LANDSCAPE & VISUAL APPRAISAL

MARCH 2023

Hunshelf, Tofts Lane
Sheffield

URBAN GREEN

QUALITY MANAGEMENT

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1.0 INTRODUCTION & SCOPE OF APPRAISAL

This Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) has been prepared by Urban Green and provides an appraisal of the proposed development of the Site at land off Tofts Lane,Hunshelf, Sheffield. The location of the Site is shown at Fig. 1.1, opposite.

The proposals comprise of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), access road and associated landscape.

The aim of this document is to identify the key landscape and visual sensitivities of the Appraisal Site, and provide recommendations to support the appropriate development of the Site.

This document considers changes to:

- The character of the landscape, vegetation, landscape features and designations within and surrounding the Site; and
- The composition of selected views from identified visual receptors as a result of the proposed development.

The landscape and visual analysis was prepared following Site visits in July 2022. This appraisal describes and evaluates the anticipated change to landscape and visual amenity, and the extent to which these changes will affect the perception and views of the landscape.

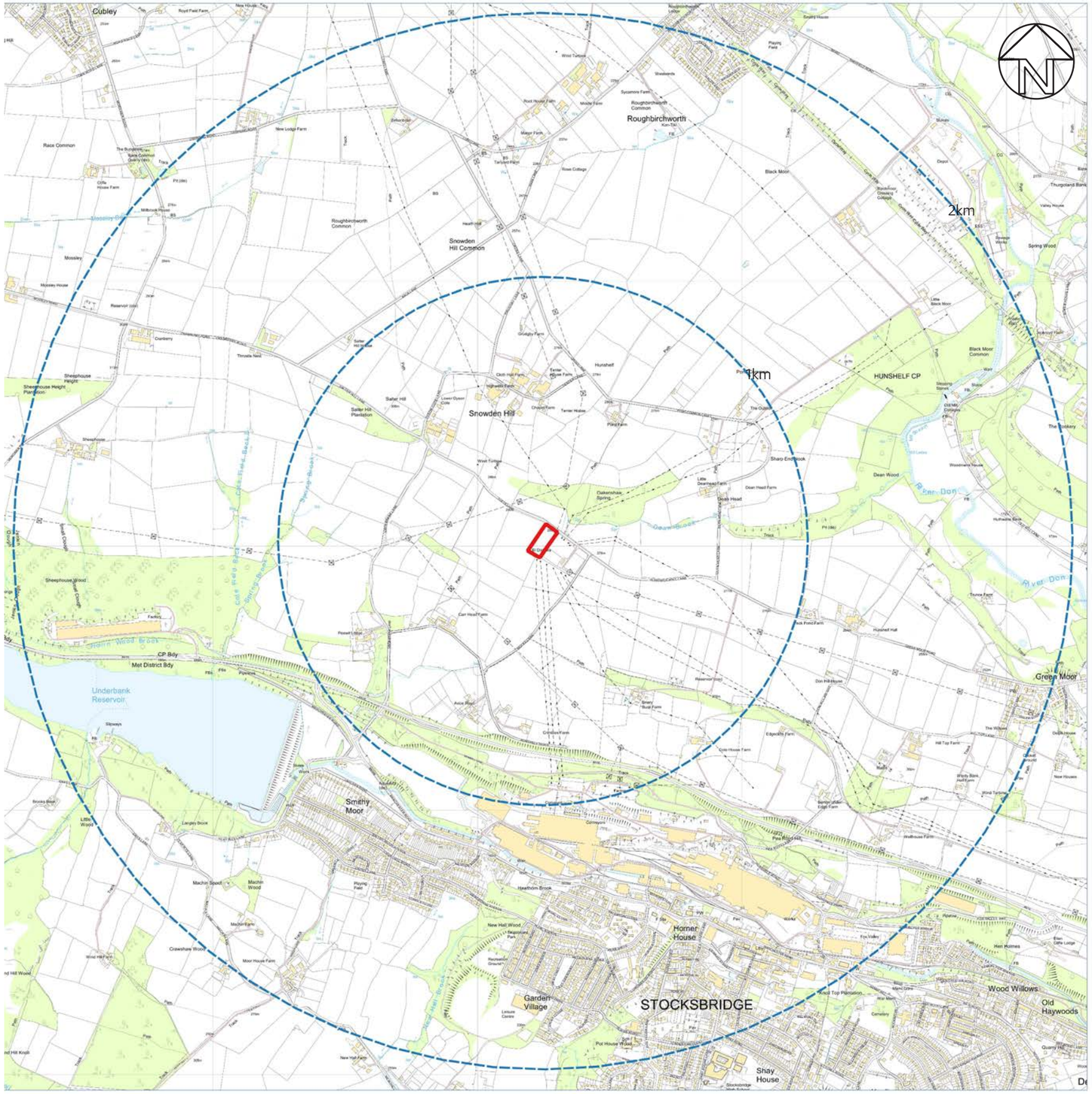


Figure 1.1 - Site Location

KEY

- Site Boundary
- 1km
- 2km

0 200 400 600 800 1,000 m

2.0 PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

National Planning Policy Framework

The National planning policy for England is defined within the National Planning Policy Framework (herein referred to as the NPPF) that has distilled the content of previous Planning Policy Statements into one comprehensive document. The NPPF is the relevant national planning policy document against which to test the proposals. A revised NPPF was issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government on 20 July 2021.

General Considerations

As a central theme, the NPPF has a presumption in favour of sustainable development (para. 11) for which it defines three mutually interdependent objectives of sustainability (para. 8) to be jointly sought (economic, social and environmental). With relevance to landscape and visual matters the third objective states:

"an environmental objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; (...)"

The planning system is identified as the vehicle for guiding development to sustainable solutions but in doing so should take local circumstances into account, to reflect the character, needs and opportunities of each area (para. 9, author's emphasis).

Strategic Policies

Paragraph 20 discusses the role of strategic policies within the plan-making framework. It suggests that sufficient provision should be made for the:

d. *"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 Achieving well-designed places

This section of the NPPF identifies that the creation of high-quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve (para. 126) it states that policy should ensure that developments (para. 130):

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; (...)"*

In regards to trees in new developments, paragraph 131 states:

"Trees make an important contribution to the character and quality of urban environments, and can also help mitigate and adapt to climate change. Planning policies and decisions should ensure that new streets are tree-lined50, that opportunities are taken to incorporate trees elsewhere in developments (such as parks and community orchards), that appropriate measures are in place to secure the long-term maintenance of newly-planted trees, and that existing trees are retained wherever possible. Applicants and local planning authorities should work with highways officers and tree officers to ensure that the right trees are planted in the right places, and solutions are found that are compatible with highways standards and the needs of different users."

Section 13 Protecting Green Belt Land

This section of the NPPF relates to Green Belt land. Paragraphs 137 and 138 state:

"The Government attaches great importance to Green Belts. The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence.

Green Belt serves five purposes:

a. *to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;*

b. *to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;*

c. *to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;*

d. *to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and*

e. *to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land."*

In reference to proposals which affect the Green Belt, paragraphs 147 to 149 state:

"Inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved except in very special circumstances.

When considering any planning application, local planning authorities should ensure that substantial weight is given to any harm to the Green Belt. 'Very special circumstances' will not exist unless the potential harm to the Green Belt by reason of inappropriateness, and any other harm resulting from the proposal, is clearly outweighed by other considerations.

A local planning authority should regard the construction of new buildings as inappropriate in the Green Belt. Exceptions to this are:

a. *buildings for agriculture and forestry;*

b. *the provision of appropriate facilities (in connection with the existing use of land or a change of use) for outdoor sport, outdoor recreation, cemeteries and burial grounds and allotments; as long as the facilities preserve the openness of the Green Belt and do not conflict with the purposes of including land within it;*

c. *the extension or alteration of a building provided that it does not result in disproportionate additions over and above the size of the original building;*

d. *the replacement of a building, provided the new building is in the same use and not materially larger than the one it replaces;*

e. *limited infilling in villages;*

2.0 PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

f. limited affordable housing for local community needs under policies set out in the development plan (including policies for rural exception sites); and

g. limited infilling or the partial or complete redevelopment of previously developed land, whether redundant or in continuing use (excluding temporary buildings), which would:

- *not have a greater impact on the openness of the Green Belt than the existing development; or*
- *not cause substantial harm to the openness of the Green Belt, where the development would re-use previously developed land and contribute to meeting an identified affordable housing need within the area of the local planning authority."*

Section 15 Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment

This section of the NPPF identifies a requirement in favour of (para. 174):

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 (...)"*

As listed in the NPPF, these valued landscapes include:

- National Parks;
- The Broads; and
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Appraisal Site is not located within any of the above mentioned valued landscapes, however, the Site is located within a wider tranche of countryside to the north of Stocksbridge which designated as Green Belt.

Section 16 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment

For proposals affecting heritage assets, the NPPF places a requirement on applicants to (para. 194):

"describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance"

Para. 195 also states:

"Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise any conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal."

Para. 197 states:

"In determining applications, local planning authorities should take account of:

a. *the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;*

b. *the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and*

c. *the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness."*

It is also considered that:

"Not all elements of a Conservation Area or World Heritage Site will necessarily contribute to its significance."

Local Planning Policy

The Application Site and the northern portion of the Study Area lies within the jurisdiction of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. The southern portion of the study area is located within the boundary of Sheffield City Council. Key local policies relating to landscape and visual matters are briefly outlined below.

Adopted Policy

Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 places a requirement upon local authorities when determining planning applications to do so in accordance with the adopted development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The current development plan comprises:

- Barnsley Local Plan (Adopted 2019);
- Sheffield Core Strategy (Adopted 2009); and
- Saved policies of the Sheffield Unitary Development Plan (Adopted 1998).

The relevant policies within the above noted document are as follows:

Barnsley Local Plan (Adopted 2019)

Policy LC1 relates to landscape character and states that:

"Development will be expected to retain and enhance the character and distinctiveness of the individual Landscape Character area in which it is located (as set out in the Landscape Character Assessment of Barnsley Borough 2002 and any subsequent amendments).

Development which would be harmful to the special qualities of the Peak District National Park will not be allowed."

Policy HE1 concerns the protection of the historic environment and states that:

"We will positively encourage developments which will help in the management, conservation, understanding and enjoyment of Barnsley's historic environment, especially for those assets which are at risk.

2.0 PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

KEY

- Site Boundary
- 1km
- 2km

Policy

- Local Authority Boundary
- Greenspace
- Green Belt

0 200 400 600 800 1,000 m

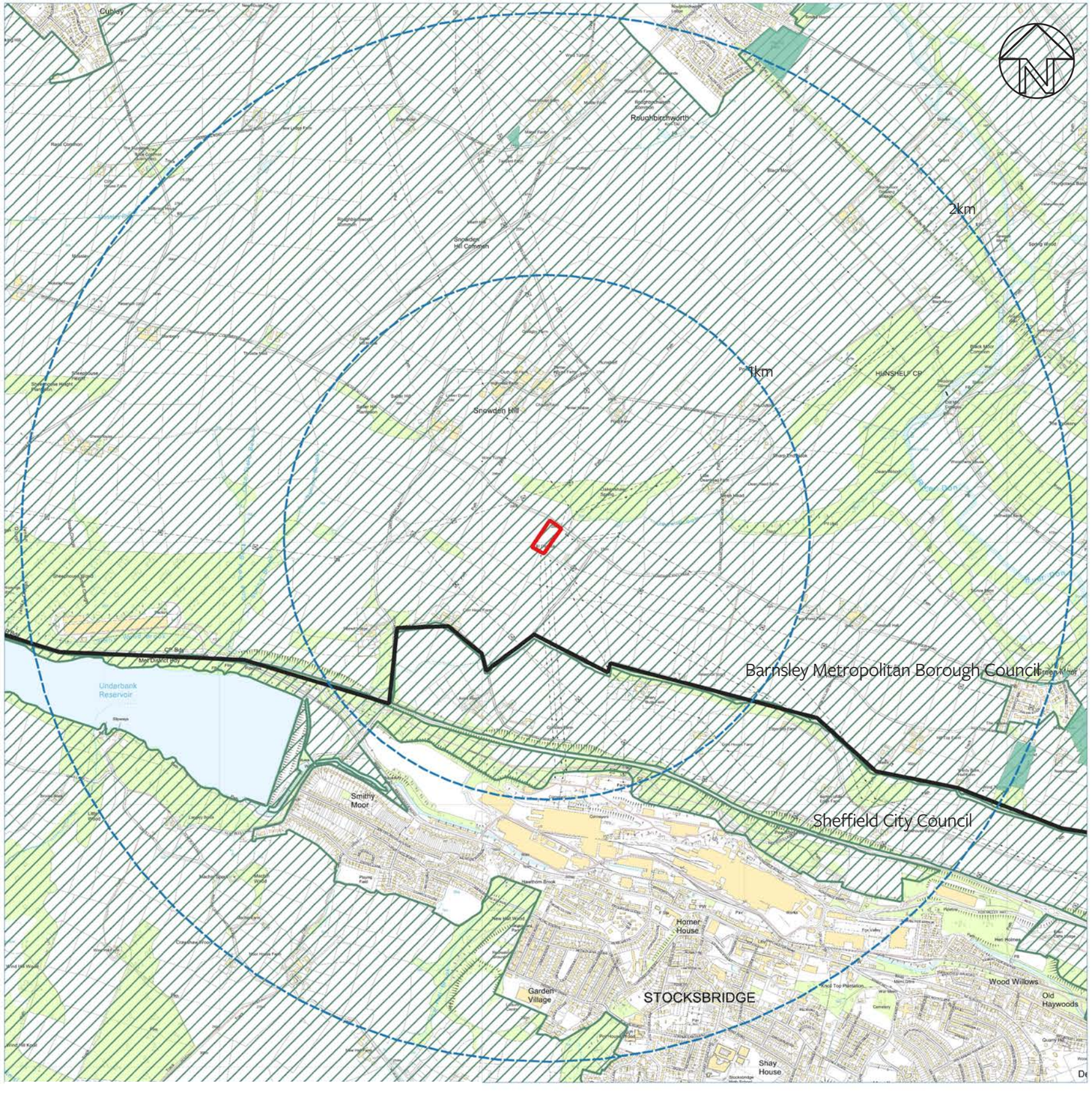


Figure 2.1 - Local Planning Policy

2.0 PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

This will be achieved by:-

a. *Supporting proposals which conserve and enhance the significance and setting of the borough's heritage assets, paying particular attention to those elements which contribute most to the borough's distinctive character and sense of place.*

These elements and assets include:-

- *The nationally significant industrial landscapes of the Don Valley which includes Wortley Top Forge and its associated water management system.*
- *Elsecar Conservation Village, its former ironworks and its workshops which were once part of the Fitzwilliam Estate.*
- *A number of important 18th and 19th century designed landscapes and parks including Wentworth Castle parkland (the only grade I Registered Park and Garden in South Yorkshire), and Cannon Hall Park.*
- *The well preserved upstanding remains of the Cluniac and Benedictine monastery at Monk Bretton.*
- *18 designated conservation areas of special and architectural interest including three town centre conservation areas, as well as large areas incorporating Stainborough Park, Cawthorne, Penistone and Thurlstone.*
- *The 17th century Rockley Blast Furnace and its later engine house.*
- *Gunthwaite Hall Barn, a large 16th century timber framed barn.*
- *Barnsley Main Colliery Engine House and Pithead structures.*
- *The 17th century Worsbrough Mill (the only historic working water mill in South Yorkshire).*
- *Relatively widespread evidence of pre-historic settlements, and occupation which are often archaeological and below ground but sometimes expressed as physical or topographic features.*
- *The boroughs more rural western and Pennine fringe characterised by upland and (often) isolated settlements or farmsteads surrounded by agricultural land and dominated by historic and vernacular buildings built from local gritstone.*

b. *By ensuring that proposals affecting a designated heritage asset (or an archaeological site of national importance such as a Scheduled Ancient Monument) conserve those elements which contribute to its significance. Harm to such elements will be permitted only where this is outweighed by the public benefits of the proposal. Substantial harm or total loss to the significance of a designated heritage asset (or an archaeological site of national importance) will be permitted only in exceptional circumstances where there is a clearly defined public benefit.*

c. *By supporting proposals that would preserve or enhance the character or appearance of a conservation area. There are 18 conservation areas in the borough and each is designated for its particular built and historic significance. This significance is derived from the group value of its constituent buildings, locally prevalent styles of architecture, historic street layouts and its individual setting which frequently includes views and vistas both into and out of the area. Particular attention will be given to those elements which have been identified in a Conservation Area Appraisal as making a positive contribution to its significance.*

d. *By ensuring that proposals affecting an archaeological site of less than national importance or sites with no statutory protection conserve those elements which contribute to its significance in line with the importance of the remains. In those cases where development affecting such sites is acceptable in principle, mitigation of damage will be ensured through preservation of the remains in situ as a preferred solution. When in situ preservation is not justified, an understanding of the evidence to be lost must be gained in line with the provisions of Policy HE6.*

e. *By supporting proposals which conserve Barnsley's non-designated heritage assets. We will ensure that developments which would harm or undermine the significance of such assets, or their contribution to the character of a place will only be permitted where the benefits of the development would outweigh the harm.*

f. *By supporting proposals which will help to secure a sustainable future for Barnsley's heritage assets, especially those identified as being at greatest risk of loss or decay."*

Policy GI1 relates to the provision of Green Infrastructure and states that:

"We will protect, maintain, enhance and create an integrated network of connected and multi functional Green Infrastructure assets that:

- *Provides attractive environments where people want to live, work, learn, play, visit and invest;*
- *Meets the environmental, social and economic needs of communities across the borough and the wider City Regions;*
- *Enhances the quality of life for present and future residents and visitors;*
- *Helps to meet the challenge of climate change;*
- *Enhances biodiversity and landscape character;*
- *Improves opportunities for recreation and tourism;*
- *Respects local distinctiveness and historical and cultural heritage;*
- *Maximises potential economic and social benefits;*
- *and Secures and improves linkages between green and blue spaces;*

At a strategic level Barnsley's Green Infrastructure network includes the following corridors which are shown on the Green Infrastructure Diagram:

- *River Dearne Valley Corridor.*
- *River Dove Valley Corridor.*
- *River Don Valley Corridor.*
- *Dearne Valley Green Heart Corridor.*
- *Historic Landscape Corridor.*

2.0 PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

KEY

- Site Boundary
- 1km
- 2km

Ecological

- Ancient Woodlands

0 200 400 600 800 1,000 m

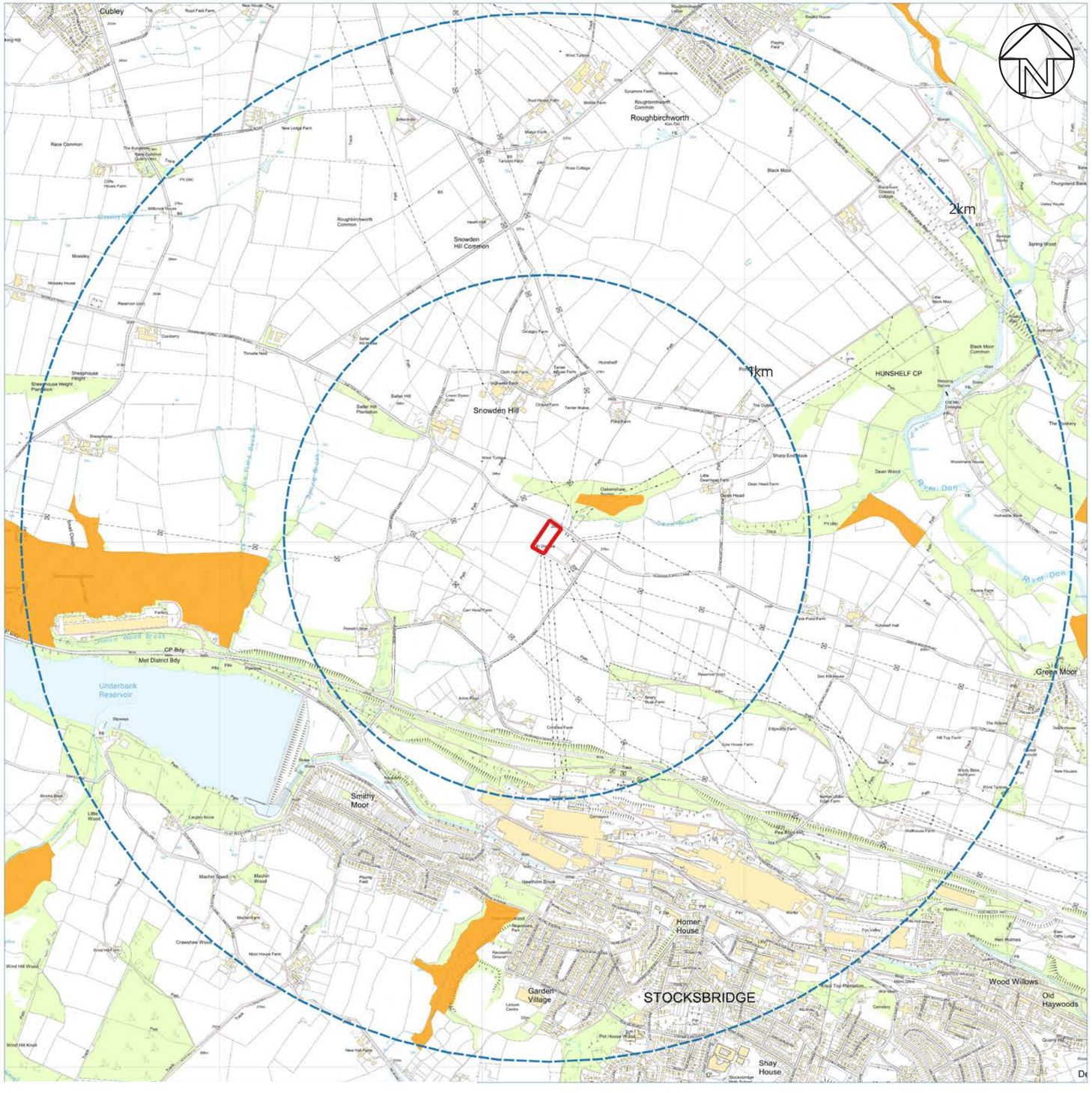


Figure 2.2 - Local Planning Policy - Ecological Designations

2.0 PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

The network of Green Infrastructure will be secured by protecting open space, creating new open spaces as part of new development, and by using developer contributions to create and improve Green Infrastructure. We have produced a Green Infrastructure Strategy for Barnsley which is informed by the Leeds City Region and South Yorkshire Green Infrastructure Strategies."

Policy GS2 is concerned with Green Ways and Public Rights of Way and states that:

"We will protect Green Ways and Public Rights of Way from development that may affect their character or function.

Where development affects an existing Green Way or Public Right of Way it must:

- *Protect the existing route within the development; or*
- *Include an equally convenient and attractive alternative route.*

Where new development is close to a Green Way or Public Right of Way it may be required to:

- *Provide a link to the existing route; and/or*
- *Improve an existing route; and/or*
- *Contribute to a new route.*

In some cases, we will ask developers to make a financial contribution to meet these requirements in accordance with the Infrastructure and Planning Obligations Policy."

Policy BIO1 discusses Biodiversity and Geodiversity and states that:

"Development will be expected to conserve and enhance the biodiversity and geological features of the borough by:

- *Protecting and improving habitats, species, sites of ecological value and sites of geological value with particular regard to designated wildlife and geological sites of international, national and local significance, ancient woodland and species and habitats of principal importance identified via Section 41 of the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006 (for list of the species and habitats of principal importance) and in the Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan.*
- *Maximising biodiversity and geodiversity opportunities in and around new developments.*
- *Conserving and enhancing the form, local character and distinctiveness of the boroughs natural assets such as the river corridors of the Don, the Dearne and Dove as natural floodplains and important strategic wildlife corridors.*
- *Proposals will be expected to have followed the national mitigation hierarchy (avoid, mitigate, compensate) which is used to evaluate the impacts of a development on biodiversity interest.*
- *Protecting ancient and veteran trees where identified.*
- *Encouraging provision of biodiversity enhancements.*

Development which may harm a biodiversity or geological feature or habitat, including ancient woodland and aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, will not be permitted unless effective mitigation and/or compensatory measures can be ensured.

Development which adversely effects a European Site will not be permitted unless there is no alternative option and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI)."

Policy GB1 considers the protection of the Green Belt and states that:

"The general extent of the Green Belt is set out on the Key Diagram. The detailed boundaries are defined on the Policies Map. Green Belt will be protected from inappropriate development in accordance with national planning policy."

The southern portion of the study area is within the jurisdiction of Sheffield City Council, relevant policies of the Sheffield Core Strategy (Adopted 2009) pertinent to this area include:

- Policy CS71 Protecting the Green Belt.

The following saved policies of the Sheffield Unitary Development Plan (Adopted 1998) are also pertinent to this portion of the study area.

- GE I Development in the Green Belt;
- GE2 Protection and Improvement of the Green Belt landscape; and
- GE II Nature Conservation and Development.

2.0 PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

KEY

- Site Boundary
- 1km
- 2km

Heritage

- Listed Buildings

0 200 400 600 800 1,000 m

Figure 2.3 - Local Planning Policy - Heritage Assets

3.0 LANDSCAPE BASELINE

Landscape Baseline – Landscape Character

The assessment of landscape character is a method of understanding the particular attributes or factors that have influenced the historic development, current and future features of an area, and what makes that area distinctive from other areas. Natural England describes landscape character assessment as a:

"...systematic way of analysing and describing landscape identifying areas of distinctive character, classifying and mapping them. The process involves identifying the patterns, elements and features that give landscapes homogeneity and make them different from each other.""

Landscape characterisation is a process which has been developed extensively by local authorities to assist them in the planning process. Published studies of landscape character provide a source of information to enable the fuller understanding of landscape character – whether at a regional or national scale or at a local district scale; it is of course possible to carry through the process of analysis to individual sites or parts of sites. Typically, the published assessments provide character descriptions of specific areas and consider factors likely to influence future character and / or set out prescriptions for change.

There is a range of published assessments at national, regional, and local levels relevant to the Appraisal Site. Each is considered below. That at a national level pre-dated the guidance set out in the 'Landscape Character Assessment; Guidance for England and Scotland (2002)' – widely regarded as the definitive guidance on the subject. That said, it is important to recognise that these assessments are purely assessments of landscape character; they are not, and are not intended to be, the development plan, and thus what the documents may say about the potential effects of development in any location cannot of itself be considered determinative as a matter of policy.

National Landscape Character Assessment

At a National level the Appraisal Site and the majority of the study area lies within National Character Area (NCA) 37 - Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe. The key characteristics pertinent to the study area and Site are described as:

- *"A transitional landscape dissected by steep-sided valleys, dropping from the high gritstone hills in the west to lower land in the east, and thus creating an important backdrop to the many industrial towns and villages within and beyond the NCA.*
- ■*Rivers creating a deeply dissected landscape, with high plateaux cut by steep-sided valleys, and fanning out in 'fingers' across valleys of the NCA.*
- *Treeless hill tops with tracts of rough grazing and extensive areas of enclosed pasture to the west, but with broadleaved woodland on steeper valley sides, giving the impression of a well-wooded landscape, especially to the north and west of Sheffield.*
- *Predominantly pastoral farming, especially in western areas, with a shift to more arable land in the drier eastern areas.*
- *Boundary features that change from distinctive patterns of drystone walls on the upland hills, to hedgerows becoming the predominant field boundary in the east.*
- *Close conjunction between rural landscapes and the rich industrial heritage of the urban areas, including settlements associated with the textile industry, with large mills and tall chimneys, and large factories and forges associated with the iron, steel and manufacturing industries.*
- *Urban development constrained within valley floors and up side slopes, with location and layout strongly influenced by the landform.*
- *Industrial wealth revealed in magnificent civil architecture in town centres, notably Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield and Sheffield, and several stately homes with designed parklands.*
- *Evidence of bronze-age and Roman habitation still present on uplands, and old pack-horse routes that once joined settlements across the Pennines still in place, or now forming modern major road routes.*
- *Extensive and dramatic views from higher land out over lower-lying land to the east, even from within urban areas.*
- *Several reservoirs contained within narrow valleys contributing a distinct character as well as providing popular places to visit.*
- *Small patches of fragmented priority habitats providing important refuges locally for wildlife. Grassland mosaics are particularly important in supporting waders and the twite that breeds on adjacent moorland areas; lowland woodland is also an important feature.*
- *In places a dense network of roads and urban development, with many road, rail and canal routes crossing the NCA, and a high density of footpaths throughout."*

A small part of the north west portion of the study area is located within NCA 38 Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield. Key characteristics pertinent to this part of the study area include:

- *" A low-lying landscape of rolling ridges with rounded sandstone escarpments and large rivers running through broad valleys, underlain by Pennine Coal Measures.*
- *Local variations in landscape character reflecting variations in underlying geology.*
- *Several major rivers flow through the rural and urban areas of the NCA, generally from west to east in broad valleys.*
- *A mixed pattern of built-up areas, industrial land, pockets of dereliction and farmed open country.*
- *Small, fragmented remnants of pre-industrial landscapes and more recent creation of semi-natural vegetation, including woodlands, river valley habitats and subsidence flashes, with field boundaries of clipped hedges or fences.*
- *Many areas affected by urban fringe pressures creating fragmented landscapes, some with a dilapidated character, separated by substantial stretches of intact agricultural land in both arable and pastoral use.*
- *A strong cultural identity arising from a history of coal mining, steel making and other heavy industry which resulted from the close relationship between underlying geology and resource availability, notably water power, iron ore and coal.*
- *Features of industrial heritage such as mills, goits, tips, old railway lines, canals and bridges are evident, along with former mining villages.*

3.0 LANDSCAPE BASELINE

KEY

- Site Boundary
- 1km
- 2km

NCA

- NCA 37 Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe
- NCA 38 Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield
- NCA 51 Dark Peak

0 200 400 600 800 1,000 m

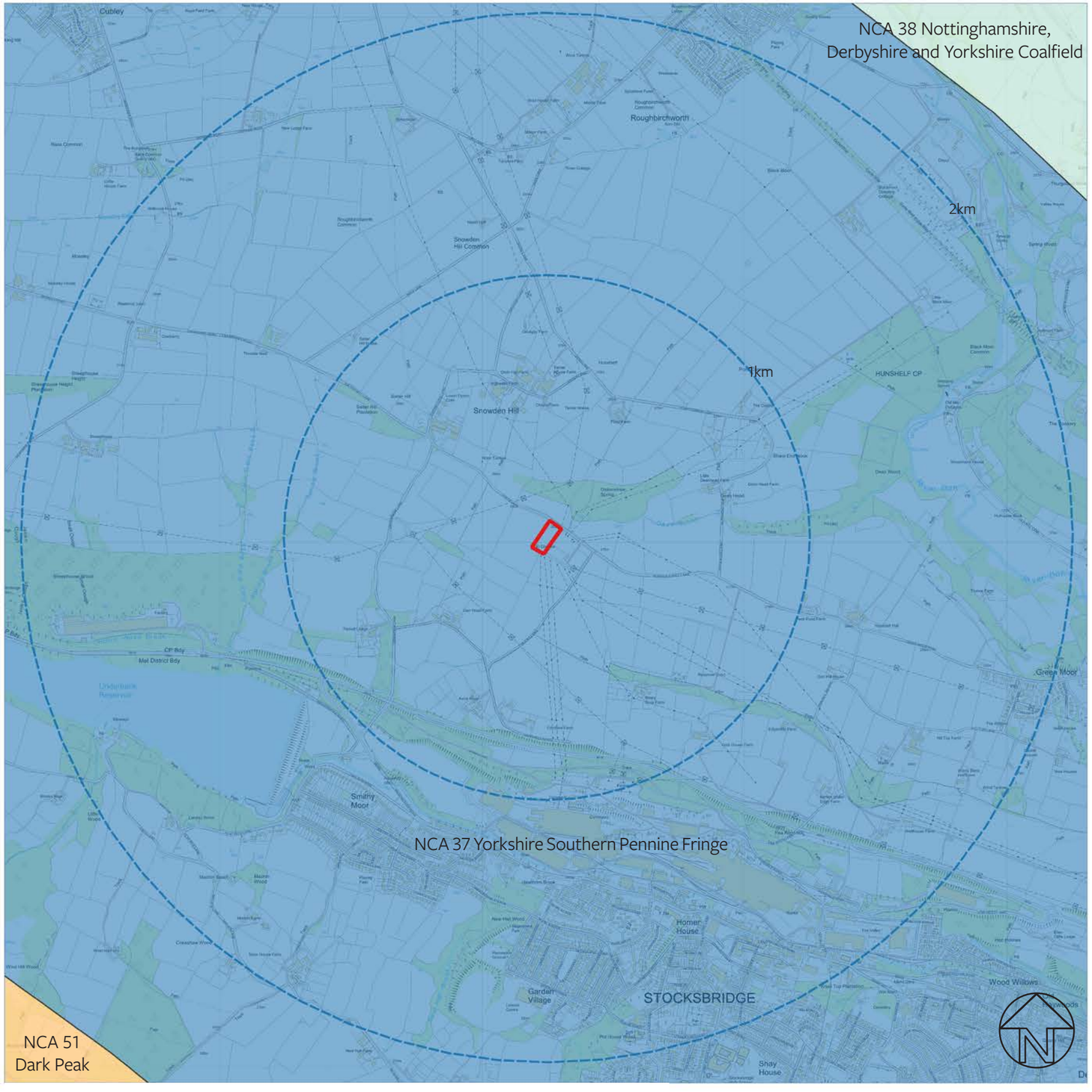


Figure 3.1 - Landscape Character

3.0 LANDSCAPE BASELINE

- *Many large country houses and estates established by wealthy industrialists in the 18th and 19th centuries and ancient monuments create focal points and important recreational opportunities within the landscape, such as Bretton Hall, Wentworth, Woodhouse, Temple Newsam, Nostell Priory, Bolsover Castle and the ruins of Codnor Castle.*

- *Extensive urbanisation, such as in the major cities of Leeds and Sheffield, with terraced and back-to-back housing and grand 19th-century municipal buildings and churches at their centres, now surrounded by extensive housing and industrial development.*

- *Widespread influence of transport routes, including canals, roads and railways, with ribbon developments emphasising the urban influence in the landscape.*

- *An extensive network of multi-user trails on former railway lines and canal towpaths, such as the Trans Pennine Trail and the Ebor Way.*

- *Continuing development pressure including land renewal and regeneration projects, especially along river corridors and around towns."*

The south east portion of the study area is located within NCA 51, key characteristics pertinent to this area include:

- *"Sharply defined, elevated and vast plateau with gritstone ridges and edges and long, uninterrupted views.*

- *Wild and remote semi-natural character created by blanket bog, dwarf shrub heath and heather moorland which support internationally important habitats and assemblages of upland birds and breeding waders.*

- *Contrasting valley heads created by a combination of sheltered, deeply incised cloughs with fast-flowing streams around the plateau margins, with their greater diversity of vegetation, including semi-natural broadleaved woodland.*

- *Pastoral character of margins created by in-bye land with dispersed farmsteads, gritstone wall boundaries (hedgerows in valley bottoms) and the small scale of enclosure.*

- *Major valleys, some of which are dominated by coniferous woodland and reservoirs; these supply drinking water to distant urban conurbations including Derby and Nottingham. The wider valleys also provide habitats for wintering and breeding birds and other important species such as fungi, as well as high-quality recreational experiences for visitors.*

- *Durable and stocky architectural style to dispersed buildings and settlements constructed from local gritstone with typical blackened appearance.*

- *Extensive prehistoric field systems and settlement behind the gritstone edges, with early post-glacial occupation beneath the higher, deeper peats.*

- *Historic routes traverse the moorland as well as more modern trails such as the Pennine Bridleway and Pennine Way. More recent road and rail routes are located along valley bottoms."*

County / Local Landscape Character Assessment

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council published their Barnsley Borough Landscape Character Assessment in 2002. The Appraisal Site and much of the study area is located within Landscape Type F: Upland Rolling Farmland. This landscape type is described as:

"The Upland Rolling Farmland landscape type is upland hill country defined by a distinctive undulating topography above 200m AOD. The underlying geology of Lower Coal Measures is a series of complex beds comprising bedded sandstones, shales and mudstones with intermittent coal seams that have given rise to differential weathering of the seams and a characteristic undulating or `stepped' landform.

A network of intact gritstone walls provides a strong, and distinctive, geometric field pattern over the hills. Field sizes vary corresponding to elevation with the older, smaller fields located in the lower and more sheltered areas and the larger, later enclosured fields over the higher moors. Most of the farmland is now improved grassland grazed by sheep, but remaining unimproved areas on the steeper or more elevated slopes, and damp pastures alongside dikes and springs, are valuable for nature conservation. The area is largely devoid of woodland, although ribbons of deciduous woodland thrive in the shelter of the incised valleys of the dikes. Stands of beech and sycamore are familiar features of this upland landscape type and stand silhouetted against the skyline. The area has a sense of remoteness and the settlement pattern is one of scattered hamlets and agricultural settlements. Past industrial activities are indicated by the presence of disused mines, quarries and shafts."

This landscape type is further sub-divided into two separate Landscape Character Areas (LCA). The Appraisal Site and much of the study area is located within LCA F2 - Penistone Upland Rolling Farmland. This area is described as:

"Key Characteristics

- *Stepped landform rising to 364m at Hartcliffe Hill.*

- *Fields of pasture comprising small to medium geometric field units strongly defined by distinctive stone walls.*

- *Linear or circular beech plantations stand out on the skyline, sometimes enclosed by stone walls.*

- *Unimproved pasture with scrub on steeper slopes.*

- *Scattered farmsteads of local light coloured stone.*

3.0 LANDSCAPE BASELINE

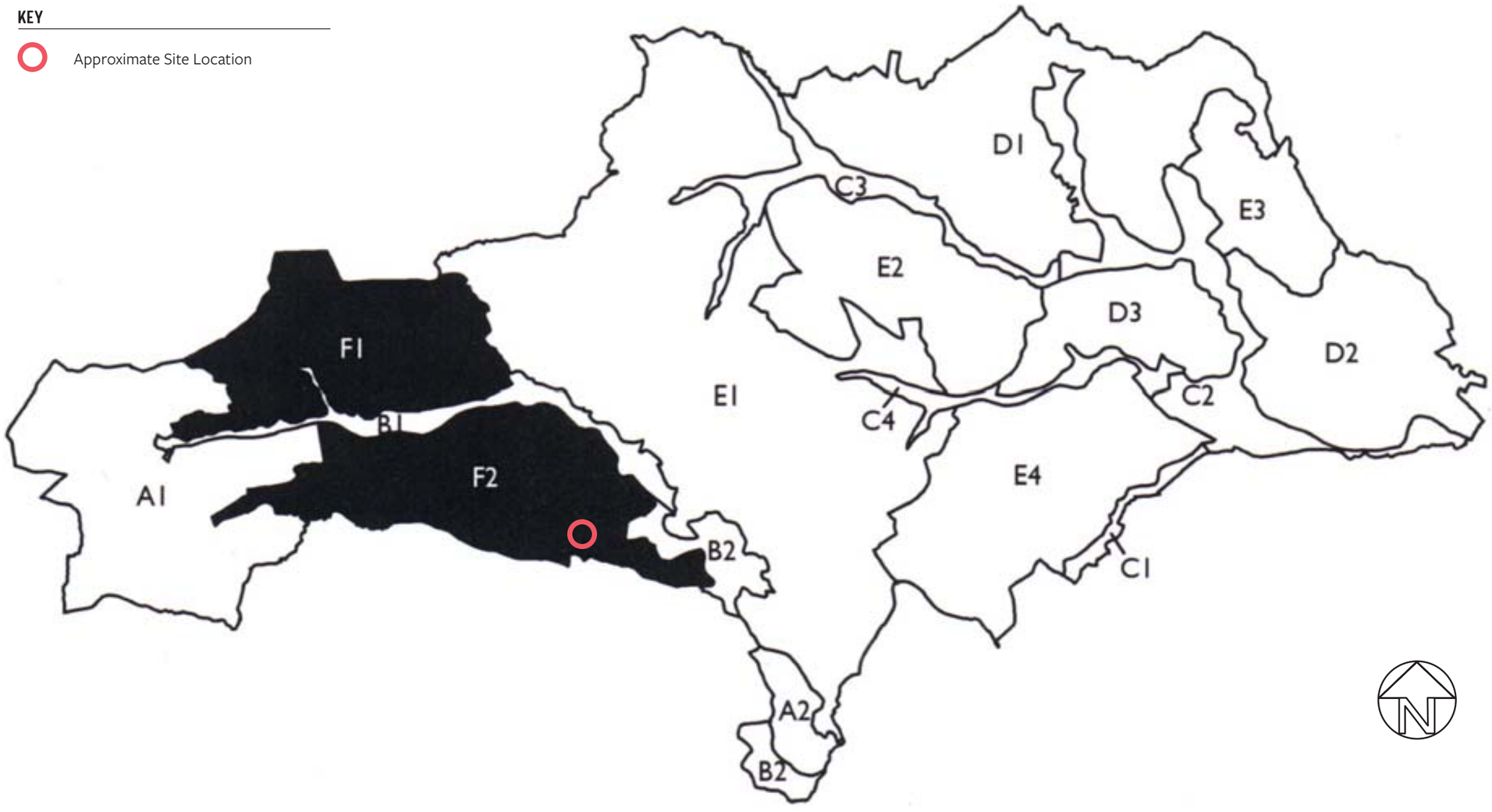


Figure 3.2 - Barnsley Borough Landscape Character Assessment - Landscape Character Areas - Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (2002)

3.0 LANDSCAPE BASELINE

- *Penistone is the largest settlement in the area, lying on the edge of the Don Valley. Isolated trees form silhouettes against the skyline.*
- *Pylons and power lines are visually prominent on the skyline.*
- *Single lane rural roads criss-cross the open countryside, bounded by stone walls.*
- *Disused industrial quarries, shafts and mines indicate the historical importance of the area for the extraction of coal and stone.*
- *Panoramic views over adjacent river valleys and towards the open moorland of the Peak District National Park (...)*

(...) Description

The underlying solid geology of the Penistone Upland Farmland is formed by the complex beds of the Lower Coal Measures, comprising bedded sandstones, shales and mudstones with intermittent coal seams. This has given rise to differential weathering of the beds and a characteristic undulating landform, some 300m above sea level. The valley of the River Don bounds the area to the north and east and the valley of the Little Don River bounds the area to the south.

This discrete area has a distinctly upland character, enhanced by its proximity to, and views across, unenclosed moorland. The network of intact stone walls is a dominant and unifying feature of the landscape, resulting in an extremely strong, and distinctive, geometric field pattern. Some of these field divisions relate to early Tudor enclosure of small walled fields, perhaps most notably at Oxspring where long narrow fields form a striking pattern on the landscape. Other distinctive field patterns arise as a result of the circular boundaries of sheep pens.

Woodland cover is relatively low, although ribbons of deciduous woodland thrive in the shelter of the incised valleys of the dikes that drain into the River Don. There are also some large deciduous woodlands in the shelter of the slopes that descend into the valley of the Little Don River. Beech trees are a feature of the area, either growing in a stunted form on the steeper, ungrazed slopes, or as isolated stands silhouetted on the skyline. Often stone walls bound these stands. Power lines and pylons are also prominent elements of the skyline.

This is a rural agricultural landscape. The land remains almost entirely grazed pasture and is famous for its former wool industry and the `Penistone' wool. Remaining unimproved areas on the steeper or more elevated slopes, and damp pastures alongside dikes and springs, are valuable for nature conservation.

The area has a tamed character, but retains a sense of remoteness. The only built elements are the stone farmsteads and agricultural barns that are scattered at low density throughout the area, although Penistone, located on the edge of the Don Valley, is a notable centre of population. Straight rural lanes, bounded by stone walls, cut across the hills, linking adjacent farms. The tranquillity and stillness of the area is disturbed in the vicinity of the A628, a busy freight route between Barnsley and Manchester. The presence of disused quarries and shafts indicate the former piecemeal mining activities in the area.

Views are panoramic, stretching over the valley of the River Don to the north and over the valley of the Little Don River to the adjacent open moorland the south. The wind farm at Spicer Hill (in the adjacent F1 Ingbirchworth Upland Farmland character area) is a prominent feature in views."

The Assessment goes on to make the following judgements regarding the landscape sensitivity and capacity of LCA F2:

"Although this is an exposed upland area, the incised valleys of the dikes that drain into the Don provide some visual enclosure. Beech plantations also provide some visual enclosure. However, the rural character of the area, and its low density settlement pattern and distinctive field patterns, make this landscape particularly sensitive to built development. The presence of a number of Natural Heritage Sites increase sensitivity to change. The area is highly visible from the Peak District National Park and this further increases its sensitivity to change. In view of the above, landscape sensitivity to built development is judged to be high and landscape capacity is considered to be low."

In 2016, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council published a review of the landscape character assessment, it makes the following comments regarding the changes to the character of the LCA F2 - Penistone Upland Farmland.

"The 2002 assessment concluded that the area is a good example of the Upland Farmland landscape type as a result of its strong topography, intact network of stone walls, rural upland character and panoramic views. These characteristics remain unchanged despite some residential development on the periphery of Penistone as well as redevelopment within the town itself. Accordingly, strength of landscape character remains strong. However, landscape condition scores moderate for the same reasons given in the Ingbirchworth Upland Farmland character area.

The area is considered to remain particularly sensitive to build development outside the boundaries of Penistone Principal Town as a result of its visibility from the Peak District National Park and the presence of Regionally Important Geological Sites. As such landscape sensitivity remains high and landscape capacity remains low."

Landscape Designations

There are no landscape designations that cover the Site or immediate surroundings. The Site lies within a wider tranche of land between Stocksbridge and Penistone that is designated as Green Belt.

3.0 LANDSCAPE BASELINE

Characteristics of the Appraisal Site

Land Use

The Appraisal Site is currently use for improved upland pasture, enclosed by dry stone walls and post and wire fencing on the northern southern and western boundaries. The northern portion of the Site's eastern boundary is open to an area of pasture, the southern portion is bound by Hunshelf electricity sub-station. Tofts Lane runs parallel with the Site's northern boundary. There is further pastoral farmland to the west, south and beyond Tofts Lane to the north.

Topography

The Appraisal Site occupies an elevated step in the local landform associated with the south west facing slope of Snowden Hill, which rises to a height of 308m AOD to the north of the Site. Landform within the Site falls broadly south west to north east across the Site, from a high point of 286.6m AOD near the Site's southern boundary to a low point of 279.4m AOD near the Site's northern boundary. There is a steeper embankment towards the east of the Site where the Site marries in to the flat platform of the Hunshelf electricity sub-station to the east of the Site. The principal topographical features in the study area are the River Don and Little Don River valleys and the elevated moorland areas that lie between.

Vegetation

Vegetation within the Site is limited to the close cropped improved pasture grassland.

Water Features

There are no water features within or in close proximity to the Site.

Built Elements

Built elements within the Site are limited to the field boundaries of dry stone walls and post and wire fencing. The electricity sub-station to the east is bound by a metal palisade fence. There are a number of energy infrastructure elements within the immediate context of the Site including the sub-station, pylons and timber electricity poles carrying high voltage cables.

Public Rights of Way

There are no Public Rights of Way within the Appraisal Site. The closest to the Site is Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|4#2, approximately 15m to the north east of the Site which connects Tofts Lane with Pond Farm and Pond Common Lane to the north. Further afield there area a number of Public Rights of Way which criss-cross the countryside surrounding the Site within the study area.

Heritage

There are no heritage assets within, or in the immediate context of, the Appraisal Site. The closest to the Site is the Grade II Listed complex of buildings at Chapel Farmhouse including the Chapel, Barn and Farm Buildings attached to Chapel Farmhouse approximately 450m to the north west of the Site.

Ecology

There are no ecological designations within the Site or immediate context. Oakenshaw Spring Ancient Woodland lies approximately 110m to the north east of the Site.

Landscape Baseline – Landscape Resource

Landscape character areas differ in their range of Landscape features and the patterns these create, and consequently in their ability to accommodate different types of development. Some areas may be particularly sensitive and others more resilient.

In terms of Landscape Condition – i.e. the physical state of the Landscape – the site is considered to be Ordinary. This rating acknowledges that the site comprises upland pasture with limited landscape components apart from the Site boundaries and it's immediate context is influenced by the energy infrastructure in close proximity to the Site.

In terms of Landscape Value – i.e. how the landscape is valued by society – the site is considered to be of overall Ordinary value.

Landscape Baseline – Landscape Receptors

From the above analysis of the Landscape Baseline, it is concluded that the Landscape Receptors relevant to the appraisal site that need to be assessed in the following section on Landscape Effects are:

- Public Rights of Way adjacent to and in close proximity to the Site;
- Landscape Character Areas both on Site and within the study area; and
- Landscape features to the Site boundaries.

3.0 LANDSCAPE BASELINE

KEY

- Site Boundary
- 1km
- 2km

Public Rights of Way

- Barnsley Footpath
- Barnsley Bridleway
- Sheffield Footpath
- Sheffield Bridleway

0 200 400 600 800 1,000 m

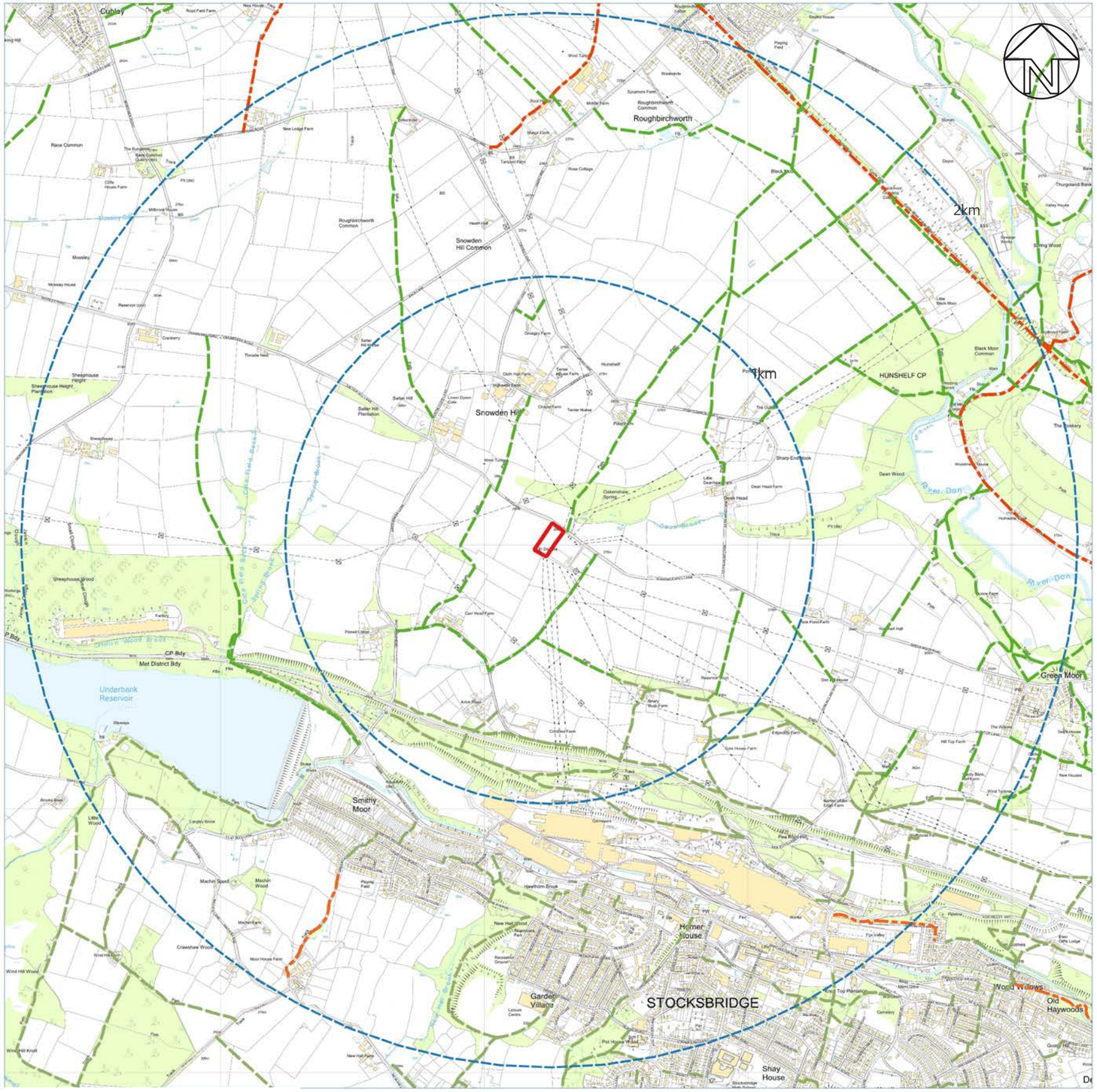


Figure 3.3 - Public Rights of Way

3.0 LANDSCAPE BASELINE

KEY

- Site Boundary
- 1km
- 2km

10m contours

130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260, 270, 280, 290, 300, 310, 320, 330

0 200 400 600 800 1,000 m

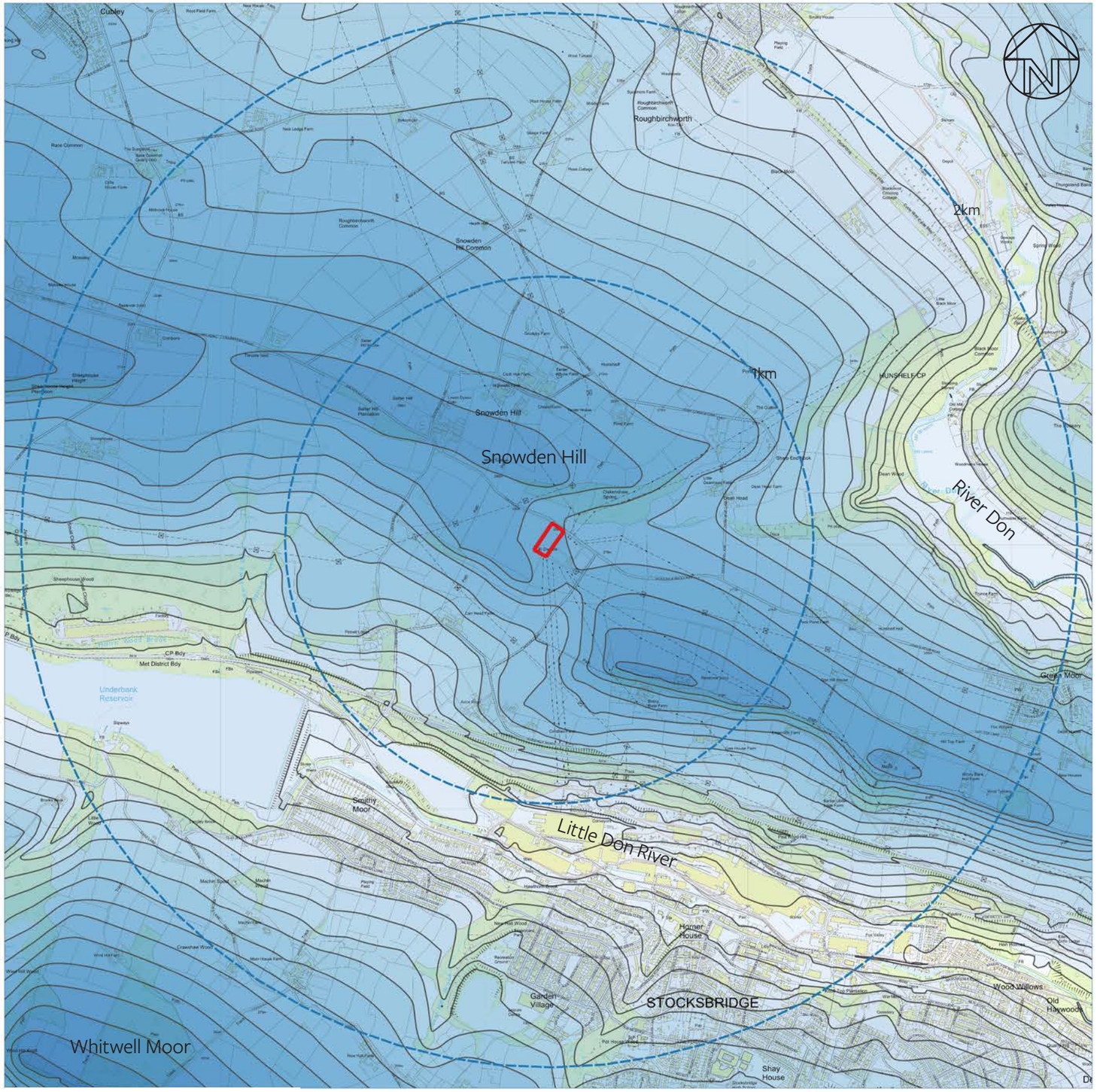


Figure 3.4 - Landform

3.0 LANDSCAPE BASELINE

KEY

Site Boundary

Public Rights of Way

Barnsley Footpath

Policy

Green Belt

Ecological

Ancient Woodlands

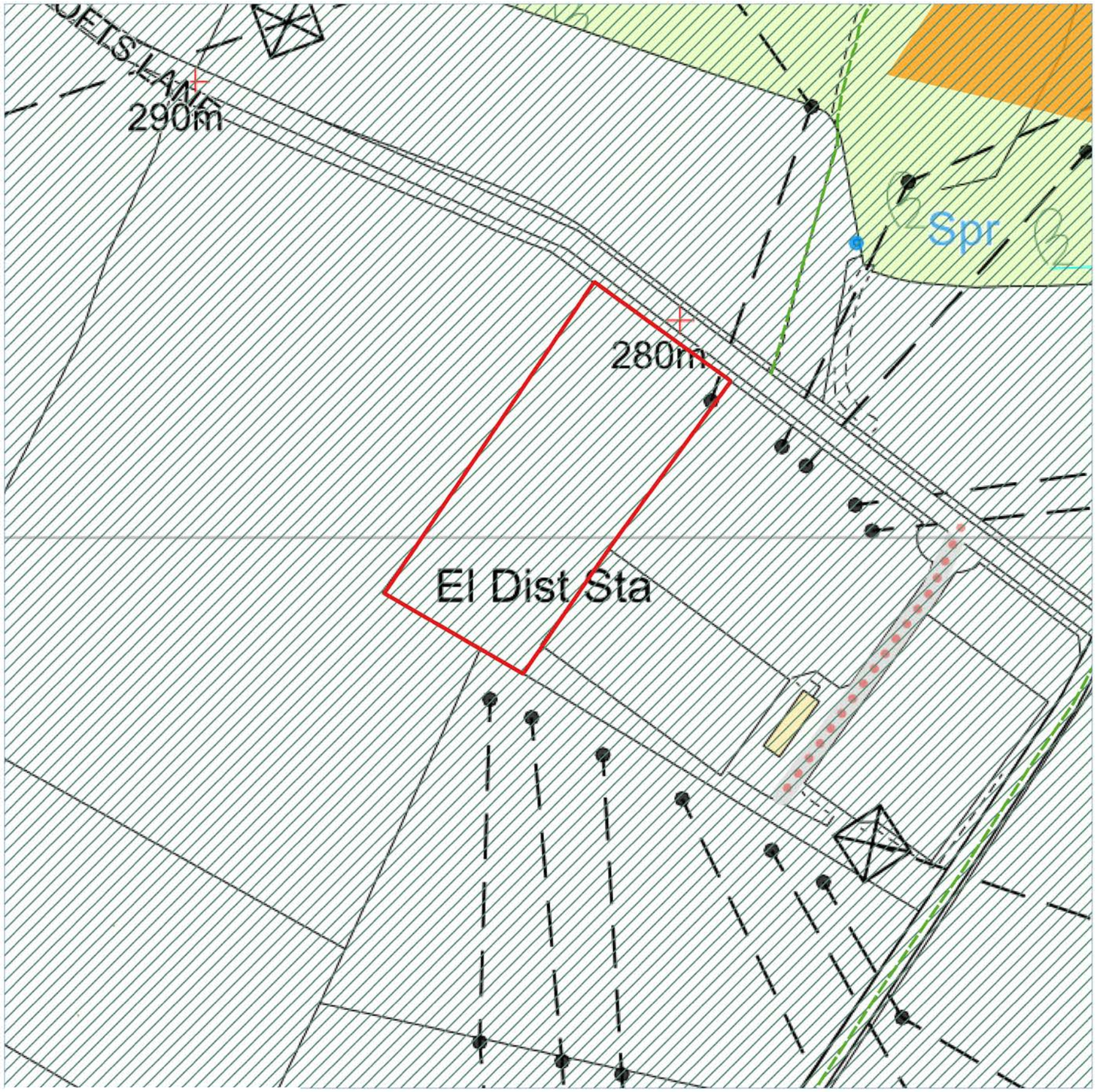
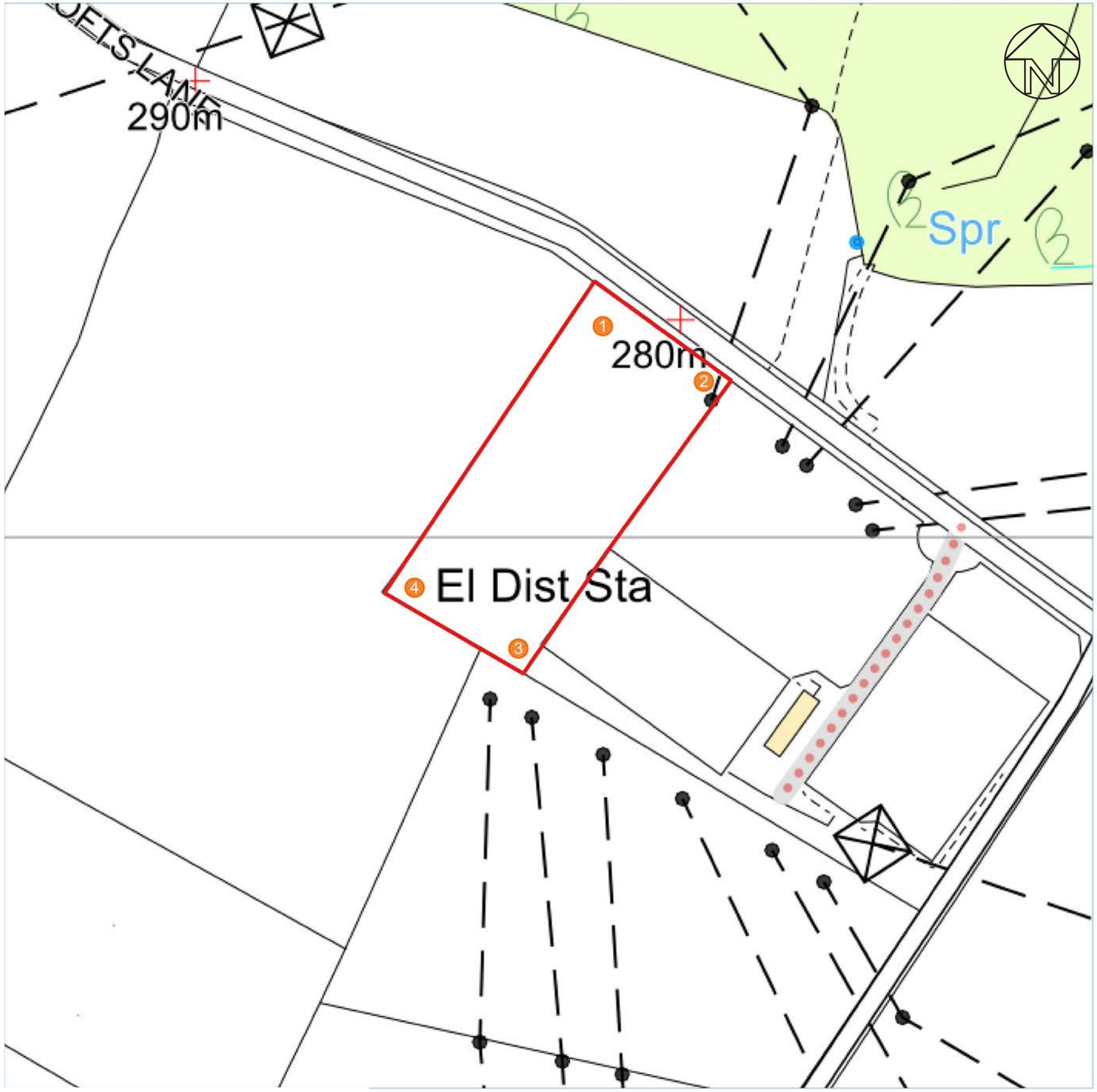


Figure 3.5 - Designations - Site Level

3.0 LANDSCAPE BASELINE

A visual inspection of the Appraisal Site was conducted on 27th July 2022.



KEY

Site Boundary

Site Context Photography

0 25 50 75 100 125 m

Figure 3.6 - Internal Site Context Photographs

3.0 LANDSCAPE BASELINE

Internal Site Context Viewpoint 1 - View looking south east across the Appraisal Site from within the Appraisal Site towards Mucky Lane. The pastoral field parcel of the Appraisal Site is prominent in the foreground of the view, with the existing electricity sub-station facility and the electricity pylons beyond. There are views out to the north, east and south from this location above the boundary dry stone walls.

Internal Site Context Viewpoint 2 - View looking south east across the Appraisal Site from within the Appraisal Site towards Hunshelf Road. There are views out to the south and west from this location above the boundary dry stone walls.

3.0 LANDSCAPE BASELINE

Internal Site Context Viewpoint 3 - View looking north west across the Appraisal Site from within the Appraisal Site towards Tofts Lane. There are views out to the north and west from this location above the boundary dry stone walls.

Internal Site Context Viewpoint 4 - View looking north east across the Appraisal Site from within the Appraisal Site towards Tofts Lane. From this more elevated location there are views out of the Site to the north and east.

4.0 VISUAL BASELINE

This LVA considers a study area of 2km radius from the Site boundary, in order to establish the spatial parameters of the Site and identify the potential landscape and visual effects of the proposed development. It is considered that views from receptors beyond 2km will be at such distances that the proposals would form only a very minor proportion of the wider view and are barely perceptible to the casual observer.

A field survey was undertaken in July 2022 which identified a range of views offering a wide coverage of the Site from a number of representative viewing locations, ranging from within the Appraisal Site and its immediate proximity, to longer distance views. A summary of key visual receptors is provided below, and a selection of representative viewpoints is presented at Table 4.1.

Residents of Dwellings

There are not anticipated to be any views of the Site for residents of dwellings in the study area.

Road Users

There are open and partial views of the Site from portions of Tofts Lane in the immediate vicinity of the Site (refer to viewpoints 1 and 2) and partial views from along Tofts Lane up to approximately 250m to the west of the Site and Hunshelf Hall Lane up to approximately 550m to the east of the Site. There are not anticipated to be any further views of the Site for road users in the study area.

Public Rights of Way

There are open views to the Site from Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|4#2 to the south of the Oakenshaw Spring woodland (refer to viewpoint 3). There are partial glimpsed views from the northern portion of Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|33 and the eastern, elevated portion of Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|32#1 (refer to viewpoints 4 and 12). There is also a partial view from a small portion of Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|3 to the north west of the Site (refer to viewpoint 8).

Heritage Assets

There are not anticipated to be any views of the Site for visitors to heritage assets in the study area.

4.0 VISUAL BASELINE

KEY

Site Boundary

Viewpoints

0 25 50 75 100 125 m

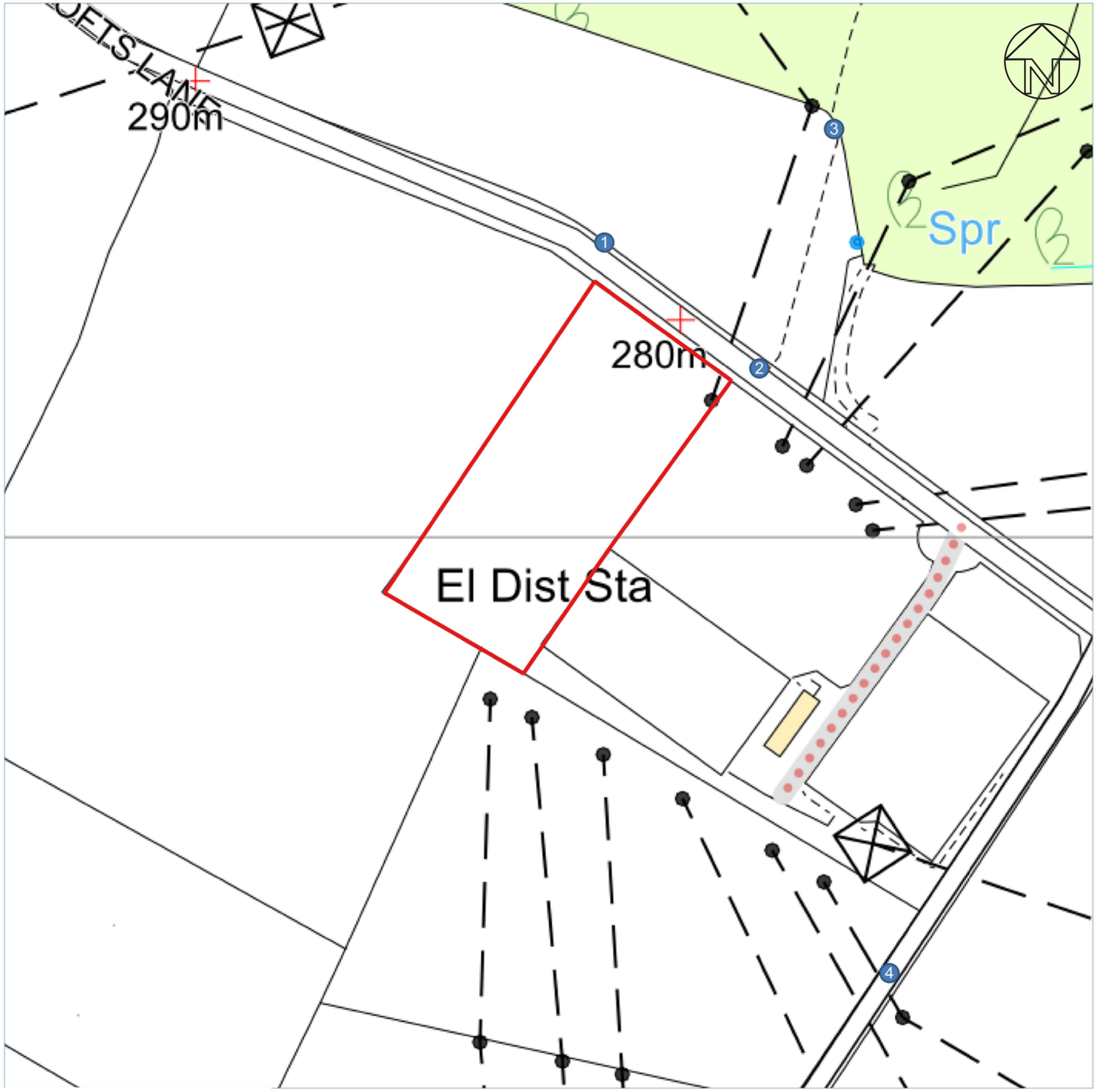


Figure 4.1 - Viewpoints - Close Range

4.0 VISUAL BASELINE

KEY

- Site Boundary
- 1km
- 2km
- Viewpoints

0 200 400 600 800 1,000 m

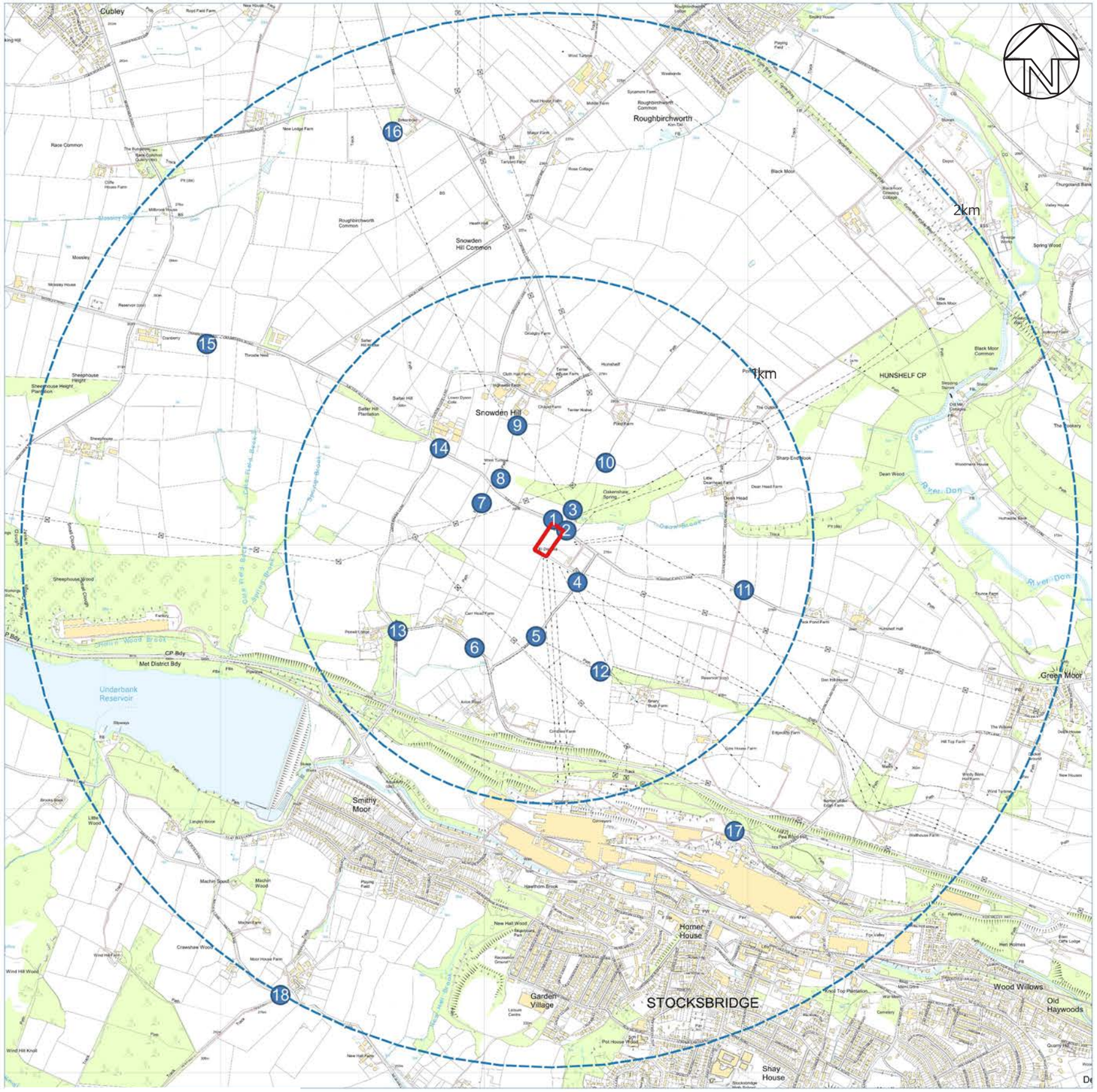


Figure 4.2 - Viewpoints

4.0 VISUAL BASELINE

Table 4.1 - Visual Receptors

Viewpoint No.	Location	Viewing Direction	Distance from Site	Visual Receptor(s)	Visibility of Site
1	Tofts Lane	South east	~10m	Road users	Open views
2	Junction of Tofts Lane and Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|4#2	South west	~10m	Road and footpath users	Open views
3	Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|4#2	South west	~85m	Footpath users	Open views
4	Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|33, Mucky Lane	North west	~155m	Footpath users	Partial glimpsed views
5	Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|33, Mucky Lane	North	~255m	Footpath users	Views are truncated
6	Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|32#1, Hunshelf Road	North east	~410m	Road and footpath users	Views are truncated
7	Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP| 2	South east	~245m	Footpath users	Views are truncated
8	Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP| 3	South east	~235m	Footpath users	Partial views
9	Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP| 3	South east	~395m	Footpath users, setting of heritage assets	Views are truncated
10	Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP| 4#2	South west	~305m	Footpath users	Views are truncated
11	Junction of Hunshelf Hall Lane and Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP| 31	North east	~720m	Road and footpath users	Views are truncated
12	Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP| 32#1	North west	~480m	Footpath users	Partial glimpsed views
13	Junction of Underbank Lane and Hunshelf Road / Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP| 32#1	North east	~605m	Road and footpath users, setting of heritage assets	Views are truncated
14	Junction of Tofts Lane and Underbank Lane	South east	~515m	Road users, setting of heritage assets	Views are truncated

4.0 VISUAL BASELINE

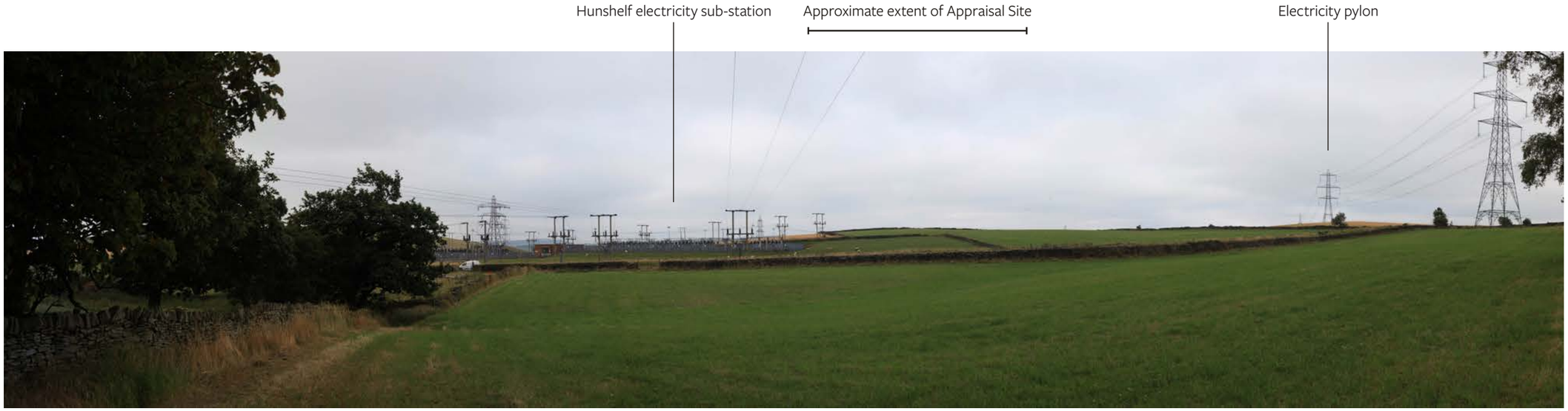
Viewpoint No.	Location	Viewing Direction	Distance from Site	Visual Receptor(s)	Visibility of Site
15	Footpath BL|Langsett CP| 13	South east	~1475m	Footpath users	Views are truncated
16	Footpath BL|Oxspring CP| 18	South east	~1605m	Footpath users	Views are truncated
17	Footpath SP|STO|1B	North west	~1265m	Road and footpath users	Views are truncated
18	junction of Machin Lane and Peg Folly	North east	~1945m	Road and footpath users	Views are truncated

4.0 VISUAL BASELINE

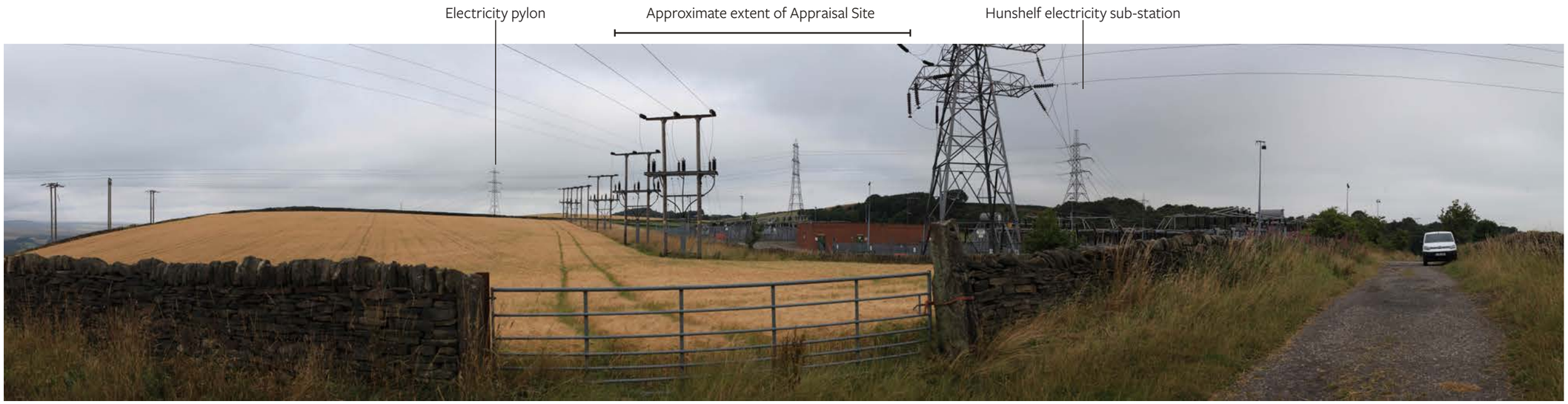
Viewpoint 1 - View looking south east towards the Appraisal Site from Tofts Lane. There are open views to the Appraisal Site, including portions of the pastoral field ground plane and the boundary dry stone wall. The site is viewed in the context of the nearby energy infrastructure elements including a number of nearby electricity pylons and the vertical elements of Hunshelf electricity sub-station.

Viewpoint 2 - View looking south west towards the Appraisal Site from the junction of Tofts Lane and Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|4#2. Again, there are open views to the Appraisal Site, including portions of the pastoral field ground plane and the boundary dry stone wall. The site is viewed in the context of the nearby energy infrastructure elements including a number of nearby electricity pylons and the vertical elements of Hunshelf electricity sub-station.

4.0 VISUAL BASELINE

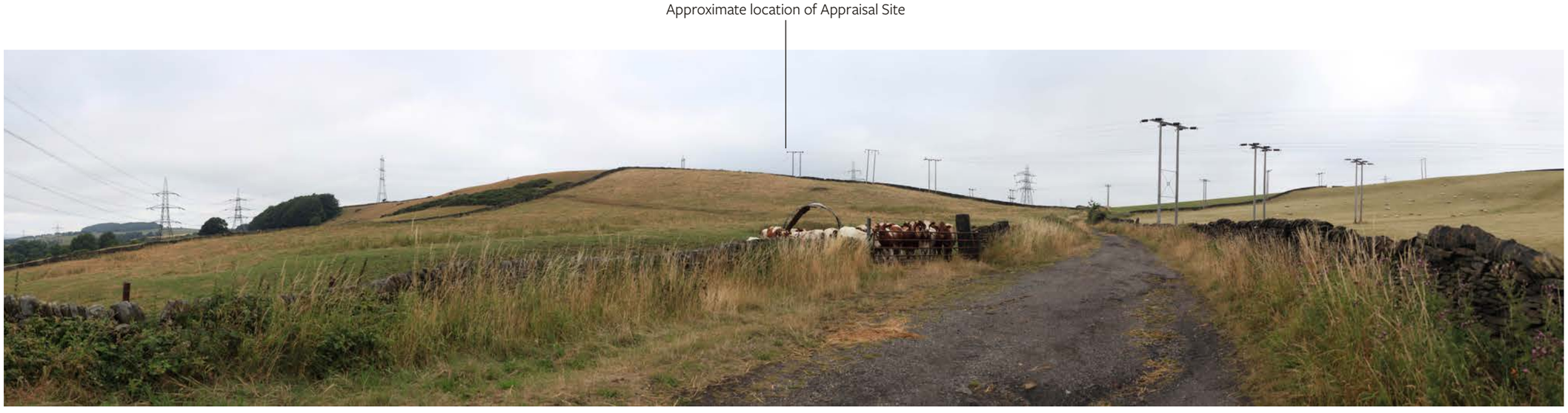


Viewpoint 3 - View looking south west towards the Appraisal Site from Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|4#2. There are open views to the Appraisal Site, including portions of the pastoral field ground plane. The site is viewed in the context of the nearby energy infrastructure elements including a number of nearby electricity pylons and the vertical elements of Hunshelf electricity sub-station.



Viewpoint 4 - View looking north west towards the Appraisal Site from Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|33, Mucky Lane. There are partial glimpsed views to the Appraisal Site, through and above the vertical elements of Hunshelf electricity sub-station.

4.0 VISUAL BASELINE

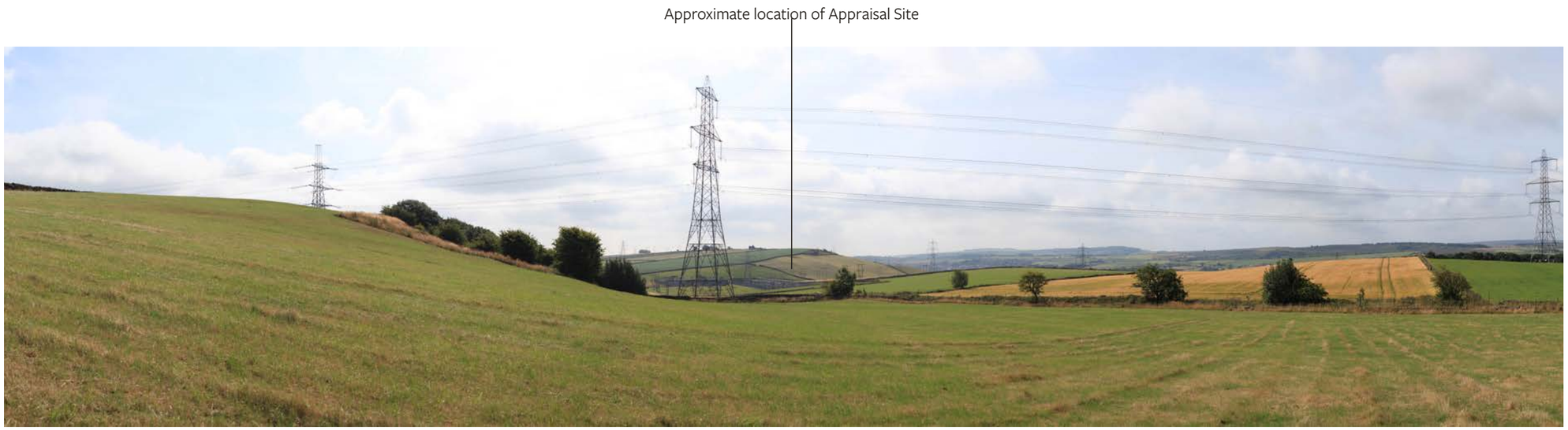


Viewpoint 5 - View looking north towards the Appraisal Site from Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|33, Mucky Lane. Views of the Appraisal Site are truncated due to the intervening landform.

Viewpoint 6 - View looking north east towards the Appraisal Site from Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|32#1, Hunshelf Road. Views of the Appraisal Site are truncated due to the intervening landform.

4.0 VISUAL BASELINE

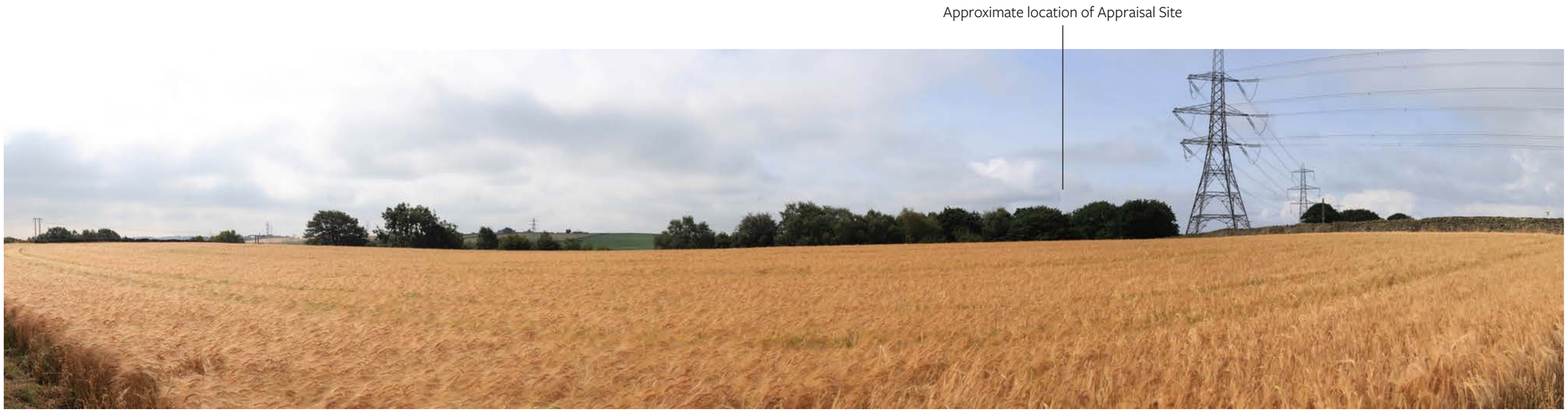
Viewpoint 7 - View looking south east towards the Appraisal Site from Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP| 2. Views of the Appraisal Site are truncated due to the intervening landform.



Viewpoint 8 - View looking south east towards the Appraisal Site from Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP| 3. There is a partial view of the Appraisal Site from this location. Views are seen in the context of the intervening electricity pylon and the adjacent Hunshelf electricity sub-station.

4.0 VISUAL BASELINE

Viewpoint 9 - View looking south east towards the Appraisal Site from Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP| 3. Views of the Appraisal Site are truncated due to the intervening landform and built form of the field boundaries.



Viewpoint 10 - View looking south west towards the Appraisal Site from Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP| 4#2. Views of the Appraisal Site are truncated due to the intervening mature vegetation.

4.0 VISUAL BASELINE

Viewpoint 11 - View looking north east towards the Appraisal Site from the junction of Hunshelf Hall Lane and Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP| 31. Views of the Appraisal Site are truncated due to the intervening mature vegetation and landform.

Viewpoint 12 - View looking north west towards the Appraisal Site from Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP| 32#1. There is a partial glimpsed view to the southern portion of the Site from this elevated location. The view is seen in the context of the adjacent Hunshelf electricity sub-station and the surrounding energy infrastructure including electricity pylons and a wind turbine.

4.0 VISUAL BASELINE

Viewpoint 13 - View looking north east towards the Appraisal Site from the junction of Underbank Lane and Hunshelf Road / Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP| 32#1. Views of the Appraisal Site are truncated due to the intervening landform.

Viewpoint 14 - View looking south east towards the Appraisal Site from the junction of Tofts Lane and Underbank Lane. Views of the Appraisal Site are truncated due to the intervening mature vegetation and landform.

4.0 VISUAL BASELINE

Approximate location of Appraisal Site

Viewpoint 15 - View looking south east towards the Appraisal Site from Footpath BL|Langsett CP| 13. Views of the Appraisal Site are truncated due to the intervening landform and mature vegetation.

Approximate location of Appraisal Site

Viewpoint 16 - View looking south east towards the Appraisal Site from Footpath BL|Oxspring CP| 18. Views of the Appraisal Site are truncated due to the intervening landform.

4.0 VISUAL BASELINE

Viewpoint 17 - View looking north west towards the Appraisal Site from Footpath SP|STO|1B. Views of the Appraisal Site are truncated due to the intervening mature vegetation.

Viewpoint 18 - View looking north east towards the Appraisal Site from the junction of Machin Lane and Peg Folly. Views of the Appraisal Site are truncated due to the intervening landform.

5.0 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The development proposals include the Battery Energy Storage System, access road, security fencing and associated landscape including a SuDs basin with new marginal planting. Areas of existing improved grassland will be enhanced with native, species rich wildflower meadow seeding. A short section of drystone boundary wall in order to accommodate a new access road.

KEY

Application Site Red Line Boundary

Hard Landscape

Vehicular Asphalt Surface
To engineer specification & recommendation

Permeable Gravel
To engineer specification & recommendation

2.4m High Security Fence
Green colour

Soft Landscape

Enhanced to Wildflower Meadow
Seeded mix applied

Marginals Mix

SuDs Basin

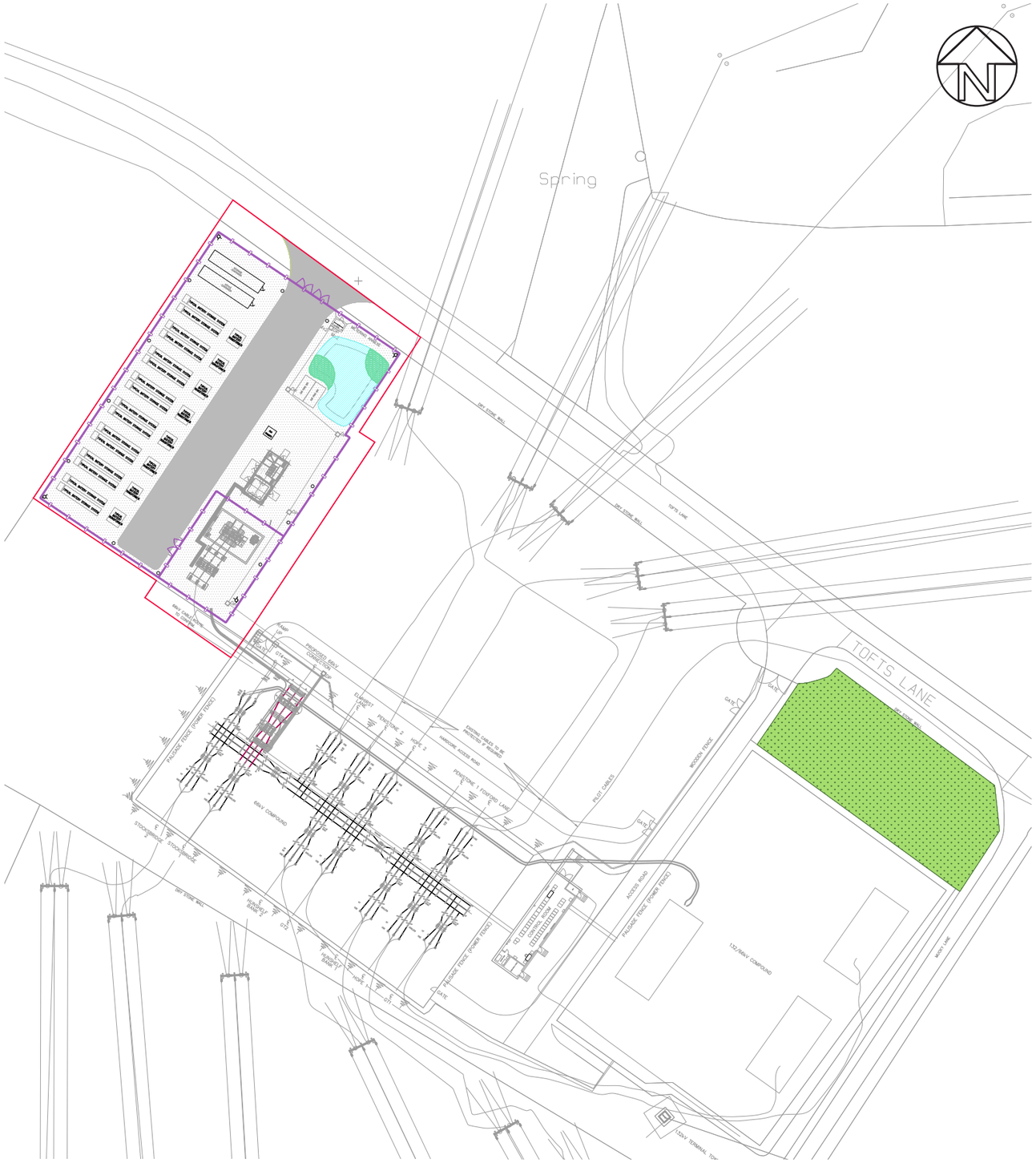


Figure 5.1 - Development Proposals

6.0 APPRAISAL OF LANDSCAPE & VISUAL EFFECTS

Landscape Effects

The following paragraphs summarise the anticipated landscape effects as in respect of each main landscape receptor. The criteria for the determination of sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effects is set out in the methodology at Appendix 1.

Landscape Character

At a national level, the anticipated landscape effect of the future development of the Site are anticipated to be negligible and entail negligible change to the existing landscape. At a local and Site level, however, a greater impact on landscape character is present.

The development of the Site will introduce new built form, access roads and associated landscape planting into an upland pastoral field parcel which is currently influenced by the adjacent electricity sub-station and energy infrastructure within the Site and in close proximity. Vegetation within the Site is limited to the close cropped improved grassland and a small section of the drystone boundary wall will require removal to accommodate the new Site access. New development within the Site is located to north of the Site, adjacent to Tofts Lane and away from the most sensitive southern boundary.

Not withstanding this, areas of the Site would have direct, long term changes in terms of the impact on their character. As such potential effects are anticipated to be Minor adverse on the landscape character at the Site level and Minor adverse on the Landscape Character Areas F2 - Penistone Upland Rolling Farmland at the local level.

At the local level, the Appraisal identifies that the key issues to address are the sensitivity of the area to built development in views from the surrounding area. The development proposals seeks to address this issue through the location of the new built form sensitively within the Site and the proposals for a enhancement of the existing grassland. The proposals will seek to enhance the existing improved grassland with species rich wildflower meadow.

Landscape Features and Vegetation

Vegetation within the Site is limited to the close cropped improved grassland. Considering the enhancement of the existing grassland and proposals for a SuDs basin with marginal planting within the Site and the native planting palette, the anticipated magnitude of effects on this resource are considered overall to be Small resulting in an overall Negligible significance of effect in terms of vegetation.

The development proposals will also require the removal of a short section of drystone boundary wall in order to accommodate a new access road. The anticipated magnitude of effects on this resource is considered to be Small resulting in an overall Minor adverse the loss of this landscape element.

Public Rights of Way

There are no PROWs within the Site, however, Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|4#2 connects Tofts Lane with Pond Farm and Pond Common Lane approximatively 15m to the north of the Site at it's closest point. In landscape terms, the development proposals will not effect this route and there are no further direct changes to any existing public rights of way within the study area.

Heritage Assets

The existing Listed Buildings within the study area are physically and visually separated from the Appraisal Site due to a combination of distance, landform, intervening built form and vegetation and would not be effected by any future development proposals.

Green Belt

At the Site level, the development of the Site would see a direct and permanent alteration to the Green Belt designation through the removal upland pasture and the creation of new built development an access road, SuDs basin with marginals and enhanced wildflower meadow within the Site. The development of the Site would be in keeping with local land uses including the Electricity sub-station directly adjacent to the east of the Site. The Site is visually well contained within the wider countryside and does not form an integral part of the wider swathe of the Green Belt or open countryside to the north of Stocksbridge. The overall magnitude of effect would be Negligible and overall significance of effect anticipated to be Negligible.

Policy Compliance

In accordance with Policies LC1, GI1 and BIO1, proposals include the provision of enhanced areas of green infrastructure which incorporate a SuDs basin with marginals and wildflower meadow. The Site will not have an adverse affect on the setting of any Listed Buildings or Heritage Assets in accordance with Policy HE1.

Overall Conclusions on Potential Landscape Effects

In overall terms, the proposed development of the Appraisal Site is anticipated to give rise to some Minor effects on landscape character and Negligible to Minor adverse effects on landscape features and vegetation at the Site level. The effects on the Green Belt designation is anticipated to be Negligible adverse. It is therefore considered that the development of the Site would not constitute an overall significant or unacceptable environmental effect.

6.0 APPRAISAL OF LANDSCAPE & VISUAL EFFECTS

Visual Effects

The following paragraphs summarise the visual effects in respect of each identified category of visual receptor. The criteria for the determination of sensitivity and magnitude of visual effects are set out in the methodology at Appendix 1.

Residents of Dwellings

The residents of dwellings within the study area will not be directly affected, and notable views to the Appraisal Site are not predicted, due to separation by distance, built form, land form and existing vegetation.

Users of Public Rights of Way

Views of the proposed development from users of Public Rights of Way are limited to open views from Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|4#2 to the south of the Oakenshaw Spring woodland (refer to viewpoint 3), partial glimpsed views from the northern portion of Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|33 and the eastern, elevated portion of Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|32#1 (refer to viewpoints 4 and 12), and a partial view from a small portion of Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|3 to the north west of the Site (refer to viewpoint 8).

For visual receptors along portions of these routes, the proposals would form a new built elements within the view, or would bring built development forward in the view which already comprises the electricity sub-station and energy infrastructure within the immediate vicinity of the Site.

The overall magnitude of effect would range from Small for users of Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|4#2, and negligible for users of Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|33, Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|32#1 and Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|3. Since users of PRoW are considered to be High sensitivity receptors, the overall significance of effect is considered to be range from Moderate for users of Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|4#2 immediately adjacent to the Site falling to Minor adverse for users of portions of Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|33, Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|32#1 and Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|3. Views towards the proposed development from users of PRoW at greater distances are entirely screened by intervening landform, built form or vegetation, resulting in an overall significance of effect on these visual receptors of None.

Road Users

Views towards the Site from road users are reserved to those routes in immediate proximity to the Site including from portions of Tofts Lane and Hunshelf Hall Lane in close proximity to the Site (refer to Viewpoints 1 and 2). The potential development of the Site is considered to give rise to a Small to Negligible magnitude of effect resulting in Minor to Negligible adverse overall effects to road users in close proximity to the Site.

Heritage Assets

The listed buildings within the study area are visually and perceptually divorced from the Appraisal Site and are not anticipated to be effected by the development proposals.

Public Open Space

Users of public open space within the study area are not anticipated to be affected by the development proposals.

Overall Conclusions on Visual Effects

The potential development of the Site is therefore considered to have a range of Negligible to Moderate adverse effects on visual receptors within the study area, primarily for receptors within and in close proximity to the Site. Due to the surrounding landform the Site is largely visually contained and any adverse effects are anticipated to reduce over time as the proposed planting matures.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

This Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) has been prepared on the Third Edition of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (Routledge, 2013). The appraisal of the Site at Tofts Lane, Hunshelf has been carried out to inform the landscape design response to the development proposals in consideration of the landscape and visual issues, current planning policy and emerging guidance.

A review of the landscape designations and planning policy at the national, regional and local level has been carried out. The Site lies within wider tracts of land to the north of Stocksbridge designated as Green Belt. There are no landscape, ecological or heritage designations which directly cover the Site. The Site is located in an upland area, occupying a relatively flat step in the local landform associated with the ridgeline of Snowden Hill to the north. The Site is currently part of a larger pastoral field parcel with limited and adjacent to the existing Hunshelf electricity sub-station to the east of the Site. The Site is bound pastoral farmland to the west and south and Tofts Lane to the north. There are elements of energy infrastructure, including the sub-station, pylons and wind turbines in the immediate and wider setting of the Site

Open views and partial into the Site are available from portions of Tofts Lane, Hunshelf Hall Lane and Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|4#2 in close proximity to the Site. Partial views and partial glimpsed views are also possible from a portions of Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|33, Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|32#1 and Footpath BL|Hunshelf CP|3. At greater distances, further views are truncated by the local landform, built form or mature vegetation. Where views are available they are seen within the context of the built form of the existing energy infrastructure in close proximity to the Site.

The proposed development has been laid out to largely retain the existing landscape features including the drystone boundary walls and the most sensitive parts of the Site, addressing the current local policy. In response to the sensitivity of the southern areas of the Site, the layout has developed to locate the built form within the northern portions of the Site in order to reduce landscape and visual effects within this sensitive area.

Minor adverse effects are anticipated in relation to the loss of the small section of boundary wall within the Site. Minor to Negligible adverse effects are anticipated to landscape character. These effects will be borne in an area that has an existing relationship with the adjacent energy infrastructure surrounding the Site. The effects on the Green Belt designation are anticipated to be Negligible.

As a result of the local landform the Site is largely visually contained and visual effects are anticipated to range from Moderate for receptors using the Footpath to the north of the Site to Minor adverse and Negligible for a limited number of receptors in close proximity to the Site. In summary, the proposed development will sit within the existing landscape character without causing significant harm.

APPENDIX 1 – LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL APPRAISAL METHODOLOGY

Guidance and Publications

This appraisal has been carried out in light of the latest relevant guidance as set out in 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment' (GLVIA3), published by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013), and 'Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland' published by the Countryside Agency and Scottish National Heritage (2002). These documents do not set out a prescriptive approach to how assessments or appraisals should be undertaken, but rather identify key principles and good practice.

Whilst this methodology refers to landscape appraisals, the same general principles are also applicable in townscape settings. Further guidance on townscape appraisal is given at page 74 of GLVIA3 (2013).

The following guidelines and publications have also been considered when producing this appraisal:

- 'Seeing the History in the View: A Method for Assessing Heritage Significance within Views' (English Heritage; 2011);
- 'The Setting of Heritage Assets: Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (Second Edition)' (Historic England; 2017); and
- 'Visual Representation of Development Proposals - Technical Guidance Note 06/19' (Landscape Institute; 2019)

The appraisal comprises the following stages:

- A summary of the relevant aspects of extant and emergent landscape planning policies;
- A definition the scope of the appraisal, Site reconnaissance and desktop background research;
- A description of the existing conditions in respect of the landscape baseline (dealing with matters of current landscape character and existing landscape resources), and the visual baseline (dealing with matters relating to the visibility of the Appraisal Site);
- Summary of key landscape and visual sensitivities relating to the Appraisal Site and surrounding land;
- A description of the development proposed on the Appraisal Site;
- An appraisal of landscape effects; and
- An appraisal of visual effects.

Baseline Appraisal Methodology

The following specific desk-based tasks have been undertaken:

- A review of the planning policy relevant to the Appraisal Site;
- A review of any existing landscape character appraisals relating to the study area;
- A review of landscape designations from the English Heritage database and local authority sources; and
- Identification of landscape character and key landscape elements.

The baseline description in this appraisal comprises two separate elements:

a. Landscape Baseline; and

b. Visual Baseline.

In this appraisal, a distinction has been drawn between the study area and the Appraisal Site. The Appraisal Site is the area proposed for development whilst the study area takes in the wider surrounds of the Appraisal Site. The determination of the study area has been informed by desk top studies of maps and aerial photographs to assess how topography, vegetation and built form in the area surrounding the Site were likely to control views towards the Appraisal Site.

This work was followed by Site visits to determine the potential visibility of the Appraisal Site. The study area boundaries were then set to ensure that all relevant areas of potential visibility were assessed. In general terms, it is assumed that the extent of visibility of the Appraisal Site (and ultimately of proposed development upon it) will not exceed a 2km radius.

The Landscape Baseline

The Landscape Baseline comprises two elements; the existing Landscape Character and the existing Landscape Resource.

Landscape Character is defined in GLVIA3 as *"a distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse."* As such, character is influenced by the physical constituent components of the landscape including geology, soils, topography, vegetation, water features, land utilisation and built elements. Landscape Character Appraisal is the process of identifying variation and change in the landscape and using that information to assist in managing future landscape change (arising from development or other factors). Landscape Character Appraisals – at differing scales – have typically been prepared by, or on behalf of, national and local government or agencies, and provide a starting point for the consideration of landscape character. As a generality, the more detailed the existing Landscape Character Appraisal, the more relevant it will be to the specific Appraisal Site and/ or the development proposal. There are four main levels at which landscape character appraisal has been, or may be carried out, as follows:

a. National Level (the National Character Area Profiles prepared by Natural England);

b. Regional Level (typically produced for Natural England or a regional grouping of local authorities);

c. Local Authority Level (normally at a County, or District level, or for a number of Districts (or specific parts thereof)); and

d. Local Level (typically of a settlement or a group of settlements within a local authority).

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In addition to referencing these published documents, a local level character appraisal of the Appraisal Site and its surrounding has been undertaken which describes, in summary, the following elements:

a. Existing Land Use;

b. Adjoining Land Uses;

c. Topography;

d. Vegetation;

e. Water Features; and

f. Public Rights of Way.

The Landscape Resource baseline considers two separate aspects; landscape condition – the physical state of the landscape – and landscape value – how different areas of landscape are valued by society. The following criteria have been used to categorize landscape condition, which is described in the appraisal text. The typical examples given provide an indication of the likely landscape condition but it does not necessarily follow that because a Site is within a specific designated area that the categorisation of landscape condition will automatically follow; much will depend on specific Site conditions.

Table 1: Landscape Condition

Category	Criteria	Typical Example
Exceptional	i. Strong landscape structure, characteristic patterns, balanced combination of landform and landcover; ii. Appropriate management for land use and landcover; iii. Distinct features worthy of conservation; iv. Sense of place; v. No/ negligible detracting features.	Internationally or Nationally recognised e.g. all or the great majority of which would be World Heritage Site, National Park or AONB.
High	i. Strong landscape structure, characteristic patterns, balanced combination of landform and landcover; ii. Appropriate management for land use and landcover but potentially scope to improve; iii. Distinct features worthy of conservation; iv. Sense of place; v. Occasional detracting features.	Nationally or Regionally recognised e.g. parts of National Park or AONB, all or the great majority of AGLV.
Good	i. Recognisable landscape structure, characteristic patterns and combinations of landform and cover are still evident; ii. Scope to improve management for land use and landcover; iii. Some features worthy of conservation; iv. Sense of place; v. Some detracting features.	
Ordinary	i. Distinguishable landscape structure, characteristic ii. Patterns of landform and landcover often masked by land use; iii. Scope to improve management of vegetation; iv. Some features worthy of conservation; v. Some detracting features.	
Poor	i. Weak landscape structure, characteristic patterns of landform and landcover are often masked by land use; ii. Lack of management and intervention has resulted in degradation; iii. Frequent detracting features.	
Very poor	i. Degraded landscape structure, characteristic patterns and combinations of landform and landcover are masked by land use; ii. Lack of management / intervention has resulted in degradation; iii. Extensive detracting features.	
Damaged	i. Damaged landscape structure; ii. Disturbed or derelict land requires treatment; iii. Detracting features dominate.	
Derelict	i. Land so damaged by industrial or other development that it is incapable of beneficial use without treatment.	

The following criteria have been used to categorise the landscape value of the Site. The categories of Exceptional and High are informed directly by reference to development plan documents; the other categories entail a judgement in respect of the attributes of the area / locality or may be informed by published landscape character appraisals.

Table 2: Landscape Value

Value	Typical Criteria	Typical Scale	Typical Example
Exceptional	Very high importance (or Quality) and Rarity. No or extremely limited potential for substitution.	International, National.	World Heritage Site, National Park or AONB.
High	High Importance (or Quality) and Rarity. Limited potential for substitution.	National, Regional, Local	National Park, AONB, AGLV, ALLI
Good	Medium Importance (or Quality) and Rarity. Limited potential for substitution.	Regional, Local	Undesignated but value perhaps expressed through non-official publications or demonstrable use.
Ordinary	Low Importance (or Quality) and Rarity.	Local	Areas identified as having some redeeming feature or features and possibly identified for improvement.
Poor	Low Importance (or Quality) and Rarity.	Local	Areas identified as having few redeeming features and lots of scope for improvement.
Very poor	Low Importance (or Quality) and Rarity.	Local	Areas identified for recovery.

From these separate appraisals of landscape character and the landscape resource, the overall sensitivity of landscape receptors – defined as those aspects of the landscape that have the potential to be affected by the proposed development - is determined.

The Visual Baseline

The extent of visibility of the Appraisal Site, and of the proposed development, is determined by the buildings/development surrounding the Site, as well as by existing vegetation and topography. An initial appraisal was made, using OS mapping and aerial photographs of potential locations from where the Appraisal Site might be seen by visual receptors - defined as individuals or groups who have the potential to be affected by the proposal. Potential locations that are identified include residential and commercial properties, roads, PRoW, and areas of public open space/ recreational land.

APPENDIX 1 – LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL APPRAISAL METHODOLOGY

A field visit was carried out in July 2022. The Site was viewed from the surrounding area from a range of locations, including those identified through the desk study and other locations that became apparent from the field appraisal. In the appraisal the potential visual receptors are identified on plan and described in tabular form, which categorizes the receptor by type (i.e. residential property etc.) and distance from the edge of the Appraisal Site (using the terms set out in Table 3).

Table 3: Distance of Views

Distance of Views	Definition
Adjoining	On the edge of the Appraisal Site
Close	Less than 250m from the edge of the Appraisal Site
Middle	From 250m to 500m from the edge of the Appraisal Site
Long	500m or greater from the edge of the Appraisal Site

From the field appraisal, a number of viewpoints have been identified which are representative of visual receptors in proximity. The viewpoints selected essentially cover three types of views:

- Representative viewpoints: typical of a particular type of visual receptor, e.g. certain points along a PRoW;
- Specific Viewpoints: a key or promoted viewpoint within the landscape possibly related to local visitor attractions or associated with a designated landscape or a cultural landscape; and
- Illustrative Viewpoints: where a particular effect may only be available from certain locations.

Not all of these types of viewpoints will necessarily be present or need to be considered in all appraisals. Generally, but not exclusively, the majority of viewpoints identified will be representative viewpoints. All of the viewpoints identified are public viewpoints. Whilst private locations, such as houses, were not visited during the field appraisal, an appraisal of the likely views from these properties and their visual context was made from nearby locations.

Viewpoint locations are shown in plan form and the views available from the selected viewpoints shown as photographs in the appraisal.

Appraisal of Landscape and Visual Effects – General Approach

As defined in GLVIA3, landscape effects are those effects on the landscape as a resource in its own right, and visual effects are those effects on specific views and on the general amenity as experienced by people. The judgement made in respect of both landscape and visual effects is a combination of an appraisal of the sensitivity of the receptor against the magnitude of the landscape or visual effect.

The judgement to be made in respect of sensitivity is a combination of the susceptibility of those receptors to the specific change occasioned by the proposed development (for both landscape and visual receptors) along with the value attached to that receptor (again for both landscape and visual receptors). Similarly, the judgement to be made in respect of the magnitude of landscape and / or visual effects is derived from a combination of the size or scale of the effect(s); the duration of the effect(s); and whether such effect(s) is / are reversible (or not). The appraisal of landscape and visual effects give rise to separate considerations and these are set out in more detail below.

Appraisal of Landscape Effects

In respect of the judgment to be made of the sensitivity of landscape receptors, the susceptibility to specific change for each landscape receptor is categorized as set out in the following tables.

Table 4: Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

Receptor	Susceptibility of Receptor to Change		
	High	Medium	Low
Landscape Character	A highly distinctive and coherent landscape character, with an absence of detracting or intrusive elements. Low or no capacity to accept change.	Distinctive character, with a general consistency, notwithstanding the presence of some detracting or intrusive elements. Some capacity to accept change.	Mixed character, where there is a lack of coherence and detracting or intrusive elements have become dominant or have eclipsed original character. Significant capacity to accept change.
Designated Areas	National designated Landscape such as National Park and AONB	Local landscape designations (e.g. AGLV/Areas of Local Landscape Importance (ALLI) (or similar)	Not designated
Landscape Features	Largely or completely intact, in good condition	Largely in moderate condition – may be in process of improvement	Undesignated but value perhaps expressed through non-official publications or demonstrable use.
Aesthetic / Perceptual Aspects	Recognised formally as a coherent area/ feature of aesthetic attraction	Some areas/ features of aesthetic attraction	Not noted for aesthetic qualities

The value for each landscape receptor is taken from Table 2 above. The overall sensitivity of each receptor is then categorised on a High/Medium/Low/Negligible basis. In respect of the magnitude of landscape effects, Table 5 sets out the judgements to be made, and the categories adopted in respect of the separate considerations of scale, geographic extent, duration.

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Table 5: Magnitude of Landscape Effects

Type of Effect	Magnitude of Effects			
Size/Scale	**Major**	**Moderate**	**Minor**	**Negligible / None**
	Total loss of, or major alteration to key elements/ features/ characteristics of the Site and/ or the introduction of elements totally uncharacteristic to the receiving landscape	Partial loss of or alteration to one or more key elements/ features/ characteristics of the Site and/or introduction of elements that would be evident, but not necessarily uncharacteristic to the receiving landscape	Limited loss of or alteration to one or more key elements/ features/ characteristics of the Site and/ or introduction of elements characteristic with the receiving landscape.	Very minor or no loss or alteration to one or more key elements/ features / characteristics of the Site and/ or introduction of elements characteristic within the surrounding landscape – approximating to a "no change" situation.
Geographic Extent	Extensive	Major	Localised	Restricted
	Effects would be experienced over many landscape character types or area	Effects would extend over the major part of the landscape character type or area	Effects would be confined to the immediate setting of the Appraisal Site	Effects would not extend beyond the Appraisal Site
Duration	Long	Medium	Short	Construction Stage
	Over 15 years after completion of construction works	5-15 years after completion of construction works	0-5 years after completion of construction works	Restricted to construction stage (explain likely length of construction and any key stages)

The overall magnitude of landscape effects is then described on the basis of professional judgement on a High / Medium / Low / Negligible basis. The separate appraisals in respect of sensitivity and magnitude have been drawn together in the appraisal in a single tabular form. An overall conclusion in respect of landscape change – the likely significant landscape effects - is set out in the appraisal text. That overall conclusion is expressed by reference to the terms set out in the matrix at Table 6, showing the interrelationship between sensitivity of the landscape receptor and the magnitude of landscape effect. The principal conclusions deriving from the tabular presentation are then summarised in the appraisal text.

Table 6: Landscape Effects

		Sensitivity of Receptor		
		High	**Medium**	**Low**
Magnitude of Effect	**Large**	MAJOR	MAJOR/ MODERATE	MODERATE
	Medium	MAJOR/ MODERATE	MODERATE	MINOR
	Small	MODERATE	MINOR	NEGLIGIBLE
	Negligible	MINOR	NEGLIGIBLE	NEGLIGIBLE
	None	NEUTRAL	NEUTRAL	NEUTRAL

In Table 6 the terms used to describe overall landscape effects are taken to have the following meanings, particularly in respect of the purpose of the Appraisal to identify likely significant environmental effects:

- Major: Would fundamentally change the existing landscape and would thus constitute a significant environmental effect.
- Major / Moderate: Would substantially change the existing landscape and would thus constitute a significant environmental effect.
- Moderate: Would bring about some change to the existing landscape but would not constitute a significant environmental effect.
- Minor: Would entail only limited change to the existing landscape and would not constitute a significant environmental effect.
- Negligible: Would entail negligible change to the existing landscape and would not constitute a significant environmental effect.
- Neutral: Would be approximate to a no-change situation.

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Appraisal of Visual Effects

In respect of the judgment to be made of the sensitivity of visual receptors, the susceptibility to specific change for each landscape receptor is categorised as set out below.

Table 7: Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

Type of Visual Receptor	Susceptibility of Specific Change	Notes
Residential Property	High	Residential properties are considered the most sensitive of potential visual receptors and are thus accorded a High susceptibility. It is an established tenet that the planning system does not serve to protect private interests; the issue is not whether owners and occupiers of neighbouring properties would experience financial or other loss (including visual effect) from a particular development but whether such development would unacceptably affect amenities and the existing use of land and buildings which ought to be protected in the public interest. Thus, in seeking to assess the visual effects of development account should be taken of the effects on residential property, but it is pertinent to note that purely private interests may carry less weight than public interests.
Commercial Property / Places of Employment	Low to Medium	Indoor workers are likely to have a Low susceptibility; outdoor workers (e.g. in agriculture) a Medium susceptibility.
Public Roads	Low to Medium	The degree of susceptibility will vary according to the nature of the road and its primary purpose for users. Motorways and trunk roads are taken to have a Low susceptibility; A class roads a Low to Medium susceptibility, and all other roads a medium susceptibility.
Public Rights of Way / Cycleways	High	The degree of susceptibility will vary according to the nature of the PRoW and its primary purpose for users. Bridleways and PRoW designated locally as specific routes are taken to have a High susceptibility.
Informal Paths	Medium to High	Informal paths have been taken to have a Medium to High susceptibility.
Public Open Space	High	Users of areas of POS are likely to be at leisure, and thus such areas are taken to have a High susceptibility.
Cultural Heritage Sites	High	Users of areas of cultural heritage sites are likely to be at leisure, and thus such areas are taken to have a High susceptibility.
Recreational Land	Medium	Users of recreational land are likely to be at leisure but are taken to be focussed primarily on the recreational activity, and thus such areas are taken to have a Medium susceptibility.

The value of views is categorized as set out below:

Table 8: Criteria for Value of Views

Magnitude	Criteria
High	A unique or identified view (e.g. shown as such on OS map or marked on a tourist map) or one noted in literature
Medium	A typical and/ or representative view from a particular receptor type
Low	Undistinguished or unprepossessing view

In respect of the magnitude of visual effects, Table 9 below sets out the judgements to be made, and the categories adopted in respect of the separate considerations of scale, geographic extent, duration, and reversibility.

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Table 9: Criteria for Determination of Visual Effect

Type of Effect	Magnitude of Effects			
Size/Scale	**Major**	**Moderate**	**Minor**	**Negligible / None**
	The proposals form a significant and immediately apparent part of the view that will change its overall character.	The proposals will form a visible and recognisable new element within the overall view and will be readily noticed by the observer.	The proposals constitute only a minor component of the wider view, which might be overlooked by the casual observer. Awareness of the proposals will not have a marked effect on the overall quality of the view.	Only a very small Part (or no part) of the proposal will be discernible and / or it will be at such a distance that it will be scarcely appreciated, and consequently it will have very little/ no effect on the view.
Geographic Extent	Extensive	Major	Localised	Restricted
	Effects would affect all the visual receptor/ and/ or would be seen at close distance.	Effects would extend over the major parts of the visual receptor and/ or would be seen at medium distance.	Effects would be confined to part/s of the visual receptor and/ or would be seen at long distance.	Effects would be confined to edges of/ glimpse views from the visual receptor and/ or would be seen at long distance.
Duration	Long	Medium	Short	Construction Stage
	The visual effect, even considering mitigation works, will still obtain 15 years after completion of construction works	The visual effect, taking into account mitigation works, will obtain for between 5-15 years after completion of construction works	The visual effect, taking into account mitigation works, will obtain for up to 5 years after completion of construction works	Restricted to construction stage (explain likely length of construction and any key stages)
Reversibility	Irreversible		Reversible	
	The development will entail a permanent effect on the view.		If the development was de-constructed/ demolished the existing view (i.e. without development) would be returned.	

The overall magnitude of visual effects is then described on the basis of professional judgement on a High / Medium / Low / Negligible basis. The separate appraisals in respect of visual sensitivity and magnitude have been drawn together in the appraisal in a single tabular form. An overall conclusion in respect of visual change – the likely significant visual effects - is set out in the appraisal text. That overall conclusion is expressed by reference to the terms set out in the matrix at Table 10, showing the interrelationship between sensitivity of the visual receptor and the magnitude of visual effect. The principal conclusions deriving from the tabular presentation are then summarised in the appraisal text.

Table 10: Visual Effects

		Sensitivity of Receptor		
		High	**Medium**	**Low**
Magnitude of Effect	**Large**	MAJOR	MAJOR/ MODERATE	MODERATE
	Medium	MAJOR/ MODERATE	MODERATE	MINOR
	Small	MODERATE	MINOR	NEGLIGIBLE
	Negligible	MINOR	NEGLIGIBLE	NEGLIGIBLE
	None	NEUTRAL	NEUTRAL	NEUTRAL

In Table 10 the terms used to describe overall visual effects are taken to have the following meanings, particularly in respect of the purpose of the Appraisal to identify likely significant environmental effects:

- Major: Would fundamentally change the existing view and would thus constitute a significant environmental effect.
- Major/ Moderate: Would substantially change the existing view and would thus constitute a significant environmental effect.
- Moderate: Would bring about some change to the existing view but would not constitute a significant environmental effect.
- Minor: Would entail only limited change to the existing view and would not constitute a significant environmental effect.
- Negligible: Would entail negligible change to the existing view and would not constitute a significant environmental effect.
- Neutral: Would be approximate to a no-change situation.

APPENDIX 1 - LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL APPRAISAL METHODOLOGY

Overall Appraisal of Landscape and Visual Effects

The separate conclusions in respect of likely significant landscape and visual (as described above) are set out in the appraisal text.

Visual Baseline Conditions

The following specific desk-based tasks have been undertaken:

- Identification and field appraisal of potential receptors within the visual envelope and an appraisal of their sensitivity.

- Appreciation of the nature and importance of existing views experienced by the identified receptors.

The visual appraisal involved an initial desk-based review of OS mapping to establish the wider context within which views initially appear to be set, followed by Site surveys to establish the form and nature of specific views and the role of the proposed development area in such views. The Site survey was informed by the computer generated ZTV mapping which indicates where the development may be visible from.

Methodology for Preparation of Photographs

The Site survey includes a photographic record of the viewpoints. At each of the viewpoints the following details are recorded;

- The grid reference (of the viewpoint);

- The viewer height (measured to the lens of the camera);

- The date (of survey);

- The distance to the development (from the viewpoint).

The photographs have been taken using a digital SLR camera with a 50mm fixed focal length lens, giving a focal length equivalent to 75mm on a 35mm film camera. The photographs were taken in accordance with guidance outlined in the document 'Visual Representation of Development Proposals - Technical Guidance Note 06/19' (Landscape Institute; 2019);

URBAN
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