



## OUTLINE LANDSCAPE & VISUAL IMPACT APPRAISAL

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Thurnscoe Bridge Lane, Barnsley

Project Number: 4532

November 2024

# 1 SITE CONTEXT

## BACKGROUND

TPM Landscape are appointed to prepare an Outline Landscape and Visual Appraisal for a proposed housing scheme on Thurnscoe Bridge Lane in Thurnscoe, Barnsley.

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 an 'D' shaped area of agricultural land comprising part of 2 fields, though not formally separated on site.

A small section of the public right-of-way footpath (approximately 500 meters in length) links the proposal site to the main Thurnscoe settlement area and connects to the footpath/cycleway which runs along the dismantled railway adjacent to the southern site boundary. The main Thurnscoe settlement lies to the north of the site, with a large commercial area beyond the railway corridor to the east and south east. Thurnscoe Railway Station is located approximately 700 meters north of Thurnscoe Bridge 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 situated within an area visually contained by roads, residential areas, and large commercial buildings. Consequently, there are very few visual receptors other than the existing properties located directly adjacent to the proposal site's northern boundaries, and glimpsed views from the users of the public footpath which runs through the site

## THE DESIGN PROPOSALS

The design proposals for the scheme aims to create a well-integrated new residential scheme in its urban setting, 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 indicated in Figures 1.1 and 1.2.

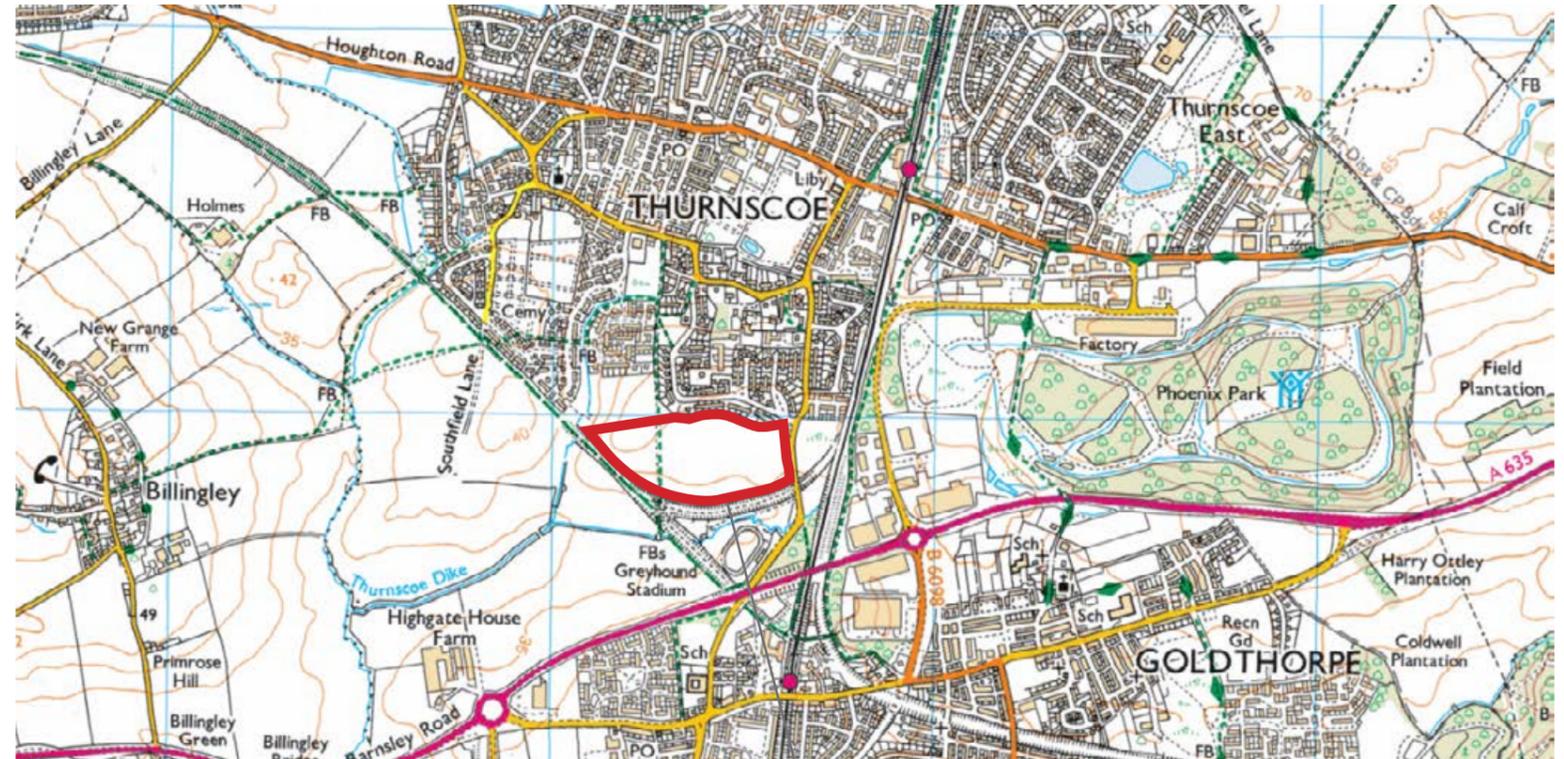


Fig 1.1 OS Map and Aerial Image of the Existing Site Proposal Site



Fig 1.2 OS Map and Aerial Image of the Existing Site



Fig 2 Extract of Landscape Masterplan (TPM drawing 4532-101)



THURNSCOE

GOLDTHORPE

**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 Thurnscoe settlement. The fields slope towards the south and are bordered along the north and western boundaries by the existing settlement, to the east by Thurnscoe Bridge Lane, and with an open aspect to the countryside to the south-east of the site.

A strong line of trees follows the route of the former railway along the southern boundary, which is now a footpath/cycleway, and further woodland is located to the south of this, restricting all views from the south of the site. Thurnscoe Bridge Lane which runs along the eastern site boundary is lined with trees and hedgerow which restrict views into the site from the east. This is the only location where the site has any influence on the character and setting of the settlement, and is not a major route into Thurnscoe.

The site lies in a gap between Thurnscoe and Goldthorpe settlements (Goldthorpe lying directly to the south of the A635), however the topography and substantial wooded areas mean that there is no physical or visual connectivity between the 2 settlements, and there will be no perception of merging of settlements with the introduction of the proposed residential development.

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

It is therefore considered that a residential development on the proposal site will have very little impact on the character and setting of Thurnscoe.

 Site context photo locations

 Proposal Site Boundary

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



**Photo P1**  
View looking north towards the rear of properties located directly adjacent to the northern site boundary.



**Photo P2**  
View looking west into the residential properties on Derry Grove, the proposal site is located to the rear of the properties on the left of the photograph.



**Photo P2**  
View looking south-east across Thurnscoe Bridge Lane. The proposal site is located to the right of the trees and hedgerow on the right side of the photograph.

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 housing allocation (HS52).

Local Plan states:

**POLICY H1 The Number of New Homes to be Built**

We will seek to achieve the completion of at least 21,546 net additional homes during the period 2014 to 2033. A minimum five year supply of deliverable sites will be maintained.

**Site HS52 Land west of Thurnscoe Bridge Lane and south of Derry Grove, Thurnscoe Indicative number of dwellings 308**

The development will be subject to the production of a masterplan covering the entire site to ensure that development is brought forward in a comprehensive manner.

The development will be expected to:

- Ensure that the trees and hedgerows around the periphery of the site, in particular on the southern boundary are retained; and
- Provide off site highway enhancements.

Archaeological remains are known to be present on this site. The site area has been reduced to allow flexibility in the development to ensure the remains can be preserved in situ if necessary.

**POLICY GD1 General Development**

Proposals for development will be approved if:

- There will be no significant adverse effect on the living conditions and residential amenity of existing and future residents;
- They are compatible with neighbouring land and will not significantly prejudice the current or future use of the neighbouring land;
- They will not adversely affect the potential development of a wider area of land which could otherwise be available for development and safeguards access to adjacent land;
- They include landscaping to provide a high quality setting for buildings, incorporating existing landscape features and ensuring that plant species and the way they are planted, hard surfaces, boundary treatments and other features appropriately reflect, protect and improve the character of the local landscape;
- Any adverse impact on the environment, natural resources, waste and pollution is minimised and mitigated;
- Adequate access and internal road layouts are provided to allow the complete development of the entire site for residential purposes, and to provide appropriate vehicular and pedestrian links throughout the site and into adjacent areas;
- Any drains, culverts and other surface water bodies that may cross the site are considered;
- Appropriate landscaped boundaries are provided where sites are adjacent to open countryside;
- Any pylons are considered in the layout; and
- Existing trees that are to remain on site are considered in the layout in order to avoid overshadowing.

**POLICY LG2 The Location of Growth**

Priority will be given to development in the following locations:

- Urban Barnsley; Principal Towns of Cudworth, Wombwell, Hoyland, Goldthorpe (which includes Thurnscoe and Bolton on Dearne), Penistone and Royston; and Villages.

Urban Barnsley will be expected to accommodate significantly more growth than any individual Principal Town, and the Principal Towns will be expected to accommodate significantly more growth than the villages, to accord with their place in the settlement hierarchy.



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

● Proposal Site

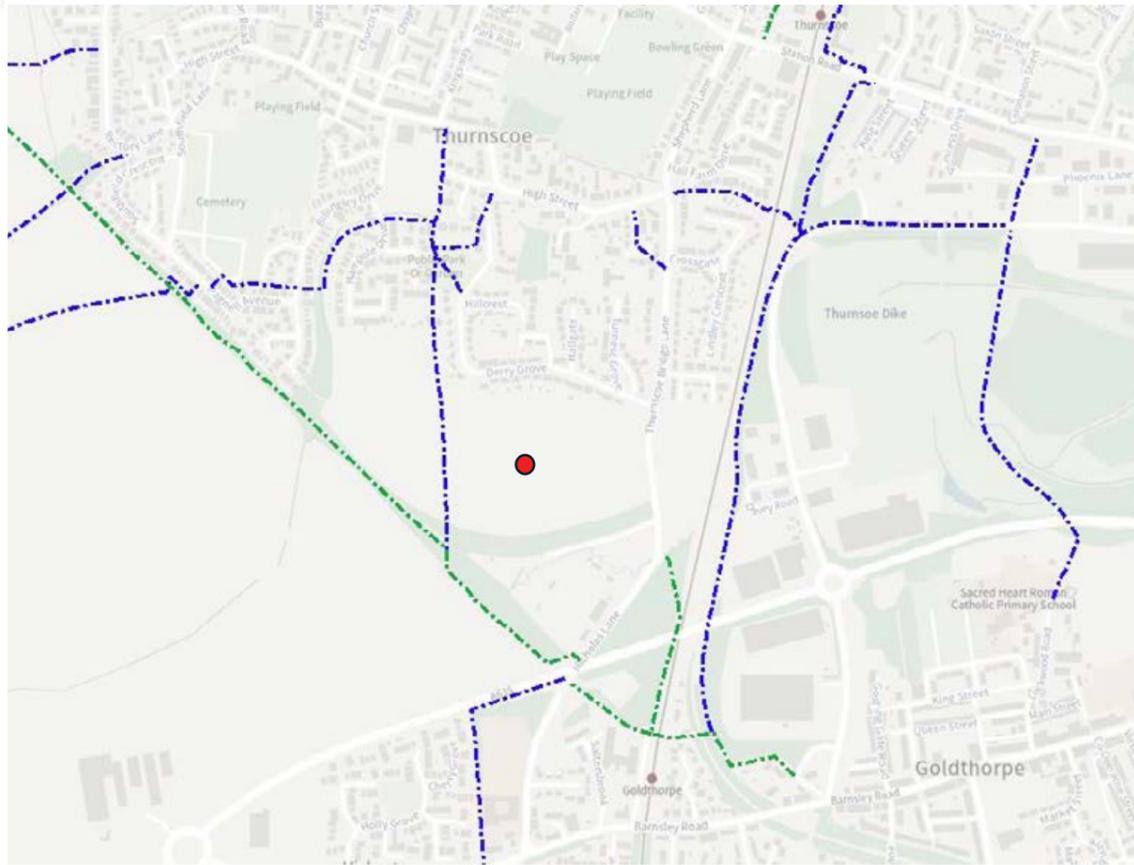


Fig 6.2 PRoW, [www.barnsley.gov.uk/barnsley-maps/](http://www.barnsley.gov.uk/barnsley-maps/)

● Proposal Site

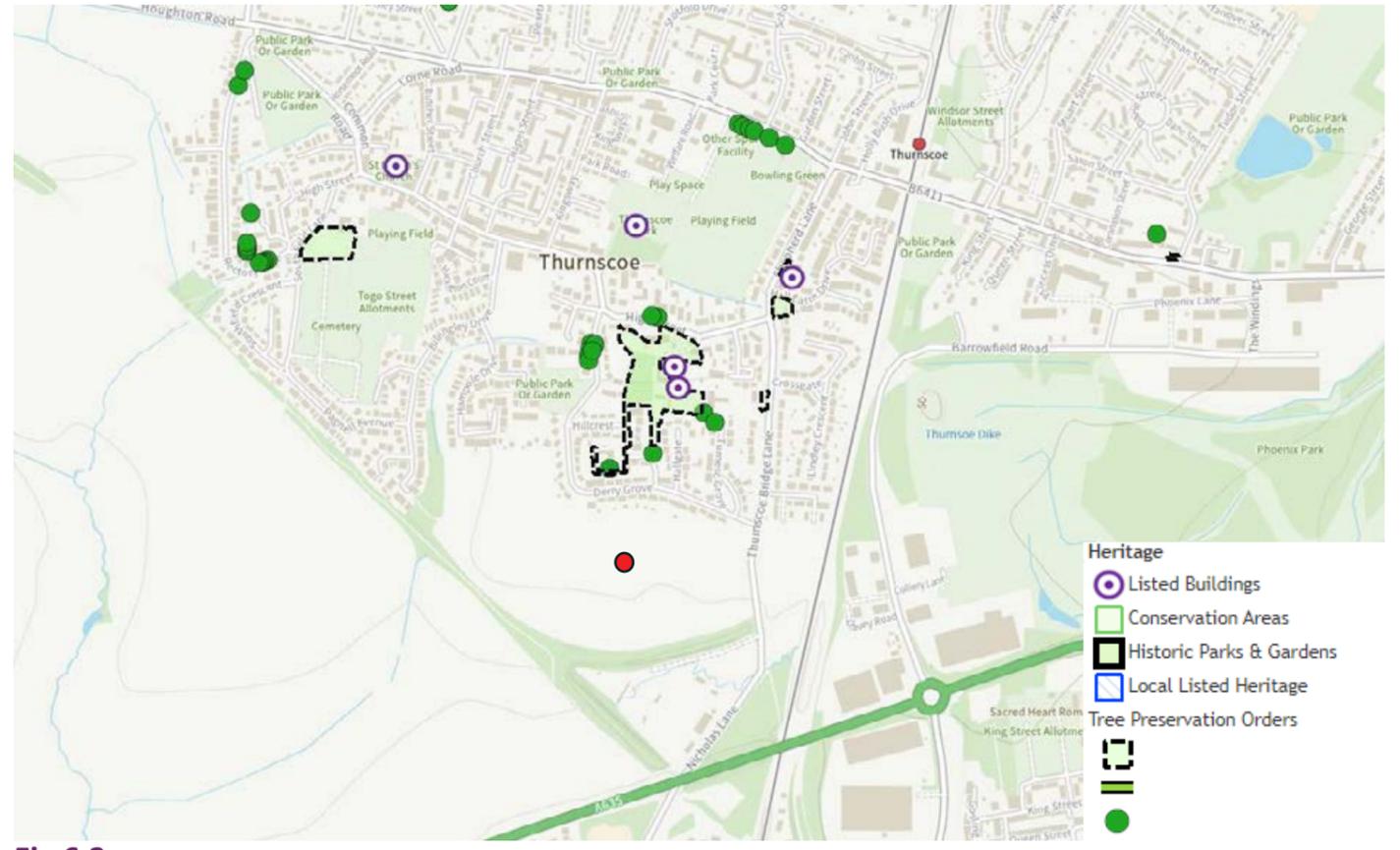
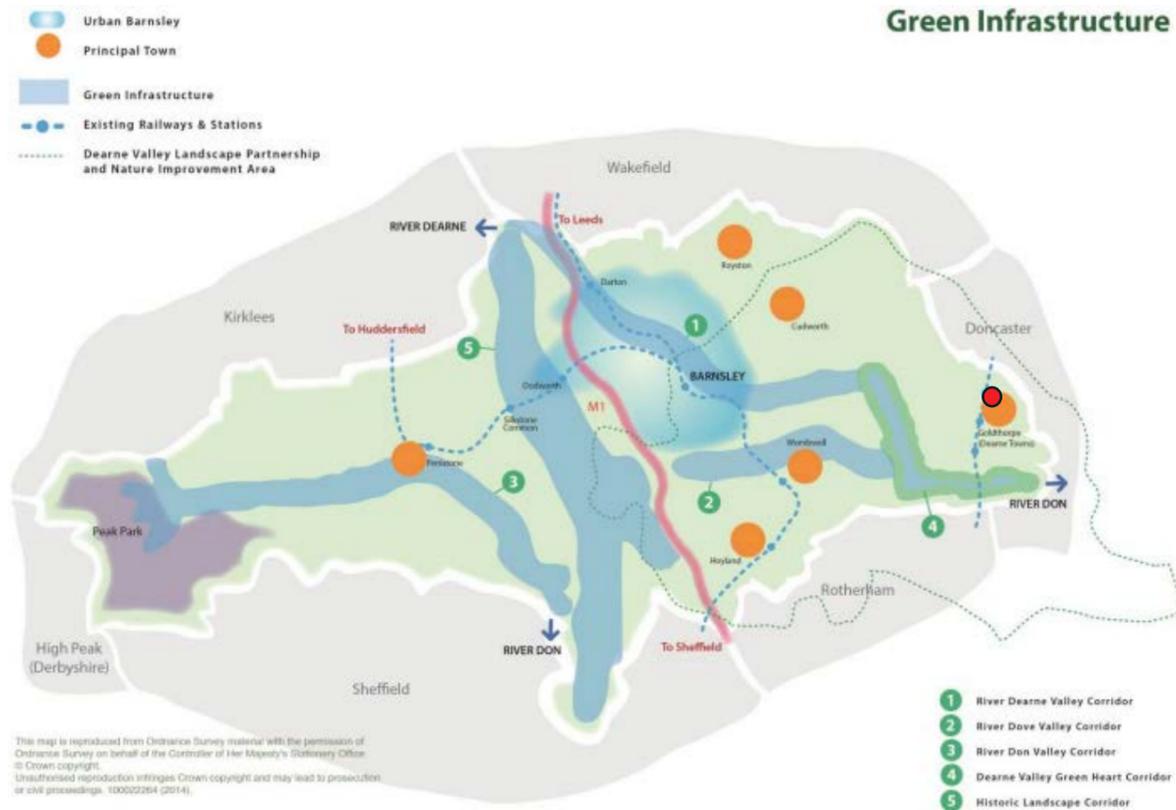


Fig 6.3 Heritage Assets Map, [www.barnsley.gov.uk/barnsley-maps/](http://www.barnsley.gov.uk/barnsley-maps/)

● Proposal Site



**Green Infrastructure**

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

● 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

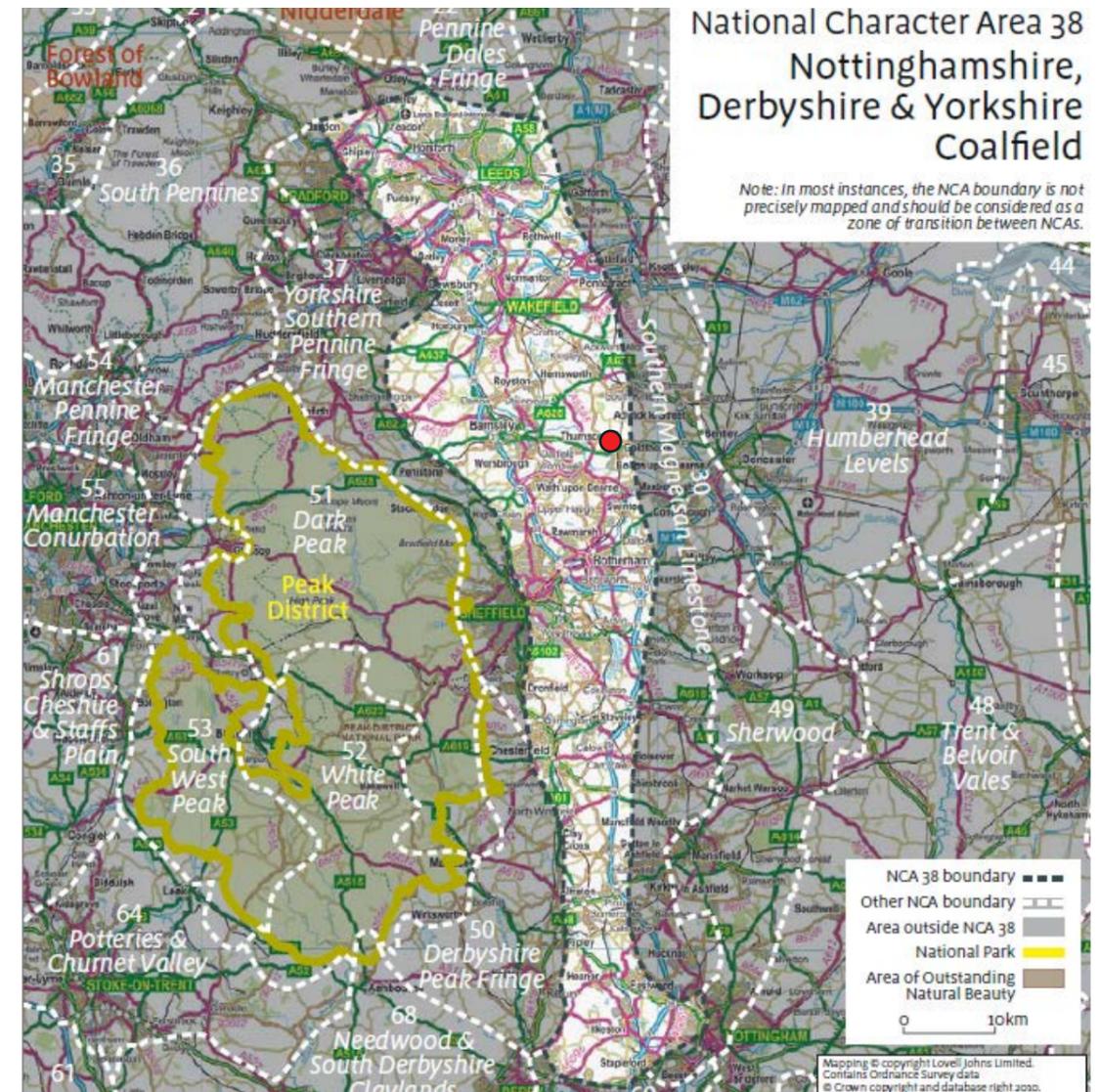
- A low-lying landscape of rolling ridges with rounded sandstone escarpments and large rivers running through broad valleys, underlain by Pennine Coal Measures.
- Local variations in landscape character reflecting variations in underlying geology.
- Several major rivers flow through the rural and urban 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 km<sup>2</sup>, 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](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

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## 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 D2: East Dearne Settled Arable Slopes LCT.

### East Dearne Settled Arable Slopes

#### 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

D2 East Dearne Settled Arable Slopes are predominantly distinguished by both topographic and land use character. The landscape is characterised by three dominant land use patterns – agriculture, industry and landscape renewal. Agriculture is predominantly intensive arable farming contained within a pattern of medium to large fields. There is often no obvious sense of enclosure due to loss of hedgerows and where intermittent boundaries occur they fragment rather than unify the farmland. Within the areas of arable farmland, dikes are a common occurrence in the south; running to meet the River Dearne on the southern boundary. The industrial landscape is largely historic with spoil heaps, disused tips and old open cast workings providing strong visual clues to this previously thriving industrial core. Outmigration from the old mining settlements of Thurnscoe, Goldthorpe and Bolton Upon Dearne are further proof of the industrial decline experienced in this area. Landscape renewal is evident through measures to mitigate the impacts of previous industrial activity. Reclaimed spoil heaps and large swathes of tree planting, such as those along the A6195, are all indicators of landscape restoration and provide opportunities for improved aesthetic and ecological value. This can be extended to include the disused railways cutting through the character area – providing important wildlife rides. With the exception of pylons and some unmanaged, tall hedges, there are few vertical elements within the rural landscape. This equates to a seemingly simplistic and uniform character with little to break up the horizontal plane.

#### Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity

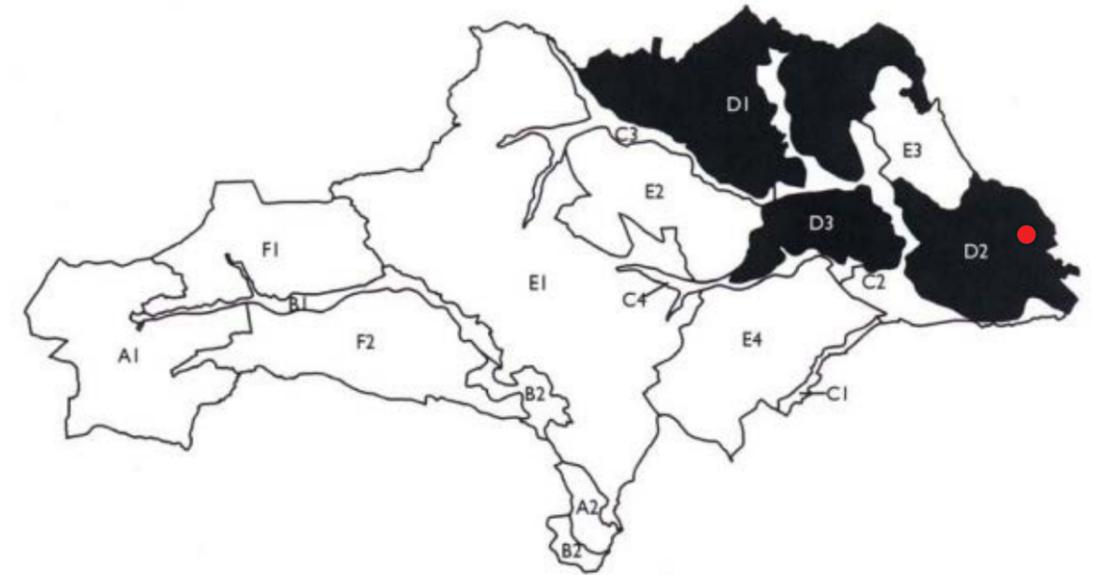
Landscape sensitivity is a judgement about the degree to which a landscape character area can accommodate change without adverse effects on its character. Landscape capacity is a related judgement about the amount of development that can be accommodated. The lack of enclosure within the East Dearne character area results in a landscape which is visually sensitive to change with little vegetative screening or buffering to help mitigate the visual impacts of built form. Although undulating topography in the more elevated areas provides some enclosure, this is generally localised and as such there is an overriding sense of openness and exposure. This would make built development on open slopes conspicuous from both within and outside of the character area. Urban edge expansion has already led to ribbon development (as evident between Thurnscoe and Great Houghton) and there is a danger that encouraging development on urban edges could result in the complete merger of settlements with the potential to dramatically change landscape character. However, clear evidence of landscape decline on the edge of settlements suggests a capacity for development to occur with the potential to enhance settlement edge character, condition and overall quality. Landscape capacity to accommodate further built development is therefore considered to be medium.

#### Landscape Management Issues and Opportunities

Landscape character area D2 East Dearne Settled Arable Slopes is an important mosaic landscape where industry and agriculture intermingle to create an interesting interface in the landscape. There are however clear forces for adverse future change. This landscape has already lost significant characteristic features and exhibits key signs of continued agricultural and settlement decline.

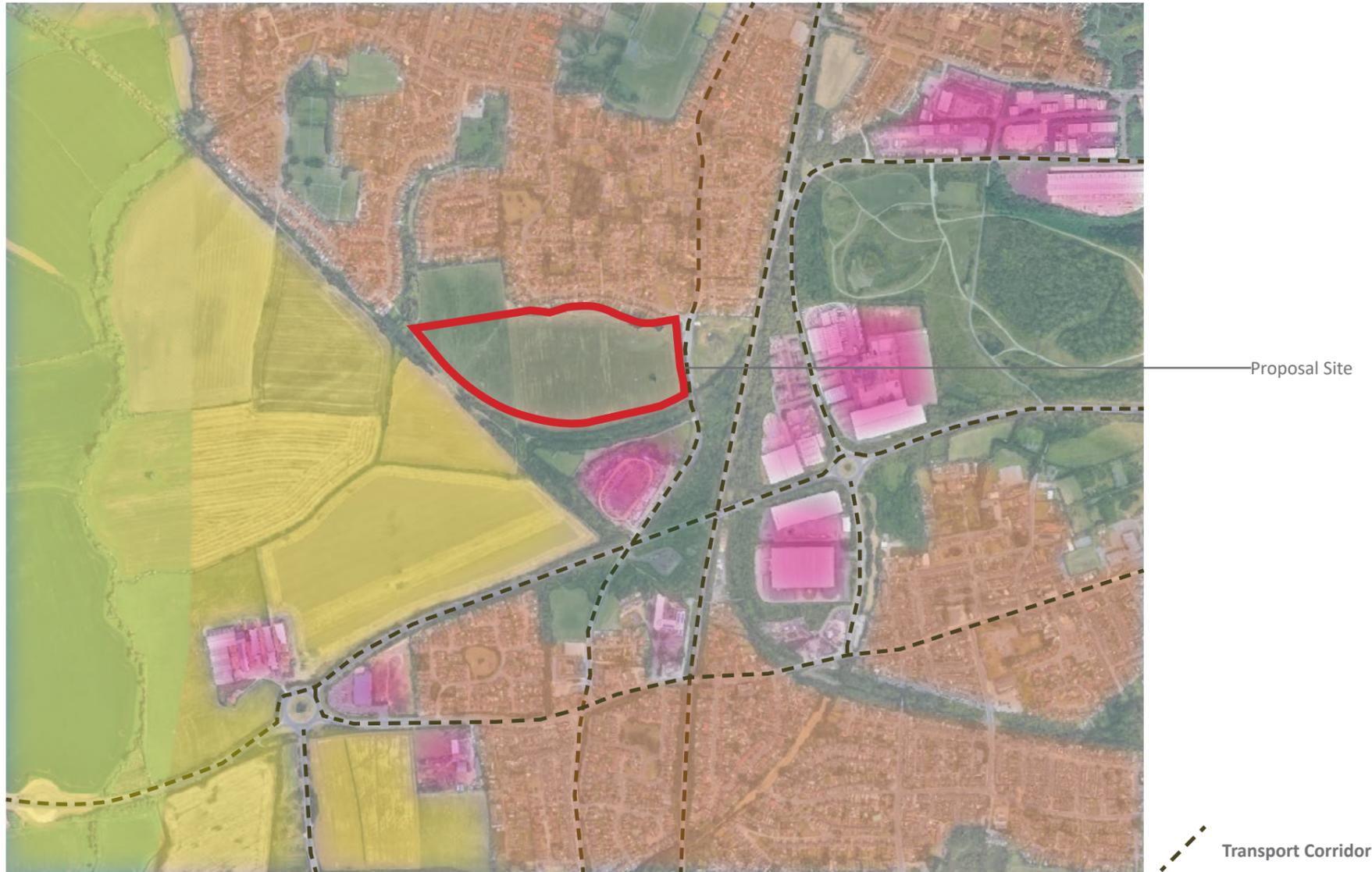
The overall strategy objective for this landscape character area should be to restore and enhance the important features characterising both rural and urban environments, retaining a strong distinction between the two whilst aiming to enhance their physical interface. Landscape strategy objectives should include:

- Restoration of the sense of intactness between the rural and urban environments
- Restoration of habitat and landscape structure and diversity
- Enhancement of the sense of openness and undeveloped character
- Employ appropriate native planting regimes at the urban edge
- Ensure landscape design forms an integral part of urban edge development schemes



**Fig 7.2** Landscape Character Assessment, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council 2002

● Proposal Site



**Fig 8** TPM Landscape local character land use map

**LAND USE AND LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS**

The context of the proposal site has been considered at a local level by TPM Landscape to consider the extent to which it may exhibit characteristics of the urban area in the Cheshire West and Chester Landscape Strategy-2014.

Figure 8 is a map which has been prepared by TPM Landscape to illustrate 4 distinct landscape character types on the vicinity of the site. These comprise of the following:

1. Urban Fringe Farmland
2. Suburban residential
3. Industrial / Commercial
4. Woodland / Community

The character types are described under the photos below.



**Landscape Character Type 1 - Urban Fringe Farmland**  
Farmland areas and broad expansive views from some 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.

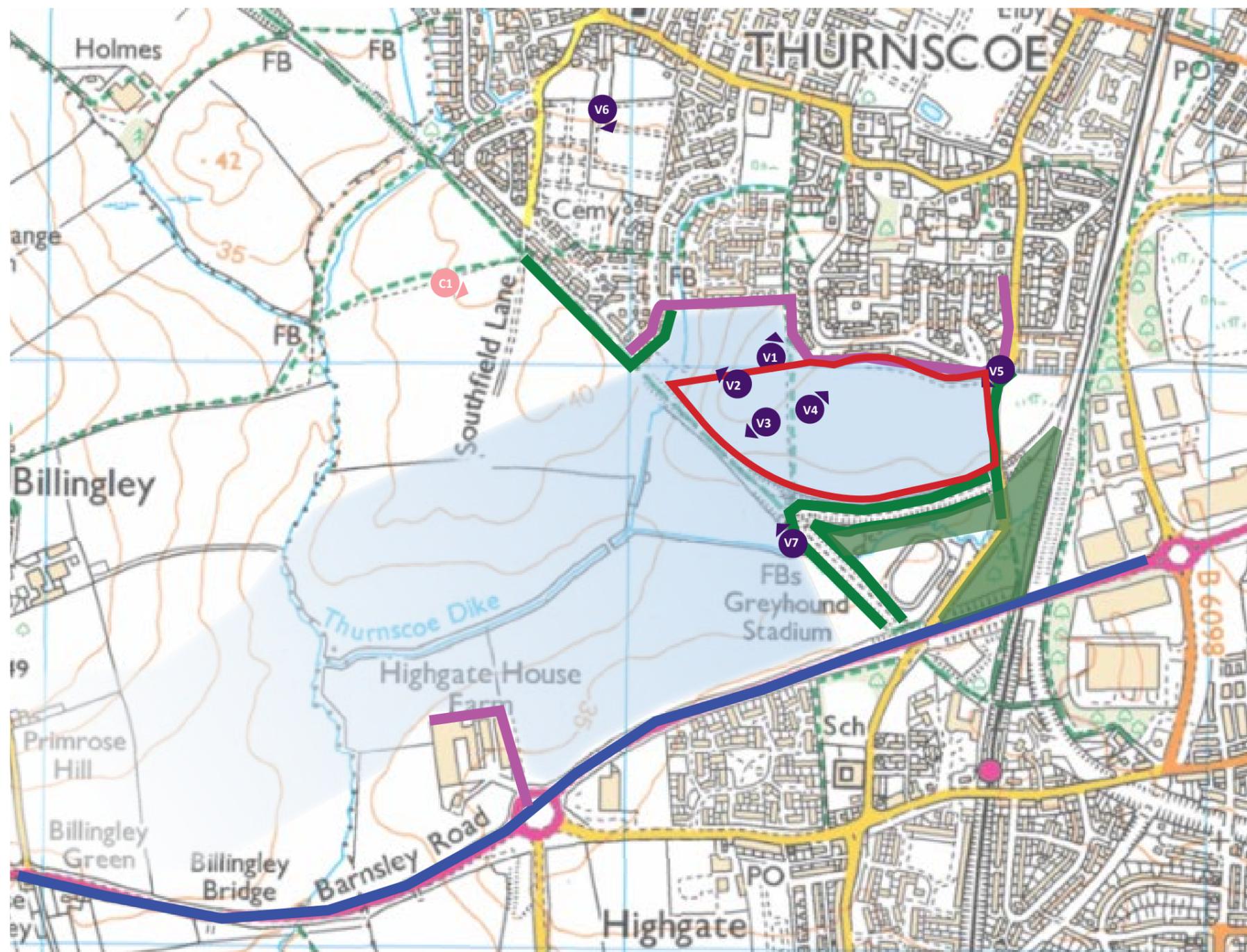


**Landscape Character Type 3 - Industrial / Commercial**  
Area of industrial complex comprising warehouses.



**Landscape Character Type 4 - Woodland/ Community/ Other Green**  
Area of woodland/community woodland and other green spaces.

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 settlement on Derry Grove.
- To the east by the trees and hedgerow on Thurnscoe Bridge Lane, and further woodland along the railway line and between the business park at Barrowfield Road.
- To the south and west by the woodland which wraps around the dismantled railway (now footpath).
- To the west by the mature trees and settlement on the western edge of Billingley Drive residential area.

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**

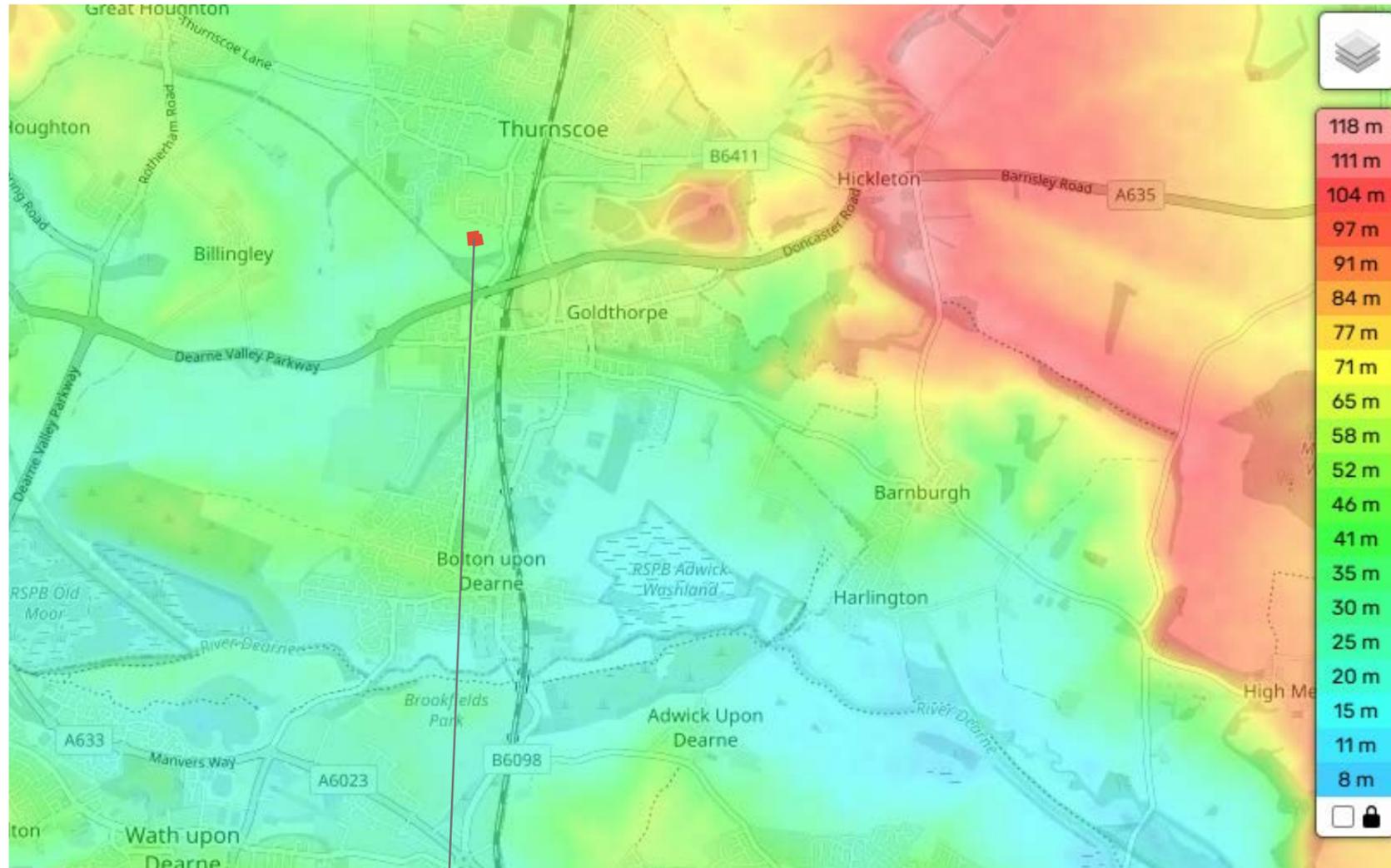
The considered viewpoints in Figure 9 were chosen to represent a variety of receptors who might be affected by the proposals. Representative photographs were taken for each identified receptor.

There are very limited potential views from publicly accessible locations as a result of the factors restricting the visual envelope described above. A public right of way footpath runs through the site, linking the southern edge of Thurnscoe with the footpath cycleway which runs along the southern site boundary.

The main visual receptors will be the people living in the properties which are located adjacent to the site boundary with Derry Grove, and to users of the public footpath which runs through the site.

There will be some glimpsed views for road and pavement footpath users for a short section of Thurnscoe Bridge Lane, and also glimpsed views for the people living in properties which face the site on Howell Gardens and Billingley Drive to the west of the site, however views will be substantially restricted by existing trees, and rear property boundaries, and also there are areas of public open space proposed on the western part of the site, which will provide a large gap between existing and proposed properties.

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



Proposal site

#### 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 Thurnscoe Bridge Lane (predominantly cars, cycles and roadside footpaths) are considered to be Low Sensitivity receptors.

There is a short length of public right of way footpath which runs through the site linking the settlement to the footpath/cycleway which follows the route of the former railway along the southern boundary of the site. Users of this footpath are considered to have a High Sensitivity.

#### 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-west, 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 Derry Grove there will be a large change from the rear of these properties, predominantly from upper floor windows. There will also be a large change to users of the Public footpath which runs through the site.

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 from the public right of way footpath which runs through the site along the northern boundary, with the rear of properties on Howell Gardens to the right of the photograph, and Burntwood Close to the left of the photograph. The land in the photograph is not included as part of the proposed residential development.



**Viewpoint V2** Representative of users of the public footpath which runs through the site. Panoramic View looking west/ south-west showing the substantial tree screening the existing settlement, and restricting views to the wider countryside in this direction.



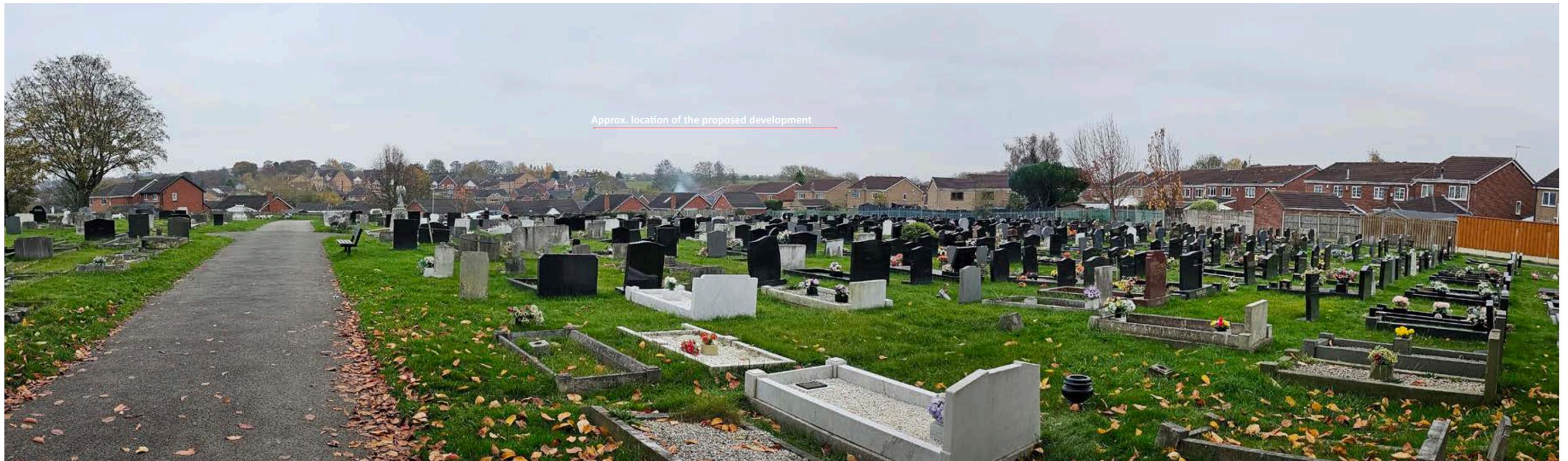
**Viewpoint V3** Representative view for users of the public footpath which runs through the site. View looking south between a break in the woodland tree cover on the southern site boundary, where there are longer distance views across the countryside to the south-west.



**Viewpoint V4** Representative view for users of the public footpath which runs through the site, showing the rear of properties located on Derry Grove, and the woodland on the eastern site boundary which restricts views from the north and east of the site.



**Viewpoint V5** Representative view from the junction of Thurnscoe Bridge Lane and Derry Grove, with the proposal site located in the field behind the houses. This view is representative of users the roads and footpaths. The proposed development will be prominent in the view, however will be in the context of the existing settlement, with the existing trees retained and an area of public open space in the foreground.



**Viewpoint V6** Representative view for people visiting or passing through the Southfield Lane cemetery, where there will be some mid distance views towards the proposal site, however will be in the context of the existing settlement, and will only be a 'Low' change to the view.



**Viewpoint V7** Representative view for the users of the footpath and cycleway which follows the route of the former railway along the southern boundary of the proposal site. For the majority of the route, other than directly adjacent to the site, the footpath is entirely contained by trees, and there will be very little change for these users. The proposal site is located beyond the small gap to the right of the photograph.



**Viewpoint C1** Representative view for users of the public footpath approximately 500m to the west of the proposal site. This was a considered viewpoint to explore potential visibility, however the proposal site is located beyond the existing houses in the photograph, and will not be visible to the users of the footpath.

## SUMMARY

This Outline Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) has been prepared to assess the proposed residential development on land on the southern boundary of Thurnscoe settlement. 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 to the south of the existing settlement, 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 Thurnscoe settlement. The fields slope towards the south and are bordered along the north and western boundaries by the existing settlement, to the east by Thurnscoe Bridge Lane, and with an open aspect to the countryside to the south-east of the site.

A strong line of trees follows the route of the former railway along the southern boundary, which is now a footpath/cycleway, and further woodland is located to the south of this, restricting all views from the south of the site. Thurnscoe Bridge Lane which runs along the eastern site boundary is lined with trees and hedgerow which restrict views into the site. This is the only location where the site has any influence on the character and setting of the settlement, and is not a major route into Thurnscoe.

The site lies in a gap between Thurnscoe and Goldthorpe settlements (Goldthorpe lying directly to the south of the A635), however the topography and substantial wooded areas mean that there is no physical or visual connectivity between the 2 settlements, and there will be no perception of merging of settlements with the introduction of the proposed residential development.

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

It is therefore considered that a residential development on the proposal site will have very little impact on the character and setting of Thurnscoe.

### 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 landscape buffer along the southern site boundary in to minimise potential impacts on the wider countryside to the south-west.

## 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 settlement on Derry Grove.
- To the east by the trees and hedgerow on Thurnscoe Bridge Lane, and further woodland along the railway line and between the business park at Barrowfield Road.
- To the south and west by the woodland which wraps around the dismantled railway (now footpath).
- To the west by the mature trees and settlement on the western edge of Billingley Drive residential area.

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.

### Residential Receptors

The main visual receptors will be the people living directly adjacent to the site on Derry Grove, where there will be views from the rear of the properties which face the site. There will be glimpsed views through trees and across areas of public open space from the rear of properties which face towards the site on Billingley Drive and Howell Gardens, however any views from these locations will be heavily filtered.

### Public Footpath Receptors

A public right of way footpath runs through the site, linking the existing edge of the settlement to the former footpath/ cycleway which runs along the southern site boundary. There will be a large change for these users in the immediate vicinity of the site, and the footpath link should be maintained as a part of any development proposals.

### Vehicle and Road Footpath Receptors

There will be some glimpsed views for road and pavement footpath users on Thurnscoe Bridge Lane, 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 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 particularly 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 no impacts to the wider landscape character areas or to the character and setting of the Thurnscoe settlement. 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.