outfalls into Logwood Mill Brook located approximately 1.5km south-west from the Sites. The fluvial flood risk to site from these sources is considered to be 'very low'.
- 11.3.4. The primary flood risk is considered to be from surface water flooding, this risk varies across the parcels from 'very low' to 'high' and is closely associated with the existing topography and the drainage features onsite. The risk associated with surface water flooding will however be inherently reduced as part of the proposals following the implementation of the sustainable surface water management infrastructure in accordance with standard Planning Practice Guidance. Surface water discharge options have been assessed in accordance with the sustainable drainage hierarchy, which is firstly discharge to ground, then to a watercourse and finally to a public sewer network. Based on the cohesive ground conditions identified by the published online dataset, infiltration is not likely to offer a viable drainage solution, this was confirmed during the site walkover.
- 11.3.5. Rates of discharge will be restricted to mimic the pre-development greenfield situation (QBar), in accordance with Planning Practice Guidance. The proposed onsite surface water drainage system will be sized to contain the 1 in 30yr return period event below ground with overland run-off from storm events up to and including the 1 in 100yr return period event with a 40% allowance for climate change being contained onsite. Consideration is also being given to features such as permeable surfaces, biofiltration, and ponds.
- 11.3.6. Given the low risk of flooding potential identified for the Sites and nearby areas, allied with the proposed implementation of best practice mitigation measures during the construction phase, including the implementation of sustainable drainage schemes, it is not considered that any significant adverse effects would result from the Proposed Development. It is therefore proposed to scope out flood risk and drainage from the ES.

11.4. Ground Conditions and Land Contamination

- 11.4.1. Betts Geo have been commissioned to provide an assessment of the potential ground conditions on the Sites for the Proposed Development for inclusion within the Scoping response.

Previous Reports

- 11.4.2. The southern half of the Phase 3 Site area has been subject to a number of assessments, including a Desk Study Report and a programme of Site Investigation. These assessments allowed a good understanding of the baseline conditions and potential significant effects as a result of developing the Sites. This report is included at **Appendix F** however an extract showing the investigation area can be seen below;



A Desk Study report or site investigation has not yet been undertaken on the northern half of the Phase 3 Area or on any of the Phase 2B area. As such, an initial assessment has been made for these areas using available online resources and review of the neighbouring site investigation for the adjacent phase 1 development area. A Phase 1 Desk Study and a Phase 2 Site Investigation Report will be prepared for the areas which have not yet been assessed and will be provided as an Appendix to the ES.

Southern Half of Phase 3

- 11.4.3. The report for the southern half of the Phase 3 Area concludes that ground conditions generally consist of topsoil which is a brown / dark clayey gravelly fine to sand over heterogeneous Made Ground over yellow or brown gravelly fine to coarse SAND in the east, or, yellow or brown gravelly fine to coarse sand over grey or reddish-brown clay / silt in the west. Rockhead was identified at 2.00mbgl or less. Whilst no coal thicker than 1.0m was encountered in the drilling on the majority of the Site, a small area of shallow coal 1.0m thick was proved to be present in the close proximity of the Ecclestone West Fault. There was no evidence of any mining activity in any of the boreholes, the strata being consistently firm and hard with no soft drilling or loss of water flush.
- 11.4.4. No significantly elevated contamination was identified during the site investigation works, therefore no remedial works are required in relation to contamination.
- 11.4.5. In regard to ground gas, two elevated results for carbon dioxide were encountered in WS2 above the typical maximum concentration threshold of 5%v/v. All other boreholes exhibited no significantly elevated or depleted gas concentrations or gas screening values. Based on this, the Site was assessed as 'Amber 1 / CS2' protection within the vicinity of WS2 with the remainder of Site assessed as 'Green / CS1' – no gas protection measures will likely be

required. Providing this mitigation measure is implemented, there is not considered to be significant impacts in regard to ground gas as a result.

- 11.4.6. On review of the work undertaken to date, including a conceptual site model, it is not considered that the Proposed Development would lead to significant impacts in EIA terms in relation to ground conditions / contamination in the southern half of the Phase 3 Area, providing the recommended remediation measures (as identified in **Appendix F**) are implemented where deemed necessary. Ground conditions in this area are therefore proposed to be scoped out of the ES.

Northern Half of Phase 3 & Full Phase 2B Area

- 11.4.7. As previously mentioned, a Desk Study report or site investigation has not yet been undertaken for these parcels, and as such it is difficult to comment on the actual ground conditions that may be on Site.
- 11.4.8. Online geology resources show the geology of the site to be in line with the surrounding area:
- Superficial Deposits – Glacial Till, Devensian – Sands, Clay and Gravels.
 - Bedrock Deposits – Kinnerton Sandstone and Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation.
- 11.4.9. As no site investigation has yet been undertaken, the contamination status, ground gas status or coal mining status of the Site cannot be confirmed. However, a Phase 1 Desk Study and a Phase 2 Site Investigation will be undertaken to confirm this and will support the planning application.
- 11.4.10. As per previous phases, it is likely that if anything of significance is found during the site investigation, mitigation measures will be recommended and providing these mitigation measures are implemented, there is not considered to be significant impacts in regard to ground conditions as a result. Ground conditions in this area are therefore proposed to be scoped out of the ES and can be dealt with through standalone reporting rather than through its own chapter within the ES.

11.5. Agricultural Resources

- 11.5.1. Whilst it is acknowledged the Sites include Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land, the Sites has been allocated for development in the knowledge of this and has already been recognised that the loss of this land would be an impact of any development. The allocation of this land therefore indicates that the loss of agricultural land is considered to be acceptable. The consented and under construction Phase 2a Site (planning reference 20/00417/FUL) is also located on Grade 2 land as shown by Natural England's Provisional Agricultural Land Classification Map and is therefore also considered BMV. The consented planning application for Phase 2a also indicates that the loss of agricultural land is considered to be acceptable.
- 11.5.2. Notwithstanding this, it is also acknowledged that the Proposed Development will not result in a significant loss of BMV soil resource, as the BMV land comprises less than 20 ha, in

accordance with Natural England guidance⁵³. If deemed applicable, topsoil resources could be preserved for reuse; this measure could be secured by condition where required. For these reasons it is proposed that Agricultural Resources are scoped out of the ES.

11.6. Climate Change

- 11.6.1. Regulation 4(2)(c) of the 2017 EIA Regulations requires significant effects on climate to be considered, as appropriate, within the EIA process. In addition, Schedule 4 to the 2017 EIA Regulations requires likely significant effects resulting from *“the impact of the project on climate...and the vulnerability of the project to climate change”* to be addressed within an ES where relevant.
- 11.6.2. Given the nature of the Proposed Development, it is not considered that there will be a significant impact in relation to ‘climate change’ in EIA terms relating to greenhouse gas emissions or any future significant impacts arising from climate change that would require significant adaptation within the Proposed Development. It is therefore not proposed that ‘climate change’ will be assessed as an individual topic, however, will be addressed within relevant chapters, as appropriate, such as Air Quality.
- 11.6.3. With regards to the impact on the Proposed Development on climate change, as with the majority of construction projects, it is acknowledged that the construction phase will result in the use of energy-intensive materials (e.g., concrete and metals) as well as fossil fuels for construction plant and vehicles. Once occupied, the Proposed Development would also import electricity from the national grid for consumption. However, the scale and nature of the development is limited in the context of the residential sector and the local administrative area and (drawing upon the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment’s Environmental Impact Assessment Guide to: Assessing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Evaluating their Significance, 2022) such activities, during construction and operation, will not have a significant effect on the climate.
- 11.6.4. With regard to the vulnerability of the Proposed Development to climate change, potential climate-related flood risks will be considered within the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) outside the ES. Suitable mitigation will be embedded into the Proposed Development to ensure that there are no significant risks of flooding on the Site, and to not exacerbate any flood risk off the Sites.
- 11.6.5. The impacts of the Proposed Development on climate change and resilience of the Proposed Development to the changing climate have formed an integral part of the masterplanning process. Considerations have included future-proofing and resilience measures such as the implementation of Electric Vehicle charging to minimise the use of fossil fuel combustion engines, the careful orientation of residential dwellings to avoid overheating in hotter temperatures, and water saving measures.
- 11.6.6. Given the nature of the Proposed Development, it is not considered that there will be a significant impact in relation to ‘climate change’ in EIA terms relating to greenhouse gas emissions or any future significant impacts arising from climate change that would require

⁵³ Natural England (2012) Agricultural Land Classification: protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land (TIN049) [online] available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35012> [last accessed 28th June 2024].

significant adaptation within the Proposed Development. It is therefore not proposed that 'climate change' will be assessed as an individual topic, however, will be addressed within the Air Quality, as appropriate.

11.7. Material Assets

- 11.7.1. Material assets in EIA is a very broad term which considers both physical and non-physical sectors that could be said to have material value. On review of the Sites location and context, it is not considered there are any further 'material assets' to those already addressed within other EIA topics, and therefore no further consideration of material assets is proposed within the EIA and resultant ES.

11.8. Wind Microclimate

- 11.8.1. It is not considered the Proposed Development would result in significant effects on human receptors in relation to wind microclimate. The Sites are located in a predominantly undeveloped area, and there are therefore no existing or proposed tall buildings which may create trapped vortices/wind tunnelling, nor are there many existing human receptors that could be adversely affected by the proposed built form and any potential changes in microclimate. The Lawson Criteria is the most common set of guidelines used when considering the potential effect of wind microclimate, and considers different pedestrian activities, with the principal being that the quieter activities such as 'sitting', require lighter winds to be 'acceptable' than other activities such as 'business walking'. The design of the buildings will seek to reduce any potential impacts as a result of wind.
- 11.8.2. Given the location of the Sites, and the design of the buildings, it is considered appropriate that wind microclimate is scoped out of the EIA and resultant ES.

11.9. Daylight, Sunlight and Overshadowing

- 11.9.1. The Sites are located in a predominantly undeveloped area, and there are no residential buildings or other sensitive uses close enough such that the proposed built form on the Sites could cause significant changes to daylight, sunlight or cause overshadowing. The design of the Proposed Development will also seek to reduce any excessive shadowing, by the consideration of roof treatments. The materials used for the buildings will also seek to reduce unnecessary glare.
- 11.9.2. Given the location of the Sites, and the likely design of the buildings, it is considered appropriate that impacts on daylight, sunlight, overshadowing and glare are scoped out of the EIA and resultant ES.

11.10. Electronic Interference

- 11.10.1. It is not considered that the Proposed Development would cause electronic interference and therefore this is proposed to be scoped out of the EIA and resultant ES.

11.11. Waste

- 11.11.1. All waste from the Proposed Development will be managed in accordance with all applicable legislation and best practice during both the construction and operational phases and no

significant effects are anticipated. Large quantities of waste are not anticipated. This topic is therefore proposed to be scoped out of the forthcoming ES.

11.12. Vulnerability to Major Accidents and Disasters

- 11.12.1. The Sites are not in a location which is at risk of disasters, such as land instability, significant flooding, or earthquakes. Furthermore, the Proposed Development is of a nature which is unlikely to produce significantly increased risk of accidents or natural disasters during its construction or operation that would go beyond the existing local context. During the construction phase, the contractor(s) would implement measures in accordance with Health and Safety legislation, and best practice, to minimise the risks of accidents that would have effects on people or the environment. All such measures would form part of the CEMP, which would be secured through a planning condition to any planning permission.
- 11.12.2. Other disciplines of the ES will ensure that the proposals are designed to withstand impacts of flooding, including consideration of climate change, and development will be designed in accordance with industry standards / relevant building regulations. No likely significant effects are anticipated and therefore it is proposed that the topic is scoped out of the ES.

12. Structure of the Environmental Statement

- 12.1.1. The ES will report the findings of the EIA and will address the requirements of Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations, as set out in section 4.
- 12.1.2. The ES is anticipated to include 2 Volumes:
- Volume 1: Environmental Statement Main Text: sets out the findings to each of the environmental disciplines, including accompanying Figures (i.e., plans/drawings)
 - Volume 2: Accompanying Technical Appendices: supports the main assessments within Volume 1; and
 - Non-Technical Summary (NTS) would also be provided as a separate document.
- 12.1.3. The anticipated structure and content of Volume 1 (and Volume 2 where applicable) of the ES is likely to be as follows:
- Introduction;
 - EIA Scope and Methodology;
 - The Application Site
 - Proposed Development and Alternatives;
 - Socio-Economics;
 - Landscape and Visual;
 - Cultural Heritage (incl. Archaeology);
 - Transport and Access;
 - Air Quality;
 - Noise and Vibration;
 - Summary;
 - Glossary; and
 - References.
- 12.1.4. Within each of the assessment chapters the main structure of the information presented, although not exclusively, will be as per the following headings:
- Introduction
 - Assessment Approach (including methodology, assessment of significance, legislative and policy framework, scoping criteria, limitation)

- Baseline Conditions
- Assessment of Likely Significant Effects (Assessment of Impacts, including construction and operation)
- Mitigation, Enhancement and Residual Effects
- Cumulative and in-combination effects
- Summary

12.1.5. It is intended that the planning application be accompanied by one ES, however in order to ensure any permission is severable and that sufficient consideration is given to relevant cumulative effects, it is proposed that the ES would assess the following different scenarios for each 'scoped in' discipline:

- Phase 2b site (with relevant consideration to what is in the 'baseline');
- Phase 3 site (with relevant consideration to what is in the 'baseline');
- Phase 2b and 3 together (with relevant consideration to what is in the 'baseline'); and
- Cumulative assessment (remaining sites which are not considered as part of the baseline)

12.1.6. Given the need to assess various scenarios, an example structure chapter is provided in **Appendix D** for comment.

13. Environmental Statement Scoping Summary

- 13.1.1. This Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report has been prepared by Pegasus Group on behalf of Taylor Wimpey Limited (the 'Applicant') in respect of land within Halsnead Garden Village, Knowsley, known as Phase 2b and Phase 3 ('the Sites').
- 13.1.2. Phase 2b extends to approximately 8.2ha and Phase 3 extends to approximately 9.12ha, within the administrative area of Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council (KMBC). It is the intention that one planning application will be submitted to encompass approximately 425 dwellings, c. 225 residential dwellings on Phase 2b and c. 200 residential dwellings on Phase 3, in addition to an Independent Living apartment building comprising c. 85 apartments (use class C3) and Residential Care Home development comprising c. 72 beds (use class C2), approximately 4,000sqft Convenience Store on Phase 2b, and associated open space, access and related infrastructure on both parcels. Whilst this is being sought under one planning application, it is acknowledged these could be delivered separately and therefore needs to be considered and assessed appropriately in accordance with EIA Regulations.
- 13.1.3. This Scoping Report has been prepared to accompany a formal EIA Scoping Request to Knowsley Council under Regulation 15 of *The Town and Country Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017* (as amended) and has set out the proposed scope of the EIA and resultant Environmental Statement (ES) which is anticipated to the planning application.
- 13.1.4. As outlined and justified within this Scoping Report, it is proposed the ES will consider the topics listed in **Table 14.1** below.

Table 14.1 Summary of Proposed ES Scope

EIA Topic	Scoped In / Out	Where Addressed within ES
Population	Scoped in	To be assessed within the Socio-Economic Chapter
Human Health	Scoped in	To be assessed within various chapters as follows: Socio-Economic, Air Quality, Noise, Landscape and Visual and Transport
Biodiversity (e.g. flora and fauna)	Scoped out	Assuming standard mitigation measures, it is not considered that the Proposed Development is likely to result in significant effects on ecology or arboriculture features on Site. It is therefore not proposed to include a specific chapter regarding biodiversity (further details are provided in Chapter 11).
Land (e.g. land take)	Scoped in	To be assessed within the Landscape and Visual Chapter

Soil	Scoped out	Given the Site is unlikely to include significant areas of contamination, and the loss of any BMV soils would be under 20ha, it is proposed soil, land contamination and Agricultural Resources is scoped out. It is also noted that the principle of development has been accepted through its allocation.
Water	Scoped out	Assuming standard mitigation measures, it is not considered the Proposed Development is likely to result in significant effects on the water environment and has been proposed to scope out this discipline.
Air	Scoped in	To be assessed within the Air Quality Chapter
Climate	Scoped in	Climate to be assessed within other chapters, such as Air Quality. Given the nature of the proposals, it is not considered that there will be a significant impact in relation to 'climate change' in EIA terms relating to greenhouse gas emissions or any future significant impacts arising from climate change that would require adaptation within the Proposed Development. It is therefore not proposed to include a specific chapter regarding climate change mitigation and adaptation (refer to Chapter 11 for further discussion).
Material Assets ⁵⁴	Scoped out	It is not considered there are any further 'material assets' to those already addressed within other EIA topics that may result in further significant effects
Cultural Heritage (Architectural & Archaeological aspects)	Scoped in	To be assessed within the Cultural Heritage Chapter
Landscape	Scoped in	To be assessed in the Landscape and Visual Chapter
Interrelationship between above factors	Scoped in	Within each topic chapter and Summary

⁵⁴ Material Assets can be defined as follows: "The EIA Regulations refer to 'material assets', including architectural and archaeological heritage aspects. The phrase 'material assets' has a broad scope, which may include assets of human or natural origin, valued for socioeconomic or heritage reasons. Material assets are in practice considered across a range of topic areas within an ES, in particular historic environment and socio-economics". Source: <https://digital-eia.rpsgroup.com/EnvironmentalAssessment.html>

- 13.1.5. The Applicant looks forward to receiving the Local Planning Authority's Scoping Opinion within 5 weeks, as set out within Regulation 15 of the EIA Regulations 2017 (as amended).

Appendix A – Site Location Plan

Appendix B – Cumulative Sites Plan



Appendix C – Schedule 4 EIA Regulations

Appendix D – Example Structure of the Technical ES Chapters

Appendix E – LVIA Figures

Appendix F – Geo-Environmental Desk Study

Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

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