



NEWBURN BESS

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT APPRAISAL
04.03.24

N1427-ONE-ZZ-XX-RP-L-0001-P02

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This report comprises a Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal (LVIA) of the potential effects of the proposed development on the landscape of the site and surrounding area and on the visual amenity of people likely to have views of the proposed development. The LVIA is divided into the following sections:

- methodology
- planning policy context
- baseline environment
- representative viewpoints
- proposed development
- landscape effects
- visual effects
- summary

The report provides supporting information to accompany a planning application to Newcastle City Council (NCC) for the proposed development.

Site and study area

The site of the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is approximately 0.58ha in extent, and occupies two hardstanding areas of an existing industrial site, part of which is a concrete batching plant which is to be retained. The site is surrounded by brick walls and various fences, with existing trees and vegetation along majority of the boundary. The storage facility will be linked to the proposed on-site substation, ~65m to the south of the main battery storage site.

Immediately to the south of the site is the A6085, and Walbottle Road runs along the eastern boundary of the site. There are a number of large scale electrical substations in the surrounding area both north and south of the River Tyne. Overhead power lines and associated towers connect these substations to the grid. There are a number of recreational routes in the vicinity including national cycle routes and national trails (Hadrian's Wall Path and National Cycle Network Route 72).

Locating on the western edge of Newcastle upon Tyne, the surrounding landscape is comprises a mix of land uses including industrial and residential land with areas of scrub and woodland at the former Walbottle Brickworks (now a nature reserve). Sandhill Licenced Composting Site a minor feature in the local landscape to the east of the site, mostly screened by woodland. Residential properties are located to the north of the site. To the south and west are industrial and commercial premises. The centre of Newburn is located further to the west.

Landform rises steeply to the north and east of the site, with wooded slopes being a characteristic feature of the local landscape.

Based on the desktop study and preliminary fieldwork, an indicative Study Area of 1km has been defined. A combination of topography and vegetation limits visibility of the site from within the wider landscape, therefore the appraisal focuses primarily on the site and its immediate surroundings. The Study Area is shown on Figure 0002-01.

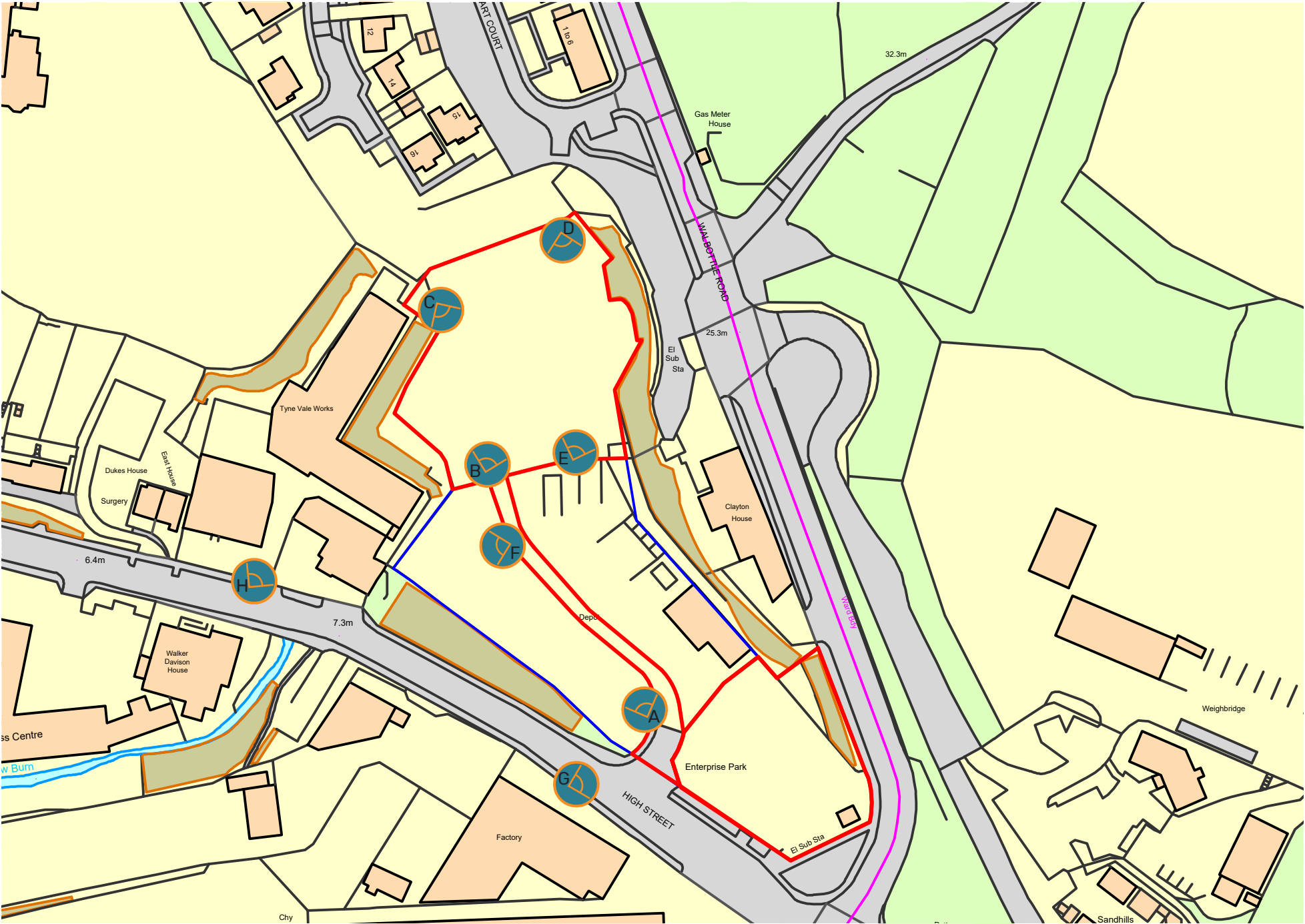
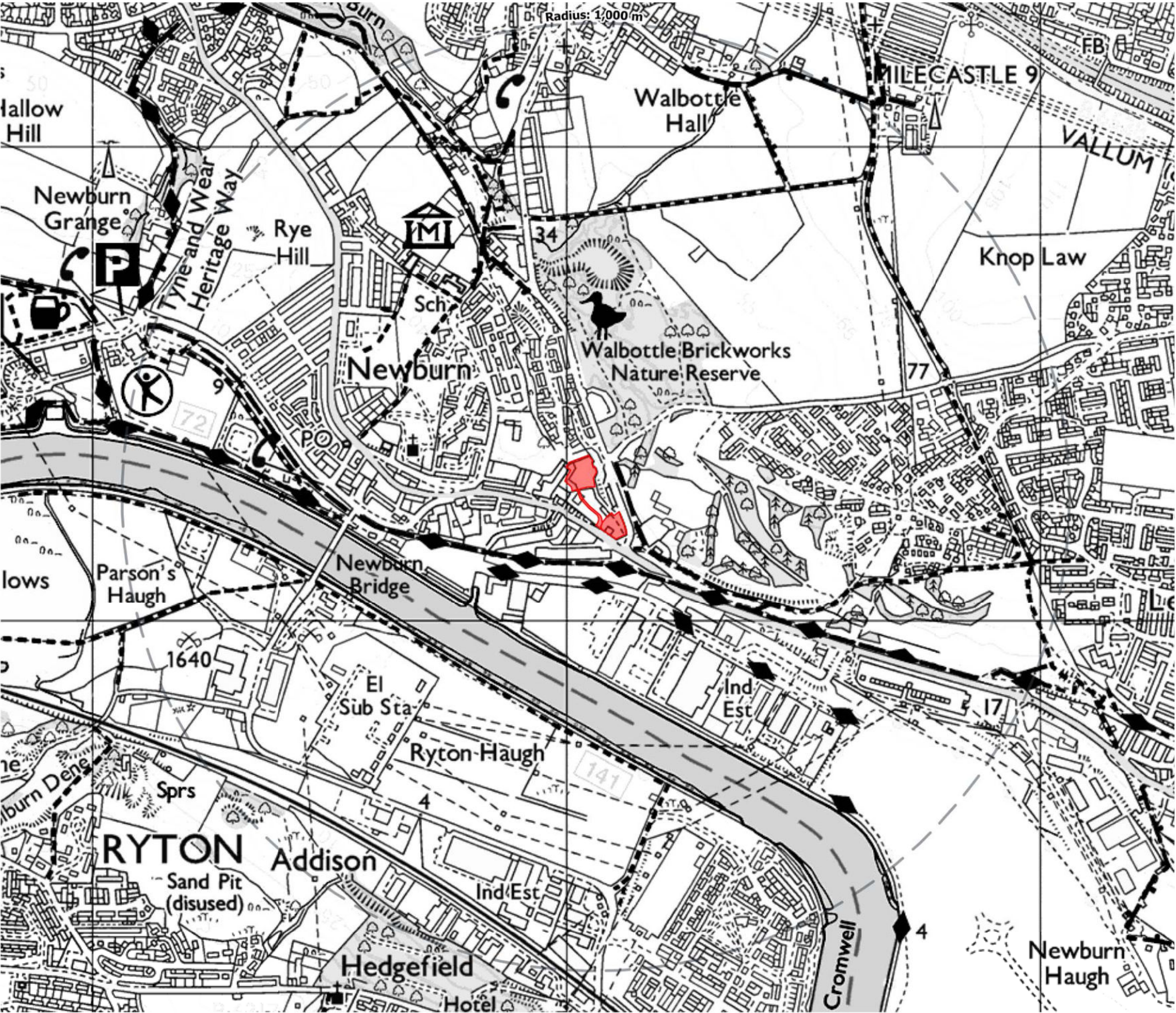


Figure 1: Existing site referencing photographic views on page 3



legend

Site Boundary

Study Area

NORTH

0100200300metres

project title

Newburn BESS

figure title

Study Area

figure reference

0002-01

scale

N.T.S @ A3

date

January 2024



- A

Looking north from within the (retained) concrete batching plant area. Note screening of outlook from adjacent houses.
- B

Storage area at top (northern part) of site showing surrounding trees and landform. Note screening of outlook from houses.
- C

Looking south towards Clayton House, which is situated at the top of the adjacent slope. Note screening of wider views by topography.
- D

View south from storage area showing steep slope to east of site and lack of outward visibility to the south.
- E

Storage area at top of site showing surrounding trees and landform. Note screening of outlook from houses.
- F

Utilitarian appearance of existing (retained) buildings and structures within the concrete batching plant.
- G

View towards southern part of site from the (retained) site access. Showing functional character of existing site.
- H

View north from High Street towards northern end of site (site itself screened) by buildings.

Landscape and visual context of the site

The methodology for the appraisal is based on the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd Edition), published by Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (hereafter referred to as “GLVIA3”) .

The Landscape Institute has subsequently issued a Statement of Clarification 1/13 partly relating to non-EIA Landscape and Visual Appraisal. This states that “In carrying out appraisals, the same principles and process as LVIA may be applied but, in so doing, it is not required to establish whether the effects arising are or are not significant given that the exercise is not being undertaken for EIA purposes.”

Paragraph 5.1 of GLVIA3 describes how landscape effects are concerned 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.”

Paragraph 6.1 describes how visual effects are concerned with, “...assessing how the surroundings of individuals or groups of people may be specifically affected by changes in the content and character of views as a result of the change or loss of existing elements of the landscape and/or introduction of new elements.”

Therefore, this appraisal deals separately with each of these effects, although where relevant and appropriate, cross references may be made to the same features or elements where they are relevant to both assessments.

The LVIA has involved desk study, field work, and analysis as well as interpretation using professional judgement.

As stated above, the methodology follows current best practice as described in GLVIA3. It also takes cognisance of the following guidance:

- An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment, Natural England (2014)

Viewpoint photographs have been presented in line with the guidance contained in the Landscape Institute’s Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals .

Paragraph 1.20 of GLVIA3 states that the guidance is “...not intended to be prescriptive, in that it does not provide a ‘recipe’ that can be followed in every situation. It is always the primary responsibility of any landscape professional carrying out an assessment to ensure that the approach and methodology adopted are appropriate to the particular circumstances.” The appraisal has therefore defined a series of criteria to assess the potential effects of the proposed development. These criteria are listed in Appendix 1.

The core components of the appraisal process as identified in GLVIA3 are as follows:

- Project description:
- Baseline studies:
- Identification and description of effects:
- Summary and conclusion

Both landscape and visual effects can be adverse, beneficial, or neutral, short, medium, or long term, permanent or temporary, reversible, or irreversible, direct (an effect that is directly attributable to the proposed development) or indirect (effects resulting indirectly from the development

as a consequence of the direct effects), and cumulative, relating to additional changes that may arise when the proposed development is considered in conjunction with other similar developments.

GLVIA3 details the process for assessing effects based on the combination of information about the receptor likely to be affected (sensitivity) and information about the effect likely to occur (magnitude).

Assessment of sensitivity incorporates judgements about:

- The susceptibility of the receptor to the type of change arising from the specific proposal.
- The value attached to the receptor.

Assessment of magnitude incorporates judgements about:

- The size and scale of the effect – for example whether there is a complete loss of a particular element of the landscape or a minor change.
- The geographical extent of the area that will be affected.
- The duration of the effect and its reversibility.

The separate judgements on the individual criteria of sensitivity and magnitude are then combined to provide an overall level of effect. Professional judgement is an important part of this process as stated in Paragraph 2.23 of GLVIA3: “While there is some scope for quantitative measurement of some relatively objective matters, for example the number of trees lost to the construction of a new mine, much of the assessment must rely on qualitative judgements, for example about what the effect of the introduction of a new development or land use change may have on visual amenity, or the significance of change in the character of the landscape and whether it is positive or negative.”

It is essential that professional and qualitative judgements are reported in a transparent and clear manner, and that any identified effects are suitably described

Limitations to the study

No technical difficulties were encountered in assessing the landscape and visual impacts of the proposed development.

The appraisal of effects on the visual amenity of residential receptors is based on access to publicly available areas only (e.g., nearby roads and footpaths), since access is not typically available (or required) to private properties.

More detailed information regarding the planning policy context of the application site is contained within the Planning, Design and Access Statement accompanying the application. This section of the LVIA provides a summary of planning policies that are specifically relevant to landscape and visual matters.

National Policy

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was first published in 2012, with the latest update in December 2023, which reiterates the presumption in favour of sustainable development as lying at the heart of the framework. Sustainable development is defined as: “...meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs...”

Paragraph 20 states that “Strategic policies should set an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development, and make sufficient provision for... conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.”

Section 12 deals with the creation of well-designed spaces. Paragraph 135 states that planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments:

- (a) will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development;
- (b) are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping;
- (c) are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change (such as increased densities);
- (d) establish or maintain a strong sense of place, using the arrangement of streets, spaces, building types and materials to create attractive, welcoming and distinctive places to live, work and visit;
- (e) optimise the potential of the site to accommodate and sustain an appropriate amount and mix of development (including green and other public space) and support local facilities and transport networks; and
- (f) create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being, with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users; and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience.

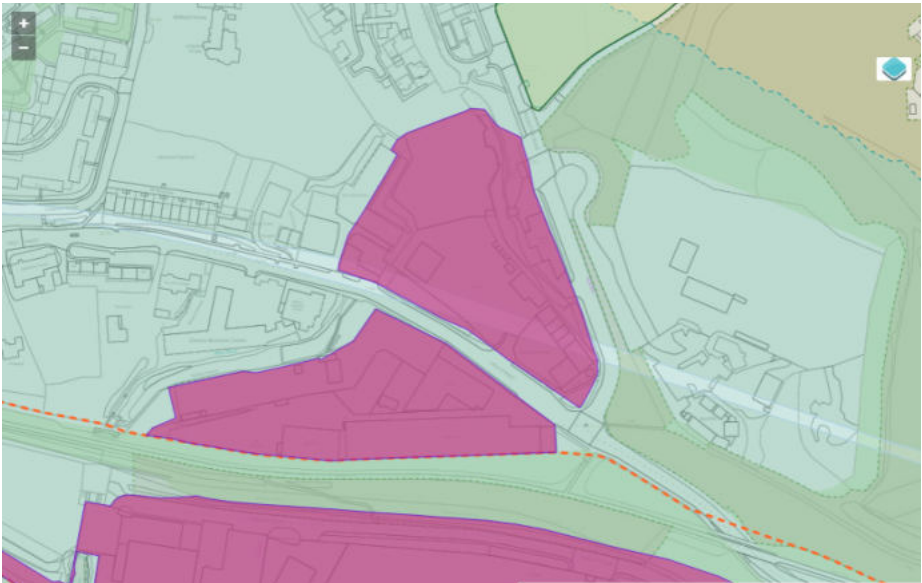
Section 15 deals with conserving and enhancing the natural environment. Paragraph 180 states that “Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- (a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);
- (b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;
- (c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;
- (d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;

- (e) 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. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and
- (f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.

Local Policy

The site, which lies at the edge of Newburn, is allocated as an employment site, as shown on the interactive Local Plan excerpt below (Policy DM2 Existing Employment Sites – area retained for employment use). The interactive plan illustrates other policies from the adopted Local Plan, which consists of the Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan (Part 1) and the Development and Allocations Plan (Part 2). It was adopted in March 2015 and covers the period 2010 – 2030. Other policies which cover the site include the following:



Policy DM27 – Strategic Green Infrastructure Network (Ouseburn to Walbottle Dene). This states that development will be required to optimise the benefits and enhance existing green infrastructure assets, and contribute towards the delivery of new green infrastructure assets.

Policy DM27 Green Infrastructure Opportunity Area (Green Infrastructure Opportunity Area – Area O). This states that development will be required to optimise the benefits and enhance existing green infrastructure assets, and contribute towards the delivery of new green infrastructure assets.

Policy DM29 Wildlife Enhancement Corridors (City West) Design of Development – states that all development proposals must be of a high standard of design and layout to reflect and promote local distinctiveness.

This section describes the proposed development site, in its context, as of November 2023.

Landscape Baseline

The site and study area are shown on Figure 0002-01. A study area of 1km radius was chosen to encompass site and surrounding area; however, the primary focus of the study is on the site and the area immediately surrounding the site, where the level of effects is predicted to be greatest. It is not anticipated that any notable landscape effects would be experienced across most of the study area. The landscape character of the site and its surroundings are described in Table 1 opposite.

Existing landscape character assessments

Large parts of the country are covered by existing landscape character assessments at various scales. The whole of England is characterised into a series of broad-scale national character areas, with many local authorities having produced county or district-level assessments.

National Character Areas (NCA) covering England were published by Natural England in 2014 . The site lies within NCA 14 Tyne and Wear Lowlands. Key characteristics are listed as follows (those with relevance to the current appraisal are highlighted in bold):

- *Undulating landform incised by the river valleys of the Tyne and the Wear and their tributaries.*
- *Widespread urban and industrial development with a dense network of major road and rail links and the spreading conurbations of Tyneside in the north. Dispersed towns and villages further south.*
- *Historic riverside cities of Newcastle upon Tyne and Durham, strategically located at bridging points of the rivers Tyne and Wear.*
- *Between settlements, wide stretches of agricultural land with large, regular, arable fields bordered by hedgerows with few hedgerow trees, often with large farmsteads and urban fringe pasture land with pony and cattle grazing.*
- *Strong legacy of mining, much restored to agriculture, forestry, industry, housing and amenity uses such as country parks, linking urban areas with countryside and coast by transforming wagonways to cycle routes and footpaths.*
- *Industrial prosperity reflected in the large number of 18th- and 19th-century country houses, set within parkland in the vicinity of major settlements.*
- *Mixed woodland estates and plantations on restored spoil heaps provide woodland cover in some areas, although sparse elsewhere.*
- *Oak or oak/birch broadleaved woodland, a characteristic feature on steep sides of narrow river valleys, with some river flood plains holding pockets of fen, reedbed and species-rich grasslands.*
- *Important relic of lowland heath survives at Waldridge Fell, one of few remaining areas of common land.*
- *Small area of coastline between Whitley Bay and South Shields consisting of sand, rocky foreshore habitats and maritime cliffs, with historic landmarks such as St Mary’s lighthouse and Tynemouth Priory.*
- *Heavily modified, Tynemouth estuary supports regionally important numbers of wintering waterbirds and breeding shelduck and North Shields is a busy port terminus for sea ferries to Norway and Denmark.*
- *Part of North Tyneside coast supports seabirds: purple sandpiper, ruddy turnstone and breeding little tern.*
- *Long history of settlement, mining and industry evidenced through historic buildings and settlement patterns which form a core part of*

Table 1: Characteristic features and elements of the site and surrounding area

Application site and surrounding area	
Landform and drainage	Within the site, the landform slopes slightly from north to south (16m AOD to 11m AOD in the northern part, 15m AOD to 9m AOD in the southern part). As shown on Figure 2, the study area is characterised by the steep topography of valley, with a local high point at Walbottle Brickworks (~56m AOD). Within the Study Area, the River Tyne is the principal watercourse. There are other minor watercourses in the surrounding landscape such as the new Burn. Which flows south into the Tyne Water.
Landcover and land use	The site comprises two areas of hardstanding in an existing concrete batching plant (connected by a proposed access road) bounded by existing brick wall and vegetations along majority of the boundaries, with an area of woodland to the immediate west. The surrounding landscape has an urban setting, comprising a mix of landcover and land uses; however, it is predominantly residential and industrial land with trees and vegetation enclosing housings and properties. The area of scrub and woodland at the former quarry/ brickpit site in Walbottle Brickworks is a prominent feature within the area. The other notable land use in the immediate area is electricity transmission infrastructure with the Stella West substation lying 150m southwest of the site. The overhead lines which feed into the substation cross the landscape in the vicinity of the site and are prominent features in the landscape. More information describing the ecology of the site and surrounding area can be found in the ecological appraisal accompanying the planning application.
Features	As mentioned elsewhere, the electricity transmission infrastructure located within and adjacent to the site is a prominent feature in the local landscape as are the main roads (although there is very limited intervisibility of the site). The Sandhills Garden Waste Recycling facility is a noticeable man-made feature in the landscape. Also noteworthy is the woodland at Walbottle Brickworks
Settlement	The site lies within the urban area of Newburn (western edge of the city of Newcastle upon Tyne). There are residential properties, industrial buildings and warehouses located in the immediate surrounding of the site. The smaller villages of Walbottle and Throckley sit approximately 840m north and 1km northwest respectively.
Recreation	Recreational opportunities in the surrounding landscape tend to focus on public footpaths and bridleways, with the closest being the Footpath 113 Newburn (approximately 150 to the southeast), which also forms part of the cycle network, joining the National Cycle Network Route 72 at approximately 160m south of the site. There is also a large recreational resource at Walbottle Brickworks Local Nature Reserve at approximately 45m northeast of the site
Access and Movement	The study area contains a busy network of roads, consisting of A-1roads and minor roads. The A6085 runs along the immediate south of the site, connecting to the A69 to the north and A1 to the east (1.3km and 2.3km at its closest point respectively). As mentioned above, there is also extensive coverage of the study area with public footpaths, bridleways and tracks.
Designations and sensitive receptors	The closest designated assets are Walbottle Brickworks Local Nature Reserve (approximately 45m northeast), Walbottle Dene Hallow Local Nature Reserve and Hill Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI), some 920m north and 1km west respectively.

- *today’s landscape.*
- *Important tourist attractions include Durham, Newcastle upon Tyne, Whitley Bay and two World Heritage Sites – Hadrian’s Wall and Durham Castle and Cathedral.*

The NCAs are mentioned for background context but are not classified as receptors for the purposes of the appraisal given the large scale of the character areas, the nature of the site and surrounding area and the proposal.

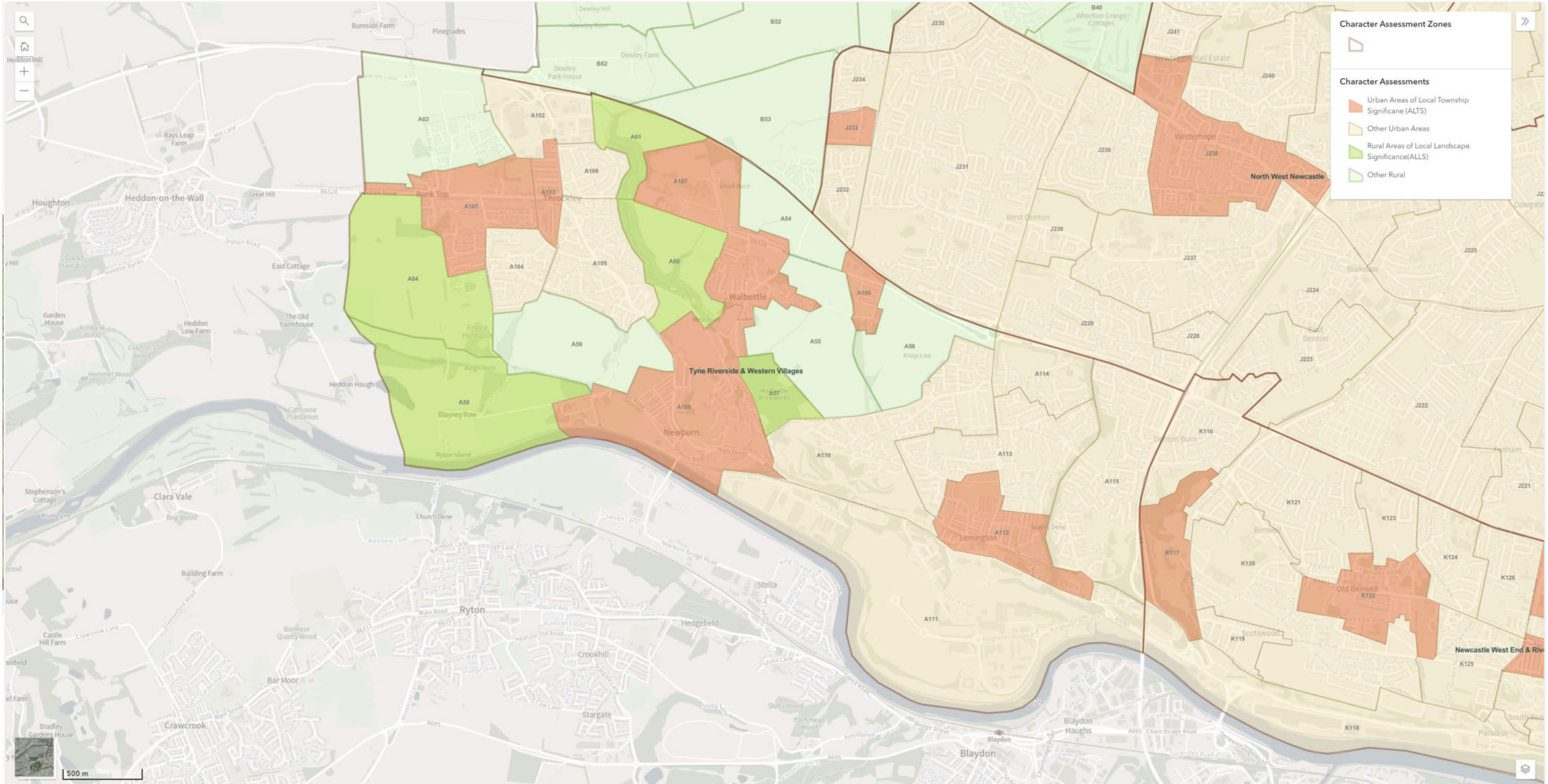
The local area is also covered by a district level landscape character assessment. Newcastle City Council published a Landscape Character Assessment (2017) which defines and assesses land within the city into 184 urban and 61 rural Character Areas that are grouped into 13 broader Character Zones, of which 6 are wholly urban, 6 are predominantly rural, and 1 is evenly divided.

The site sits on the eastern edge of Character Area A108 Newburn, with the surrounding lies within Character Area A57 Walbottle Brickworks, Character Area A110 Lemington West and A111 Newburn Riverside, to the north, east and south respectively. The Character Area A108 is classified as ‘Urban Areas of Local Township Significance (ALTS)’, which is described as follows:

Invigorating residential area comprising Victorian industrial/mining settlement of stone buildings and brick terraces with later 1960’s/1970’s

housing and industrial development; average-good condition overall; steeply sloping rural/riverside setting with exhilarating views; strong heritage value and high number of attractive and characterful buildings; many wildlife designations although overall vegetation impact only medium.

The character area has a ‘positive’ quality rating with a ‘Moderate’ character strength. To the immediate surrounding of the site, the landscape lies within Character Area A57, A110 and A111, at approximately 45m north, 45m east and 160m south respectively. However, visibility of the site from within these character areas would be limited by topography and intervening vegetations, therefore it is not considered further within the detailed appraisal of impacts.



Excerpt from Interactive Map of Newcastle Character Areas

Visual Baseline

The fieldwork was undertaken in November 2023. Representative viewpoints are presented as annotated single frame images in line with the Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19 ‘Visual Representation of Development proposals’. The photographs were taken with a full-frame digital SLR camera using a 50mm focal length lens.

Views towards the site from the surrounding area are typically screened by the large amount of tree cover within and around the site and also in the wider area. Surrounding buildings add to this effect. Within the wider landscape topography combines with vegetation to further limit visibility of the site. As a result, the existing site and buildings are barely perceptible from the surrounding area with the exception of the roads immediately to the south and east. Furthermore, it is important to note that the photographs presented in this report were all taken in winter when the vegetation was not in leaf, and therefore represents a ‘worst case’ in terms of visibility. During the rest of the year, the site would be more heavily screened by vegetation.

Due to the impact of screening as described above there was considered to be limited value in preparing a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) plan. Viewpoints are used to inform the visual impact appraisal and fall into one of three groups as described in Paragraph 6.19 of GLVIA3. Representative viewpoints are used to represent the experience of different types of visual receptor, since it is typically impractical to include large numbers of individual viewpoints. Specific viewpoints are chosen because they are considered to be important views, perhaps promoted in tourist literature, etc. Finally, illustrative viewpoints are used to demonstrate a particular effect or specific issues. Typically, in visual appraisal, viewpoints are chosen from publicly accessible locations where the development proposals will be visible. In the case of the proposed development however, and for the reasons described above, most of the viewpoints demonstrate a lack of visibility of the new building. Viewpoints selected for the appraisal are listed in Table 2 (right) and shown on Figure 2, also to the right. Photographs of the existing view at the viewpoint locations are included on pages 9 to 12.



Figure 2: Viewpoint locations used in the appraisal

ID	Location	Coordinates (E, N)	Elevation (m) AOD)	Distance from the site (m)	Direction to the site	Potential receptors
1	High Street (A6085)	417056, 565198	9	15	E	Motorists, adjacent footway users
2	A6085	417129, 565148	9	35	N	Motorists, adjacent footway users
3	Stewart Court	417040, 565393	23	30	S	Motorists, adjacent footway users
4	Walbottle Road	417089, 565359	23	30	S	Motorists, adjacent footway users

Table 2: Viewpoint information



Viewpoint No.	1	Visualisation Type	Type 1	Date and Time of Captured Photography	28/11/23 15:19	Lens Focal Length	50mm	Direction of View	E	Height of Ground	9m	Distance to Site	15m	
Description	High Street (A6085) opposite site entrance	Projection	Single Frame	Camera Make, Model and Sensor Format	Nikon Z7 FFS	Horizontal Field of View	39.6°	Camera Location	417056, 565198	Height of Camera Lens above Ground	1.6m			



From the footway adjacent to the roundabout opposite the site, the view looks north towards the southern part of the site. The existing commercial premises, with a functional design and utilitarian materials, block views into the site beyond. The site is bounded by a wire mesh fence, reflecting the industrial character of the area. The vegetation characteristic of the area also features in the view. The two silos (to be retained) in the concrete batching plant are seen over the existing buildings, as is the end of Clayton House, on Walbottle Road.

Viewpoint No.	2	Visualisation Type	Type 1	Date and Time of Captured Photography	28/11/23 15:23	Lens Focal Length	50mm	Direction of View	N	Height of Ground	9m	Distance to Site	35m	
Description	Junction A6085 & Walbottle Road	Projection	Single Frame	Camera Make, Model and Sensor Format	Nikon Z7 FFS	Horizontal Field of View	39.6°	Camera Location	417129, 565148	Height of Camera Lens above Ground	1.6m			



Site located at foot of adjacent slope -
not directly visible from the road at this location

From the footway adjacent to the road, the view looks south, in the direction of the site. The site itself is screened from view as the landform drops steeply down from the road verge, with trees and other vegetation adding to the screening effect. The distant view, filtered by vegetation, looks over the valley of the River Tyne.

Viewpoint No.	3	Visualisation Type	Type 1	Date and Time of Captured Photography	28/11/23 15:29	Lens Focal Length	50mm	Direction of View	S	Height of Ground	23m	Distance to Site	30m	
Description	Stewart Court	Projection	Single Frame	Camera Make, Model and Sensor Format	Nikon Z7 FFS	Horizontal Field of View	39.6°	Camera Location	417040, 565393	Height of Camera Lens above Ground	1.6m			



Viewpoint No.	4	Visualisation Type	Type 1	Date and Time of Captured Photography	28/11/23 15:30	Lens Focal Length	50mm	Direction of View	S	Height of Ground	23m	Distance to Site	30m	
Description	Walbottle Road	Projection	Single Frame	Camera Make, Model and Sensor Format	Nikon Z7 FFS	Horizontal Field of View	39.6°	Camera Location	417089, 565359	Height of Camera Lens above Ground	1.6m			

The proposed battery storage facility consists of a number of elements split across two parts of the site. The southern are contains the substation which consists of unenclosed electrical infrastructure (transformers, cables, etc.). This will be enclosed by a security fence. The northern area will contain the battery storage containers, inverters and other infrastructure (switchgear etc.) These will be housed in containerised units, having a variety of sizes, but no greater than 3m in height. Further information on the site design can be found within the Planning, Access and Design Statement. Some vegetation removal will be necessary to facilitate the development, with

enhancement proposed to retained areas of vegetation. More details can be found within the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment accompanying the planning application.

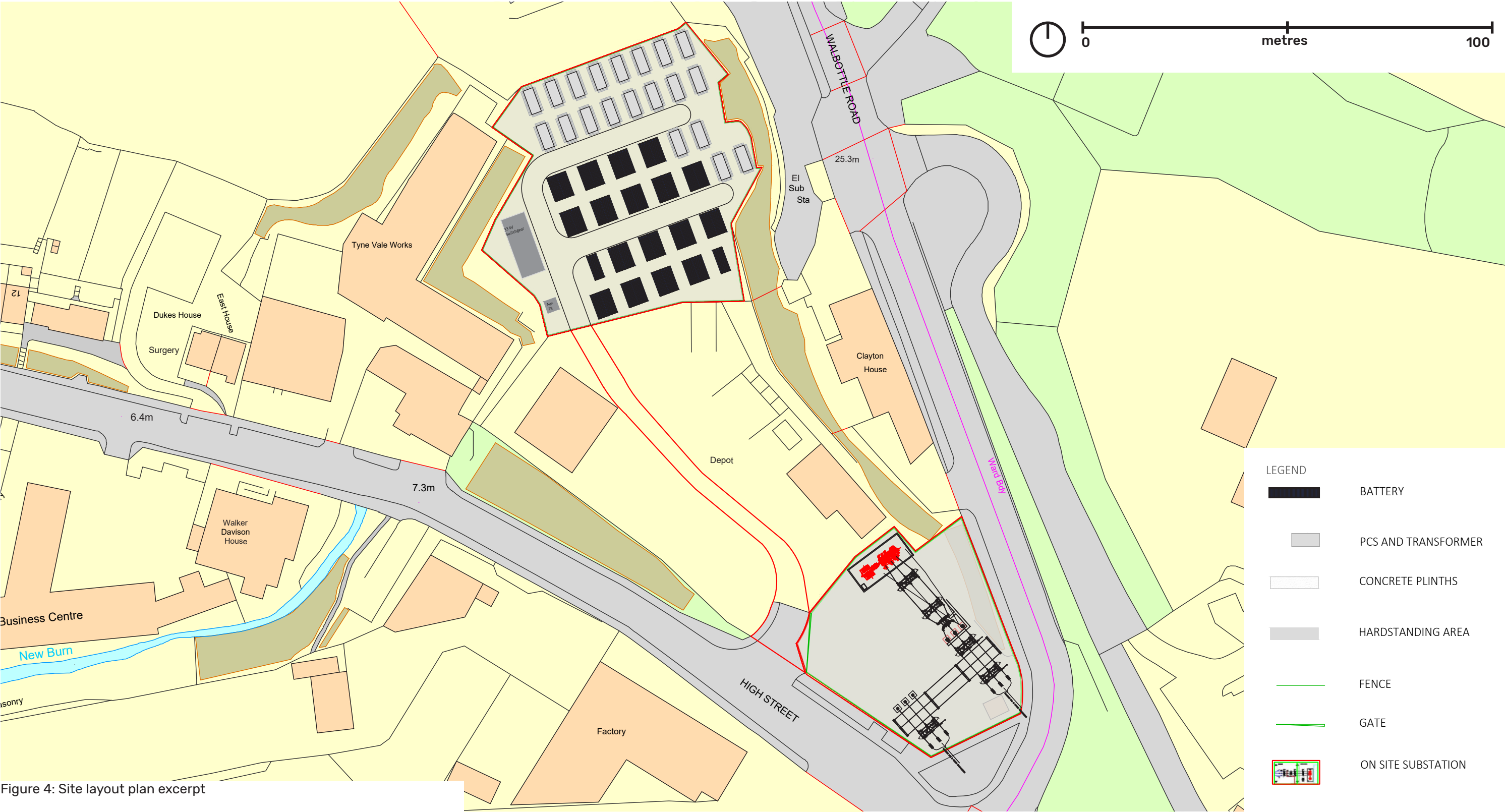


Figure 4: Site layout plan excerpt

Landscape Effects

Receptors

As described in paragraph 5.34 of GLVIA 3, landscape receptors that may be affected by the scheme include overall character and key characteristics, individual elements or features and specific aesthetic or perceptual aspects. This appraisal considers the effects on the following receptor:

- the site and its immediate surroundings, both in terms of direct effects on individual elements and features, and indirect effects on aesthetic and perceptual aspects and character;

Other receptors mentioned in the baseline for context do not form part of the appraisal for the reasons states in Section 4.0.

Sensitivity of Landscape Receptors

Landscape receptors need to be addressed in terms of their sensitivity, which, as described previously, combines judgements of their susceptibility to the type of change or development proposed and value attached to the landscape. The value of landscape receptors may be recognised by national or local heritage designations such as conservation area status, etc. However, landscapes which are not officially designated may still be valued at a community level.

Magnitude of Landscape Change

Each effect on landscape receptors needs to be assessed in terms of its size or scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced, and its duration and reversibility. According to GLVIA 3 (paragraph 5.49), judgements about the size or scale of change in the landscape should take account of the following:

- the extent of existing elements that will be lost, the proportion of the total extent that this represents and the contribution of that element to the character;
- the degree to which aesthetic or perceptual aspects are altered either by removal of existing components or by addition of new ones – for example, introduction of new buildings or tall structures may alter open skylines; and
- whether the effect changes key characteristics which are critical to the distinctive character of the landscape.

In terms of geographical extent, effects may be experienced at the site level, within the immediate setting of the site, within the landscape character area in which the site lies, or in the wider landscape which may include several different landscape character types or areas.

In the context of the proposed development, aside from temporary effects relating to the construction period, the duration of landscape effects is considered to be long term, and the effects are also considered to be permanent.

Appraisal

The appraisal of landscape effects is set out in Table 3 opposite. Considering the location of the proposed development, its size and scale and the character of the surrounding area, the potential impacts on only the receptors listed above are considered.

Receptor	Description	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect
Site	The site has been described previously but in summary comprises the operational industrial premises and adjacent concrete batching plant.	The site is located within a built-up urban area and is considered to have a low susceptibility to the proposed changes due to the nature of the development and the existing landscape features and elements to be removed. The value of these elements is considered to be low, therefore the overall sensitivity of the site is low.	Within the site, there would be partial alteration to the baseline resulting from the demolition of buildings and site clearance and earthworks. Overall the magnitude of change is considered to be medium.	Moderate/Minor: Receptor is of low sensitivity, but the proposals will have a noticeable impact on the site. However, such effects would be expected for any redevelopment of an industrial site, allocated for continuing industrial use. The nature of the effect is therefore considered to be neutral.
Surrounding area	As described in the baseline section of the appraisal, the surrounding area contains a diverse mix of land uses varying from residential landscapes to infrastructure and industry, to recreational areas and the nearby riverside. Condition of these elements is mixed. The presence of a large amount of mature tree coverage in and around the site, together with (in places) steeply sloping topography, strongly limits the perceptibility of the site, and elements within it, from locations in the surrounding area, as can be appreciated through consideration of the viewpoint photography included in previous sections.	Based on the criteria listed in Table A1 of the appendix the landscape value of the surrounding area is considered to be medium-low. There are no areas designated either nationally or locally for their scenic quality; however the Newburn character area is noted as being an Area of Local Townscape Significance. Susceptibility to change is considered to be low, given ability of the existing features of the to screen the development. Overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be medium-low.	Beyond the site boundary, the perceptibility of the proposed development rapidly decreases within the surrounding landscape due to the combination of topography and screening by vegetation and buildings. Further south from the site, and where the land starts to rise, there are distant views over the landscape but the site itself is not visible due to the screening effect of vegetation. Photographs of the existing view taken at representative viewpoints illustrate this lack of visibility, Therefore, the magnitude of change on the wider landscape is considered to be negligible.	Negligible: The development proposals would not change the character of the surrounding area and the key characteristics of the Newburn character area would be unaffected.

Table 3: Potential effects on landscape receptors

Visual Effects

Receptors

As described in paragraph 6.13 of GLVIA 3, visual receptors that may be affected by the scheme include people living in the area, people who work there, people passing through on road, rail or other forms of transport, people visiting promoted landscapes or attractions, and people engaged in recreation of different types. Changes in views and visual amenity may arise from built or engineered forms and/or soft landscape (planting) elements of the development.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

In accordance with paragraph 6.31 of GLVIA 3, sensitivity of visual receptors “should be assessed in terms of both their susceptibility to change in views and visual amenity and also the values attached to particular views.”

The key factors used to determine the ‘value’ attached to a particular view may include whether it is from a heritage asset or area designated under planning, and for views which may have a particular value associated to them by visitors or cultural association. None of the representative viewpoints are considered to have a high value, as recognised through documentary evidence therefore value accorded to the views in this appraisal is either medium or low. With regard to ‘susceptibility to change’

this is mainly a function of the occupation or activity of people experiencing the view, and the extent to which their attention or interest may be drawn. More ‘susceptible’ visual receptors would include local residents, people engaged in outdoor recreation where the focus is on the view or landscape such as users of long-distance routes and visitors to heritage assets / other attractions.

Magnitude of Visual Change

Each effect on visual amenity receptors needs to be assessed in terms of its size or scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced, and its duration and reversibility.

According to GLVIA 3 (paragraph 6.39), judgements about the size or scale of change in the view should take account of the following:

- the scale of the change in the view with respect to the loss or addition of features in the view and changes in its composition, including the proportion of the view occupied by the proposed development;
- the degree of contrast or integration of any new features or change in the landscape with the existing or remaining landscape elements and characteristics in terms of form, scale and mass, line, height, colour, and texture; and
- the nature of the view of the proposed development, in terms of the relative amount of time over which it will be experience and whether

views will be full, partial or glimpses.

In terms of geographical extent, effects will vary depending on the angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor, the distance of the viewpoint from the proposed development and the extent of visibility of the proposed changes.

In the context of the proposed development, aside from temporary effects relating to the construction period, the duration of visual effects is considered to be permanent.

Appraisal of Effects at Representative Viewpoints

The sensitivity of receptors at the representative viewpoints varies between low – medium, with value generally considered to be low, and susceptibility to change ranging from high to low. However, given the screening by trees and other elements in the landscape, the magnitude of change in each view is likely to negligible and the level of effect also negligible as change is unlikely to be readily perceptible and the view composition is anticipated to remain as shown in the baseline views.

Visual Effects

Higher levels of effect on visual amenity may be experienced by:

- people who are particularly sensitive to changes in views and visual amenity;
- people at recognised and important viewpoints or using recognised scenic routes; and
- people who experience large-scale changes which introduce new, non-characteristic or discordant or intrusive elements into the view (in contrast to a development which introduces small changes or changes involving features already present in the view).

The appraisal of visual effects is set out in Table 4 opposite. Considering the location of the proposed development, its size and scale and the character of the surrounding area, the potential impacts on only three receptors (or groups of receptors) are considered:

- recreational users of the footpaths, bridleways and open space within the surrounding landscape;
- road users with potential views of the site; and,
- occupiers of residential properties with potential views of the site.

Receptor	Distance	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effect
Recreational users of the landscape				
Users of surrounding footpaths principally Hadrian's Wall Path and National Cycle Network Route 72.	At the closest point located approximately 60m south of the site.	Based on the criteria listed in Table A6 of the appendix, the value of views in this case is considered to be low. Recreational users of public rights of way in countryside areas typically have a higher susceptibility to change. Overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be medium.	Fieldwork has demonstrated that there is very limited to no visibility of the site. Any change is likely to be barely perceptible and difference from the baseline environment largely indistinguishable. The magnitude of change is therefore considered to be negligible.	Negligible.
Road users				
Users of surrounding roads principally High Street (A6085) and Walbottle Road.	At the closest point adjacent to the site boundary.	Road users in locations such as this (urban) are considered to have a low susceptibility to change. The value attached to these views is also considered to be low. Sensitivity of road users is therefore considered to be low.	Based on viewpoint photographs visibility of the proposed development would be limited to areas immediately adjacent to the southern part of the site. The change in the view will consist of removal of the existing building and the small area of adjacent scrubby vegetation and its replacement with the new substation, consisting of electrical equipment (un-enclosed by buildings). For road users, the change – whilst perceptible, would be glimpsed in passing, and the character of the view would remain broadly similar to the current situation. The magnitude of change is therefore considered to be low.	Minor. There would be a small change to views as a result of the proposed development. However, the nature of effect is considered to be neutral as the overall character of the view will not change substantially (continuing industrial use).
Residential receptors				
A small number of houses to the north of the site have views or potential views of the site.	At the closest point, approximately 15m north of the site.	Residential receptors have a high susceptibility to change. The value attached to views is considered to be low as none of the properties is sited to take advantage of any particular views to the surrounding landscape. Vegetation screens most of the outlook from these properties. Sensitivity is therefore considered to be medium.	Whilst the properties themselves have not been accessed, the potential change in views has been assessed from the adjacent road (Stewart Court). The southernmost property on this street has its gable end facing the site so most views into the site (primarily from upper storey windows) would be oblique. Houses at the end of Mill Vale have their rear elevations overlooking the site; however, the change in level between the property and the site, combined with the screening effect of vegetation, means that visibility of the proposed development will be limited and furthermore, it will be seen in the context of the existing retained concrete batching plant and adjacent industrial/commercial premises. Overall the magnitude of change is considered to be negligible-low.	Minor. There would be a small change to views as a result of the proposed development. However, the nature of effect is considered to be neutral as the overall character of the view will not change substantially (continuing industrial use).

Table 4: Potential effects on visual receptors

This report has assessed the potential landscape and visual effects of the proposed development. It has included a study of the landscape character of the existing site and its surroundings, analysis of a selection of representative views towards the site, and identification and appraisal of the landscape and visual effects likely to be generated.

During the construction period, impacts may arise from the following elements and activities:

- site clearance, material stockpiles and earthworks including excavation for foundations;
- site signage, traffic control, and hoardings;
- construction traffic and machinery;
- site compounds, areas for storage of plant and materials, and parking; and
- erection of scaffolding and use of cranes.
- erection of temporary classrooms and activity associated with their use.

Whilst construction activities would give rise to landscape and visual effects, which are may be considered to be adverse, these would be short term and temporary. The existing site contains a range of industrial uses and is allocated for continued industrial use. Typical construction activity would not be out of place in this context.

The potential landscape and visual impacts of the proposed development at night-time have also not been considered in detail. There will be no permanent lighting within the site. Lighting will consist of motion-sensitive lighting at the entrances to the various buildings and the storage units, only activated during routine and any unplanned visits to the site. This lighting will be designed to be downward facing to minimise any light-spill.

Effects on landscape character would be greatest at the site itself where the level of effect is predicted to be moderate/minor (neutral). It is worth reiterating that the proposed development is unlikely to be readily visible from areas outside its immediate surroundings.

The introduction of the proposed development into the views of the site from surrounding areas has been considered from four viewpoints, all located close to the site boundary. The proposed development is unlikely to be noticeable from much further afield and the impact on the landscape of the surrounding area therefore negligible.

Paragraph 6.17 of GLVIA 3 states that in some instances it may be appropriate to consider private viewpoints, mainly from residential properties. In this appraisal effects on the visual amenity of residential receptors have been considered in a generalised fashion, using information gathered during fieldwork from publicly accessible places near to the properties. For occupiers of a very small number of houses to the north having potential views of the site, the level of effect would be up to minor. The nature of effect is considered to be neutral. The proposals would result in a small change to the view, but this is not considered to be adverse given that the views already comprise the currently operational industrial site, with its mix of buildings, hardstanding, and other elements and activities. Importantly, all of the vegetation along intervening boundary will be retained.

For road users in the area surrounding the site, the level of effect is predicted to be no greater than minor (neutral).

For recreational users of Hadrian's Wall Path and NCN Route 72 the level of effect on visual amenity would be negligible. The character of views would

remain unchanged.

It should be noted that effects on both landscape character and visual amenity (particularly any perceived adverse effects) will reduce over time due to the continued growth of existing trees and vegetation surrounding the site. This will help integrate the development into the landscape.

It is considered that the landscape has the capacity to accommodate a development of the scale proposed and that the appraisal has shown that the potential for adverse effects on landscape character and visual amenity resulting from the proposed development would be very limited in scale and extent, and arising only during the construction period.

As fieldwork took place in the winter months, when vegetation is not in leaf, the photographs presented in the report represent a 'worst-case' in terms of potential visibility.

During its operation, the proposed development would have a number of landscape and visual effects. The nature of these effects is considered to be neutral given the location and character of the existing site and the design of the proposed facility. Accordingly, the proposed development is considered to be acceptable in terms of its potential effects, and in accordance with relevant planning policies.

This Appendix sets out the methodology applied to the Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal (LVIA) carried out for the proposed battery energy storage system. The approach adopted follows the recommendations contained in The Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (2013), published by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, hereafter referred to as GLVIA3.

The LI has also issued a number Statements of Clarification relating to GLVIA3 which touch on the difference between LVIA undertaken as part of a formal EIA and non-EIA appraisal. GLVIA3 Statement of Clarification 1/13 states that:

In carrying out appraisals, the same principles and process as LVIA may be applied but, in so doing, it is not required to establish whether the effects arising are or are not significant given that the exercise is not being undertaken for EIA purposes. The reason is that should a landscape professional apply LVIA principles and processes in carrying out an appraisal and then go on to determine that certain effects would be likely be significant, given the term ‘significant’ is enshrined in EIA Regulations, such a judgement could trigger the requirement for a formal EIA.

In relation to the process of appraisal, GLVIA3 Statement of Clarification 1/14 goes on to state that:

In landscape appraisals, a similar process is followed, omitting the step of “Combine to assess significance of effect”. As advised in the LI’s GLVIA3 Statement of Clarification 1/13, “the same principle – focussing on a proportional approach – also applies to appraisals of landscape and visual impacts outside the formal requirements of EIA” (Note 4) and “the level of, or degree of, effect may then be judged, for example, by determining magnitude and registering it against sensitivity. Depending on the means of judgement and terminology (which should be explicitly set out), effects of varying degrees of change (or levels of change), may be derived” (Note 3). The appraisal process is completed with a final statement of the effects identified, which may identify the relative importance of the effects, but without assessing their likely significance.

This is the approach followed in this appraisal.

EIA legislation also requires that an Environmental Statement describes the measures proposed to mitigate any ‘likely significant effects’ of a development. The Landscape Institute has further clarified that “consideration of significance of effects is not a requirement of non-EIA Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisals, but it may be appropriate to consider mitigation of adverse effects identified in the course of the appraisal, without the need to assess the significance of those effects.” Therefore no specific mitigation measures are included within the appraisal. However, as discussed in the appraisal, the housing is set within a comprehensive landscape design including plot based ornamental planting and grass turfing/seeding, street tree planting, native scrub, and tree planting within areas of open space and areas of wildflower and grass seeding including mixes appropriate for a wetland setting within the attenuation basin.

In accordance with the GLVIA3, effects on landscape character and effects on visual amenity are reported separately.

Landscape appraisal studies:

- direct effects upon specific landscape elements;
- change in character, which is the distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements that creates distinctiveness and a sense of place;
- subtle effects that contribute towards the experience of intangible characteristics such as cultural associations; and
- effects on designated landscapes, such as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Areas of High Landscape Value, and other acknowledged special areas of interest.

Visual effects relate closely to landscape effects, but they concern changes in views and visual amenity. Visual appraisal concerns people’s perception and response to changes in visual amenity.

Both landscape and visual effects can be adverse, beneficial or neutral, short, medium or long term, permanent or temporary, reversible or irreversible, direct (an effect that is directly attributable to the proposed development) or indirect (effects resulting indirectly from the development as a consequence of the direct effects), and cumulative, relating to additional changes that may arise when the proposed development is considered in conjunction with other similar developments.

Professional judgement is a very important part of this process as stated in paragraph 2.23 of GLVIA 3:

While there is some scope for quantitative measurement of some relatively objective matters, for example the number of trees lost to the construction of a new mine, much of the assessment must rely on qualitative judgements, for example about what the effect of the introduction of a new development or land use change may have on visual amenity, or the significance of change in the character of the landscape and whether it is positive or negative.

It is essential that professional and qualitative judgements are reported in a transparent and clear manner, and that any identified effects are suitably described.

Landscape appraisal

An appraisal of landscape effects deals with the effects of change and development on landscape as a resource. This includes how the proposal will affect the elements that make up the landscape, its aesthetic and perceptual aspects and its distinctive character.

An appraisal of existing landscape character has identified the locally distinctive attributes shaping the character of the area. This provides a baseline against which the impact of the proposed development can be assessed. The appraisal considers specifically:

- landscape designations and sensitive receptors;
- landform and drainage;
- landcover and landuse;
- settlement;
- formal and informal recreation areas;
- access and movement; and,
- landscape features, including existing vegetation.

Value

Landscape value is established as part of the baseline description. It is the relative value attached to different landscapes by society. The value placed

on a particular landscape may vary for different individuals within that society and value can be applied to areas of landscape as a whole, or to the individual elements, features and aesthetic or perceptual dimensions which contribute to the character of the landscape.

The appraisal of value is based on professional judgement and includes consideration of factors such as:

- designations;
- planning policy;
- status of individual or groups of landscape features;
- cultural values attached to specific areas/views; and,
- landscapes of local and/or community interest.

Landscape value can also be identified through reference to specific features including:

- landscape quality;
- scenic quality;
- rarity;
- representativeness;
- heritage interests;
- recreational value;
- perceptual aspects; and,
- cultural associations.

Typical criteria for assessing landscape value are described in Table A1 below:

Table A1: Typical criteria for the appraisal of landscape value	
Value	Description of typical criteria
Higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Landscape area of excellent condition, high importance, scenic quality, rarity with distinctive components and characteristics which may also be nationally or internationally designated, e.g., World Heritage Site, National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).• A landscape feature which makes a strong positive contribution to landscape character.• No or very limited potential for substitution.• Few detracting features, strong sense of place.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Landscape area of good condition, medium importance, scenic quality, rarity with some features worthy of conservation which may also be designated at a county level, e.g., local landscape designations.• A landscape feature which makes some positive contribution to landscape character.• Limited potential for substitution.• Some detracting features, recognisable sense of place.
Lower	<p>Landscape area of poor condition, low importance, scenic quality, rarity likely to be undesignated and with little or no wider recognition of value, although potentially of importance to the local community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Landscape feature which makes a limited contribution to landscape character.• Considerable potential for substitution.• Frequent detracting features, weak sense of place.


Susceptibility to Change

Professional judgements are made in relation to the susceptibility of the landscape receptor to change. As discussed in paragraph 5.40 of GLVIA 3, susceptibility to change is defined by:

“the ability of the landscape receptor (whether it be the overall character or quality/condition of a particular landscape type or 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 achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies.”

It goes on to state that existing characterisation studies may be a useful guide but, “...cannot provide a substitute for the individual assessment of susceptibility of the receptors in relation to the specific development proposal.”

Typical criteria for assessing landscape receptor susceptibility to change are described in Table A2 below:

Table A2: Appraisal of landscape receptor susceptibility to change	
Susceptibility	Description of criteria
Higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Little ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue harm.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Some ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue harm.
Lower	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Substantial ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue harm.

Sensitivity

Landscape sensitivity is defined by professional judgement of the interaction between value and susceptibility to change. The interaction is typically complex and reasoned justification for the appraisal of the sensitivity for each receptor is included in the LVIA text. Table A3 below sets out typical criteria for the appraisal of landscape sensitivity.

Table A3: Typical criteria for sensitivity appraisal of landscape receptors	
Sensitivity	Description of typical criteria
High	An area possessing a particularly distinctive sense of place/character and in good condition; and/or highly valued for its scenic quality/landscape character; and/or a landscape with a low tolerance to change of the type proposed.
Medium	An area with a clearly defined sense of place/character and in at least moderate condition; and/or valued at a local or regional level for its scenic quality/landscape character, and/or a landscape that is partially tolerant to change of the type proposed.
Low	An area with a weak sense of place/poorly defined character and in poor condition; and/or generally not valued for its scenic quality/landscape character, and/or a landscape that is tolerant of a high degree of change of the type proposed.
Negligible	A degraded or disturbed landscape. Many unattractive and intrusive features. Typical of areas identified for comprehensive /recovery and/ or redevelopment.

In some cases, the sensitivity of a receptor may fall somewhere between

two descriptions, and, in these cases, it is acceptable to describe these instances as lying between the two, e.g. medium / high.

GLVIA 3 recognises that the relationship between the value ascribed to receptors and their susceptibility to change can be complex, particularly when considering changes within or close to designated areas, such as National Parks for example. Paragraph 5.46 explains this as follows:

- An internationally, nationally or locally valued landscape does not automatically, or by definition, have high susceptibility to all types of change.
- It is possible for an internationally, nationally or locally important landscape to have relatively low susceptibility to change resulting from the particular type of development in question, by virtue of both the characteristics of the landscape and the nature of the proposal.
- The particular type of change or development proposed may not compromise the specific basis for the value attached to the landscape.

Magnitude of impact (change)

The magnitude of impact is defined as high, medium, low or negligible. The level is assessed in terms of the:

- size or scale of the change caused by the proposed development, for example whether there is a complete loss of a particular element of the landscape or only a minor change;
- geographical extent over which change will occur; and
- duration and reversibility of the change.

Table A4 below sets out typical criteria for the appraisal of magnitude.

Table A4: Criteria for the appraisal of landscape magnitude of impact	
Magnitude	Description of typical criteria
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Total loss or considerable alteration to key elements, features or characteristics of the landscape character, resulting in a large degree of change to the baseline condition.The impacts would be of a large scale influencing several landscape character areas.The impacts would be long term and/or irreversible.
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Partial loss or alteration to one or more key elements, features or characteristics of the landscape character. Change perceived as a partial or localised change within a broader, unaltered context.The impacts would be at the scale of the landscape character area within which the proposal lies.The impacts would be medium term and/or partially reversible.
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Limited loss or small alteration to one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the existing landscape character. Change is discernible but underlying character would be similar to baseline.The impacts would be at the level of the immediate setting of the site.The impacts would be short term and/or reversible.
Negligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Very limited or imperceptible loss or alteration to one or more key elements/characteristics of the baseline. Change may be barely distinguishable.The impacts would be at the site level.The impacts would be very short term and/or reversible.

In some cases, the magnitude of impact may fall somewhere between two descriptions, and, in these cases, it is acceptable to describe these instances as lying between the two, e.g. medium / high.

A consideration of the sensitivity (susceptibility + value) of the landscape receptors to the development and the magnitude of the impact / nature of the change resulting from the development, determines the level of effect. The relationship between sensitivity and magnitude of impact to reach the level of effect is sometimes presented in the form of a matrix. However, such a matrix may lead to the same weighting of each criteria, which might not always be appropriate and may lead to a formulaic approach, therefore descriptions of how overall effects have been determined are provided together with reasons for this judgement.

Overall effects are assigned a level on a scale: Negligible – Minor – Moderate – Major. Table A5 assigns typical criteria to each level, as applied in this appraisal; however, it should be noted that various different scenarios of susceptibility to change, value, the size or scale, geographical extent and/ or duration and reversibility of impacts could apply to result in effects as described in the appraisal. The criteria in Table A5 are therefore provided as typical examples.

Table A5: Typical criteria for determining the level of landscape effects	
Level	Description of typical criteria
Major	The proposals have a large and prominent impact within the context of the wider area, and/or the receptors are of high sensitivity.
Moderate	The proposals have a noticeable impact within the context of the wider area, and/or the receptors are of medium sensitivity.
Minor	The proposals have some, but only a limited impact within the mainly local context, and/or the receptors are of low sensitivity.
Negligible	The degree of change is so small as to have little or no impact, and/or the receptors are of negligible sensitivity.

In some cases, the level of effect may fall somewhere between two descriptions, and, in these cases, it is acceptable to describe these instances as lying between the two, e.g. a moderate / minor effect.

The nature of the change resulting from the proposed development may also be described as beneficial (i.e. providing enhancement or improvement to the landscape), adverse (i.e. resulting in losses of characteristic elements or degradation/fragmentation of the landscape resource), or neutral (i.e. effects are neither adverse nor beneficial, or impacts may be balanced between adverse and beneficial).

Visual Appraisal

An appraisal of visual effects deals with the effects of change on the views available to people and their visual amenity. This includes how the surroundings of individuals or groups of people may specifically be affected by changes in the content and character of views as a result of the change or loss of existing elements of the landscape and/or the introduction of new elements.

The visual baseline and viewpoints are identified through the use of:

- desk top survey to identify screening by built development;
- identification of specific visual receptors; and
- site survey work to check and inform the above.

The visual baseline examines the following issues:

- the type and relative numbers of people (visual receptors) likely to be affected, making clear the activities they are likely to be involved in;
- the location, nature and characteristics of the chosen representative, specific and illustrative viewpoints, with details of the visual receptors likely to be affected at each;
- the nature, composition and characteristics of the existing views experienced at these viewpoints, including direction of view;
- the visual characteristics of the existing views, for example the nature and extent of the skyline, aspects of visual scale and proportion, especially with respect to any particular horizontal or vertical emphasis, and any key foci; and
- elements, such as landform, buildings or vegetation, which may interrupt, filter or otherwise influence the views.

Viewpoints can be representative of different types of visual receptor, specific identified viewpoints, illustrative to demonstrate specific issues, or sequential to assess changes along a given route.

Value Attached to Visual Receptor

The value attached to views is determined by:

- the value attached to particular views such as views from heritage assets or through planning designations;
- indicators of the value attached to views by visitors (e.g. the appearance of them on tourist maps, and/or provision of facilities for the enjoyment of views such as seating, signage, etc.) and through cultural associations (e.g. references to specific views in literature or art); and,
- other evidence of the value attached to views including consultation with local planning authorities, which may have carried out assessments of valued views and/or professional judgements regarding the quality of views.

Typical criteria for assessing the value associated with views are described in Table A6 below:

Table A6: Typical criteria for appraisal of the value associated with views

Value	Description of typical criteria
Higher	Viewpoints which are of importance at a national (or even international level) and which: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• are obtained from nationally or internationally designated landscapes/heritage assets;• are promoted in tourist guides or on maps;• are obtained at important/popular visitor attractions where they are recognised as being part of the visitor experience; and,• have important cultural associations. In the case of residential receptors, views in a rural or designed context (e.g. an avenue of trees or designed view from a parkland), especially if associated with landscapes of national or local authority value, where residential receptors are positioned to take advantage of the views, will generally be considered to be of higher value.
	Viewpoints which are of importance at a regional or local level and which: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• are obtained from regionally or locally designated landscapes/heritage assets;• are promoted in local tourist literature and guides;• are obtained at locally important visitor attractions where they are recognised as being part of the visitor experience; and,• have important local cultural associations. In the case of residential receptors, views in a semi-rural or general landscape context, and/or where locations of residential receptors are not positioned to take full advantage of views, will generally be considered of medium value.
Lower	Viewpoints which may be valued locally but which: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• have no formal planning status and are not associated with designated or otherwise high-quality landscape;• are not promoted in local tourist literature and guides;• are not linked with popular visitor attractions; and,• do not have cultural associations. In the case of residential receptors, views in an urban/industrial context, and/or where locations of residential receptors are not positioned to take advantage of views, will generally be considered of low value.

Susceptibility of Visual Receptor

The susceptibility of visual receptors to change caused by the proposed development is mainly a function of the occupation or activity of people experiencing the view at particular locations and the extent to which their attention or interest may therefore be focused on the views and the visual amenity they experience at those locations.

Typical criteria for assessing the susceptibility to change of visual receptors are described in Table A7 below:

Table A7: Appraisal of visual receptor susceptibility to change

Susceptibility	Description of typical examples
Higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Residents at home (primary views from rooms that are used during daylight hours, such as living rooms).• People, whether residents or visitors, who are engaged in outdoor recreation whose attention or interest is likely to be focused on the landscape and on particular views.• Visitors to heritage assets, or to other attractions, where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience.• Communities where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents in the area.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Residents at home (secondary views, e.g. views from bedrooms).• Travellers on scenic routes where the attention of drivers and passengers is likely to be focused on the surroundings and on particular views.• People engaged in outdoor sport or recreation, which may involve appreciation of views e.g. users of golf courses.
Lower	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People engaged in outdoor sport or recreation, which does not involve appreciation of views.• People at their place of work whose attention is focused on their work, where the setting is not important to quality of working life.• Travellers, where the view is incidental to the journey.

Sensitivity

Visual sensitivity is defined by professional judgement of the interaction between value and susceptibility to change. Table A8 indicates general criteria in which value and susceptibility to change may correlated to determine visual sensitivity:

Table A8: Typical criteria for the appraisal of sensitivity visual receptors

Sensitivity	Description of typical criteria
High	Viewers with proprietary interest and/or prolonged viewing opportunities and/or who have a particular interest in their visual environment and/or open to many viewers, for example visitors to landmark landscapes.
Medium	Viewers with moderate interest in their visual environment, for example users of local parks, open space, and public realm.
Low	Viewers with passing or momentary interest in their everyday surroundings, for example motorists, people engaged in outdoor recreational activities where the focus is not on views or appreciation of the landscape.
Negligible	People in commercial buildings, and other locations where their attention is focused on their work or activity, and/or where there are infrequent views.

In some cases, the sensitivity of a receptor may fall somewhere between two descriptions, and, in these cases, it is acceptable to describe these instances as lying between the two, e.g. medium / high.

Magnitude of Impact (Change)

Judging the magnitude of the visual effects identified needs to take account of the:

- scale of the change in the view, the proportion of the view occupied by the proposed development, and the degree of contrast or integration of any new features or changes, and the nature of the view in terms of how it is experienced;
- geographical extent of the effect including distance from development, angle of view and the extent over which changes would be seen; and,
- duration and reversibility of effects.

Table A9 indicates typical criteria for the appraisal of the visual magnitude of impact

Table A9: Criteria for the appraisal of visual magnitude of impact	
Magnitude	Description of typical criteria
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total loss or considerable alteration to key elements, features or characteristics of the view, and/or the addition of new features that would be very prominent, and/or would greatly contrast with the existing view, resulting in a large degree of change to the baseline condition.• Full, open views experienced for the majority of a journey or full duration of an activity.• The views would be close, direct and/or totally occupied by the proposed development.• The impacts would be long term and/or irreversible.
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partial loss or alteration to one or more key elements, features or characteristics of the view, and/or the addition of new features that would be prominent, and/or would contrast with the existing view. Change perceived as a partial or localised change within a broader, unaltered context.• Partial views, experienced for part of a journey or activity.• The views would be middle distance, partially oblique and/or partially occupied by the proposed development.• The impacts would be medium term and/or partially reversible.
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited loss or small alteration to one or more key elements, features or characteristics of the existing view and/or the addition of new features that would not be prominent, and/or would not contrast with the existing view. Change is discernible but underlying view composition would be similar to baseline.• Glimpsed views, experienced for a small part of a journey or activity.• The views would be distant, oblique and/or only a small part of the view would be occupied by the proposed development.• The impacts would be short term and/or reversible.
Negligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very limited or imperceptible loss or alteration to one or more key elements/characteristics of the view, and/or the addition of new features that would be almost imperceptible. Change may be barely distinguishable.• Very brief glimpsed views.• The views would be very distant, very oblique and/or only a tiny part of the view would be occupied by the proposed development.• The impacts would be very short term and/or reversible.

In some cases, the magnitude of impact may fall somewhere between

two descriptions, and, in these cases, it is acceptable to describe these instances as lying between the two, e.g. medium / high.

Level and Nature of Visual Effects

As with landscape effects, a consideration of the sensitivity of the visual receptors to the development and the magnitude of the impact resulting from the development, determines the overall level of the predicted effect. Again, a matrix is not used; descriptions of how the level of effect has been determined are provided, together with reasons for the judgement.

Table A10 assigns typical criteria to each level for visual effects, as applied in this appraisal; however, it should be noted that various different scenarios of susceptibility to change, value, the size or scale, geographical extent and/ or duration and reversibility of impacts could apply to result in effects as described in the appraisal; therefore, the criteria in Table A10 are provided as typical examples.

Table A10: Typical criteria for determining the level of visual effects	
Level	Description of typical criteria
Major	The proposals would be prominent and contrasting with the existing views, the changes would be experienced by a large number of people, and/or the visual receptors would be of high sensitivity to the changes.
Moderate	The proposals would be noticeable in views but not dominating, the changes would be experienced by a medium number of people, and/or the visual receptors would be of medium sensitivity to the changes.
Minor	The proposals would result in small changes to the views, the changes would be experienced by a small number of people, and/or the visual receptors would be of low sensitivity to the changes.
Negligible	The proposals would be imperceptible in views, the changes would be experienced by a very small number of people, and/or the visual receptors would be of low sensitivity to the changes.

In some cases, the level of effect may fall somewhere between two descriptions, and, in these cases, it is acceptable to describe these instances as lying between the two, e.g. a moderate / minor effect.

As with landscape effects, the judgement of sensitivity or magnitude of impact may fall somewhere between two descriptions, for instance a magnitude of impact may be considered to be greater than low but less than medium and, in these cases, it is acceptable to describe these instances as lying between the two, in this instance, low/medium.

The nature of the change resulting from the proposed development may also be described as beneficial (i.e. providing enhancement or improvement to visual amenity), adverse (i.e. resulting in a loss of visual amenity), or neutral (i.e. effects are neither adverse nor beneficial, or impacts may be balanced between adverse and beneficial).

Other Considerations

A desk study was initially undertaken to review the relevant publications, maps and plans relating to the baseline environment of the proposed development. This was followed by fieldwork to gain a better understanding of the application site and surrounding area. During the site visit, the weather conditions were suitable for assessing views.

No technical difficulties were encountered in assessing the landscape and visual impacts of the proposed development.



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