

Appendix 8A

LVIA Methodology

Contents

8A1	LVIA Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria	1
8A1.1	Purpose and Structure	1
8A1.2	Guidance Specific to Landscape and Visual Assessment	1
8A1.3	Approach to the Landscape and Visual Assessment	2
8A1.4	Baseline Data Gathering	3
8A1.5	6 Predicting the Magnitude of Change	9
8A1.6	Judging Levels of Landscape and Visual Effect and Significance	12
8A1.7	Photography and Visualisation Methodology	14

8A1 LVIA Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria

8A1.1 Purpose and Structure

This appendix has been produced to support Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. It describes the methods used to determine the baseline conditions, sensitivity of the receptors and magnitude of change and sets out the approach to judging the level and significance of likely landscape and visual effects.

Landscape assessment deals with the assessment of effects on the landscape as a resource in its own right (landscape receptors), whilst assessment of visual effects considers the changes to specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people (visual receptors). Although assessed separately, landscape and visual effects are closely linked, which means there is some overlap of methodology.

The assessment of effects is undertaken as part of the iterative design process, and has informed changes to both the development and the evolution of mitigation measures to help avoid or reduce adverse effects wherever possible.

The appendix is structured as follows:

- best practice guidance - specific to the assessment of landscape and visual effects;
- approach – considers the overall approach;
- evaluating landscape and visual sensitivity – this describes the criteria for value, susceptibility and how judgements on sensitivity are made;
- judging magnitude of change – this describes the criteria for scale of change, geographical extent, duration and reversibility and how judgements on magnitude are made; and
- judging levels of landscape effects and significance – describes the criteria used to assess the level of effect and significance.

8A1.2 Guidance Specific to Landscape and Visual Assessment

The approach and methodology used in the preparation of this landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) is based on guidance provided in the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition (GLVIA3)¹.

GLVIA3 is the established best practice guidance for landscape and visual impact assessment.

¹ Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (2013), Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition (GLVIA3)

The assessment of landscape effects is described by the Landscape Institute in GLVIA3 as follows:

'An assessment of landscape effects deals with the effects of change and development on landscape as a resource. The concern ... is with how the proposal will affect the elements that make up the landscape, the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape and its distinctive character.... The area of landscape that should be covered in assessing landscape effects should include the site itself and the full extent of the wider landscape around it which the proposed development may influence in a significant manner.' Paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2.

As the proposed development site is within the suburban fringe of Kirkby, the term 'landscape' is taken to mean the combination of both built development and open landscape.

The term 'visual effects', as defined in paragraph 2.21 of the GLVIA3, means impacts or changes to 'specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people'.

In accordance with GLVIA3, the assessment focuses on public views experienced by those groups of people who are likely to be most sensitive to change due to the project. These include:

- local communities (where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents in the area);
- people using recreational routes including public rights of way and cycle routes; and
- people visiting recreational features and attractions (some of which may have historic or cultural heritage importance).

8A1.3 Approach to the Landscape and Visual Assessment

The landscape and visual assessment follows a standard four-step approach:

- establish baseline conditions against which the impacts of the project are assessed. This includes consideration of the future baseline, which is the way the site is likely to develop irrespective of the proposed development;
- determine the susceptibility and sensitivity of the landscape and visual receptors likely to be affected. This combines judgements about the susceptibility of the receptors to change arising from a specific proposal, with judgements about the value attached to them;
- predict the nature or magnitude of the change likely to occur, which combines judgements about the likely size and scale of the change, the extent of the area over which it is likely to occur, whether the effect would be direct or indirect, reversible or irreversible, short, medium or long term in duration and whether it is positive, neutral or negative; and
- assess the level of importance of any landscape and visual effects and whether they are likely to be significant. This is done by considering the predicted magnitude of change together with the sensitivity of the landscape, taking into account any proposed mitigation measures.

The landscape and visual assessments involves a combination of quantitative and qualitative assessment and the application of professional judgement within a structured assessment framework. GLVIA3 notes that:

'...whilst there is some scope for quantitative measurement of some relatively objective matters, ...much of the assessment must rely on qualitative judgement, for example what effect the introduction of a new development or land use change may have on visual amenity, or about the significance of change in the character of the landscape and whether it is positive or negative.' Paragraph 2.23

'In all cases there is a need for judgements that are made to be reasonable and based on clear and transparent methods so that the reasoning applied at different stages can be traced and examined by others.' Paragraph 2.24

8A1.4 Baseline Data Gathering

The landscape and visual baseline descriptions form the basis for the identification and description of the landscape and visual changes that may result from the development.

Information is gathered from a wide range of sources including:

- OS maps and aerial photography;
- Local Development Plans and planning policy;
- feedback from planning officers
- existing landscape character assessments;
- management plans; and
- site visits.

Where existing information is to be used, this is verified on site to ensure that the information is accurate and appropriate for the purposes of the LVIA.

8A1.4.1 Landscape Baseline

The purpose of the baseline landscape study is to provide an understanding of the landscape within and surrounding the site – its constituent elements and features, its character and the way this varies spatially, its history, condition, the way it is experienced and the value attached to it. The baseline describes the landscape as it appears now, together with any known changes, which would arise without the proposed development.

The baseline study also establishes the relative value of the landscape across the site and the wider area. An area of landscape may be valued for many reasons for example its quality or condition, scenic beauty, tranquillity or remoteness, its recreation opportunities, nature conservation or its historic and cultural associations. Development will not necessarily be incompatible with the valued qualities of a landscape as this will depend on the nature of the proposal and the characteristics of the landscape.

Nationally and internationally designated landscapes are generally accorded the highest value. The absence of a formal landscape designation however, does not

necessarily imply that a landscape is of lower value. GLVIA3 describes value as ‘.... the relative value that is attached to different landscapes by society, bearing in mind that a landscape may be valued by different stakeholders for a whole variety of reasons.... a review of existing landscape designations is usually the starting point in understanding landscape value, but the value attached to undesignated landscapes also needs to be carefully considered...Landscapes or their component parts may be valued at the community, local, national or international level.....’ Paragraph 5.19

In response to this, Table 1 explains what is meant by landscapes of international/ national, regional/ local, community and limited importance.

Table 1: Typical Importance of Landscape Receptors	
Category	Description
International/ National	Landscapes which are internationally or nationally designated for their landscape value.
	Regionally or locally designated landscapes including Special Landscape Areas (SLAs)
Community Importance	Everyday landscape, which may be valued by the local community but has little or no wider recognition of its value.
Limited	Despoiled or degraded landscape with little or no evidence of being valued by a community.

The quality of a valued landscape is often explained in a citation for a designation, but where this isn’t available, value can be assessed through the application of a criteria based comparative landscape approach supported by published documentation such as tourist leaflets, art and literature. This is in line with the latest guidance from Natural England (2019)² and the European Landscape Convention (2006)³, which promote an ‘all-landscapes approach’, founded on the recognition of value in all landscapes.

The appraisal of landscape value considers the following factors:

- landscape character and quality;
- scenic quality;
- conservation interests;
- recreation value;
- perceptual aspects and tranquillity; and
- associations.

Based on these and the indicators shown in Table 2, the relative value of the landscape is described as very high, high, medium or low.

² Natural England (2019), An approach to landscape sensitivity assessment – to inform spatial planning and land management

³ The UK is a signatory to the European Landscape Convention (signed 2006), a convention of the Council of Europe. The status of this convention has not been affected by Brexit.

Table 2: Indicative criteria for assessing the value of the landscape	
Category	Indicators
Very High	Beautiful, rare, outstanding landscape with clearly distinctive characteristics, features and elements, which is typically internationally or nationally designated for their landscape value. Very strong landscape or urban structure, legibility characteristic patterns and balanced combination of built form and open space. Widespread use of quality materials. Very good condition/ very well-managed and intact. Historic interest of designated national or international importance and which contributes significantly to landscape character. Very high recreational value which contributes significantly to recreational/ visitor experience. Rich and valued cultural associations. Unique sense of place. No detracting features.
High	Attractive landscape with some distinctive characteristics, features and elements, which may be regionally or locally designated as, for example, a Special Landscape Area (SLAs). Recognisable landscape or urban structure, legibility, characteristic patterns and combinations of built form and open space. Good condition/ well-managed and largely intact. Historic interest which contributes to landscape character. Recreational value which contributes to recreational/ visitor experience. Valued cultural associations. Strong sense of place. Occasional detracting features.
Medium	Typical, commonplace and unremarkable landscape with limited variety or distinctiveness, which may be valued by the local community but has little or no wider recognition of its value. Distinguishable landscape or urban structure, characteristic patterns and combinations of built form and open space. Average condition with some intactness but scope to improve management for land use. Limited historic interest. Limited recreational value and few visitors. No or very few recorded cultural associations. Some features worthy of conservation. Some dominant detracting features.
Low	Landscape degraded or in obvious decline, with poor sense of place, limited value and with little or no evidence of being valued by a community. Weak or degraded landscape pattern or urban structure, characteristic patterns and combination of built form and open space. Lack of management has resulted in degradation and poor condition. Limited to no historic interest. Limited to no recreational value. No recorded cultural associations. Frequent dominant detracting features. Disturbed or derelict land requires treatment.

8A1.4.2 Visual Baseline

The purpose of the visual baseline study is to establish the general area from where the proposed development may be seen, the different groups of people who may have views of the project, the locations or viewpoints where they would be affected and the relative value or nature of the existing views experienced at those locations. The assessment is informed by site surveys from a series of viewpoints, the selection of which is informed by the preparation of a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) map, together with a study of Google Earth. Viewpoints are agreed in advance with the relevant authority as being representative of the range of views and receptor types in the locality. They are all publicly accessible locations.

It should be noted that it is the people who would be experiencing the view from the viewpoint that are the receptor, not the viewpoint itself. The location affords the view to the recipient, and whilst the location cannot change, the opinion of the viewer can vary as people will generally have different responses to a change in view depending on their location, the activity they are engaged in and other factors, including the weather and the time of day/ year.

The value attached to a particular view depends on:

- recognition of the value attached to particular views, for example in relation to heritage assets, or through planning designations; and
- character and quality of the view experienced.

Viewpoint analysis involves visiting each viewpoint location and viewing wireframes prepared for each location. To ensure optimal visibility, the viewpoints were visited in fine weather. Photographs are taken and used to illustrate each of the viewpoints.

Using the indicative criteria in Table 3, the relative value of the view is described as very high, high, medium or low.

Table 3: Indicative criteria for assessing visual receptor value	
Category	Indicators
Very High	View of national or international importance, or a view which is associated with nationally designated landscapes or important heritage assets, or is promoted as a visitor designation for its scenic beauty. The view is widely known and well-frequented. (For example public open spaces where focus is on views, public rights of way through highly valued landscape, views from important tourist routes or promoted viewpoint, popular visitor attractions where the view forms a recognised part of the visitor experience, or which have important cultural associations).

High	View of regional or local importance. The view may be valued locally but is not widely known or well-frequented. (For example a public right of way through a landscape of moderate value, setting of elements of local and/ or regional cultural heritage value or national value whose settings are already compromised).
Medium	Although the viewpoint may be valuable to the local community, the location has no formal planning status, is in an area of ordinary landscape value, or reasonably good landscape value but with detracting elements or features. People are unlikely to visit the viewpoint to experience the view.
Low	Viewpoint is within an area of very low landscape quality (e.g. industrial estate/ busy main road) that has very few positive characteristics)

8A1.4.3 Determining Landscape and Visual Sensitivity

A1.4.3.1 Determining Landscape Sensitivity

An assessment of the sensitivity of landscape is made by combining judgements about the relative value attached to the landscape (which is established and reported as part of the baseline) with judgements about the susceptibility of the landscape to change arising from the development. Judgements on the value attached to the landscape baseline are unrelated to the nature of a development proposed and are determined as part of the baseline study, whilst judgements on susceptibility may vary in response to the type of development proposed and the attributes of the area in which it is to be located.

The susceptibility of the landscape to change is the ability of the landscape receptor (whether it be the overall character or quality/ condition of a particular landscape area, or an individual element and/ or feature, or a particular aesthetic and perceptual aspect) to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/ or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies. Susceptibility varies depending on the character of the landscape and the nature of the development being proposed.

Using the indicative criteria in Table 4, the sensitivity of the landscape to change arising from the proposed development is described as high, medium or low.

Table 4: Indicative criteria for assessing landscape receptor sensitivity	
Category	Indicators
High	The landscape receptor is less able to accommodate the type of development proposed without undue negative consequences for the baseline situation. Attributes that make up the character of the landscape offer limited opportunities for accommodating the change without its key characteristics being fundamentally altered, leading to a different landscape character. The proposed development does not accord with planning policies and strategies
Medium	The landscape receptor has some ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue negative consequences for the baseline situation. Attributes that make up the character

	of the landscape offer some opportunities for accommodating the change without key characteristics being fundamentally altered. There would be some consequences for the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies.
Low	The landscape receptor is more able to accommodate the proposed development without undue negative consequences for the baseline situation. Attributes that make up the character of the landscape are more resilient to being changed by the type of development proposed. Only individual elements and/ or features, or a particular aesthetic and perceptual aspect may be affected. The proposed development accords with planning policies and strategies.

An overall assessment of landscape sensitivity using a three-point scale of high, medium and low is then made for each landscape receptor based on informed professional judgement. Although the relationship between landscape value and susceptibility to change can be complex and is not linear, high value/ high susceptibility receptors are likely to be highly sensitive to change, with lower value/ low susceptibility receptors likely to be of low sensitivity to change.

A1.4.3.2 Determining Visual Sensitivity

The first step in assessing the significance of visual effects is to determine the sensitivity of the visual receptors to the proposed development. This comprises judgements about the:

- value attached to the view – as explained above, this is determined as part of the baseline conditions of the assessment. It is a professional judgement made separately from the context of the specific proposals, and,
- susceptibility of the receptor to change – this is a function of the occupation or activity of people experiencing the view at a particular location and the extent to which their attention or interest may therefore be focused on the view and the visual amenity they experience.

The sensitivity of visual receptors is always determined based on site specific conditions, e.g. a driver within an urban area would be considered of low sensitivity but if the road was part of a scenic route through the countryside, the sensitivity would increase.

Views will often be experienced by a number of different receptors types at the same location. For instance, a viewpoint on a footpath immediately adjacent to residential properties and a road will be experienced differently by each receptor type and the different receptor groups will have differing susceptibility to change. In such locations, the overall sensitivity of the receptor is assessed as those with the highest susceptibility; in this example, the residential receptor who is more likely to be focused on the view.

The susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as high, medium or low by considering the indicators contained in Table 5.

Table 5: Indicators of visual receptor sensitivity

Category	Indicators
----------	------------

High	People with high quality views, leisure users whose attention or interest is likely to be focused on the view and viewpoints within nationally or regionally designated landscape. The viewpoint location may be in a nationally designated landscape or have been specifically created to for its view and/ or is experienced by people, whether residents or visitors, whose attention or interest is likely to be focused on the view. Examples include: • residents at home • people engaged in outdoor recreation whose interest is likely to be focused on the landscape/ landscape • visitors to identified viewing places or heritage assets where the surrounding landscape makes an important contribution to the experience • communities where views contribute to the landscape setting.
Medium	The view may be experienced by people who are drawn to the view yet do not feel compelled to stop and take it in. Examples include: • pedestrians and recreational motorists on minor roads, rail or other transport routes; and • people taking part in outdoor sport or residential receptors.
Low	The viewpoint location may be transient and/ or experienced only in passing by people, whether residents or visitors, whose attention or focus is on other activities, not on their surroundings. Examples include: • commuting pedestrians and motorists • people at their place of work where the setting is not important to the quality of working life.

Paragraph 6.35 of GLVIA3 notes that:

‘These divisions are not black and white and in reality there will be gradation in susceptibility to change. Each project needs to consider the nature of the groups of people who will be affected and the extent to which their attention is likely to be focused on views and visual amenity’.

An overall assessment of visual sensitivity using a three-point scale of high, medium and low is made for each visual receptor and is based on informed professional judgement. Although the relationship between the value of the view and the susceptibility of the visual receptor to the change in that view can be complex and is not linear, high value/ high susceptibility receptors are likely to be highly sensitive to change, with lower value/ low susceptibility receptors likely to be of low sensitivity to change.

8A1.5 6 Predicting the Magnitude of Change

8A1.5.1 Magnitude of Landscape Change

Predicting the likely magnitude of landscape effect comprises judgements about the size and scale of the effect, the geographical extent of the area affected and the duration of effect and its reversibility.

Paragraph 5.37 of GLVIA3 sets out the criteria which should be used in reaching a judgement on the nature or magnitude of effect. These include but are not necessarily restricted to:

- the degree to which the proposal fits with existing character; and
- the contribution to the landscape that the development may make in its own right, usually by virtue of good design, even if it is in contrast to existing character.

The magnitude of predicted change is assessed as high, medium, low or very low by considering the indicators listed in Table 6.

Table 6 : Predicting the magnitude of landscape change	
Category	Indicators
High	Large-scale removal or addition of landscape features or removal of localised but unusual or distinctive landscape features and/ or addition of new conspicuous features and elements, which may alter the character of the landscape (with uncharacteristic features being negative and characteristic features being positive). Physical loss of landscape features that are not replaceable or are replaceable only in the long term. The duration of this effect may be permanent and irreversible.
Medium	Medium-scale removal or addition of landscape features and/ or addition of new noticeable features and elements, which would be clearly visible but would not alter the overall character of the landscape (with uncharacteristic features being negative and characteristic features being positive). Physical loss of landscape features that are replaceable in the medium term. The duration of this effect may be semi-permanent and irreversible.
Low	Small-scale removal or addition of landscape features and/ or addition of new discrete features and elements which would be perceptible within but would not alter the overall character of the landscape (with uncharacteristic features being negative and characteristic features being positive). The duration of this effect may be temporary and reversible.
Very Low	Barely perceptible removal or addition of landscape features and the proposed development would be barely perceptible in visual/ landscape character terms.

The predicted change is classed as being either a beneficial or adverse where for:

- beneficial change - the development, or part of it, would appear in keeping with existing landscape character and/ or would make a positive visual and/ or physical contribution to key characteristics. Removal of uncharacteristic or unsightly features would also be a beneficial change; and
- adverse change - the development, or part of it, would be perceived as an uncharacteristic or intrusive component in the context of existing landscape character and would have a negative visual and/ or physical effect on key characteristics.

8A1.5.2 Magnitude of Visual Change

Predicting the likely magnitude of visual effect comprises judgements about the size and scale of the effect, the geographical extent of the area affected and the duration of effect and its reversibility.

Paragraph 5.37 of GLVIA3 sets out the criteria which should be used in reaching a judgement on the nature or magnitude of effect. These include but are not necessarily restricted to:

- extent – the extent of the baseline view that would be occupied by the development – full (unobstructed by vegetation, topography or intervening structures) or partial (obstructed to some extent) or glimpsed;
- proportion of development visible – full (all), most (more than 75%), half (50%), small amount (<25%) or none;
- contrast – how would the visible parts of the development relate to the surrounding baseline features: high, medium or low levels of contrast;
- angle of view – direct (head on or close to), oblique (45° to head on) or peripheral (>45° i.e. on the edge of vision);
- distance – between the site and the receptor: close (0 to 100m), middle (100 to 500m) and long (0.5km or more); and
- duration and reversibility – the relative time over which the view is experienced (short term <12 months, medium term 1 to 3 years or long term 3 years plus), temporary or permanent, intermittent or continuous e.g. transient (views which are normally experienced when in motion) and seasonal (views which would be subject to seasonal leaf cover).

Other considerations include the level of activity in a scene, presence of noise or lighting, traffic movement, peoples' likely preferences and expectations, quality of the existing view (inevitably a point of judgement), nature of the scene (open and directionless, or closed and bounded) and any other elements that affect human perception.

The magnitude of change is assessed as high, medium, low or very low by applying professional judgement and consideration of the indicators listed in Table 7.

Table 7: Indicative criteria for assessing likely magnitude of visual change

Category	Indicators
High	The project would be a prominent feature and result in a substantial change to the character and quality of the existing view and how it is perceived. Typically this would be where the project would be seen in close proximity with a large proportion of the view affected by little filtering or backgrounding. The development would affect the main focus of the view and potentially be seen by many people. The duration of its effect is likely to be long-term, and permanent and non-reversible.

Medium	The project would be a conspicuous element in the view and result in a noticeable change to the character and quality of the existing view and how it is perceived. Typically this would be where the project would be seen in views where a moderate proportion of the view is affected, although there may be some screening or backgrounding. The development would be well-defined and clearly visible to a number of people. The duration of its effect is likely to be medium-long-term, or permanent and non-reversible.
Low	The development would form a small part of the view and result in a slight change to the character and quality of the existing view and how it is perceived. Typically this would be where the project would be seen in distant views, where only a small proportion of the view is affected, where the magnitude is reduced due to a high degree of filtering of backgrounding or where there is a low scale of change from the existing view. The development would be visible but be indistinct and/ or partially obscured. It would be seen only briefly and by few people.
Very Low	The development would be almost indiscernible and likely to be visible only under certain weather or lighting conditions. It would have no consequences for the character and quality of the existing view and how it is perceived. Typically this would be where the development would form a very small part of a long distance panoramic view.

The predicted change is classed as being either a beneficial or adverse where for:

- beneficial change the development, or part of it, would be perceived as a positive addition in the context of the existing view even if uncharacteristic; and
- adverse change the development, or part of it, would be perceived as an intrusive component in the context of the existing view.

8A1.6 Judging Levels of Landscape and Visual Effect and Significance

The final step in the assessment requires the judgements of sensitivity and magnitude of landscape or visual effect to be considered together to make an informed professional assessment on the level and significance of each visual effect. This determination requires the application of professional judgement and experience to take on board the many different variables which are given different weight according to site-specific and location-specific considerations in every instance. Judgements are made on a case by case basis, guided by the definitions in Table 8.

A rigid matrix-type approach, which does not take on board professional judgement and experience, and where the level of effect is defined simply based on the level of sensitivity (nature of receptor) combined with the magnitude of change (nature of effect), is not used. As such, the conclusion on the level of

effect is not always the same for similar receptors or determined through a formulaic process.

Levels of effect are identified as major, moderate or minor. Where 'no effect' is anticipated this is also stated. The nature of the effects is described as either positive (beneficial), neutral or negative (adverse).

Any effect identified as moderate or major is considered significant.

Each of the categories covers a broad range of effects and represents a continuum or sliding scale. Because the categories cover effects across a relatively wide range, judgements are sometimes made about whether particular effects are at the higher or lower end of a category with explanations of why these conclusions have been reached.

Paragraph 6.42 of GLVIA3 notes that significance of visual effects is not absolute and 'can only be defined in relation to each development and its specific location.'

Paragraph 6.44 of GLVIA3 notes that:

- 'effects on people who are particularly sensitive to changes in views and visual amenity are more likely to be significant;
- effects on people at recognised and important viewpoints or from recognised scenic routes are more likely to be significant;
- large-scale changes which introduce new, non-characteristic or discordant or intrusive components into the view are more likely to be significant than small changes or changes involving features already present in the view; and
- where assessments of significance place visual effects between these extremes, judgements must be made about whether or not they are significant, with full explanations of why these conclusions have been reached.'

Each of these categories covers a broad range of effects and represents a continuum or sliding scale. Because these categories cover effects across a relatively wide range, judgements are sometimes made about whether particular effects are at the higher or lower end of a category with explanations of why these conclusions have been reached.

The significance of landscape and visual effects are classified as being major, moderate, minor or negligible. Where magnitude is determined as 'no change', no effect is stated. Effects are also described as being beneficial, neutral or adverse.

Table 8: Levels of Importance	
Category	Description
Beneficial effect of major importance	The proposed development would be in keeping with and would provide a major improvement to the character of the landscape or the value of an existing view.
Beneficial effect of moderate importance	The proposed development would be in keeping with and would provide a noticeable improvement to the character of the landscape or the value of an existing view.

Beneficial effect of minor importance	The proposed development would be in keeping with and would provide a perceptible improvement in the character of the landscape or the value of an existing view.
Negligible	The proposed development would be barely perceptible and have very little effect on the character of the landscape or the value of the existing view.
Adverse effect of minor importance	The proposed development would cause a perceptible deterioration in the character of the landscape or the value of an existing view.
Adverse effect of moderate importance	The proposed development would cause a noticeable deterioration in the character of the landscape or the value of an existing view.
Adverse effect of major importance	The proposed development would be the dominant feature and cause a major deterioration in the character of the landscape or the value of an existing view.

8A1.7 Photography and Visualisation Methodology

8A1.7.1 General Site Photography

At each of the viewpoint locations, a panoramic photo is taken for use on viewpoint sheets and as a record of the site visits using the following method:

- an overlap of at least 25% between shots;
- in relation to panoramic photography professional judgement is exercised. Full 360 degree photography is only be taken where access (e.g. no proximity to residential properties) and safety allows. In all other cases photographic coverage is proportionate to the coverage required to illustrate the visual effects of the development in context. Generally for panoramic images, 180 degree coverage is sufficient. In many instances in more built up locations photographs single frame or one to two frame images only will be appropriate;
- when taking photographs, the photographer turns the camera round with the lens directly over their left foot in portrait orientation. This is regarded as best practice for taking panoramic photography in the field without a tripod;
- the camera is focused once to the middle distance and then set to manual focus to ensure all shots are consistent in focus distance; and
- all images are captured in jpeg and raw format.

Panoramas are produced by stitching multiple site photographs into single panoramic images (using PTGui stitching software).

Single shot images are also captured where required to capture particular landscape features/ elements for use in the understanding of landscape character.

8A1.7.2 Photomontages

For a selection of viewpoints, photo-realistic photomontages - Type 3 in the Landscape Institute's (2019) TGN 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals are produced. Type 3 visualisations are photomontages where site photography forms the basis of the imagery, which is then overlaid by a 3D

rendered model. Their purpose is to represent design, form and context to a reasonable degree of objectivity and accuracy, one which can be understood and relied on by competent authorities and others. Images are presented as two related sheets: baseline photograph and photomontage. These are presented at the same size to allow direct comparison.



APPENDIX C: VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT
HEADBOLT LANE NEW STATION

CONTENTS

Viewpoint Location Overview Map 3

Viewpoint 01 : Junction of Bassenthwaite Avenue with Boyes Brow 4

Viewpoint 02 : Junction of Heathfield Drive with Headbolt Lane 5

Viewpoint 03 : Junction of Fallowfield Lane with Headbolt Lane 6

Viewpoint 04 : Chatham Terrace off Headbolt Lane 7

Viewpoint 05 : Mulberry Park Near Lime Tree Road 8

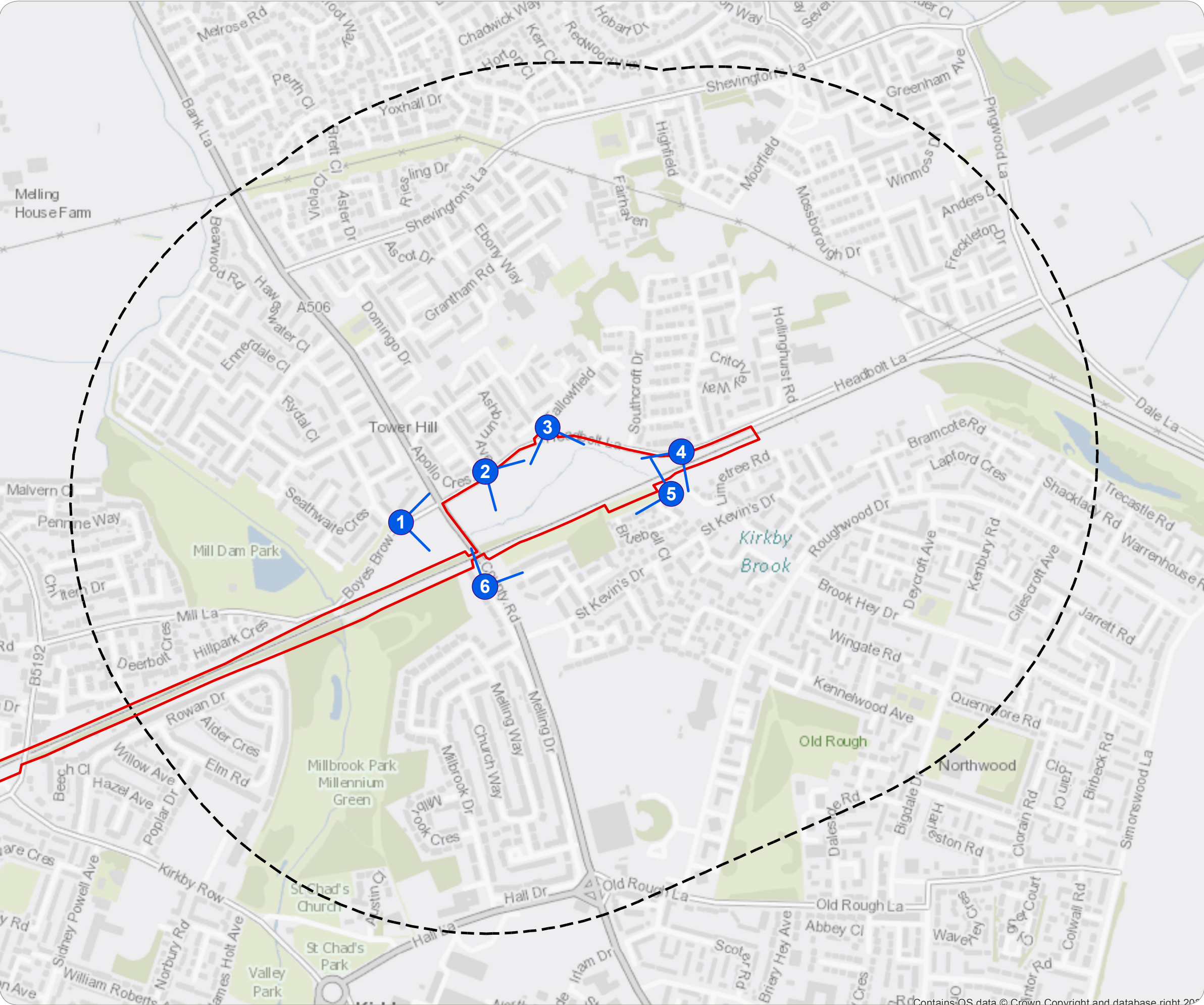
Viewpoint 06 : A506 County Road near Existing Railway Overbridge 9

GILLESPIES		PROJECT TITLE	DOCUMENT TITLE		CLIENT
		HEADBOLT LANE NEW STATION	APPENDIX C - VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT P20566-00-001-GIL-0701-03		BUCKINGHAM GROUP CONTRACTING LTD
REV.	DATE	DETAIL	MADE BY	CHECKED BY	APPROVED BY
00	30.04.2021	DRAFT	RSB	SG	SG
01	04.05.2021	AMENDED PHOTOGRAPHS AND PAGE LAYOUT	RSB	SG	SG
02	18.08.2021	AMENDED RED LINE BOUNDARY	RSB	SG	SG

VIEW SOUTH FROM HEADBOLT LANE



VIEWPOINT LOCATION OVERVIEW MAP



- KEY
- Indicative Red Line Boundary
 - Study Area
 - Viewpoint

VIEWPOINT 01: JUNCTION OF BASSENTHWAITE AVENUE WITH BOYES BROW

Location: Located at the junction of Bassenthwaite Avenue joining Boyes Brow.

Grid Reference: E 341564 N 399867

Approx Elevation: 26m

General Direction of View: Looking south-east

Approximate distance to nearest site boundary: 90m

Description of Visual Baseline

Receptors in this location have slightly elevated, south-easterly and near distance views across Boyes Brow with its broad grassed verge and occasional mature trees towards an area of open amenity green space. The latter comprises short mown grass with occasional mature trees and some overgrown shrubs. Beyond, in the near to middle distance, is the vegetated embankment of the existing railway line. This vegetation obscures most views of passing trains and visually merges into the tops of the mature trees within Millbrook Park Millennium Green, to the south of the railway line. To the east receptors also have oblique middle distance views across the busy Boyes Lane/ A506 Bank Lane junction, towards a larger area of amenity green space. Mature trees around the road junction partially obscure houses along Apollo Crescent. Views across the amenity green space, although open, are foreshortened due to the relatively flat topography. New housing in Northwood off St Kevin’s Drive can be seen above the belt of vegetation, which is found along the railway line embankments and within the adjoining Northwood Woodland. Some tall residential tower blocks at Northwood are distant skyline features. Although passing traffic creates visual disturbance, the overall outlook is attractive and typical of the type of amenity green space found areas of ongoing residential expansion.

Construction Effects

The most noticeable part of the works will be the removal of trees and shrubs along the railway embankment and construction of the railway line upgrade to the south of Boyes Brow. These works will be very noticeable in the near distance from both the roads and the properties. Beyond the A506 Bank Lane, residents and road users will also have oblique middle distance views of the works to construct Headbolt Lane Station, the car park and electricity substation. Tree removal and construction of the railway line upgrade will also be visible. The views currently experienced from this location include a busy road junction and passing traffic. The disturbance introduced by the construction activity will not be entirely out of keeping and will be of short-term duration.

Based on the above, the magnitude of visual change in relation to this medium sensitivity receptor will therefore be medium. The effect during construction is anticipated to be **moderate adverse**.

Operational Effects - Year 1

Receptors will have views of the retaining wall (max height 1.1 m) and railway line embankment behind a 2.4m high palisade security fence at the base of the embankment. Due to the clearance of vegetation during construction and the closer proximity of rail infrastructure (including the railway line), passing trains will be more noticeable than at present Receptors will also have oblique middle distance views across the A506 Bank Lane towards Headbolt Lane Station, the car park and electricity substation and there will be increased visual

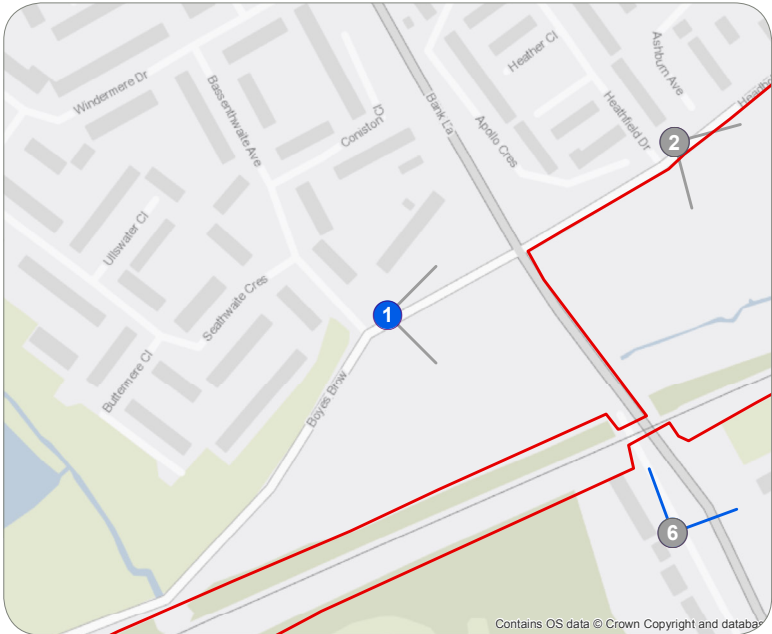
Reasons for Selection:

To represent the views experienced by receptors including occupants of the properties around the Bassenthwaite Avenue/ Boyes Brow junction whose attention or interest is likely to be focussed on the view. It also represents the views experienced by transient users of the nearby roads, whose attention may be partially focussed on the view but it will not be their primary focus.

Value of view: Medium

Receptor susceptibility: High

Receptor sensitivity: Medium



LOCATION MAP

disturbance from vehicles.

Based on the above, the magnitude of visual change in relation to this medium sensitivity receptor during operation is anticipated to be medium. The effect during operation at Year 1 is anticipated to be **moderate adverse**.

Lighting from the proposed development will add to the overall amount of night time lighting but, given the well-lit suburban location, will not affect the predicted magnitude of visual change or overall level of effect.

Operational Effects - Year 15

By Year 15, the there will be some regeneration of scrub vegetation on the railway embankment but the retaining wall and security fencing will remain noticeable. The maturing hedge and trees along the site boundary with the A506 Bank Lane and Headbolt Lane will partially obscure oblique middle distance views towards Headbolt Lane station, car park, and passing trains. The upper parts of the lighting columns associated with the proposed Scheme will remain visible but will not be an unusual feature in this location.

Based on the above, the magnitude of change in relation to this medium sensitivity receptor will reduce to low The effect during operation at Year 15 is anticipated to be **moderate adverse**.



Photographs taken with a Canon EOS 6D, Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 fixed focal lens on 26th April 2021. Weather clear with good visibility. Time of photo: 12:54