

Appendix 6.2 Viewpoint Assessment

Introduction

This Appendix provides an assessment of the visual effects of the Proposed Development from a selection of 11 viewpoints. For each of the assessment viewpoints a short description is given of the baseline view followed by a description of the features of the Proposed Development which would be visible from that viewpoint. For each viewpoint there is a comment on how vegetation, buildings or topography would affect the visibility of the Proposed Development, as well as giving a comment on the sensitivity of the viewpoint, the magnitude of change experienced and the significance of visual impacts. Finally, a judgement is provided regarding whether the overall effect for each viewpoint is considered to be significant or not in terms of the EIA Regulations.

A summary of the sensitivity of the viewpoint, magnitude of change in the view and significance of effect is given in **Table 6.1** of this Appendix. Where a viewpoint is representative of more than one type of visual receptor, the significance rating represents the most sensitive receptor group represented by the viewpoint.

Appendix 6.2 Viewpoint Assessment

6.1. Viewpoint 1: Home Farm Road

Baseline View and Sensitivity

- 6.1.1. This viewpoint is taken from Home Farm Road, a residential road adjacent to the northern boundary of the Site. Due to the proximity of the Site, views are possible by adjacent residents and by those driving or walking along Home Farm Road. Some direct views are filtered by the mature established hedgerow along the Site boundary, by trees along the road and by parked cars on driveways or along the road.
- 6.1.2. Views beyond the Site are limited by vegetation along the southern and eastern boundaries, by the two areas of woodland within the Site itself and by woodland to the west of Knowsley Lane (B5194).
- 6.1.3. The residents along Home Farm Road would have a high susceptibility and to the Proposed Development and a medium to high value, which would equate to a high sensitivity.

Magnitude of Change and Significance

- 6.1.4. Due to the proximity of the Proposed Development to the Site, construction activity would be clearly noticeable in the foreground, filtered in part by the intervening hedgerow along the road. A medium to high magnitude of change is predicted during construction, which would result in a **Moderate to Major** adverse level of effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.
- 6.1.5. Upon operation of the Proposed Development, views towards the new houses would be clearly noticeable by local residents and by those driving and walking along the road, filtered in part by the retained foreground vegetation along the road. Although some proposed tree and scrub planting would be in place adjacent to the existing vegetation, it would not yet be visually effective. A medium to high magnitude of change is predicted to continue at Year 1 of operation, which would result in a **Moderate to Major** adverse level of effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.
- 6.1.6. With the benefit of maturing tree and scrub planting along the northern boundary, some direct views towards the Proposed Development would be filtered and appear integrated with the adjacent developed edge. A medium magnitude of change is predicted at Year 15 of operation, which would result in a **Moderate** adverse level of effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

6.2. Viewpoint 2: Junction of Knowsley Lane and Home Farm Road

Baseline View and Sensitivity

- 6.2.1. This viewpoint is taken from the south-western edge of Knowsley village adjacent to residential properties, at the junction between Knowsley Lane (B5194) and Home Farm Road. Views into the Site are curtailed by mature field boundary hedgerows along both Knowsley Road and Home Farm Road. Views beyond the Site to the east and south are enclosed by woodland adjacent to the Site. Views further to the west and south-west are enclosed by vegetation adjacent to Knowsley Road, including large areas of woodland. Both roads are lit, with different scale streetlights, the lights along Knowsley Road being taller.

- 6.2.2. When considering the speed of the road, where drivers do not appear to be using the route primarily for recreational activities or the specific enjoyment of the landscape and balancing susceptibility and value, the sensitivity equates to medium.

Magnitude of Change and Significance

- 6.2.3. Due to the proximity of road users to construction associated with the Proposed Development, activity would be clearly noticeable in the foreground. Sections of the hedgerow would be removed to accommodate the Proposed Development further along Knowsley Lane, which would open up views towards construction activity further along the road. However, construction activity in the foreground would be partly filtered by the intervening hedgerows along both Knowsley Lane and Home Farm Road. The Proposed Development would also be set back from the edge of both roads. A medium magnitude of change is predicted during construction, which would result in a **Moderate** adverse level of effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.
- 6.2.4. Upon operation of the Proposed Development, views towards the new houses would be clearly noticeable by those using the road, seen above the intervening roadside hedgerows. The Proposed Development would be set back from the edge of the Site due to the location of attenuation basins. Although some proposed tree and scrub planting would be in place within public open spaces adjacent to the roads, it would not yet be visually effective. A medium magnitude of change is predicted to continue at Year 1 of operation, which would result in a **Moderate** adverse level of effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.
- 6.2.5. With the benefit of maturing tree and scrub planting along Site boundaries, direct views towards the Proposed Development would be filtered and appear integrated with the adjacent developed edge. A medium to low magnitude of change is predicted at Year 15 of operation, which would result in a **Moderate to Minor** adverse level of effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

6.3. Viewpoint 3: Knowsley Lane / Fluker's Brook Lane (Bridleway KN/5/1)

Baseline View and Sensitivity

- 6.3.1. This viewpoint is taken from Knowsley Lane (B5194) at the junction with Fluker's Brook Lane, which as well as a minor road, is also a bridleway. Glimpsed views are possible into the Site over the established native hedgerow, which defines the western boundary. Properties along Home Farm Road are clearly visible to the north of the Site, set amongst woodland beyond. Woodland along eastern and southern boundaries of the Site is visible on the skyline, which limits more distant views beyond.
- 6.3.2. Although the sensitivity of Knowsley Road is considered to be less sensitive, those using the bridleway along the route of Fluker's Brook Lane are considered to have a greater susceptibility and value, with the sensitivity equating to high.

Magnitude of Change and Significance

- 6.3.3. Due to the proximity of road and bridleway users to construction associated with the Proposed Development, activity would be clearly noticeable in the foreground. Sections of the hedgerow would be removed to accommodate the Proposed Development along Knowsley Lane, which would create open views towards construction activity. Although construction activity in the foreground would be partly filtered by the intervening hedgerows along the road and set back

Appendix 6.2 Viewpoint Assessment

from the edge of the road, most construction activity would be visible above the intervening vegetation. A medium to high magnitude of change is predicted during construction, which would result in a **Moderate to Major** adverse level of effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

- 6.3.4. Upon operation of the Proposed Development, views towards the new houses would be clearly noticeable by those using the roads and bridleway, seen above the intervening roadside hedgerows and through the gaps created by new roads. The Proposed Development would be set back from the edge of the Site, with a public open space located directly adjacent to the road. Although some planting, including proposed tree and scrub planting, would be in place within public open spaces adjacent to the western boundary of the Site, it would not yet be visually effective. A medium to high magnitude of change is predicted to continue at Year 1 of operation, which would result in a **Moderate to Major** adverse level of effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.
- 6.3.5. With the benefit of maturing planting, including proposed tree and scrub planting along the western boundary, direct views towards the Proposed Development would be filtered. A medium magnitude of change is predicted at Year 15 of operation, which would result in a **Moderate** adverse level of effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

6.4. Viewpoint 4: Knowsley Lane (B5194) near Knowsley Cottage

Baseline View and Sensitivity

- 6.4.1. This viewpoint is taken from Knowsley Lane (B5194) in proximity to Knowsley Cottage, located to the west of the road. Direct views into the Site are obscured by the established native hedgerow, which defines the western boundary and seen in context of the lighting columns and bus signage in the foreground adjacent to Knowsley Lane. Glimpses of roof tops associated with properties along Home Farm Road to the north of the Site are possible above the intervening foreground vegetation. Dense woodland to the south of the Site is evident. An area of dense vegetation physically and visually separates Knowsley Cottage from the road and the Site.
- 6.4.2. When considering the speed of the road, where drivers do not appear to be using the route primarily for recreational activities or the specific enjoyment of the landscape and balancing susceptibility and value, the sensitivity equates to medium.

Magnitude of Change and Significance

- 6.4.3. Due to the proximity of road users to construction associated with the Proposed Development, activity would be clearly noticeable in the foreground. Sections of the hedgerow would be removed to accommodate the Proposed Development further along Knowsley Lane, which would create open views towards construction activity further along the road. However, construction activity in the foreground would be partly filtered by the intervening hedgerows along both Knowsley Lane, as well as by woodland to the south of the Site. The Proposed Development would also be set back from the edge of the road. A medium magnitude of change is predicted during construction, which would result in a **Moderate** adverse level of effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.
- 6.4.4. Upon operation of the Proposed Development, views towards the new houses would be clearly noticeable by those using the road, seen above the intervening roadside hedgerow. The Proposed Development would be set back from the edge of the Site due to the location of linear public open space and would allow for retention and enhancement of existing areas of scrub.

Although some proposed tree and scrub planting would be planted within public open spaces to supplement existing vegetation, it would not yet be visually effective. A medium magnitude of change is predicted to continue at Year 1 of operation, which would result in a **Moderate** adverse level of effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

- 6.4.5. With the benefit of maturing existing and proposed scrub planting and proposed tree planting along Site boundaries, direct views towards the Proposed Development would be filtered. A medium to low magnitude of change is predicted at Year 15 of operation, which would result in a **Moderate to Minor** adverse level of effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

6.5. Viewpoint 5: Knowsley Lane (B5194)

Baseline View and Sensitivity

- 6.5.1. This viewpoint is taken from Knowsley Lane (B5194), located approximately 0.1km to the south-west of the Site. Views along the road towards the Site are limited by the mature woodland and stone wall to the east of the road, as well as by vegetation to the west of the road. Glimpses towards the Site are possible, limited by the established native hedgerow, which defines the western Site boundary. Glimpses of residential properties along Home Farm Road are also possible to the north-west of the Site, with mature woodland on the skyline beyond.
- 6.5.2. When considering the speed of the road, where drivers do not appear to be using the route primarily for recreational activities or the specific enjoyment of the landscape and balancing susceptibility and value, equates to a medium sensitivity.

Magnitude of Change and Significance

- 6.5.3. Glimpses of construction activity would be possible within the Site, seen over the established native hedgerow along the western Site boundary. Most views towards construction would be obscured by mature woodland to the east of the road. The removal of sections of the hedgerow would serve to marginally increase visibility of construction activity. A low magnitude of change is predicted during construction, which would result in a **Moderate to Minor** adverse level of effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.
- 6.5.4. With public open spaces located adjacent to western and southern boundaries, any glimpses of the Proposed Development would be set back from the edge of the road. Although there would be the retention and enhancement of existing areas of scrub, along with proposed tree and scrub planting within public open spaces, it would not yet be visually effective. A low magnitude of change is predicted to continue at Year 1 of operation, which would result in a **Moderate to Minor** adverse level of effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.
- 6.5.5. With the benefit of maturing existing and proposed scrub planting and proposed tree planting along Site boundaries, glimpsed views towards the Proposed Development would be mostly filtered. A very low magnitude of change is predicted at Year 15 of operation, which would result in a **Minor** adverse level of effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

6.6. Viewpoint 6: Eastern end of Home Farm Road, within the Site

Baseline View and Sensitivity

- 6.6.1. This viewpoint is taken close to an access point into the Site from Home Farm Road, allowing informal access to the Site by members of the public. Views across the Site are possible

Appendix 6.2 Viewpoint Assessment

including to the north-east and south-east. View to central and south-western parts of the Site are curtailed by intervening vegetation along Home Farm Road. Residential properties along Parklands are possible to the north-east of the Site. Woodland along the eastern boundary, as well as foreground vegetation limits views beyond the Site to the west. Views towards Stanley Grange Business Village are also obscured by foreground vegetation. Overhead powerlines attached to wooden poles are visible in the foreground.

- 6.6.2. The combined susceptibility and value of those using this informal route is deemed to be of high sensitivity.

Magnitude of Change and Significance

- 6.6.3. Vegetation would be removed in the foreground to accommodate construction access to the north-eastern corner of the Site. Construction activity would appear prominent both to the north-east and south-east due to its proximity. A high magnitude of change is predicted during construction, which would result in a **Major** adverse level of effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.
- 6.6.4. Upon completion, the Proposed Development would be clearly noticeable in the immediate foreground, including a connecting road between areas of proposed housing. Although set within a public open space with new planting and the retention of existing vegetation beyond the foreground road, the proposed planting would not yet be visually effective. A medium to high magnitude of change is predicted at Year 1, which would result in a **Moderate to Major** adverse level of effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.
- 6.6.5. With the benefit of maturing proposed planting within the public open space and surrounding proposed housing, views of the Proposed Development would appear integrated, with some direct views filtered. However, due to the proximity of the Proposed Development, a medium magnitude of change is predicted at Year 15 of operation, which would result in a **Moderate** adverse level of effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

6.7. Viewpoint 7: Ross Close

Baseline View and Sensitivity

- 6.7.1. The viewpoint is taken from the end of Ross Close from an access point into the Site, allowing informal access to the Site by members of the public. The viewpoint is representative of those using the informal access as well as views from properties along Ross Close, Sugar Lane and Berry Hill Avenue. Views are contained mostly to within the Site by surrounding residential properties including vegetation along garden boundaries and woodland along the eastern boundary. Glimpses are possible towards Stanley Grange Business Village which lies adjacent to the north-eastern boundary of the Site. Views towards central and western parts of the Site are curtailed by intervening vegetation and buildings within southern parts of Knowsley.
- 6.7.2. The susceptibility and value of both nearby residents and those using this informal route would equate to a high sensitivity.

Magnitude of Change and Significance

- 6.7.3. Construction activity would appear prominent in the immediate foreground, albeit offset by an open green corridor and with areas of woodland and scrub to the north-east retained. A high magnitude of change is predicted during construction, which would result in a **Major** adverse level of effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

- 6.7.4. Upon completion, the Proposed Development would be clearly noticeable in the immediate foreground. Proposed planting within a narrow corridor along the edge of the Site would not yet be visually effective. A medium to high magnitude of change is predicted at Year 1, which would result in a **Moderate to Major** adverse level of effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.
- 6.7.5. With the benefit of maturing proposed planting within areas of public open space and surrounding proposed housing, views of the Proposed Development would appear integrated, with some direct views filtered. However, due to the proximity of the Proposed Development, a medium magnitude of change is predicted at Year 15 of operation, which would result in a **Moderate** adverse level of effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

6.8. Viewpoint 8: Parklands

Baseline View and Sensitivity

- 6.8.1. The viewpoint is taken from the end of Parklands cul-de-sac, with views towards the Site filtered mature vegetation between properties. Some limited glimpses are possible through vegetation and over garden walls and vegetation of properties along Parklands. Properties within Berry Hill Avenue and Home Farm Road limit views towards central and eastern parts of the Site.
- 6.8.2. The residents along Parklands would have a high susceptibility and to the Proposed Development and a medium to high value, which would equate to a high sensitivity.

Magnitude of Change and Significance

- 6.8.3. The existing woodland along the boundary would be retained, therefore, limiting views towards construction activity within north-eastern parts of the Site to limited glimpses only. A medium to low magnitude of change is predicted during construction, which would result in a **Moderate to Minor** adverse level of effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.
- 6.8.4. Upon completion, the Proposed Development would be glimpsed through the retained vegetation located surrounding the periphery of the Site. The Proposed Development would be offset from the edge of the Site, allowing incorporation of areas of public open space with associated proposed planting. Proposed planting along the edge of the Site would not yet be visually effective. A medium to low magnitude of change is predicted at Year 1, which would result in a **Moderate to Minor** adverse level of effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.
- 6.8.5. With the benefit of maturing proposed planting within areas of public open space and surrounding proposed housing, views of the Proposed Development would be further filtered. A low magnitude of change is predicted at Year 15 of operation, which would result in a **Moderate to Minor** adverse level of effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

6.9. Viewpoint 9: Entrance to Stanley Grange Business Village, Ormskirk Road

Baseline View and Sensitivity

- 6.9.1. The viewpoint is taken from Ormskirk Road, at the entrance road towards Stanley Grange Business Village, with a private access to Knowsley Park at the end of the road. The entrance road benefits from mature tree planting on both sides and a wall to the south, which limits views towards the Site as well as towards the business village itself. Some limited glimpses are possible towards the north-eastern corner of the Site, with views towards the wider Site obscured by foreground vegetation.

Appendix 6.2 Viewpoint Assessment

- 6.9.2. When considering the speed of the road, where drivers do not appear to be using the route primarily for recreational activities or the specific enjoyment of the landscape and balancing susceptibility and value, equates to a medium sensitivity.

Magnitude of Change and Significance

- 6.9.3. Construction activity is predicted to be glimpsed through the intervening vegetation in the foreground, however, would be barely perceptible. A very low magnitude of change is predicted during construction, which would result in a **Minor** adverse level of effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.
- 6.9.4. Upon completion, the Proposed Development would be barely perceptible, glimpsed through the intervening vegetation along the access road into the business village. A very low magnitude of change is predicted to continue at Year 1, which would result in a **Minor** adverse level of effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**. The visual effect would continue at Year 15.

6.10. Viewpoint 10: Public Right of Way (Footpath KN/2/1)

Baseline View and Sensitivity

- 6.10.1. The viewpoint is taken from a rural public right of way adjacent to agricultural fields, approximately 0.75km to the north-west of the Site. Views towards the Site are obscured by vegetation associated with Pinfold Wood and by properties and their associated garden vegetation along Pinfold Lane.
- 6.10.2. Those using the public right of way are considered to have a greater susceptibility and value, with the sensitivity equating to high.

Magnitude of Change and Significance

- 6.10.3. It is predicted that due to intervening woodland and properties, there would be no views towards the Proposed Development during all development phases, resulting in **No effect**, which would be **Not Significant**.

6.11. Viewpoint 11: Public Right of Way (Bridleway KN/5/1) on bridge over the M57

Baseline View and Sensitivity

- 6.11.1. The viewpoint is taken from a bridleway along Fluker's Brook Lane located on a bridge over the M57 motorway, approximately 0.3km to the west of the Site. Views towards the Site are obscured by vegetation between the motorway and Knowsley Lane.
- 6.11.2. Those using the bridleway are considered to have a greater susceptibility and value, with the sensitivity equating to high.

Magnitude of Change and Significance

- 6.11.3. It is predicted that due to intervening vegetation, there would be no views towards the Proposed Development during all development phases, resulting in **No effect**, which would be **Not Significant**.

Table 6.1: Summary of Visual Effects upon Viewpoints

Viewpoint	OS Grid Reference	Development Phase	Type and Nature of Effect	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Level of Effect	Significance of Effects
1. Home Farm Road	343601, 394862	Construction	Temporary adverse	High	Medium to High	Moderate to Major	Significant
		Year 1	Permanent adverse	High	Medium to High	Moderate to Major	Significant
		Year 15 (Residual)	Permanent adverse	High	Medium	Moderate	Not Significant
2. Junction of Knowsley Lane (B5194) and Home Farm Road	343269, 394852	Construction	Temporary adverse	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Significant
		Year 1	Permanent adverse	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Significant
		Year 15 (Residual)	Permanent adverse	Medium	Medium to Low	Moderate to Minor	Not Significant
3. Knowsley Lane / Fluker's Brook Lane (Bridleway KN/5/1)	343275, 394693	Construction	Temporary adverse	High	Medium to High	Moderate to Major	Significant
		Year 1	Permanent adverse	High	Medium to High	Moderate to Major	Significant

[inset chapter title]

		Year 15 (Residual)	Permanent adverse	High	Medium	Moderate	Not Significant
4. Knowsley Lane (B5194) near Knowsley Cottage	343291, 394417	Construction	Temporary adverse	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Significant
		Year 1	Permanent adverse	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Significant
		Year 15 (Residual)	Permanent adverse	Medium	Medium to Low	Moderate to Minor	Not Significant
5. Knowsley Lane (B5194)	343300, 394305	Construction	Temporary adverse	Medium	Low	Moderate to Minor	Not Significant
		Year 1	Permanent adverse	Medium	Low	Moderate to Minor	Not Significant
		Year 15 (Residual)	Permanent adverse	Medium	Very Low	Minor	Not Significant
6. Eastern end of Home Farm Road, within the Site	343821, 394861	Construction	Temporary adverse	High	High	Major	Significant
		Year 1	Permanent adverse	High	Medium to High	Moderate to Major	Significant

		Year 15 (Residual)	Permanent adverse	High	Medium	Moderate	Significant
7. Ross Close	343775, 395090	Construction	Temporary adverse	High	High	Major	Significant
		Year 1	Permanent adverse	High	Medium to High	Moderate to Major	Significant
		Year 15 (Residual)	Permanent adverse	High	Medium	Moderate	Significant
8. Parklands	343969, 395143	Construction	Temporary adverse	High	Medium to Low	Moderate to Minor	Not Significant
		Year 1	Permanent adverse	High	Medium to Low	Moderate to Minor	Not Significant
		Year 15 (Residual)	Permanent adverse	High	Low	Moderate to Minor	Not Significant
9. Entrance to Stanley Grange Business Village, Ormskirk Road	344178, 395108	Construction	Temporary adverse	Medium	Very Low	Minor	Not Significant
		Year 1	Permanent adverse	Medium	Very Low	Minor	Not Significant

[inset chapter title]

		Year 15 (Residual)	Permanent adverse	Medium	Very Low	Minor	Not Significant
10. Public Right of Way (Footpath KN/2/1)	343066, 395588	Construction	Temporary adverse	High	No View	No effect	Not Significant
		Year 1	Permanent adverse	High	No View	No effect	Not Significant
		Year 15 (Residual)	Permanent adverse	High	No View	No effect	Not Significant
11. Public Right of Way (Bridleway KN/5/1) on bridge over the M57	342957, 394662	Construction	Temporary adverse	High	No View	No effect	Not Significant
		Year 1	Permanent adverse	High	No View	No effect	Not Significant
		Year 15 (Residual)	Permanent adverse	High	No View	No effect	Not Significant