



OUTLINE LANDSCAPE & VISUAL IMPACT APPRAISAL

4th Floor Studio
10 Little Lever Street
Manchester
M1 1 HR

Tel: 0161 235 0600
Fax: 0161 235 0601
email: info@tpmlandscape.co.uk

Barugh Green, Barnsley
Project Number: 4582

December 2024

1 SITE CONTEXT

BACKGROUND

TPM Landscape are appointed to prepare an Outline Landscape and Visual Appraisal for a proposed housing scheme on Barugh Green Road, Barnsley on behalf of Avant Homes.

The purpose of an Outline LVA is to consider the proposed development with regard to the potential for landscape and visual effects. The potential landscape and visual receptors have been identified, and an outline assessment of their likely sensitivity to change and the potential magnitude of change and the potential for significant effects has been considered. The Outline LVA will conclude as to whether a more refined level of assessment is required in order to understand any identified potential effects.

THE SITE

The proposal site comprises a rectangular shaped area of agricultural land comprising part of 2 fields, divided by a partially intact hedgerow, on a north facing slope, falling from approximately 87m AOD on the southern boundary to 80m AOD on the northern boundary with Barugh Green Lane.

The site forms part of a wider area of agricultural land between the settlements of Gawber and Higham, which has been allocated for 'Mixed Use' development within the Barnsley Local Plan. A public right of way footpath runs along the southern boundary of the allocation site, linking the 2 settlements.

The main settlement of Barugh Green is located to the north of the site, with a large commercial area situated to the north of Barugh Green Road. The main settlement of Barnsley is located approximately 3 kilometers east of Barugh Green Lane, on the eastern site boundary.

LANDSCAPE DESIGNATION

The site and wider landscape has no landscape designations such as National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and no local designations such as Special Landscape Area.

VISUAL AMENITY

The site is located within an area visually enclosed by roads, residential areas, and large commercial buildings. As a result, there are few visual receptors, aside from the properties directly adjacent to the site's eastern boundary, the public right of way footpaths located to the south of the proposal site and occasional glimpses from users of the commercial areas and Barugh Green Road to the north and the residential areas to the west.

THE DESIGN PROPOSALS

The design proposals for the scheme aims to create a well-integrated new residential scheme in its urban setting (as part of the wider mixed use allocation site), by retaining existing trees and hedgerows at the external site boundaries where possible, and adopting a strategic landscape approach to introduce a new generation of trees. The existing site is shown in Figure 1, and the extract of the Landscape Masterplan is shown in Figure 2.

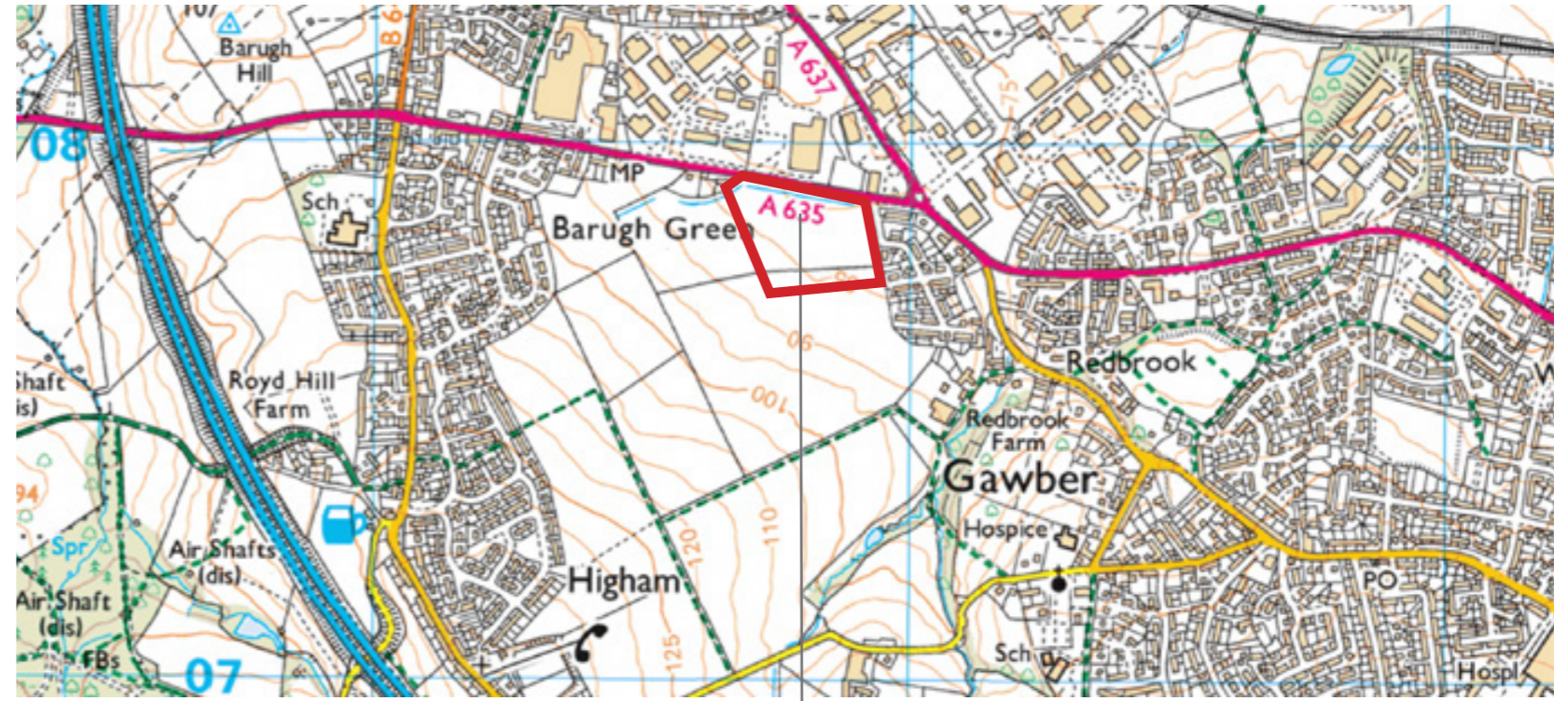


Fig 1 OS Map of the wider site context.

Proposal Site



Fig 2 Extract of Landscape Masterplan (TPM drawing 4582-101)



Fig 3 Aerial Photograph of wider site context

— Proposal Site Boundary



SITE CONTEXT, CHARACTER AND SETTING

The proposal site comprises of part of 2 agricultural fields adjacent to the southern boundary of Green Barugh settlement. The gently sloping north facing fields are bordered to the east by the existing settlement, to the north by Green Barugh Road, and have an open aspect towards the farmland to the south and west of the site (land allocated for mixed use development).

A line of trees and hedgerows are located along the northern boundary with Barugh Green Road (although a section of this will be required to be removed to allow a visibility splay to the development) and further woodland is located to the south of the proposal site, restricting longer distance views from the south of the site (together with the topography).

There are no important settlement characteristics in the vicinity of the site.

It is therefore considered that a residential development on the proposal site is consistent with the Local Plan mixed use allocation, and will have very little impact on the character and setting of Barugh Green.



-  Site Context photo locations. Note, these are not Viewpoints, which are in further sections of the report
-  Proposal Site Boundary

Fig 4 Aerial photograph of the site context, and context photograph location plan



Context Photo P1

View looking south on Claycliffe Avenue to properties located adjacent to the eastern site boundary.



Context Photo P2

View looking east along Barugh Green Road towards the roundabout junction with the A637



Context Photo P3

View looking west along Barugh Cough Lane towards the car parking and commercial properties located opposite the proposal site.



Context Photo P4

View looking west along Barugh Cough Lane towards the car parking and commercial properties located along from the proposal site.



Context Photo P5

View looking west along Barugh Green Road towards the residential properties at the north-western corner of the proposal site.



Context Photo P6

View looking north from public right of way footpath located to the south of the proposals site.



Context Photo P7

View looking west from public right of way footpath towards properties located on Avon Close with views from the rear of the properties across the wider allocation site, and the proposal site.

LOCAL AUTHORITY:
BARNSELY LOCAL PLAN
BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Development Plan comprises the Local Plan, Joint Waste Plan, and Neighbourhood Plans. The proposal site is located within a settlement area and is designated for new housing. None of the Neighbourhood Plans include the proposal site.

The location of the proposal site is illustrated in Figure 5.

The proposed site is specified within land allocated for mixed uses (MU1).

Local Plan states:

Site MU1 Land south of Barugh Green Road

The site is proposed for mixed use predominantly for housing and employment. The indicative number of dwellings proposed on this site is 1700. These are included in the housing numbers for Urban Barnsley in the housing chapter. 43 ha of employment land is proposed on the site and is included in the employment land figures in the Urban Barnsley section of the Economy chapter. The development will be subject to the production and approval of a Masterplan Framework covering the entire site which seeks to ensure that the employment land is developed within the plan period, that community facilities come forward before completion of the housing and that development is brought forward in a comprehensive manner.

The development will be expected to:

- Provide a primary school on the site;
- Ensure that ground stability and contamination investigations are undertaken prior to development commencing and necessary remedial works completed in accordance with the phasing plan;
- Provide on and off site highway infrastructure works, including a link road (Claycliffe Link) and improvements at Junction 37 as necessary; Provide small scale convenience retail and community facilities in compliance with Local Plan policy TC5 Small Local Shops;
- Retain, buffer and manage the watercourse, grassland and woodland north-east of Hermit Lane;
- Retain, buffer and manage the species-rich hedgerows and boundary features. Where this is not possible transplant hedgerows including root balls and associated soils. A method statement for this should be provided and agreed prior to works commencing;
- Create/retain wildlife corridors through/across the site; Provide accessible public open space;
- Ensure that any sustainable drainage system incorporating above-ground habitats is designed from the outset to serve the whole site;
- Give consideration to the drain/culvert that runs through the site; and Include measures for the protection and retention of the listed milepost on Barugh Green Road 500m west of the junction with Claycliffe Road and its immediate setting; and
- Protect the routes of the Public Rights of Way that cross the site, and make provision for these as part of any proposal.

Archaeological remains may be present on this site therefore proposals must be accompanied by an appropriate archaeological assessment (including a field evaluation if necessary) that must include the following:

- Information identifying the likely location and extent of the remains, and the nature of the remains;
- An assessment of the significance of the remains; and
- Consideration of how the remains would be affected by the proposed development.

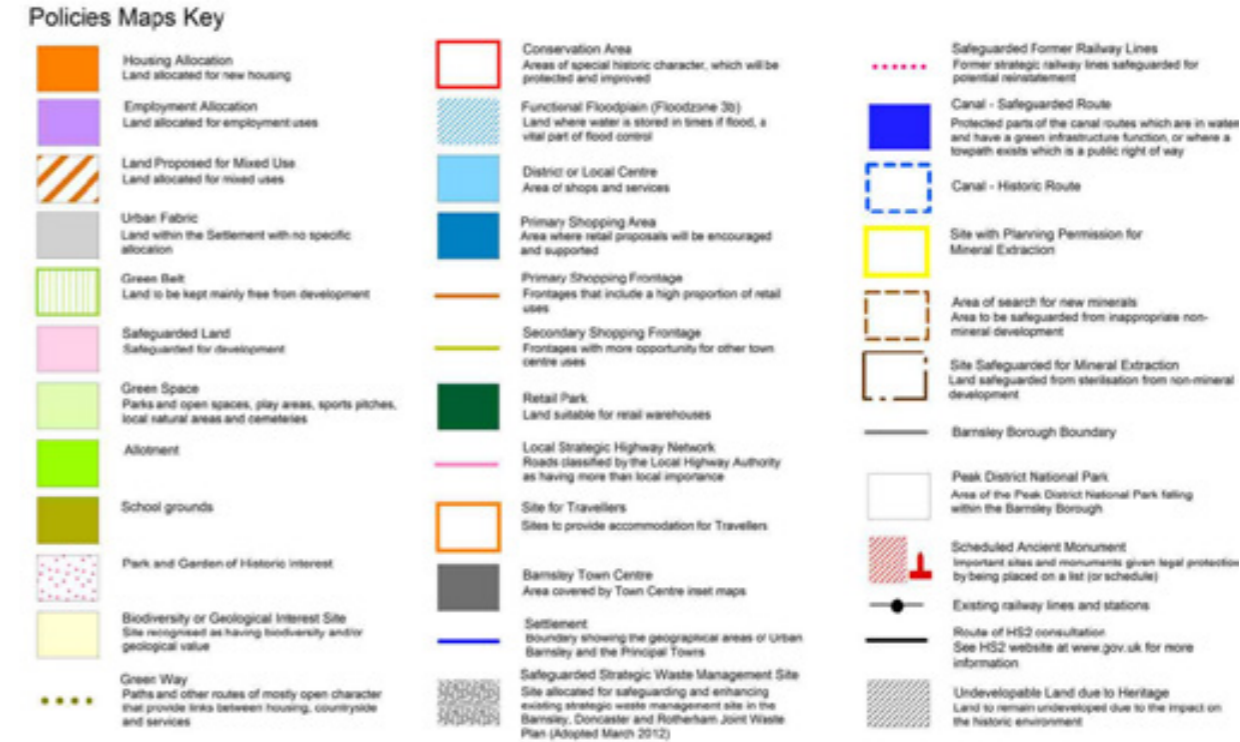
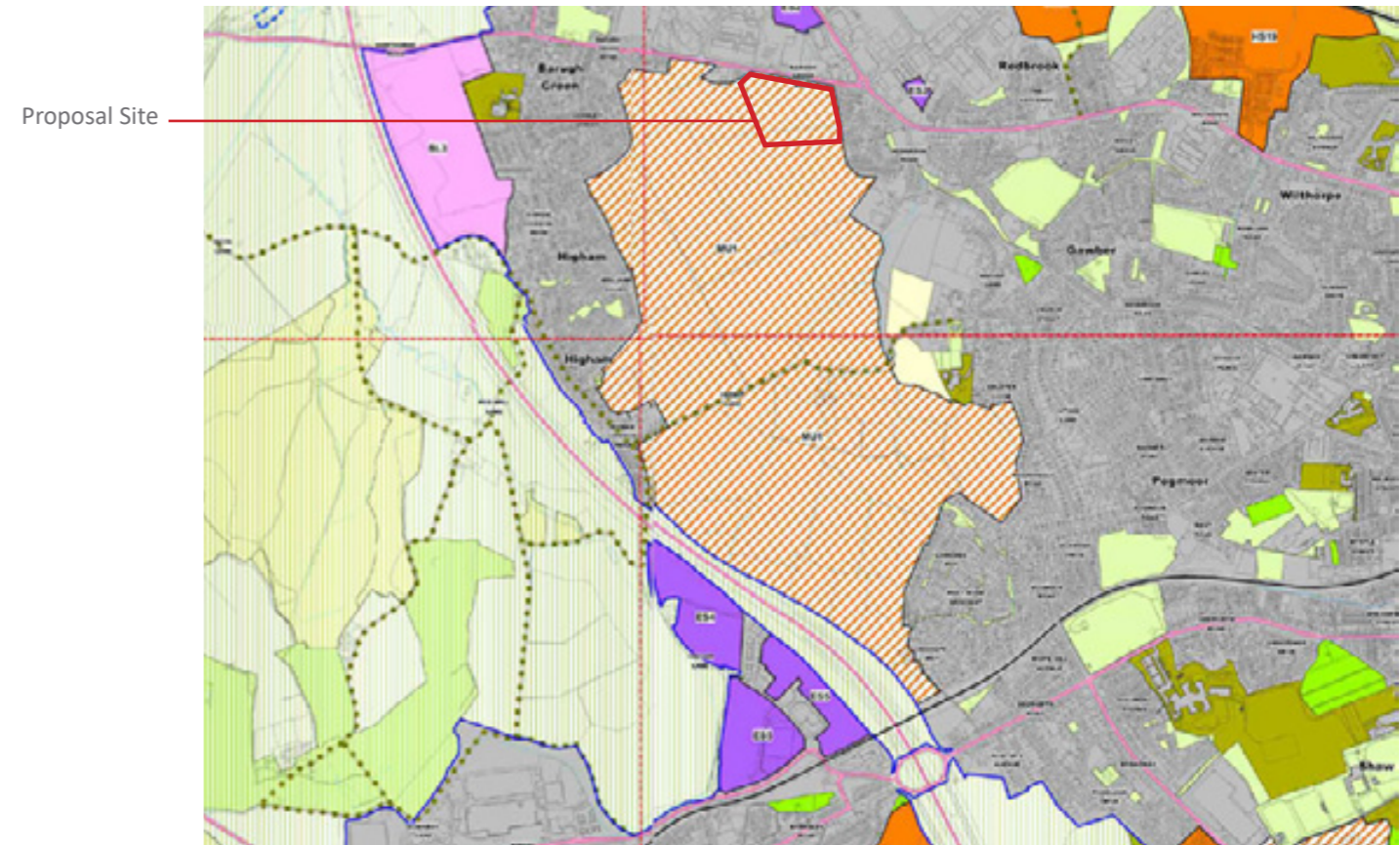


Fig 5 Key Local Policies Map, Barnsley Local Plan - Adopted January 2019

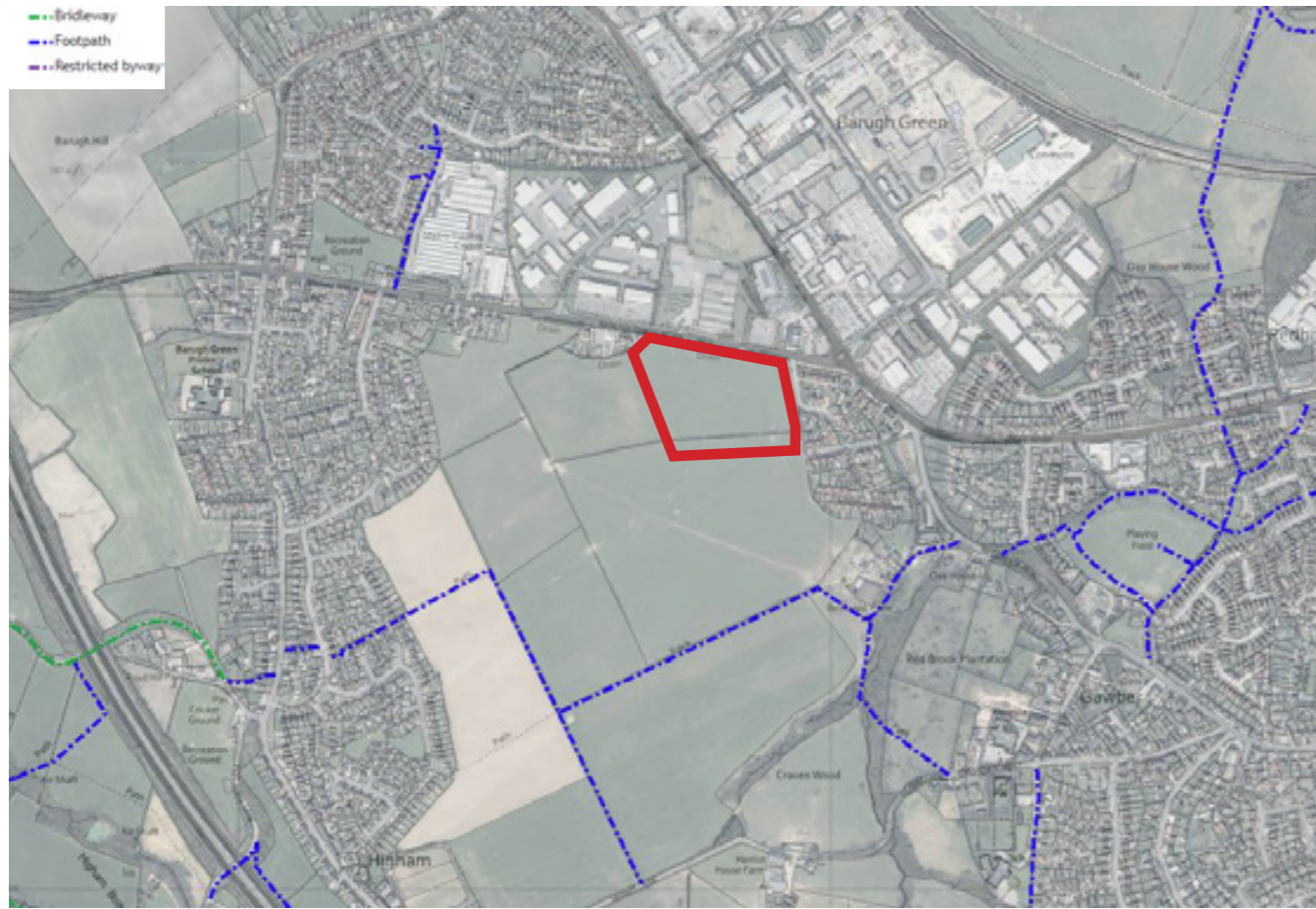


Fig 6.2 PROW, www.barnsley.gov.uk/barnsley-maps/

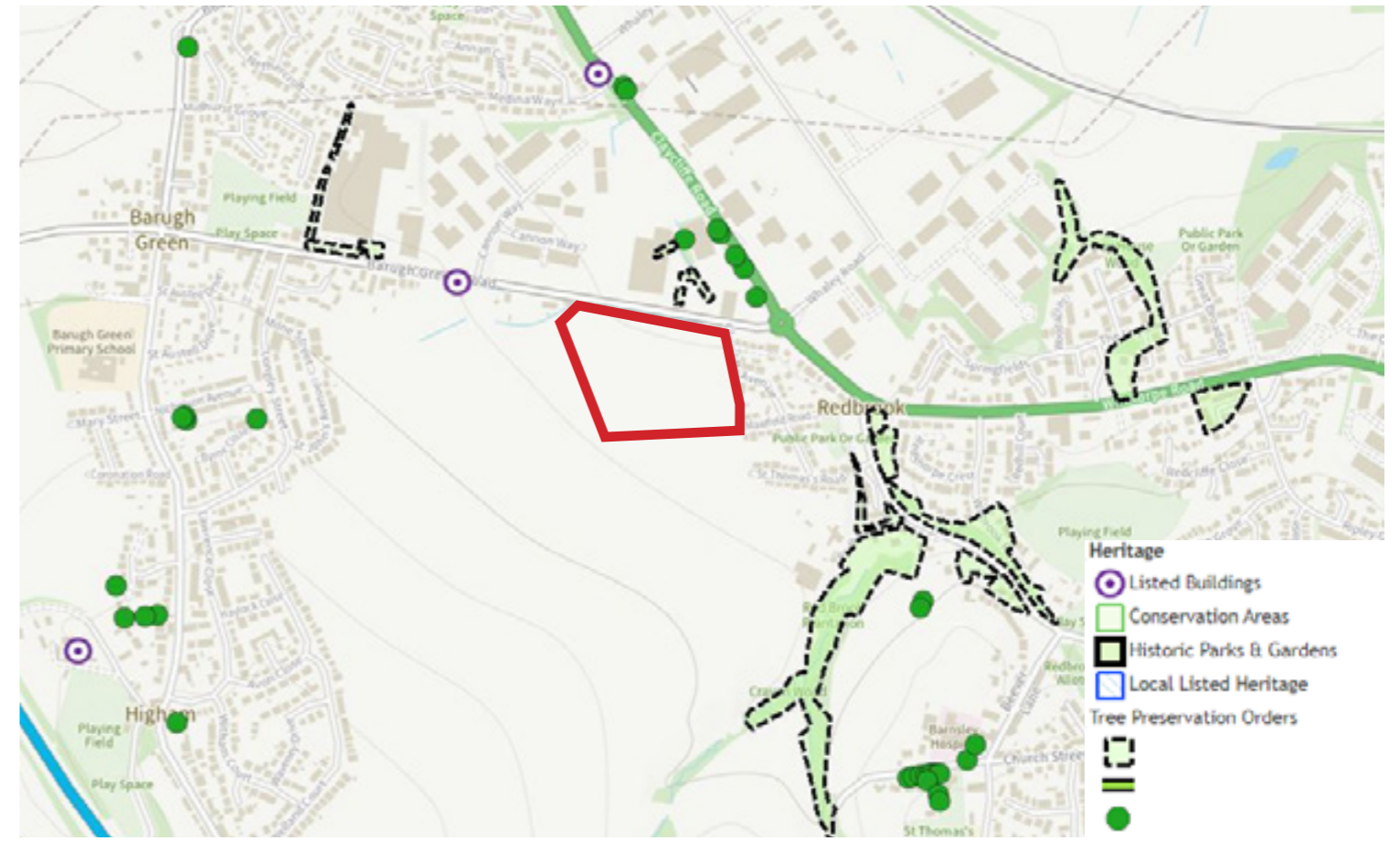
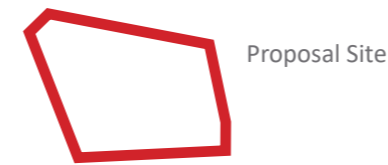


Fig 6.3 Heritage Assets Map, www.barnsley.gov.uk/barnsley-maps/



Fig 6.4 Map showing Barnsley Green Infrastructure, Barnsley Local Plan - Adopted January 2019

● Proposal Site



Proposal Site

3 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

EXTRACT OF NATIONAL CHARACTER AREA - NCA 38

Natural England's National Character Area (NCA) divide England into 159 distinct natural areas. Each is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural and economic activity. The proposal site area falls within National Character Area 38, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield. The text is extracted from the national character area assessment to understand the characteristics of the NCA and whether the character area descriptions are relevant in the context of the proposal site.

National Character Area Profile: 38 Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield states:

Key Characteristics

- 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.
- 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 tow-paths, 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.

Sense of place/inspiration:

A sense of place has been created by the exploitation over many centuries of coal deposits, together with resources of stone, iron and soft water, which has resulted in a complex intermingling of an earlier rural landscape with modern commerce, industrial sites and structures, and abandoned industrial areas clothed over low hills and escarpments and broad valleys. The landscape is heavily influenced by these areas of industry and by the towns and cities of Leeds, Wakefield, Barnsley, Rotherham, Chesterfield, Derby, Nottingham, Sheffield and Bradford. The historical industries within these towns and cities still provide an important sense of place and identity for the local communities, such as connections with the wool industry in Leeds and steel production in Sheffield. The NCA also contains a number of large country houses, parks and estates while the main cities and towns have striking centres dominated by fine 19th-century civic buildings constructed with sandstone. These features provide opportunities to engage the population and to promote a greater understanding of the cultural history and greater engagement with the landscape around them

Recreation:

The NCA offers a network of rights of way totalling 2,920 km at a density of just over 1.7 km per km², including the Trans Pennine Trail and Ebor Way long-distance routes. There is only a small area of open access land covering 508 ha or just 0.3 per cent of the NCA, but there are areas of open space resulting from the restoration of past mineral workings. The large number of Registered Parks and Gardens are also important recreational assets for local communities, with a number of country houses and estates drawing in visitors from further afield as well. Most green spaces within the NCA experience high levels of usage because of their importance as a source of recreation for surrounding large urban populations and the opportunities for people to connect to the natural environment, such as along the Erewash Valley Trail.

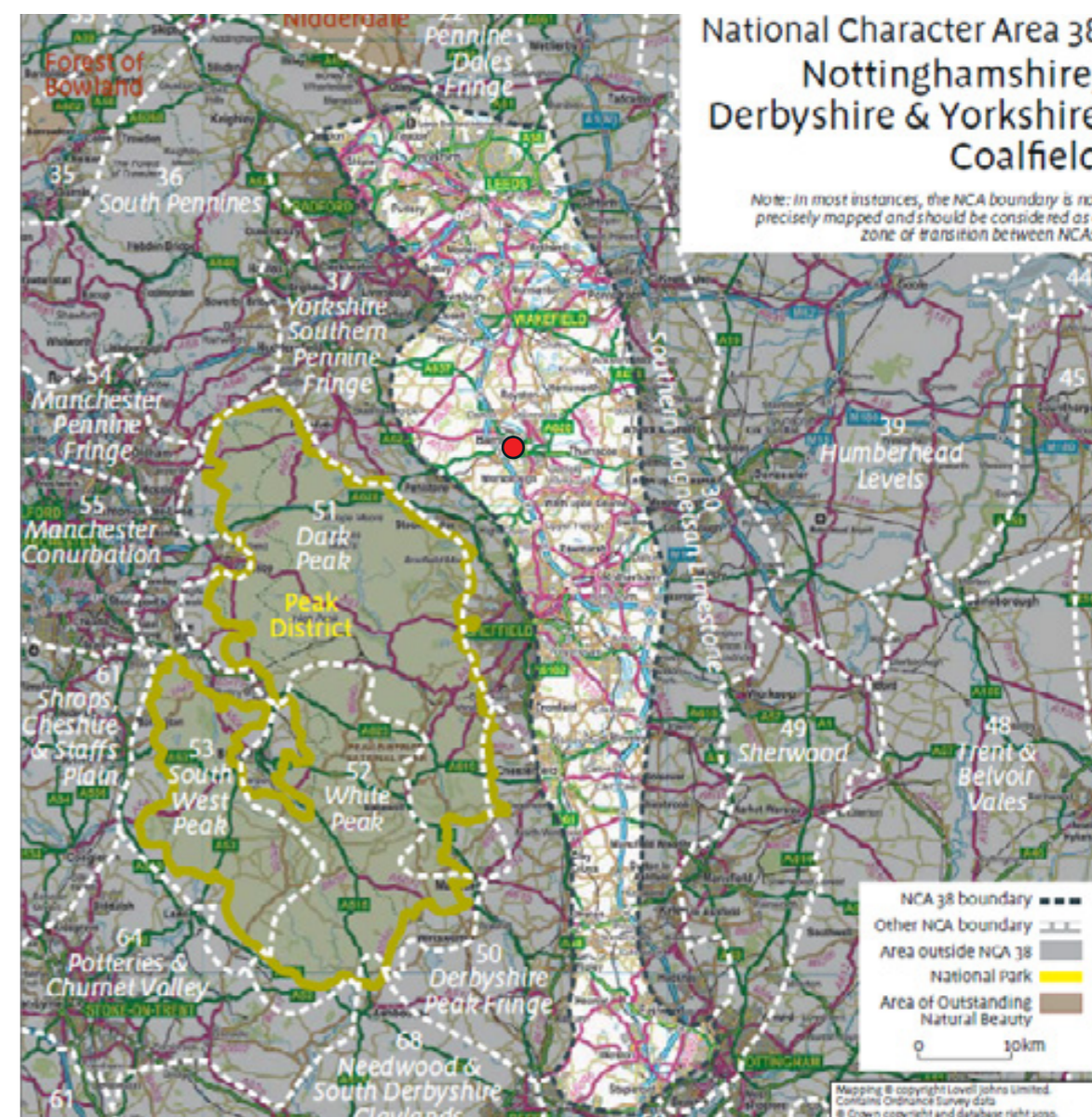


Fig 7.1 National Character Area, Extract from NCA Profile: 38 Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield, www.naturalengland.org.uk

● Proposal Site

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT OF BARNSELY BOROUGH

At a more local level a landscape character assessment was prepared by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council in 2002, this remains a document referenced in the current Council evidence base. The Assessment references Regional and National Character Assessment before dividing the Authority area into 6 Landscape Character Types divided into 17 Landscape Character Areas that have been identified within the Borough. The proposal site sits within E2: Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland

E2: BARNSELY SETTLED WOODED FARMLAND

Key Characteristics

- Gently rolling landform
- Diverse range of land use,
- Dominant presence of urban
- Sense of urbanisation
- Isolated pockets of farmland with farmsteads
- Fields, predominantly pasture
- Traditional mining settlements
- Evidence of past and present industrial activity
- Some areas of scrubby, compartmentalised field units
- Urban Greenspace

The landscape character area classified as Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland is dominated by the presence of urban development in and around Barnsley. Small areas of green open space are enclosed by development on most sides, with occasional distant views out of the landscape character area. The underlying geology is middle coal measures, comprising alternating bands of shales and sandstones which have weathered at different rates, giving rise to a rolling landform. The landform slopes towards the River Dearne or River Dove, or to streams that feed these rivers. The elevation ranges from 50m to 170m AOD, with an isolated higher spot of 190m AOD at the crest of the reclaimed colliery spoil tip north of Dodworth.

Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity

Landscape Sensitivity is a judgement about the degree to which a landscape character area can accommodate change without adverse effects on its character. Landscape Capacity is a related judgement about the amount of development that can be accommodated.

The Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland character area is semi-enclosed by landform that slopes towards the river valleys and by urban development. Visibility into this area from other character areas to the south, west and east is limited due to enclosure. This would result in some screening of any future built development both within and from outside of the character area. The elevated locations are more visible but are surrounded by prominent large scale settlements and, in some locations, by the M1 motorway. It is considered that built development in this area would not have a large adverse effect on the landscape character.

In view of the above, Landscape Sensitivity to further built development is judged to be medium and Landscape Capacity is considered to be medium.

Landscape Management Issues and Opportunities

Barnsley Settled Wooded Farmland contains a variety of land uses including extensive urban development. Despite this diversity and urban influences, the green spaces retain a moderate strength of character. However, it has lost a proportion of its characteristic features, its condition is currently in decline and there are clear forces for continued adverse change.

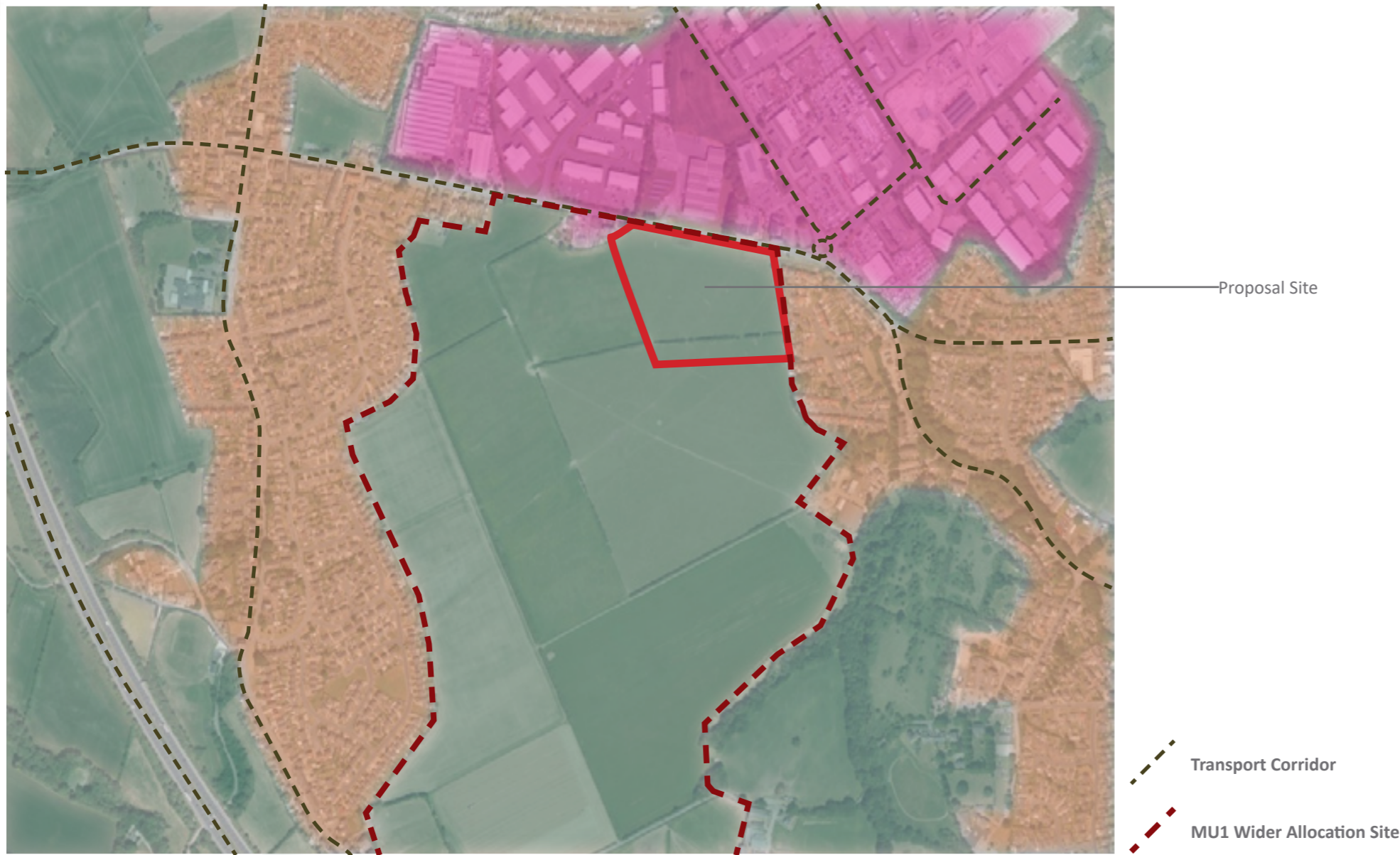
The overall strategy objective for this landscape character area should be to restore, and enhance the important features characterising both rural and urban environments. Landscape strategy objectives could include:

- Restore farm land and holdings to former condition and farming practices
- Restore landscape character and habitat diversity
- Protect existing wildlife habitats
- Maintain condition of occasional stone buildings
- Break up and screen expansive housing developments along the urban edge
- Improve landscape setting of industrial buildings
- Enhance the condition and character of Urban Greenspaces



Fig 7.2 Landscape Character Assessment, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council 2002

● Proposal Site



LAND USE AND LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

Figure 8 is a map which has been prepared by TPM Landscape to illustrate 3 distinct landscape character types on the vicinity of the site. These comprise of the following:

1. Countryside / Rural
2. Rural Residential
3. Industrial / Commercial

The character types are described under the photos below.

Fig 8 TPM Landscape local character land use map



Landscape Character Type 1 - Countryside / Rural
Areas of woodland and community woodland, other green spaces, farmland, and expansive views from various locations..

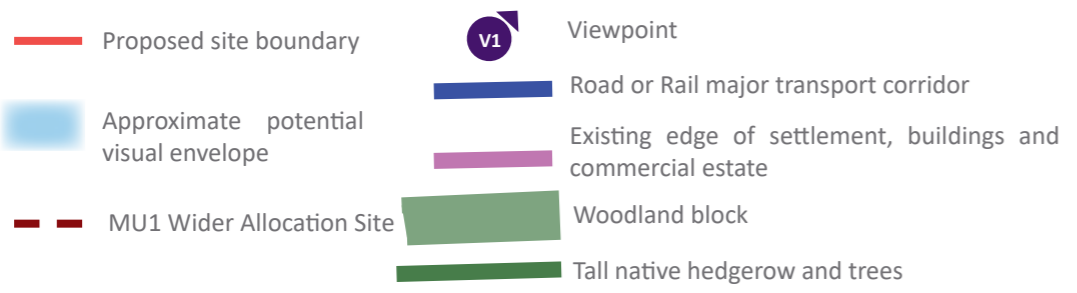
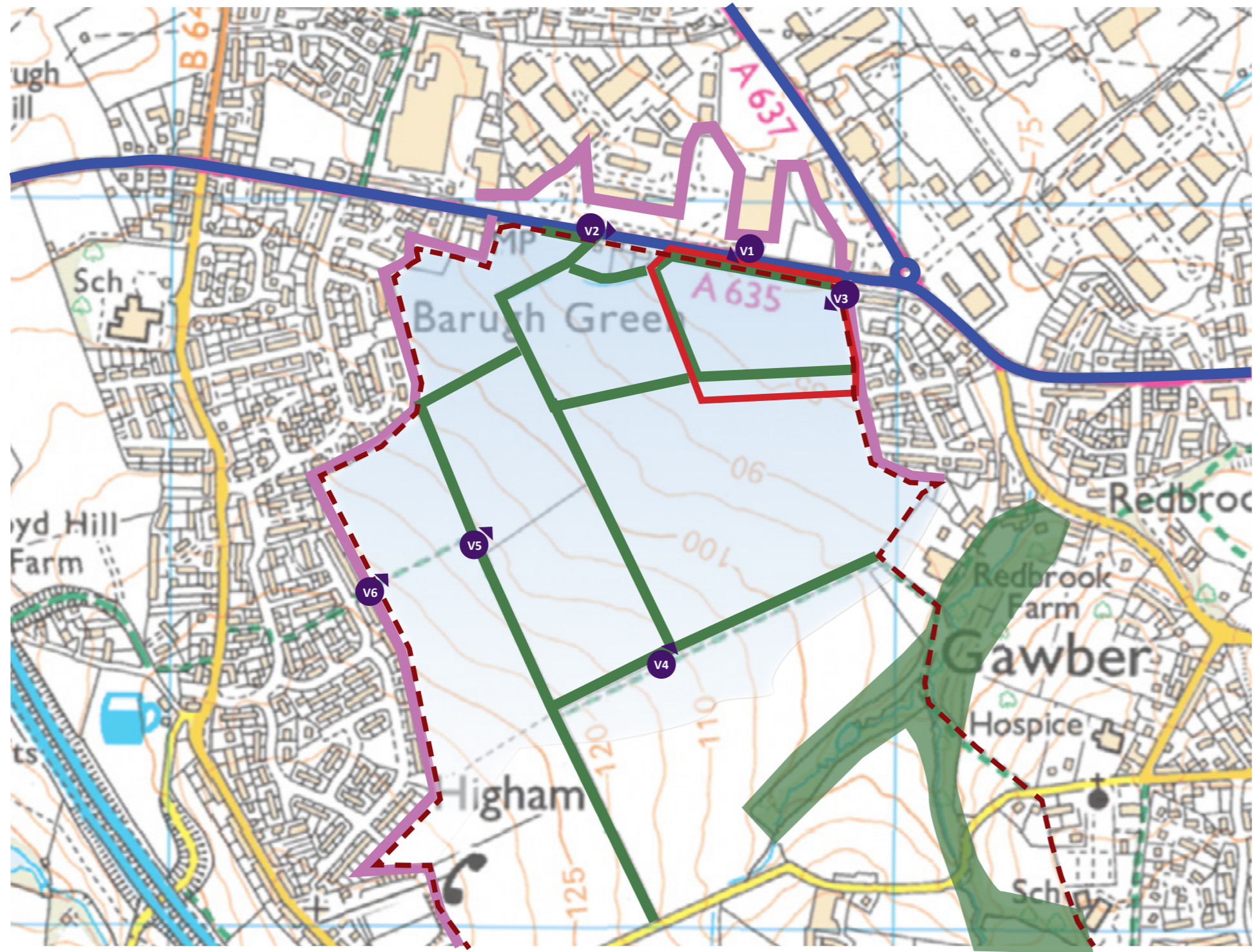


Landscape Character Type 2 - Suburban Residential
The landscape within the settlement of land associated with road, residential dwellings and gardens. Minimal open space outside of private curtilages.



Landscape Character Type 3 - Industrial / Commercial
Area of industrial complex comprising warehouses.

Fig 9 Map showing Factors restricting potential visual envelope and the location of potential visual receptors.



VISUAL ENVELOPE

The potential visual envelope of the proposed development is restricted by the following factors:

- To the north by the existing Barugh Green Road.
- To the east and west by the existing settlement.
- To the south, west and north by the existing hedgerows which wraps around the proposal site.
- To the south by the existing woodland.

Potential views from the wider landscape are restricted by the woodland groups and large trees lining the major roads, and also by the undulating topography, which means that there are no elevated public locations, where the site can be viewed from (Fig 10) in the near vicinity of the site.

VIEWPOINTS

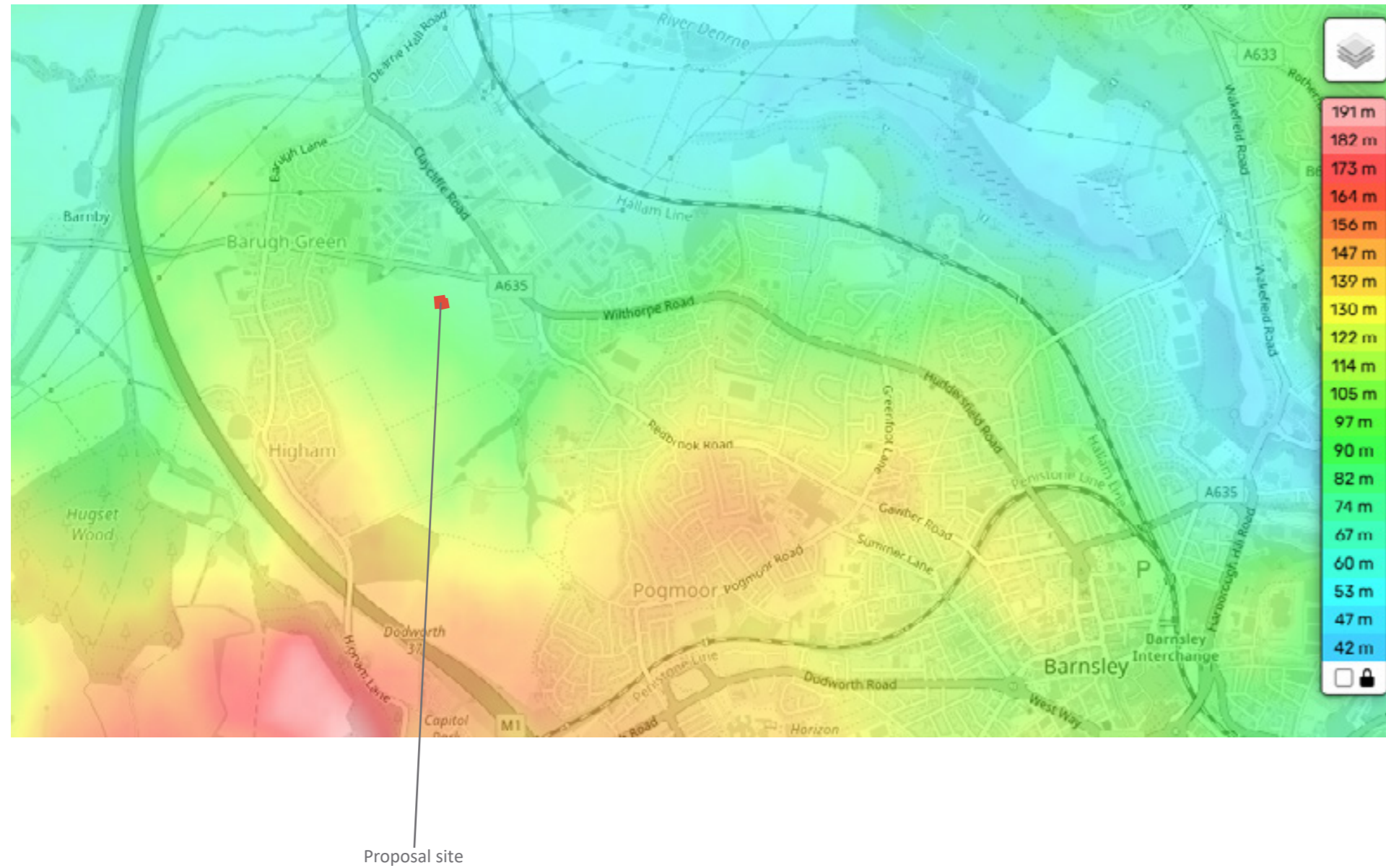
The considered viewpoints in Figure 9 were chosen to represent a variety of receptors who might be affected by the proposals. Representative photographs were taken for each identified receptor.

There are very limited potential views from publicly accessible locations as a result of the factors restricting the visual envelope described above.

The main visual receptors will be the people living in the properties which are located adjacent to the eastern site boundary, and to users of the Barugh Green Road which is located on the northern site boundary.

There will be some glimpsed views for users of the public right of way to the south of the proposed site and to the north of the site's commercial areas. However, these views will be largely obstructed by existing trees and rear property boundaries. Additionally, there will be occasional glimpses from the existing settlements to the west of the site. However, areas of farmland to the west and south, along with existing hedgerows and trees within these fields, will create a substantial gap between the existing and proposed properties.

Fig 10 Topographic Map showing the landform in the vicinity of the proposal site (source: en-gb.topographic-map.com)



SENSITIVITY OF RECEPTORS

Sensitivity is often synonymous with the importance placed on the view to the receptor (viewer). Visual receptors are described as being High, Medium or Low, with views from main living areas of residential properties and public footpaths in a rural location generally being considered to be of High Sensitivity, and views for people at work or travelling in vehicles (where the view is not a considered part of the journey such as a coastal road) generally considered to be of a lower sensitivity.

Residential receptors located in the immediate vicinity of the site would be considered to have a High sensitivity to development where they have an existing view across open countryside, and a Medium Sensitivity where the existing views are predominantly urban in nature.

Transit users of Barugh Green Road (predominantly cars, cycles and roadside footpaths) are considered to be Low Sensitivity receptors.

NATURE AND QUALITY OF THE VIEW

This is assessed with regard to aesthetic characteristics, and is defined on a scale from exceptional (such as might be found at a National Park) to ordinary (a normal view typical of the area and usually without designation), to low (where there is a predominance of detracting elements within the landscape).

Views in the proximity of the site are considered to be poor to ordinary, due to the urbanising features and influence of the existing settlement. Views are very contained in the vicinity of the site by the above factors. There are some more expansive views to the south, however there are very few public locations within the countryside where the site will be visible from.

MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE TO THE VIEW

The potential change is assessed for each of the receptor types in consideration of several factors, including (but not confined to):

- The proximity of the viewer to the proposal site
- The relative elevation of the viewer and the proposed development
- The existing field of view (a wide panorama to a contained view)
- The relative proportion of view taken by the proposals
- Whether the view is open or filtered

For the few residential properties located directly adjacent to the site on Claycliffe Avenue there will be a large change from the rear of these properties, predominantly from upper floor windows.

For users of the surrounding roads, the proposed change is assessed as Low, (winter) and Negligible (summer) due to the existing buildings, trees and hedgerows which line the roads.



Viewpoint V1 Representative view looking west from Barugh Green Road, directly opposite the proposal site. View representative of vehicle visual receptors and pedestrian users of the roadside footpath, assessed to have a Low Sensitivity. The agricultural fields of the site are partially visible through the roadside hedgerow (more apparent in winter), however the view is predominantly urban fringe, with the commercial buildings to the north having the dominant character. The quality of the view is considered to be poor-ordinary. The change to the view (in isolation of the development of the wider site allocation area) is considered to be Large directly adjacent to the site where the roadside hedgerow is removed, and Medium on the approach to the site. An area of public open space is proposed along the road frontage which will reduce the effects as the proposed trees and hedgerows become established. Following development of the wider allocation site the change is assessed as Medium, however will not be incongruous in its urban fringe, commercial character context.



Viewpoint V2 Representative view looking east from Barugh Green Road, on the approach to the proposal site. View representative of vehicle visual receptors and pedestrian users of the roadside footpath, assessed to have a Low Sensitivity. The agricultural fields of the site are partially visible through the roadside hedgerow (more apparent in winter), however the view is predominantly urban fringe, with the commercial buildings to the north having the dominant character. The quality of the view is considered to be poor-ordinary. The change to the view (in isolation of the development of the wider site allocation area) is considered to be Medium as the proposed houses will be visible above the hedgerow (which is proposed to be retained along this boundary). An area of public open space is proposed along the road frontage which will reduce the effects as the proposed trees and hedgerows become established. Following development of the wider allocation site the change is assessed as Medium, however will not be incongruous in its urban fringe, commercial character context.



Viewpoint V3 Representative view looking west from Claycliffe Avenue and also Mawfield Rd, directly opposite the proposal site. View representative of residential visual receptors for properties located on Claycliffe Avenue directly facing the proposal site, however the number of properties directly affected is limited to approximately 5 who will have direct views of the proposed development, and a few further properties which will have indirect views. This visual receptor group is assessed to have a High Sensitivity where there are direct views over the existing fields, and the quality of the view is considered to be ordinary where there are views of the fields, and poor where the views are predominantly of housing. The change to the view for this receptor group (both prior to, and subsequent to, development of the wider site allocation area) is assessed to range from Large for the few properties located directly adjacent to the site and Low where the properties have obscured views. The proposed development includes an area of public open space adjacent to Barugh Green Road, and also native hedgerow along the boundaries with properties on Claycliffe Avenue, which will reduce impacts as the planting matures.



Viewpoint V4 Representative view looking north-east towards the proposal site from public right of way which runs through the fields to the south of Barugh Green Road. View representative of .PRoW footpath visual receptors, assessed to have a High Sensitivity. The existing view is a wide panorama of predominantly rural urban fringe farmland in the near distance, of ordinary quality, with fields divided by partially intact hedgerows, with a backdrop of the existing urban edge, and other detracting features including overhead electricity cables. The change to the view (in isolation of the wider site allocation area) is considered to be Low to Medium for the majority of the footpath route as the existing commercial buildings and residential development are already a feature of the view in this direction, and the proposed development will introduce additional residential properties which will be viewed at some distance from the footpath. Following the development of the wider allocation site, the proposal site will not be visible for this footpath receptor as the future development will entirely screen the proposal site. The development of the wider allocation site will have a large change to the view from this location.



Viewpoint V5 Representative view looking east towards the proposal site from public right of way which runs through the fields to the south of Barugh Green Road. View representative of .PRoW footpath visual receptors, assessed to have a High Sensitivity. The existing view is a wide panorama of predominantly rural urban fringe farmland in the near distance, of ordinary quality, with fields divided by partially intact hedgerows, with a backdrop of the existing urban edge, and other detracting features including overhead electricity cables. The change to the view (in isolation of the wider site allocation area) is considered to be Low to Medium for the majority of the footpath route as the existing commercial buildings and residential development are already a feature of the view in this direction, and the proposed development will introduce additional residential properties which will be viewed at some distance from the footpath. Following the development of the wider allocation site, the proposal site will not be visible for this footpath receptor as the future development will entirely screen the proposal site. The development of the wider allocation site will have a large change to the view from this location.



Viewpoint V6 Representative view looking east towards the proposal site from public right of way which runs through the fields to the south of Barugh Green Road. View representative of .PRoW footpath receptors and also the residential properties located on St John's Close Avenue and Avon Close with rear gardens backing onto the fields, which are assessed to have a High Sensitivity. The existing view is a wide panorama of predominantly rural urban fringe farmland in the near distance, of ordinary quality, with fields divided by partially intact hedgerows, with a backdrop of the existing urban edge, and other detracting features including overhead electricity cables. The change to the view (in isolation of the wider site allocation area) is considered to be Low to Medium for the majority of the footpath route as the existing commercial buildings and residential development are already a feature of the view in this direction, and the proposed development will introduce additional residential properties which will be viewed at some distance from the footpath. Following the development of the wider allocation site, the proposal site will not be visible for this footpath receptor as the future development will entirely screen the proposal site. The development of the wider allocation site will have a large change to the view from this location.

SUMMARY

This Outline Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) has been prepared to assess the proposed residential development on land to the south of Barugh Green Road, which runs along the southern edge of the Barugh Green commercial area. The purpose of an Outline LVA is to assess whether there is any potential for significant effects to the landscape and visual resource which would require further assessment through a full LVA. The Outline LVA has been assessed with regard to potential effects to landscape character, and to consider the potential visual effects of a proposed development, with regard to the potential impacts to views, visual receptors, and the character and setting of the site.

PLANNING CONTEXT

The proposal site is located in a contained parcel of agricultural land between the settlements of Barugh Green to the north, Gawber to the east, and Higham to the east, in land allocated for future development in the Barnsley Local Plan. There are no listed buildings in the vicinity of the site (including locally listed buildings), or other designations such as scheduled monuments or urban greenspace.

LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS

The proposal is not in a designated landscape such as AONB or National Park, and not within the visual influence of any particularly sensitive landscapes, including local designations (such as Special Landscape Areas).

THE CHARACTER AND SETTING OF THE PROPOSAL SITE

The proposal site comprises of part of 2 agricultural fields adjacent to the southern boundary of Barugh Green settlement. The gently sloping north facing fields are bordered to the east by the existing settlement, to the north by Barugh Green Road, and have an open aspect towards the farmland to the south and west of the site.

Barugh Green Road is lined by partly intact native hedgerow along the northern boundary with some small wooded areas, and further woodland is located to the south of the proposal site, which together with the topography limit potential views from the south of the site. The proposed development will require the removal of the eastern part of the hedgerow on to the south of Barugh Green Road, to allow for the visibility splay at the site entrance, however this hedgerow will be replaced as part of the development proposals, and supplemented with a substantial number of trees within an area of public open space fronting Barugh Green Road.

There are no important settlement characteristics in the vicinity of the site, and the proposal site forms part of a wider mixed-use allocation within the Barnsley Local Plan, with some of the development having already commenced on the western end of Barugh Green Road.

It is therefore considered that a residential development on the proposal site will have minimal impact on the character and setting of Barugh Green and will be consistent with the local plan allocation.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

The proposal site is located in National Landscape Character NCA 38 Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield, and the East Dearne Settled Arable Slopes landscape character area of the Barnsley Landscape Character Assessment, which defines the following key characteristics:

- Topographically varied landscape
- Network of large open, predominantly arable farmland
- Remnant hedgerow field boundaries
- Plethora of dikes
- Traditional mining settlements
- Evidence of past and present industrial activity
- Sense of urbanisation
- Proliferation of scrubby, compartmentalised field units
- Lack of vertical elements in the rural landscape
- Far reaching views

The proposal site is an agricultural field on a sloping hillside with surrounding woodland cover, and therefore has some of the characteristics of the wider landscape character area, however is also influenced by the existing settlement and is considered to be 'urban fringe farmland' at a local landscape character level.

POTENTIAL LANDSCAPE CHANGE

Wider Landscape Characteristics

The proposal site is located within the urban fringe and will only have a very limited impact on the wider rural landscape character. The allocation of the site for future housing within the local plan is a reflection of the limited sensitivity of the site and the sustainable location on the edge of the settlement, however the proposed development should incorporate a well designed landscape proposal to integrate the new buildings in the context, and to minimise potential impacts on the wider countryside to the south.

POTENTIAL VISUAL CHANGE

Visual Envelope

The potential visual envelope of the proposed development is restricted by the following factors:

- To the north by the existing Barugh Green Road commercial estate.
- To the east and west by the existing settlement.
- To the south, west and north by the existing hedgerows which restrict ground level views from footpaths.
- To the south by the existing woodland and topography

Potential views from the wider landscape are further restricted by the woodland groups and large trees lining the major roads, and also by the undulating topography, which means that there are no elevated public locations where the site will be a notable part of the view from more distant locations (Fig 10). There are potential views from elevated ground to the north, however this will be at some distance (3km +) and any views would be minimal and in the context of the existing settlement, and would need to be considered in the context of the wider site allocation, and are therefore likely to be negligible.

Residential Receptors

The main visual receptors will be the people living in the properties which are located adjacent to the eastern site boundary, who will experience a large change to the view from field to development, however the wider land parcel is allocated for development, and the proposal site incorporates a landscape buffer along the eastern boundary to reduce impacts to these properties. The proposal site will have a Low to Medium change for properties located on the western edge of Higham who currently have rear facing properties which overlook the fields, however any views of the proposal site for these properties will be entirely removed with the development of the wider site allocated land parcel.

Vehicle and Road Footpath Receptors

There will be some views for road and pavement footpath users on Green Barugh Road directly opposite the proposal site, however these are generally low sensitivity receptors, and views of the site will be in a predominantly urban context.

Mid and Long Distance Views

There is very little potential for mid to long distance views due to the factors containing the visual envelope (trees and settlement), and the undulating topography meaning that there are no elevated locations where the site may be seen to any particular degree from a distance.

DESIGN AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The design of the illustrative layout has been considered to include the following key objectives to provide a well integrated edge of settlement development:

- Retain existing trees and hedgerows to the external site boundaries where possible
- Adopt a strategic landscape approach to provide a new generation of trees for the future

CONCLUSION

The potential impacts of the proposed development to the landscape and visual resource have been assessed at an outline level, however no sensitive landscape or visual receptors have been identified where a substantial adverse impact would be observed, and it is not considered that a full LVIA will be required to consider the potential impacts in a more refined level of assessment. There will be only minimal impacts to the wider landscape character areas and to the character and setting of the Barugh Green and Barnsley settlements, and the impacts will be consistent with the context of the development of the wider allocated site land parcel. Visual effects will be predominantly contained to the immediate setting of the site, and a well designed residential development can be well integrated in its urban/rural fringe context.