

WOOLLEY COLLIERY LANE, DARNTON
for Homes by Honey

LANDSCAPE & VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT



Landscape Architects

Swallow's Nest, Main Street
Askham Richard, YORK, YO23 3PT

Telephone +44 (0)1904 500410

Email: design@rosettalandscape.co.uk
Web: www.rosettalandscape.co.uk

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Appointment and Scope of Work**
- 2.0 Policy Framework**
- 3.0 Assessment Methodology**
 - 3.1 The Study Area
 - 3.2 Site context
 - 3.3 Surveys
 - 3.4 The Landscape Setting
 - 3.5 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
 - 3.6 Consultation
 - 3.7 Significance Criteria
- 4.0 Baseline Conditions**
 - 4.1 The Landscape Setting
 - 4.2 General Description of Site
 - 4.3 Landscape Character Assessment
- 5.0 Predicted Significant Effects**
 - 5.1 Introduction
 - 5.2 Construction Phase
 - Sources of Impact
 - Visual Impact Assessment
 - Impacts on Landscape Character
 - 5.3 Operational Phase
 - Sources of Impact
 - Visual Impact Assessment
 - Impacts on Landscape Character
- 6.0 Mitigation Measures**
 - 6.1 Introduction
 - 6.2 Management of Existing Resources
 - 6.3 New landscape Works
 - 6.4 Other works
- 7.0 Residual Effect Assessment**
 - 7.1 Impacts on Visual Receptors
 - 7.2 Impacts on Landscape Character
- 8.0 Monitoring**
- 9.0 Summary**
- 10.0 References**

1.0 Appointment and Scope of Work

- 1.1 Rosetta Landscape Design have been instructed by Homes by Honey to undertake a landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) in relation to an application to a proposal to construct 119 dwellings between Darton (lying immediately to the south) and Woolley Colliery (to the north).
- 1.2 This report has been compiled to present the results of assessments undertaken and the mitigation measures proposed.
- 1.3 The current document incorporates the following:
 - An assessment of landscape value in line with Technical Guidance Note 02/21 'Assessing landscape value outside national designations' published by the Landscape Institute in 2021 (i.e., after the date of the original LVIA) is now included.
 - The landscape and visual impact assessments based on the current site layout by JRP Site Layout' 25-5808-01.
 - Photographs from key viewpoints are included following a site visit to assess the latest proposals with reference to current guidelines.

2.0 Policy Framework

- 2.2 Those policies within the Barnsley Local Plan (Adopted January 2019) that are considered relevant to landscape quality include the following:

2.2.1 **Policy H2 The Distribution of New Homes**

The proposed site is identified as HS1 – Land allocated for new housing within the Barnsley Local Plan Policies Map (Appendix E).

'Site HS1 Former Woolley Colliery Indicative number of dwellings 90 Development of the site will not take place until the road layouts are in place for sites HS25 and HS11. The development will be expected to retain and manage the species-rich grassland and the woodland which forms the north and eastern half of the northern parcel of land.'

2.2.2 **Policy D1 High Quality Design and Place Making Design Principles:**

'Development is expected to be of high quality design and will be expected to respect, take advantage of and reinforce the distinctive, local character and features of Barnsley, including:

- *Landscape character, topography, green infrastructure assets, important habitats, woodlands and other natural features;*
- *Views and vistas to key buildings, landmarks, skylines and gateways; and*
- *Heritage and townscape character including the scale, layout, building styles and materials of the built form in the locality.*

Through its layout and design development should:

- *Contribute to place making and be of high quality, that contributes to a healthy, safe and sustainable environment;*
- *Complement and enhance the character and setting of distinctive places, including Barnsley Town Centre, Penistone, rural villages and Conservation Areas;*
- *Help to transform the character of physical environments that have become run down and are lacking in distinctiveness;*

- Provide an accessible and inclusive environment for the users of individual buildings and surrounding spaces;
- Provide clear and obvious connections to the surrounding street and pedestrian network;
- Ensure ease of movement and legibility for all users, ensure overlooking of streets, spaces and pedestrian routes through the arrangement and orientation of buildings and the location of entrances;
- Promote safe, secure environments and access routes with priority for pedestrians and cyclists;
- Create clear distinctions between public and private spaces;
- Display architectural quality and express proposed uses through its composition, scale, form, proportions and arrangement of materials, colours and details;
- Make the best use of high quality materials;
- Include a comprehensive and high quality scheme for hard and soft landscaping; and
- Provide high quality public realm.

In terms of place making development should make a positive contribution to achieving qualities of a successful place such as character, legibility, permeability and vitality.'

2.2.3 **Policy LC1 Landscape Character**

'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.'

2.2.4 **Policy GI1 Green Infrastructure**

'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.

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.'

2.2.5 **Policy GS1 Green Space**

'We will work with partners to improve existing green space to meet the standards in our Green Space Strategy.'

Green Spaces are green open areas which are valuable for amenity, recreation, wildlife or biodiversity and include types such as village greens, local open spaces, country parks, formal gardens, cemeteries, allotments, woodlands, recreation grounds, sports pitches and parks.

Proposals that result in the loss of green space, or land that was last used as green space, will not normally be allowed unless:

- *An assessment shows that there is too much of that particular type of green space in the area which it serves and its loss would not affect the existing and potential green space needs of the borough; or*
- *The proposal is for small scale facilities needed to support or improve the proper function of the green space; or*
- *An appropriate replacement green space of equivalent or improved quality, quantity and accessibility is provided which would outweigh the loss.*

In order to improve the quantity, quality and value of green space provision we will require qualifying new residential developments to provide or contribute towards green space in line with the standards set out in the Green Space Strategy and in accordance with the requirements of the Infrastructure and Planning Obligations Policy. The Supplementary Planning Document 'Open Space Provision on New Housing Developments' offers guidance to developers on what will be expected in terms of open space provision in order to achieve those standards.

Where there is a requirement to provide new green space an assessment will be carried out to determine the most appropriate provision, taking into account site characteristics and constraints. In cases where it is deemed unsuitable to make provision for open space within or adjacent to a development site, suitable off-site open space facilities may be acceptable either as new facilities or improvements to those existing. Where appropriate new green space should secure access to adjacent areas of countryside.'

2.2.6 **Policy GS2 Green Ways and Public Rights of Way**

'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.'

2.2.7 **Policy BIO1 Biodiversity and Geodiversity**

'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, 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).'

2.2.8 **Policy GB1 Protection of Green Belt**

'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.'

3.0 Assessment Methodology

3.1 Study Area

- 3.1.1 The landscape setting (baseline conditions) represents the existing situation both at the site and within its locality. The description is confined to those elements that could affect, or be affected by, the visibility and landscape character of the proposal.
- 3.1.2 Drawing E4421/4 illustrates the principal features within the landscape setting and for which a detailed description has been provided below. The combination and interaction of some or all of these features contributes to the character and appearance of the landscape.
- 3.1.3 Relevant landscape components are described in this section but features within the site have been described separately to those within the wider landscape to assist a clearer understanding of the landscape setting.

3.2 Site Context (see Drawing E4421/4)

- 3.2.1 The site is located on the northern edge of the settlement of Darnton. At the time of the site visit the land had dense areas of young self-sown vegetation (primarily Birch) with some better-established woodland groups around the site perimeter.
- 3.2.2 Woolley Colliery Road bounds the western and southern boundaries of the site. To the south beyond an adjacent woodland block is Darnton Train Station and residential properties situated on the road. To the north, residential properties within Woolley Colliery overlook the site from an elevated position. Further east beyond the road, Weighwell Engineering offices and two residential properties are located which are set within agricultural fields and woodland blocks. To the west beyond the existing vegetation, the railway line travels past the site but is set within a cutting and surrounded by dense vegetation.

3.2.3 Further southwest beyond the River Dearne Valley and M1, open views from residential properties located on the eastern edge of Kexborough can be obtained. Due to their distance from the site boundary however, they have not been included within this assessment.

3.3 Surveys

3.3.1 Guidance for the undertaking of this LVIA has been sourced primarily from:

- The Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (third edition), published 2013 by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment; and
- Landscape Character Assessment, Guidance for England and Scotland, published April 2002 by the Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage.
- Technical Guidance Note 02/21 'Assessing landscape value outside national designations' draft published January 2021 by the Landscape Institute.

3.3.2 This document describes and considers all the potential effects and generally assumes that an impact could lead to a positive or adverse effect. The definition of impact terminology has been developed to ensure that, wherever possible, an objective assessment is made, and that the terminology used is appropriate to the development and the landscape setting.

3.3.3 Current guidelines advise that the assessment of an impact on the visual amenity resulting from a particular development should take full account of the landscape (character) impacts as well as the potential visual impacts. Although they are separate, it is difficult to isolate each category and so both landscape and visual effects are considered as part of the assessment process.

3.3.4 The assessment of the potential effect upon the landscape is carried out as an effect on an environmental resource, i.e., *the landscape*. Landscape effects derive from differences in the physical landscape, which may give rise to variation in its character and how this is experienced. This may in turn affect the perceived value ascribed to the landscape.

3.3.5 The description and analysis of effects on the landscape relies on the adoption of certain basic principles about the positive or negative effects of change in the landscape. Due to the inherently dynamic nature of the landscape, it can be accepted that change arising from the development may not necessarily be significant.

3.3.6 Visual effects are assessed as one of the inter-related effects on population. They relate to the changes that arise in the composition of available views due to changes in the features in a landscape, to peoples' responses to the changes, and to the overall effects with respect to visual amenity.

3.3.7 This LVIA includes the residual effects of the development after mitigation measures have been considered.

3.4 The Landscape Setting (Baseline Study)

Overview

3.4.1 The initial step in any LVIA is to review the existing landscape and visual resource, i.e., the baseline landscape and visual conditions. The baseline studies are a record and analysis of the existing landscape and visual resources.

3.4.2 The baseline studies are undertaken to determine the situation against which the new development proposals are to be compared. The baseline situation is an integral element to the assessment process and has been established against the existing land use.

3.4.3 By examination of the landscaping setting, existing features within the locality that may affect the visibility and character of the subject site and surrounding area can be identified, providing information against which the magnitude, sensitivity and thus the significance of the predicted landscape of visual impact can be reviewed.

- 3.4.4 The level of detail used is appropriate to the type and nature of the development and landscape within which it is situated. The process involves desk and field study research, classification of landscape units or groups, and analysis of the relative importance of these constituent parts.
- 3.4.5 The baseline study includes the document review of available sources, field study, map data, plans and reference to photographic records.

Landscape Classification

- 3.4.6 Landscape character mapping is a process by which the resources of a given area can be mapped and quantified. Through the process of classification and understanding of the component parts of a landscape, it is possible to identify a general indication as to where and how new development can be sensitively accommodated in the landscape.

Site Visibility

- 3.4.7 This study explores the visibility of the site and includes definition of the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV - otherwise known as the Visual Envelope) and the use of photographic records to determine the visual baseline. The ZTV at this site is principally influenced by the interaction of the landform, topography and woodland cover in the area.
- 3.4.8 This process of analysis leads to the identification of specified visual receptors. These have been categorised to assist in the determination of the magnitude of visual (and landscape effects), thus helping to design mitigation measures.
- 3.4.9 Visual receptors of the site include local residents, users of recreational footpaths & bridleways, and users of public roads.

3.5 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

- 3.5.1 The assessment of landscape and visual effects is based on information concerning the attributes of the receiving environment and the location, scale, and nature of the development, as identified in the baseline studies.
- 3.5.2 The assessment of effects aims to:
- Identify systematically the likely effects of the development
 - Estimate the magnitude of effects
 - Provide an assessment of the nature and significance of these effects; and
 - Indicate measures of mitigation.
- 3.5.3 Cumulative effects result from additional changes to the landscape of visual amenity caused by the proposed development in conjunction with other developments and can be positive or negative.

Assessing Visual Impact

- 3.5.4 The assessment of visual effects describes the changes of the available views resulting from the development, and the changes in the visual amenity of the visual receptors.
- 3.5.5 Assessment needs to allow for an average as well as worst-case scenario. Although residents may be particularly sensitive to changes in visual amenity, most land use planning regimes consider that public views are of greater value than those from private property.
- 3.5.6 The magnitude or scale of visual change is described by reference to elements such as:
- The extent/proportion of change within the view
 - The degree of contrast

- The duration of the effect (temporary or permanent)
- The nature of the effect
- The angle of view
- The distance of receptor (viewpoint) from the development; and
- The area where changes would be visible.

Sensitivity

3.5.7 The following terminology is used to describe sensitivity regarding the visual receptors:

Low - Where views are incidental to other activities. This includes: people at their place of work; users of schools and colleges; and those engaged in outdoor sport or recreation which does not involve or depend upon appreciation of views of the landscape.

Medium - Where views are noticeable, but not prominent. Includes those travelling through or past the site by train or road where views of the landscape have some, but not significant, value to their enjoyment.

High – Where the view forms a strong component of the activity at the viewpoint location. Includes: residents at home (subject to agreement with the local planning authority at scoping stage that these will be included within the LVIA itself rather than a separate 'residential amenity assessment'); people engaged in outdoor recreation (including users of public rights of way); visitors to heritage assets; and communities where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents in the area (taking care not to 'double-count' these with residents at home).

Magnitude

3.5.8 Magnitude is determined by assessing the following components of the effect resulting from the proposals under consideration: (i) size and scale; (ii) duration; and (iii) potential reversibility. The following terminology has been adopted for the definition of magnitude:

Nil – Where there is, in effect, no change at all within the viewed landscape.

Very Small - Where the change is so small that there is a barely discernible change in the viewed landscape that could be missed by the casual observer.

Small – Where proposals constitute a relatively minor component of the wider view that does not affect the overall quality of the scene.

Medium – Where proposals would form a visible and recognisable new development but where it is not intrusive within the overall view.

Large - Where the proposals would form a significant and immediately apparent element of the scene and would affect the overall impression of the view.

3.5.9 By combining the above two components the level of sensitivity for the visual receptor can be determined.

Assessing Landscape Impact

3.5.10 The first step is to identify the components of the landscape that are likely to be affected by the scheme, referred to as landscape factors (see table 1 above for full list of factors). The second step is to identify interactions between these landscape factors and the different components of the development at all its different stages - construction, operation and, where relevant, decommissioning and restoration.

3.5.11 The determination of the sensitivity of the landscape resource is based upon an evaluation of each key element or characteristic of the landscape likely to be affected. The evaluation reflects such factors as its quality, value, contribution to the wider landscape character, and the degree to which the particular factor would be affected.

- 3.5.12 Change can vary between small and large scale, or be so small that there is, in effect, no change. The effects of change may be negative or positive and may exist for short (temporary) or long (permanent) periods. More weight is placed on larger scale and permanent changes. In absolute terms, the operational aspects of the development are considered temporary, whereas the total period of the presence of structures on site is acknowledged as being lengthy, in human terms.

Sensitivity

- 3.5.13 Sensitivity of the landscape resource is determined by looking at each landscape factor in terms of: (i) its susceptibility of to the type of change arising from the specific proposal; and (ii) its value (for which the following descriptions have been used):

Low – Where little, or no, landscape structure dominates, and landform and land cover are masked by land use. Where lack of management and intervention has resulted in a degraded appearance or there are frequent detracting features.

Medium – Where there is a recognisable landscape structure and where there are characteristic patterns and combinations of landform and land cover. Some may be masked by developed land cover. Where there are some features worthy of conservation but also some detracting features.

High – Where there is a strong landscape structure, characteristic pattern and balanced combination of landform and land cover. It includes features worthy of conservation and a strong sense of place.

Magnitude

- 3.5.14 Magnitude is determined by assessing the following components of the effect resulting from the proposals under consideration: (i) size and scale; (ii) duration; and (iii) potential reversibility. The following terminology has been adopted for the definition of magnitude:

Nil – Where there is, in effect, no change at all within the viewed landscape.

Very Small - Where the change is so small that there is a barely discernible change in the viewed landscape that could be missed by the casual observer.

Small – Where proposals constitute a relatively minor component of the wider view that does not affect the overall quality of the scene.

Medium – Where proposals would form a visible and recognisable new development but where it is not intrusive within the overall view.

Large - Where the proposals would form a significant and immediately apparent element of the scene, and would affect the overall impression of the view.

- 3.5.15 Where landscapes are designated, e.g. Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), Special Landscape Area (SLA) etc. a range of additional factors come into play including: (i) landscape quality - a measure of its physical state; (ii) scenic quality - where landscapes appeal to the senses; (iii) rarity; (iv) whether the landscape is considered a particularly important example of its type; (v) conservation interests - wildlife, archaeological, historical or cultural; and (vi) recreation value. Added weight may be applied by using professional judgement to help determine the overall sensitivity rating in relation to any of the above characteristics that are specific to that part of the designated landscape which would be subject to impact from the proposals.

Impact Significance

3.5.16 The significance of the landscape and visual effect (impact) is a function of the sensitivity of the affected landscape or visual receptors, and the magnitude of change that they would experience. Even though landscape and visual impacts can have a beneficial rather than adverse effect, the application of the assessment process remains the same. The degree of significance of landscape and visual effects are unique to a particular proposal.

3.5.17 In general, the following principles have been applied:

- Loss of mature landscape features are considered to be of greater significance compared to new landscapes that can be readily recreated or improved;
- Distinctive or representative character areas are generally of greater significance than those that have a homogenous appearance and/or degraded character which presents opportunities for enhancement;
- Significance is not necessarily related to planning policy, but this may be a consideration where it identifies commonly held objectives and values;
- The significance of an effect on visual amenity would, in a similar way to that for landscape significance, be assessed by consideration of the importance of the receptor and the nature and scale of the change;
- Large scale changes that introduce new, discordant, or intrusive elements are more likely to be significant than small scale changes or changes to existing features within the view; and
- Changes affecting large numbers of users are generally more significant than those affecting a small group. In sparsely populated areas, the relative scale of numbers is adjusted accordingly.

3.5.18 Table 2 below was applied to the study to determine the significance of the effects (which can be either adverse or beneficial):

Table 2: Significance for Visual and Landscape Impact Methodology

Sensitivity ▶ ▼ Magnitude	Low	Medium	High
Nil	None	None	None
Very small	Negligible	Negligible	Minor
Small	Negligible	Minor	Minor / Moderate
Medium	Minor	Minor / Moderate	Moderate
Large	Minor / Moderate	Moderate	Substantial

3.5.19 This systematic process of categorising the sensitivity of the receptor and significance of the impact enables a consistent prediction of likely impacts. The results of the assessment have been presented by providing a brief description of the overall visibility of the site, followed by a tabular format analysis that references the representative views.

3.6 Significance Criteria

The standard significance criteria used widely within Environmental Statements apply to landscape character and visual impact as indicated in tables 3 & 4 below:

Table 3: Significance Criteria - Landscape Effects

Significance Criteria	Description of Criteria
Substantial beneficial	The proposed development would: have the potential to significantly enhance the local landscape character
Moderate beneficial	The proposed development would: have the potential to fit very well with the landscape character, scale, landform and pattern of the landscape; and/or improve the quality of the landscape through removal of damage caused by existing land uses
Minor beneficial	The proposed development would: have the potential to make some improvement to landscape quality and character; fit in with the scale, landform and pattern of the landscape; and/or enable the restoration of valued characteristics partially lost through other land uses
Negligible	The proposed development would: complement the scale, landform and pattern of the local landscape; and maintain the existing landscape quality
Minor adverse	The proposed development would: not quite fit into the landform and scale of the local landscape; and/or affect an area of recognised landscape character
Moderate adverse	The proposed development would: be out of scale with the local landscape or at odds with the local pattern and landform; and/or would leave an adverse impact on a landscape of recognised quality.
Substantial adverse	The proposed development would: result in effects that cannot be fully mitigated and may cumulatively amount to a severe adverse effect; are at a considerable variance to the landscape thereby degrading its integrity; and/or would be substantially damaging to a high-quality landscape

Table 4: Significance Criteria - Visual Impact

Significance Criteria	Description of Criteria
Substantial beneficial	The proposed development would cause a significant improvement in the existing view from the designated visual receptor
Moderate beneficial	The proposed development would cause a noticeable improvement in the existing view from the designated visual receptor
Minor beneficial	The proposed development would cause a barely perceptible improvement in the existing view from the designated visual receptor
Negligible	No discernible improvement or deterioration in the existing view
Minor adverse	The proposed development would cause a barely perceptible deterioration in the existing view from the designated visual receptor
Moderate adverse	The proposed development would cause a noticeable deterioration in the existing view from the designated visual receptor
Substantial adverse	The proposed development would cause a significant deterioration in the existing view from the designated visual receptor

4.0 Baseline Condition

4.1 The Landscape Setting

- 4.1.1 The site falls within National Landscape Character Area 38 - The Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield (Appendix D). This is described in the profile as:
'...an area that has seen great change over the past few centuries. The impact of widespread industrialisation and development on the landscape and settlement pattern within the National Character Area (NCA) is clear, influencing the visual and ecological landscape'.

In character terms it is described as *'a generally low-lying area, with hills and escarpments above wide valleys, the landscape embraces major industrial towns and cities as well as villages and countryside'.*

The profile notes that *'over half of the NCA (64 per cent) is currently designated as greenbelt land; this maintains some distinction between settlements and represents areas that are often under pressure for development and changes in land use'* as well as the fact that *'very little of the NCA is designated for geology or nature conservation, but instead the landscape is dotted with many pockets and patches of habitat where species find refuge'.*

With regard to the future, the profile comments that *'the large populations of the towns and cities within the NCA mean that there will be opportunities to better engage people with the natural and historical environment, creating new access and recreational openings that deliver a better quality of life while also helping people and wildlife to adapt to a changing climate'.*

- 4.1.2 Key characteristics relevant to the study site include:

- *A low-lying landscape of rolling ridges with rounded sandstone escarpments and large rivers running through broad valleys, underlain by Pennine Coal Measures.*
- *A mixed pattern of built-up areas, industrial land, pockets of dereliction and farmed open country.*
- *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.*
- *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 ... clothed over low hills and escarpments and broad valleys.*
- *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*

- 4.1.3 Two of the Statements of Environmental Opportunity are relevant to this site, namely:

SEO 1: *Restore and enhance existing areas and create new landscapes through the inclusion of woodland and networks of green infrastructure to raise the overall quality of design and location of new developments. Regeneration and restoration of industrial sites should seek to create green infrastructure that links fragments of the natural environment, leading to a functioning network for wildlife and access and recreational amenities for people.*

This could be achieved, for example by:

- *Ensuring that new development is located and designed with particular consideration for keeping important open views, and using tree and shrub planting of native species to assist in assimilating built structures, especially in urban fringe areas outside major urban areas...*
- *Creating new permissive access routes, for example around reservoirs, and links to long-distance routes such as the Ebor Way and Trans Pennine Trail, and ensuring that some surfaced paths are provided for use by people of all levels of ability.*
- *Integrating the co-ordinated provision of green infrastructure in developments to offer the local community opportunities to enjoy their local green spaces and take action to improve them.*

SEO 3: *Conserve, enhance and expand areas and corridors of semi-natural habitat such as grasslands and woodlands to create a functioning ecological network that links the fragmented patches of habitats through urban and sustainably farmed environments, thus assisting species and habitat adaptation to climate change, reducing soil erosion and diffuse pollution.*

This could be achieved, for example by:

- *Widening the range of habitats in arable areas, particularly in the low-lying east of the NCA and in valleys...*
- *Managing and restoring traditional field boundaries, particularly where they are most visible in the landscape, form coherent patterns and enclose historical fields, respecting differences in local styles.*
- *Increasing the planting of native trees and shrubs...*
- *Managing the area's diverse range of woodlands, veteran trees, wood pasture and parklands to enhance landscape character and safeguard their biodiversity value while seeking opportunities to enhance access.*
- *Planning for new opportunities to plant woods and new areas of wood pasture to expand existing sites...*

4.1.4 The local landscape in the vicinity of the study site has also been assessed. The Environmental Consultancy University of Sheffield (ECUS) was commissioned by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC) in January 2002 to undertake the study. ECUS have worked jointly with Land Use Consultants (LUC) in the implementation of this assessment. The study site lies within D1: Northeast Barnsley Settled Arable Slopes area (Appendix D), the key characteristics of which include:

- *Sloping/undulating landform with small valleys and ridges providing localised variation in terms of views and sense of enclosure. Arable farmland comprising medium to large field units with no obvious pattern.*
- *Large areas of residential and industrial development creating a strong urban influence. Distant views to Barnsley - industrial development and residential settlement outside the character area, bringing an additional urban influence to the overall character of the landscape.*
- *Irregular degraded and declining field boundaries of varied materials. Lack of tree cover providing little in terms of enclosure or interest on the vertical plane. Pylons and power lines are visually striking elements across open farmland. Disused industrial quarries, tips and spoil heaps provide strong visual cues to industrial heritage and present-day regeneration initiatives.*
- *Significant number of primary and secondary vehicular routes gives an active pace to the landscape. Disused railway lines are strong linear features of ecological significance. Scrubby margins, unmanaged field boundaries and compartmentalised field units on urban edges give a degraded quality to the landscape. Abrupt transitions between urban and rural land.*

4.2 General Description of the Site

4.2.1 The study site comprises two parcels of land separated by North Gawber Colliery Football pitch and Barnsley Woolley Miners Cricket Club. The two areas of land have dense areas of young self-sown vegetation (primarily Birch) with some better-established woodland groups around the site perimeter.

3.2.2 Woolley Colliery Road bounds the eastern boundaries of both parcels of land with a mix of young and established woodland planting abutting the western boundaries. To the north, residential properties within Woolley Colliery overlook the site from an elevated position. Further east beyond the road.

Infrastructure and Development

4.2.1 There are no built elements on site however there are some large areas of concrete hardstanding left over from the sites previous use.

4.2.2 As indicated above, residential properties lie immediately to the north of the site in Woolley Colliery. Beyond Woolley Colliery Road to the east, Weighwell Engineering offices and two residential properties are located which are set within agricultural fields and woodland blocks.

4.2.3 To the west beyond the existing vegetation, the railway line travels past the site but is set within a cutting and surrounded by dense vegetation. Further southwest beyond the River Dearne Valley and M1, open views from residential properties located on the eastern edge of Kexborough can be obtained. Due to their distance from the site boundary however, they have not been included within this assessment.

4.2.4 To the south beyond an adjacent woodland block is Darnton Train Station and residential properties situated on Woolley Colliery Road.

Vegetation

- 4.2.5 Vegetation on the site comprises two forms. Large swathes of self-sown Birch planting cover the majority of both sites although they are generally considered to be of lower arboricultural value owing to their age, lack of management and the fact that these trees could easily and quickly be replaced if desired. Abutting the site boundaries are more well established broadleaf woodland areas. These provide excellent screening from surrounding views and create a strong planted context for the new dwellings. To the north and east beyond the site boundaries, woodland blocks and well-established hedgerows are common within the agricultural landscape. To the west and south, again woodland vegetation is common within the River Dearne Valley and provides excellent structure and screening from these areas.

Landform

- 4.2.7 In terms of topography, the northern parcel ranges between 78m and 82m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The southern parcel sits slightly lower with heights ranging between 77m and 80m AOD. On each site, local landforms vary greatly with mounds and man-made earthworks creating a landscape that is unlike its surroundings. Beyond the site to the west and south, land falls away sharply into the River Dearne Valley then rises again up to the settlement of Kexborough. To the east, the land rises to high point of 130m AOD just to the north of Bloomhouse. To the north, the land also rises to Windhill Wood and continues to a high point of 174m AOD at Haw Top approximately 1.3km from the site.

Public Rights of Way

- 4.2.8 Several public rights of way exist close to the site, namely:
- 1nr public footpaths that travels north from Woolley Colliery Road up into Windhill Wood. Pedestrian travelling south along this route would have elevated views of the northern parcel of the site (Photo 1).
 - The Dearne Way which runs along the banks of the River Dearne to the south and west of the site. Views from this route are completely screened by intervening vegetation and therefore have not been included within this assessment.

4.3 Landscape Character Assessment

- 4.3.1 Landform and vegetation combine to produce a consistent landscape character zone across the study site – namely an undulating, isolated landscape with large amounts of self-sown vegetation, surrounded by more mature blocks of woodland planting.
- 4.3.2 The elevated nature of the site means long distance views are available from the south west though these are at a great enough distance as to not have an impact on these areas.

5.0 Predicted Significant Effects

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Drawings E4421/4 & 5 illustrate the Existing Situation and Visual Envelope and the location of photographs (contained in Appendix B) used in this report.
- 5.1.2 The Visual Envelope was determined initially from a desk top study taking into consideration the local landform and major elements of vegetation. This was supplemented by a detailed walk over of the site and its environs, using direct observation to confirm or otherwise the existence and extent of views into the site from off site locations.
- 5.1.3 From the above two exercises each potential visual receptor was identified. These are listed in Appendix A, together with an assessment of the sensitivity of each to changes of view and the magnitude of the anticipated changes following development and completion of any mitigating measures.

5.2 Construction Phase

- 5.2.1 A total of 60 individual receptors have been identified as being potentially subject to some form of visual impact from development on the Study Site (see table 4, Appendix A for breakdown of types and impact levels). All impacts listed are assessed as 'adverse'.

Sources of Impact

- 5.2.2 The principal impact resulting from the construction phase of the new development would be due to the works required to erect the new dwellings and install the hard surfaces for roads & footpaths. Part of the impact will be from vehicles entering and leaving the site, heavy equipment needed to bring material on to the site and machinery to erect the buildings. The offsite movements will be greatest during the construction period and will reduce to normal levels of traffic commensurate with a development of this size and type thereafter.
- 5.2.3 As the construction phase nears completion the impact from construction activity will decrease and that from permanent use of the use (i.e., as per the operational phase) will increase.

Visual Impact Assessment

- 5.2.4 From the desktop study and site inspection several locations have been identified as having potential visual impacts of the proposed development following completion.
- 5.2.5 It is assessed that all these receptors (60 in total) will be affected during the construction phase. In addition to any long-term impacts, the following factors are assessed to also contribute to the impact on both landscape character and visual receptors:
- the presence of construction plant and other increased traffic;
 - noise associated with the construction site;
 - increased personnel in the area;
 - physical disturbance created by the works, including earth movement and dust in the surrounding area.

- 5.2.6 Whilst the level of sensitivity to changes in view varies according to the type of receptor, the magnitude of change relates primarily to the proximity of the viewpoint to the site. The magnitude of change for properties directly opposite the site and traffic passing alongside the site boundary is therefore assessed as **large** since these viewpoints lie immediately adjacent to the site works. Conversely the magnitude of change on other properties is assessed as **medium** where these either lie at some distance from the site or are partially screened by intervening vegetation.

- 5.2.9 Appendix A, Table 5 lists the receptors that are assessed to be subject to some form of visual impact during construction of the development. In summary the range of impacts is as follows: 55 would be subject to a 'Substantial' level of impact (54 residential properties and one Public Right of Way); 2 to a 'Moderate' level of impact (2 roads); and 3 to a 'Minor-moderate' level of impact (2 sport venues and one place of work).

5.3 Operational Phase

- 5.3.1 The same number of individual receptors (i.e., 60) are assessed as being potentially subject to some level of visual impact from the Operational Phase of the development as would be affected by the Construction Phase (see table 5, Appendix A). The impacts listed are all assessed as 'adverse'.

Sources of Impact

- 5.3.2 The principal elements that would act as sources of impact in changes of view for receptors within the visual envelope surrounding the site are: the newly constructed dwellings; the access roads; vehicular and pedestrian movements to, from and within the site; lighting and street furniture; new landscape elements (specimen trees, blocks of shrub planting, new hedges). The last of these are elements that already occur on the assessment site at the present time though at somewhat different locations. The reduction in traffic

movements would therefore introduce a general reduction in levels of visual impact for the receptors listed; this is reflected in table 6.

5.3.3 Visual Impact Assessment

Roads

5.3.4 For road traffic, any views of adjacent land are incidental to the main activity, i.e., travelling along the road. Sensitivity of road users is therefore assessed as **medium**.

5.3.5 **Woolley Colliery Road:** Traffic on this route (item 4 on table 5 & drawing E4421/5, photos 4, 5, 6 & 11) would have open views of the new dwellings on completion. New mitigation tree planting along the eastern boundary would not have matured yet and therefore offer little in the way of screening. As a result, the magnitude of change in the views compared with the baseline situation is assessed as **large**. The above two combine to give the overall level of impact as *'Moderate'*.

Footpaths and Bridleways

5.3.6 For traffic on a Public Right of Way (footpath or bridleway), their sensitivity to changes of views will be **high** since one of the principal purposes of their activity is the enjoyment of the countryside through which they are walking or riding.

5.3.7 Those travelling south along the two footpaths to the north of the site along Woolley Colliery Road (item 2, Table 6 – photo 1) would have views of the newly-completed dwellings from a relatively limited section of this route. These views would also be partially screened by existing vegetation and intervening properties within Woolley Colliery. The magnitude of change however in the views compared with the baseline situation is assessed as **Large**. These two factors combine to give the overall level of impact as *'Moderate'*.

5.3.8 Views of the site from the remainder of the public footpaths within the area are screened from views by either intervening vegetation or topography.

Properties

5.3.9 With regard to the dwellings that lie within the Visual Envelope the level of sensitivity to any change in view is assessed to be **high** since any change to the character of the area surrounding a dwelling is critical to those residents' enjoyment of their home.

5.3.10 On completion of the construction phase, views of the new development from dwellings that lie immediately adjacent to the site (i.e., items 3, 5 & 6) would have direct views into the northern parcel of the site so the magnitude of change in view that would occur is assessed as **large**. The mitigation planting would be installed but would have little screening impact at this stage. The visual impact as a result is therefore assessed as *'Substantial'* from these receptors.

5.3.11 Dwellings located slightly further away – R1 & R10, would still have a large magnitude of change at this stage due to the views being elevated and there being such a change from the original situation. The visual impact as a result is therefore assessed as *'Substantial'* from these receptors.

Places of work and Sports Venues

5.3.12 For people attending places of work or playing recreational sports, their time at that location does not involve or depend upon appreciation of views of the landscape. Sensitivity of these receptors therefore is assessed as **low**.

5.3.13 On completion of the construction phase, views of the new development from adjacent offices and sports venues (i.e., items 7, 8 & 9) would have direct views into the northern and southern parcels of the site. The magnitude of change in view that would occur is assessed as **large**. The mitigation planting would be

installed but would have little screening impact as this stage. The visual impact as a result is therefore assessed as *Minor / Moderate* from these receptors.

- 5.3.14 Appendix A, Table 6 lists the receptors that are assessed to be subject to some form of visual impact on completion of the development. In summary the range of impacts is as follows: 55 would be subject to a *'Substantial'* level of impact (54 residential properties and one Public Right of Way); 2 to a *'Moderate'* level of impact (2 roads); and 3 to a *'Minor-moderate'* level of impact (2 sport venues and one place of work).

Impacts on Landscape Character

Landscape

- 5.3.15 The principal elements that would act as sources of impact in changes to the local landscape character on completion of the scheme are: the new built form; an enhanced colour range of materials used within the development; and enhancement of existing landscape features planting along the site perimeter.
- 5.2.16 The principal impact arising from the Construction Phase on landscape character will be to introduce complexity to the local landscape. This arises from the construction paraphernalia (vehicles, equipment, material stacks, temporary buildings, perimeter fencing) that inevitably accompany any construction project.
- 5.2.17 Initially this will appear as a discordant feature in the landscape with no obvious pattern but throughout the phase this will progressively give way to a more ordered landscape – though significantly different from the existing one. The changes in character over this period will therefore be: (i) an initial reduction in landscape quality compared to the existing situation and (ii) a gradual return to a more ordered form but one very different from that pre-existing development on site.
- 5.3.18 The impact arising from the Operational Phase on landscape character would be to introduce a new layout of buildings, access roads and circulation areas to the local landscape. This would represent a significant change in comparison to the existing situation. The character of the landscape in the vicinity of the new development would therefore be substantially different from the existing situation. However, providing the new buildings are set within a well-designed landscape context with substantial planting to the site perimeter, it is assessed that any adverse impact could be mitigated to an acceptable level over time.

6.0 Mitigation Measures

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Mitigation measures can be incorporated at three stages during the design and construction of the development:

- During the design stage to avoid impacts where possible;
- During construction to minimise impacts; and,
- After completion of the development (ensure mitigation measures are of an appropriate level and are maintained over the years of operation).

6.1.2 Any or all of the following can be considered as mitigation:

- Avoid adverse impacts as far as possible by use of preventative measures;
- Minimise or reduce adverse impacts to 'as low as practicable' levels; and,
- Remedy or compensate for adverse residual effects, which are unavoidable and can be reduced further.

6.1.3 This LVIA considers the potential residual effects of the development after mitigation measures have been taken into account. Mitigation measures as listed below are proposed to reduce the visual impact of the development and are shown on drawings E4421/1 to 3 entitled Detailed Landscape Proposals.

6.2 Management of the existing resources

6.2.1 It is assessed that a large majority of the self-sown vegetation on site would need to be removed to accommodate the development. A tree survey has been conducted on site and it has been assessed that these areas of planting have limited arboricultural value. Some self-sown planting on the site boundaries can and should be retained as it will offer some immediate screening properties to the new dwellings. Surrounding the site, the existing woodland planting is more mature and offers far more in terms of arboricultural and amenity value. This planting will be retained and protected during construction in line with British Standard 5837:2012. This planting will provide a strong planted context for the new dwellings and help in screening the development from off-site views.

6.3 New landscape works

6.3.1 To the north of the site where the site abuts Woolley Colliery, a new detention basin with native tree planting is proposed which will be seeded with a wetland seed mix. Planting here will create a diverse area that will boost biodiversity within the local area. This area of open space will also act as a green buffer to residents of Woolley Colliery and in time will turn into an attractive space which existing properties overlook.

6.3.2 Planting within residential areas of the site. Other than hard surfaced access roads and parking areas, the ground within this part of the site will be seeded with a low-maintenance grass mix containing wildflowers where appropriate to maximise wildlife habitat value. In addition, trees will be included to provide a landscape context for the new dwellings for both residents and visitors. This could include pairs of trees to frame inward views from key offsite locations or lines of trees to create attractive avenues (such as the site entrance and along Woolley Colliery Road). Species will be largely native (e.g., Oak, Sycamore, Norway Maple, Wild Cherry, Whitebeam, Rowan) to maximise its value as wildlife habitat though some ornamental species could be included to provide seasonal interest.

7.0 Residual Effect Assessment

7.1 Impact on Visual Receptors (see table 7, Appendix B)

- 7.1.1 Following completion of the above mitigation measures the impact of the completed proposals is considered as the appearance of the site 15 years after the end of the construction phase by which time the vegetation will have had chance to become established.
- 7.1.2 In general terms the Residual Effect Assessment can be summarised as a reduction, after 15 years, from 'Substantial' to 'Moderate' and from 'Moderate' to 'Minor / Moderate' levels of visual impact because of the new planting on site maturing.
- 7.1.3 Appendix B, Table 7 lists in detail the receptors that it is assessed would be subject to some form of visual impact around 15 years following completion of the development. The range of impacts is as follows: 55 would be subject to a 'Moderate' level of impact (54 residential properties and 1 Public Right of Way); 4 to a 'Minor-moderate' level of impact (2 roads and 2 sports venues); and 1 to a 'Minor' level of impact (place of work).

7.2 Impact on Landscape Character

- 7.2.1 As indicated above, the study area sits within Natural England's LCA NCA 38. Key characteristics relevant to the study site include the following: *a low-lying landscape of rolling ridges; 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; many areas affected by urban fringe pressures creating fragmented landscapes, some with a dilapidated character.*
- 7.2.2 The local landscape in the vicinity of the study site has also been assessed. The Environmental Consultancy University of Sheffield (ECUS) was commissioned by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC) in January 2002 to undertake the study. ECUS have worked jointly with Land Use Consultants (LUC) in the implementation of this assessment. The study site lies within D1: Northeast Barnsley Settled Arable Slopes area (Appendix D), the key characteristics of which include:
- *Sloping/undulating landform with small valleys and ridges providing localised variation in terms of views and sense of enclosure. Arable farmland comprising medium to large field units with no obvious pattern.*
 - *Large areas of residential and industrial development creating a strong urban influence. Distant views to Barnsley - industrial development and residential settlement outside the character area, bringing an additional urban influence to the overall character of the landscape.*
 - *Irregular degraded and declining field boundaries of varied materials. Lack of tree cover providing little in terms of enclosure or interest on the vertical plane. Pylons and power lines are visually striking elements across open farmland. Disused industrial quarries, tips and spoil heaps provide strong visual cues to industrial heritage and present-day regeneration initiatives.*
 - *Significant number of primary and secondary vehicular routes gives an active pace to the landscape. Disused railway lines are strong linear features of ecological significance. Scrubby margins, unmanaged field boundaries and compartmentalised field units on urban edges give a degraded quality to the landscape. Abrupt transitions between urban and rural land.*
- 7.2.3 This landscape is assessed as being in **Poor** condition and having a **Moderate** strength of character with the aim to enhance and restore some of the features.
- 7.2.4 Upon completion of the construction phase (i.e., at the commencement of the Operational Phase) the new planting and areas of open space will be laid out and will, to a modest extent, offset the impact of the new built form and hard surfaces as well as providing a more effective interface between the existing settlement and the new dwellings. The new plants will not have yet had time to mature - and so will not contribute significantly to the appearance of the scheme. However, the new built form and parking areas will be: (i) visually contained by; and (ii) similar in scale to what currently exists in the vicinity. It is therefore assessed that upon completion the magnitude of change to the character of the local landscape will be **medium** and the resultant impact 'Minor-moderate'.

- 7.2.5 Over time, the proposed new planting along the site boundaries will mature to filter offsite views of the new dwellings and provide a strong planted context for the whole development. It is therefore assessed that at year 15 the magnitude of change will be **small** and the impact on landscape character will be *'Minor adverse'*.
- 7.2.6 The new tree planting included within the current proposals would enable the development to make a positive response to two of the Statements of Environmental Opportunity set out in Natural England's LCA profile, namely:

SEO 1: *Restore and enhance existing areas and create new landscapes through the inclusion of woodland and networks of green infrastructure to raise the overall quality of design and location of new developments.*

SEO 3: *Conserve, enhance and expand areas and corridors of semi-natural habitat such as ... woodlands to create a functioning ecological network that links the fragmented patches of habitats through urban ... environments*

8.0 Monitoring

- 8.1 Where possible, elements of new planting – the trees to both road frontages and those along the northern site boundary – would be undertaken at an early stage of development to ensure that visual screening can develop well in advance of completion of the construction programme.
- 8.2 All landscape works would be accompanied by a comprehensive aftercare programme (including weeding, application of fertiliser, thinning and cutting back to promote strong growth) to ensure development of the new planted areas into robust landscape elements within the shortest timescale possible.

9.0 Summary

- 9.1 The site is located on the northern edge of the settlement of Darnton. Large swathes of self-sown Birch planting cover the majority of both sites although they are generally considered to be of lower arboricultural value owing to their age, lack of management and the fact that these trees could easily and quickly be replaced if desired. Abutting the site boundaries are more well established broadleaf woodland areas. These provide excellent screening from surrounding views and create a strong planted context for the new dwellings. To the north and east beyond the site boundaries, woodland blocks and well-established hedgerows are common within the agricultural landscape. To the west and south, again woodland vegetation is common within the River Dearne Valley and provides excellent structure and screening from these areas.
- 9.2 Woolley Colliery Road bounds the eastern boundaries of both parcels of land with a mix of young and established woodland planting abutting the western boundaries. To the south beyond an adjacent woodland block is Darton Train Station and residential properties situated on the road. To the north, residential properties within Woolley Colliery overlook the site from an elevated position. Further east beyond the road, Weighwell Engineering offices and two residential properties are located which are set within agricultural fields and woodland blocks. To the west beyond the existing vegetation, the railway line travels past the site but is set within a cutting and surrounded by dense vegetation.
- 9.3 Further southwest beyond the River Dearne Valley and M1, open views from residential properties located on the eastern edge of Kexborough can be obtained. Due to their distance from the site boundary however, they have not been included within this assessment
- 9.4 Several public rights of way exist close to the site, namely:
- 1nr public footpaths that travels north from Woolley Colliery Road up into Windhill Wood. Pedestrian travelling south along this route would have elevated views of the northern parcel of the site (Photo 1).

- The Dearne Way which runs along the banks of the Rover Dearne to the south and west of the site. Views from this route are completely screened by intervening vegetation and therefore have not been included within this assessment.
- 9.5 Landform and vegetation combine to produce a consistent landscape character zone across the study site – namely an undulating, isolated landscape with large amounts of self-sown vegetation, surrounded by more mature blocks of woodland planting.
- 9.6 The elevated nature of the site means long distance views are available from the southwest though these are at a great enough distance as to not have an impact on these areas.
- 9.7 The proposed site is identified as HS1 – Land allocated for new housing within the Barnsley Local Plan Policies Map (Appendix E).
- 'Site HS1 Former Woolley Colliery Indicative number of dwellings 90 Development of the site will not take place until the road layouts are in place for sites HS25 and HS11. The development will be expected to retain and manage the species-rich grassland and the woodland which forms the north and eastern half of the northern parcel of land.'*
- 9.8 The site falls within National Landscape Character Area 38 - The Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield which is described in the profile as *'a generally low-lying area, with hills and escarpments above wide valleys (embracing) major industrial towns and cities as well as villages and countryside'*.
- 9.9 A total of 60 individual receptors have been identified as being potentially subject to some form of visual impact from development on the Study Site. The majority of these are dwellings that, because they lie immediately adjacent to the site to the north, would be subject to a *'Substantial'* level of visual impact during construction phase. These levels would reduce to *'Moderate'* as the new planting on site matures. Other receptors including road users and people playing sports on the adjacent pitches would be subject to a *'Moderate'* and *'Minor/Moderate'* level of impact respectively. This would reduce to once planting on site matures.
- 9.10 The local landscape is assessed to have a **medium** sensitivity to change since, although it possesses some attractive individual elements, there is an element of visual incongruity in respect of the urban / rural interface. Upon completion of development on site it is therefore assessed that the level of impact on landscape character would be *'Minor-moderate'* and at year 15 will *'Minor adverse'* which is deemed acceptable.

10.0 References

Barnsley Borough Landscape Character Assessment - D1: Northeast Barnsley Settled Arable Slopes

National Character Area NCA 38: 'Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Coalfields'. Published by Natural England, 2014

1:25000 Ordnance Survey map