

Landscape Visual Impact Assessment Statement– Cudworth

Introduction

- 1.1 This LVIA Statement has been prepared to support the planning application for residential development at Cudworth Parkway, Cudworth on land which has been allocated for housing the Local Plan. It is noted that no site-specific policy wording related to landscape concerns. A more detailed assessment of the site is below.

Site Location and Characteristics

Location

- 1.2 The Site comprises 5.59 ha, directly to the Northwest of Cudworth. The Site is allocated as HS36 and HS39 in the adopted Local Plan.
- 1.3 Cudworth lies approximately 5.5km to the North of East of the Main Barnsley Urban Area and is identified as a Principal Town in the settlement hierarchy, hence is a generally sustainable location for growth.
- 1.4 The Site is accessible by Cudworth Parkway which provides access to Barnsley Town Centre, the A1 (approximately 12km to the East) and the M1 (approximately 8.5km to the East). The closest railway stations are Barnsley and Fitzwilliam Train Stations, both of which are around 5.6km from the Site.

Characteristics

- 1.5 This Site is allocated in the Local Plan for residential development under site allocation reference HS36 and HS39.
- 1.6 The topography at the site generally falls from the high point at the South to the low point at the North of the Site. The Site is greenfield and surface water is not currently formally controlled.
- 1.7 The Site falls within National Character Area 38 (Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield) and is screened from the wider countryside by existing residential properties to the south of the site and vegetation to the north, east and west.
- 1.8 The north and eastern boundaries are contiguous with the sidings of Cudworth Parkway.

Proposed Development

- 1.9 The Site comprises 5.59 ha, to the Northwest of Cudworth. The Site is allocated for residential development in the Local Plan (HS36 and HS39), therein considerations of environmental impacts have already been considered. It is therefore considered that the locality of the site is not sensitive.

- 1.10 The proposed development description is:

"Residential development of up to 144 dwellings and associated works."

Landscape Visual Assessment

- 1.11 This note comprises a proportionate Landscape Visual Assessment that has been prepared in support of the planning application for residential development.

- 1.12 The appraisal considers the landscape and visual setting of the site; the nature of the development proposals; and the likely landscape effects arising from the proposal.
- 1.13 The starting point is that the Site is allocated for housing the Local Plan, which considered the landscape impacts of locations for development. The principle of residential development in this location has therefore been generally established in landscape terms.
- 1.14 The Assessment confirms that the site is not covered by any landscape designation that would suggest an increase value or sensitivity to change and is not covered by any statutory or non-statutory designation that would prohibit its development for residential purposes
- 1.15 The site lies within National Character Area: 38 - Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield. Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield is a large area which embraces major industrial towns and cities as well as villages and wider tracts of countryside. It is dominated in the north and central part, and less so in the south, by extensive urban influences and industry. There has been constant change and development since the Industrial Revolution, when there was rapid expansion of housing, workshops, large factories and transport networks. The result is a complex intermingling of rural and urban, of modern commerce with occasional industrial dereliction, the whole creating a mosaic of disparate land uses with fragmented semi-natural habitats dispersed throughout.
- 1.16 The site and study area are located within LCA D1: D1 North East Barnsley Settled Arable Slopes, which the Barnsley Borough Landscape Character Assessment identifies as being of medium landscape sensitivity with a medium capacity to accommodate new development. Albeit the land is allocated for housing in the Local Plan, which inherently confirms that the principle of residential development is not likely to result in significant harm to the local landscape. The site lies to the south of Cudworth Parkway, which is a dominant feature in the locality that divides the settlement of Cudworth from the wider Countryside.
- 1.17 The D1 Area has been assessed has a moderate strength of character. It is noted that the site falls entirely within the settlement limits and that the majority of the site is allocated for housing the Local Plan. Whilst the site is noted as having moderate capacity and sensitivity, it is acknowledged that the Barnsley Borough Landscape Character Assessment (dated 2002) significantly predates the Local Plan (adopted by Full Council on 3 January 2019, and reviewed 24 November 2022) and also predates the introduction of the Cudworth Parkway Bypass (circa 2010). The landscape context in which the site sits has therefore significantly changed and the most up to date evidence base comprises the Local Plan, wherein the Site is allocated for housing.
- 1.18 Therefore, the proposals are in accordance with Policies GD1, D1, LC1 and GI1 of the Barnsley Local Plan and Chapter 15 of the Framework (2024).

Summary

- 1.19 In summary it is consider that the Application Site does not constitute sensitive site in Landscape terms, this is epitomised by its status as an allocation for residential development.
- 1.20 In light of the above assessment, it is considered that the proposed development accords with relevant planning policies and does not result in an unacceptable level of Landscape harm.