



**STEPHENSON
HALLIDAY**

Planning, Landscape & Environment
an **RSK** company

TEST VALLEY LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY STUDY

Annexe 1:
Residential sites assessments
For Test Valley
January 2024

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LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT: ANDOVER NORTH – LAND AT MANOR FARM (NEAR ENHAM ALAMEIN/KNIGHTS ENHAM)

Location and context

- 1.1.1 This parcel is formed by the rolling chalk ridges and dry valleys between the north of Andover and the historic rural village of Enham Alamein to the north.
- 1.1.2 The parcel is extensive in area, is designated as part of a Local Gap and fulfils a valuable physical and perceptual function between Enham Alamein and Andover, even with the localised encroachment of the East Anton MDA on the southern horizon. The parcel is important in creating the rural approach/gateway to Enham Alamein. To the south, the parcel wraps around and is adjacent to the historic hamlet of Knights Enham and forms part of its setting.
- 1.1.3 Mapping showing the parcel, LCA and designated interests context is set out below, along with representative photographs of the parcel.

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View along one of the green lanes/holloways that traverses the parcel



The expansive rolling chalk landscape which defines much of the parcel

Landscape character context

National (NCA)

1.1.4 The parcel falls entirely within NCA 130: Hampshire Downs. Detail is contained in the relevant [NCA profile](#), but a summary of relevant key characteristics of the NCA represented in the parcel and context is as follows:

- Rolling, elevated arable chalk downland.
- Elevated plateaux and upper valley slopes characterised by extensive, open tracts of large, low-hedged fields with thin chalky soils, shelterbelts and ancient semi-natural woodland blocks.
- Network of distinctive and ancient droving roads and trackways, plus evidence of Roman estates.
- Rapidly expanding towns such as Andover on downland sites.

County LCA

1.1.5 At the county level, the parcel falls within the Andover Open Downs (8d) character area. Relevant key characteristics of this area represented in the parcel are:

- Plateau downland with gentle undulating ridges and dry chalk valleys.
- Open, expansive landscape with long distant views across downland.
- Predominately arable land use.
- Little woodland cover, creating a simple composition of landscape elements.
- A landscape with significant time depth and important archaeology particularly from pre-historic and Roman periods.
- Very regular formal enclosure pattern, defined in places by a weak hedgerow structure or no boundaries at all. Particularly in the open downland areas this tends to overwrite earlier field boundary patterns.
- Urban edge of Andover extends into the character area, although the character area is tranquil away from the settlement.

Borough level LCA

1.1.6 At the borough level, the parcel falls within LCT 9: Semi-enclosed Clay Plateau Farmland and component Landscape Character Area LCA 9A: North Andover Plateau. Relevant key valued characteristics of the LCA represented in the parcel are:

- Complex plateau landscape with dry river gravel valleys and gentle ridges.
- Contrasting open areas of arable farmland with shelter belts on higher ground.

- Well hedged mix of mainly pasture associated with settlements.
- Important countryside gaps between Andover and other settlements.
- Mixed historic landscape displaying good survival of early post-medieval field systems along the southern border of this character area and also through its central portion.
- Numerous small woodland copses.

Designated landscape interests/other designations relevant to landscape character

- 1.1.7 N/A, although it is noted that there is some intervisibility with the North Wessex Downs AONB to the north/north-east.

Landscape functions

- 1.1.8 Key landscape functions of the parcel are those of productive arable agriculture and recreation, with a network of PRow running north south along the central dry valley in the parcel. The role of the parcel in forming part of the Local Gap between Andover and Enham Alamein is also important and intrinsic to its relatively open rolling arable farmland landscape character.

Landscape sensitivity analysis

Landscape value

- 1.1.9 Landscape value of this parcel is judged to be at the Regional level. This parcel is an often archetypal example of the rolling chalk downland landscapes overlaid by arable farmland which characterise much of the setting of Andover. Co-axial field boundaries and holloways/green lanes which accommodate the PRow network across the parcel impart a clear sense of time depth and of place, as well as providing landscape and nature pathway connectivity. The contribution the parcel makes to the Local Gap and the physical and perceived settlement separation between Andover and Enham Alamein is also notable, as is the positive gateway the undulating landforms of the parcel create to the rural village of Enham Alamein. These elements combine to create a landscape of some interest and strategic importance, and along with the large block of ancient woodland immediately to the north, elevate landscape value to the county level.

Landscape susceptibility

Designated landscape interests (National Parks/AONBS) and Special Qualities:

- 1.1.10 N/A

Landscape scale, pattern and texture (including cultural pattern):

- 1.1.11 An often large scale rolling chalk landscape overlaid by expansive arable fields. Local intricacy is created by the ridge and valley landform and intimate scale dry valley which follows the centre of the parcel, and by the historic co-axial field boundaries and holloways which are a highly distinctive local feature. These and the southern approach to the historic village of Enham Alamein and its associated vernacular buildings, all elevate landscape susceptibility to change arising from the scenario. Whilst the historic hamlet of Knights

Enham is excluded from the boundary of the parcel, it lies immediately adjacent to it to the south, and the parcel makes an important contribution to the greenspace setting of this historic settlement. Knights Enham includes a collection of listed vernacular buildings including the small, single cell limewashed church of Norman origin at St Michael and All Angels (Listed at Grade I), its cemetery with mature limes and distinctive funerary monuments, plus the adjoining Georgian Old Rectory and Manor Farmhouse, an 18th and 19th century red brick dwelling.

Perceptual and experiential characteristics:

- 1.1.12 The elevated 'downland' landform cut by the incised chalk dry valley creates a notable sense of separation from the town of Andover, which the parcel overlooks to the south. Views of Andover within its valley are apparent as one moves south, although the northern half of the parcel has a distinctly rural quality. This elevates susceptibility to change arising from the scenario, as does the level of access afforded to the landscape of the parcel for recreational experience through the PROW network.

Settlement characteristics and settlement edge conditions:

- 1.1.13 As noted above, the modern and expanded northern edge of Andover is visible from higher ground to the south, contrasting markedly with the porous, well-wooded settlement edge of Enham Alamein to the north. The latter elevates susceptibility to change, although glimpsed views are also available to the elevated northernmost edge of the East Anton MDA through its surrounding tree belts.

Topographic features and skylines

- 1.1.14 A highly varied undulating chalk topography of ridges cut by a central dry valley extending south towards the valley system in which Andover is sited. Strongly naturalistic wooded skylines to the north contribute to a landscape which is susceptible to change in topographic and skyline terms. The developed skyline to the south is markedly less susceptible to change.

Visual characteristics and intervisibility

- 1.1.15 Due to the elevation, scale and openness across much of the parcel where it is defined by rising chalk landform and large arable fields, this is a parcel with extensive intervisibility with the wider landscape. This elevates susceptibility to change in visual terms, as does the associated important visual and physical contribution the parcel makes to the Local Gap. There is also a degree of intervisibility with the North Wessex Downs AONB to the north/north-east which reinforces the visual susceptibility to change.

Overall landscape susceptibility to change arising from the scenario

- 1.1.16 Overall, this is a landscape which is **highly susceptible** to change arising from the scenario. This is predominantly by virtue of the elevation, openness and associated visual character and intervisibility with the wider landscape and designated landscape interests, the often strong sense of rural character and areas where strength of time depth persists. Susceptibility to change is marginally lower (**Moderate-High**) in the settlement fringe influenced land at the most southerly points of the parcel, including the lower lying land around Charlton, which is perceptibly influenced by the late 20th century edge here, although there are no obvious natural parameters to accommodate any future development here, within the existing landscape pattern. The landscape around the historic hamlet of Knights

Enham is an anomaly in this respect being of more elevated susceptibility by virtue of the historic settlements and the function of the local landscape in contributing to its setting.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 1.1.17 Taking account of the above discussion on landscape value and susceptibility, this is a landscape of **High** overall landscape sensitivity to change arising from the scenario. This is by virtue of elevation, openness, distinctive landform and landscape pattern, and the strategic contribution the parcel makes to the Local Gap. There is a slight reduction in sensitivity in the south of the site, to the west of Saxon Way, although it maintains a sense of separation from the existing settlement edge.

Guidance and recommendations

- 1.1.18 This is as follows:

- The northern part of the parcel is relatively visually prominent due to rising contours, and therefore is less able to accommodate well integrated development in landscape and visual terms.
- Within the lower lying parts of the site, areas of strong and distinctive landscape structure such as the mature hedgerows, should be retained as foci for any new areas of semi-natural greenspace to integrate any new development, and to enhance the setting and experience of the PRoWS which bisect the parcel.
- The Parliamentary Enclosure landscape structure should be conserved and enhanced with a mix of locally occurring native species to assimilate any development in lower lying areas of the parcel, and to contribute to maintaining the integrity of the Local Gap.
- In the marginally less constrained southern area, any future development should use a reduced development density to the edges, to create a positive landscape edge and interface between urban and rural areas and contribute to a well-contained settlement edge in character with the existing landscape features. This should be allied to areas of semi natural greenspace provision and native screening buffer planting as part of a landscape led design approach.
- Create new structural planting that has physical and visual connectivity with existing vegetation and contributes positively to new areas of semi-natural greenspace, both as defensible boundaries and to integrate the settlement edge.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT: ANDOVER NORTH EAST – LAND AT FINKLEY ROAD/ EAST ANTON

Location and context

- 1.1.19 The parcel is located on the eastern edge of Andover, adjacent to the East Anton Major Development Area (MDA) at Augusta Park and to the north of the railway line and Finkleydown Farm. The parcel is bisected east-west by the old Roman road at Finkley Road. The north-western quadrant of the parcel includes part of the East Anton Local Gap and the parcel is bounded to the north and north-east by the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The parcel includes a scheduled Roman site in the east, together with part of the Devil’s Ditch earthwork (also scheduled), which defines part of the outermost extent of the parcel to the east.
- 1.1.20 The parcel, its principal features and context are shown below (designated interests on the left and TVBC landscape character context on the right), along with representative photographs of the parcel.

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View south-west across the parcel north of the Roman road, looking back towards East Anton MDA



View east along the hedgerow adjacent to the Roman road, looking over the large arable fields in the south-east of the parcel

Landscape character context

National (NCA)

1.1.21 The parcel falls entirely within NCA 130: Hampshire Downs. Detail is contained in the relevant [NCA profile](#), but a summary of relevant key characteristics of the NCA represented in the parcel and context is as follows:

- Rolling, elevated arable chalk downland.
- Elevated plateaux and upper valley slopes characterised by extensive, open tracts of large, low-hedged fields with thin chalky soils, shelterbelts and ancient semi-natural woodland blocks.
- Network of distinctive and ancient droving roads and trackways, plus evidence of Roman estates.
- Rapidly expanding towns such as Andover on downland sites.

County LCA

1.1.22 At the county level, the parcel falls within the [Andover Open Downs \(8d\) character area](#)¹. Relevant key characteristics of this area represented in the parcel are:

- Plateau downland with gentle undulating ridges and dry chalk valleys.
- Open, expansive landscape with long distant views across downland.
- Predominately arable land use.
- Little woodland cover, creating a simple composition of landscape elements.
- A landscape with significant time depth and important archaeology particularly from pre-historic and Roman periods.
- Very regular formal enclosure pattern, defined in places by a weak hedgerow structure or no boundaries at all. Particularly in the open downland areas this tends to overwrite earlier field boundary patterns.
- Urban edge of Andover extends into the character area, although the character area is tranquil away from the settlement.

Borough level LCA

1.1.23 At the borough level, the parcel falls entirely within [Landscape Character Type \(LCT\) 10. Open Chalklands](#) and within the Andover Chalk Downland LCA. Relevant key valued characteristics of this LCA represented in the parcel are:

- The North Wessex Downs AONB abuts the parcel to the north and north-east boundaries, defining the skyline at these points.

- A large block of ancient woodland abuts the north-east boundary, locally defining the horizon.
- Two scheduled monuments on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) fall within the parcel to the east: The site of a Roman house overlooking the Roman road, and part of the Devil's Ditch, a Bronze Age boundary ditch or dyke.

Designated landscape interests/other designations relevant to landscape character

- The North Wessex Downs AONB abuts the parcel to the north and north-east boundaries, defining the skyline at these points.
- A large block of ancient woodland abuts the north-east boundary, locally defining the horizon.
- Two scheduled monuments on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) fall within the parcel to the east: The site of a Roman house overlooking the Roman road, and part of the Devil's Ditch, a Bronze Age boundary ditch or dyke.

Landscape functions

- 1.1.24 Key landscape functions of the parcel are productive landscapes/food production, localised biodiversity corridors with the historic hedgerows bounding Finkley Road and the physical and perceptual separation the open landscape provides between the East Anton MDA and small outlying rural settlements in/near the AONB.

Landscape sensitivity analysis

Landscape value

- 1.1.25 This is at the Regional level. The landscape value of the locally typical open arable chalkland landscape is elevated by:
- The fact that the northern and easternmost boundaries of the parcel define the edge of the North Wessex Downs AONB (national level landscape designation in respect of scenic quality).
 - The presence of national heritage designations (sites on the SMR) which illustrate the landscape's sense of time depth and the association with extant historic landscape features such as Finkley Road through the parcel (Roman road).
- 1.1.26 This is therefore an overall average landscape value judgement. Within this is recognised that areas of the parcel are of markedly lower landscape value, for instance the more obviously 'degraded' urban edge influenced areas in the lower, western part of the parcel, with fewer distinctive positive landscape attributes, overlooked by East Anton MDA or to the south, visually influenced by the prominent pylon line and the large industrial estate south of the railway line. The less intact, relatively weak landscape fabric and landscape/green infrastructure functionality also contributes to this reduced landscape value. There is recreational value associated with the well-used PRoW crossing the western part of the site and Finkley Road.

Landscape susceptibility

Designated landscape interests (National Parks/AONBs) and Special Qualities

- 1.1.27 The northern and north-eastern edges of the parcel define the boundary of the AONB and share characteristics in common with the designated landscape, locally elevating landscape susceptibility. The open rolling chalk arable downland landscape of the parcel and the comparable AONB landscapes on the opposite side of Finkley Road and Malthouse Lane on the north-eastern boundary of the parcel (where the boundary with the AONB is only a low, patchy hedgerow) reflect the open downland and limited tree cover noted in the Special Qualities within the AONB Management Planⁱⁱ.

Landscape scale, pattern and texture (including cultural pattern)

- 1.1.28 The expansive scale of the landscape, the predominately arable landcover and the eroded Parliamentary Enclosure field boundary pattern combine to create a simple landscape pattern. This reduces landscape susceptibility to the change scenario as there are comparatively few features which would be vulnerable to it within these landscape elements. However, aspects of the cultural pattern, time depth and historic associations which are still readable within the landscape (double hedgerow lined Roman Road at Finkley Road and the prominent elevated site of the scheduled monument - Roman dwelling locally elevate landscape susceptibility in relation to this criterion, due to their legibility and prominence in the landscape.

Perceptual and experiential characteristics

- 1.1.29 The northern and north-eastern parts of the parcel have a more tranquil, relatively remote character by virtue of rolling landform, expansive landscape character, sense of openness and relatively 'naturalistic' skylines. These combine to elevate susceptibility to change arising from the scenario. The settlement edge influenced landscape in the lower lying land to the west and the more obvious urban edge influences to the south (railway, pylon line, industrial estate) combine to reduce susceptibility here, as the landscape here already has notable sense of intrusion and interruption.

Settlement characteristics and settlement edge conditions

- 1.1.30 The westernmost part of the parcel is for the most part defined by its interface with the recently developed East Anton MDA and associated generous native woodland belts provided as part of the scheme which are well established and growing towards maturity. As such there is a clearly defined and defensible settlement edge, which would be susceptible to change arising from the scenario. The area of land by the indented settlement boundary associated with lower lying land at Finkley Road is less susceptible to change due to the foiling effect created by rising landform towards the PRoW to the east.

Topographic features and skylines

- 1.1.31 The distinctive rolling and domed chalk landforms and the naturalistic, wooded and open skylines to the north and east would both be susceptible to change arising from the scenario, as it would fundamentally alter their legibility. Rather less susceptible are the urbanised and infrastructure influenced skylines to the south and south-west.

Visual characteristics and intervisibility

- 1.1.32 The sense of openness and elevation in the northern and eastern parts of the parcel gives rise to notable levels of intervisibility with the wide rural chalkland landscapes including with the AONB at points. This elevates susceptibility. In contrast the visually contained and lower lying land west of the PRow nearly Finkley Road is visually less susceptible to change.

Overall landscape susceptibility to change arising from the scenario

- 1.1.33 Much of the parcel is **highly susceptible** to change arising from the development scenario (large scale residential and mixed use development), particularly the elevated and open land in the north and east. These are characterised by considerable openness and intervisibility and the presence of designated landscape and heritage interests of national significance, both of which combine to elevate susceptibility.
- 1.1.34 The lower lying, settlement influenced land in the west, to the west of the PRow and adjacent to East Anton, and the infrastructure/urban fringe influenced land to the south-west (between Finkley Road and the railway) have a lower, **Moderate to High** susceptibility to the change scenario.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 1.1.35 Considering the above discussion of landscape value and landscape susceptibility, the elevated and open landscapes which define much of the parcel are of **High** overall sensitivity to change arising from residential and mixed use development, by virtue of these landscape characteristics. This also extends to the elevated, rolling, open landscape south of Finkley Road, in the south-eastern part of the parcel.
- 1.1.36 The westernmost parts of the parcel, west of the PRow which intersects Finkley Road and which forms a natural topographic dividing line in the landscape, have a lower (**Moderate**) overall sensitivity to change arising from the development scenario, as does the land in the south-west, by virtue of lower elevation, relative visual containment, settlement edge influence and the presence of large-scale infrastructure.

Guidance and recommendations

- 1.1.37 Much of this parcel is highly constrained for residential and mixed-use development in landscape terms, due to the sense of openness, visual prominence and relative elevation.
- 1.1.38 The lower lying land immediately west of the PRow and associated visually with East Anton MDA is less constrained. This is subject to following the East Anton MDA design approach of a porous lower density development edged and use of opportunities to enhance landscape structure west of the PRow, reinforcing the defensible boundary and sense of separation between East Anton and the scattered rural settlements beyond. Key principles are described below:
- The eastern part of the parcel has an open, exposed character which contribute to the separation of the existing settlement from the AONB on rising land to the north-east and is therefore less suitable for development in visual terms and with regard to its relationship to the AONB.
 - The lower lying land associated with the PRow bisecting Finkley Road near the East Anton MDA has a much stronger and more obvious relationship with the existing pattern

of development. In this area the priority should be to retain and enhance areas of strong and distinctive landscape structure such as the mature hedgerows with trees, which provide existing legible boundaries within the landscape.

- In the lower lying land described above, any new structural planting should have physical and visual connectivity with existing vegetation and should contribute to new areas of semi-natural greenspace for any future development here, both to provide defensible boundaries and to integrate the settlement edge.
- Any development should use a reduced density to the development edge to create a positive landscape edge and interface between urban and rural areas. This should be allied to areas of semi-natural greenspace provision and native screening buffers as part of a landscape led design approach.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT: ANDOVER EAST 1 – LAND AT PICKET TWENTY

Location and context

1.1.39 The parcel is divided into three distinct areas, all of which are located on the eastern edge of Andover, between the Picket Piece and Picket Twenty areas of the settlement. The northern area of the parcel is adjacent to Ox Drove. The central area is to the north of London Road, whilst the southern area is to the south of London Road. The southern area is made up of a number of smaller land holdings.

1.1.40 The parcel, its principal features and context are shown below (designated interests on the left and TVBC landscape character context on the right), along with representative photographs of the parcel.

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View south across the northern area of the parcel from Ox Drove

Landscape character context

National (NCA)

1.1.41 The parcel falls entirely within NCA 130: Hampshire Downs. Detail is contained in the relevant [NCA profile](#), but a summary of relevant key characteristics of the NCA represented in the parcel and context is as follows:

- Rolling, elevated arable chalk downland.
- Elevated plateaux and upper valley slopes characterised by extensive, open tracts of large, low-hedged fields with thin chalky soils, shelterbelts and ancient semi-natural woodland blocks.
- Rapidly expanding towns such as Andover on downland sites.

County LCA

1.1.42 At the county level, the parcel falls within the [Andover Open Downs \(8d\) character area](#)ⁱⁱⁱ. Relevant key characteristics of this area represented in the parcel are:

- Plateau downland with gentle undulating ridges and dry chalk valleys.
- Open, expansive landscape with long distant views across downland.
- Predominately arable land use.
- Little woodland cover, creating a simple composition of landscape elements.
- Very regular formal enclosure pattern, defined in places by a weak hedgerow structure or no boundaries at all. Particularly in the open downland areas this tends to overwrite earlier field boundary patterns.
- Urban edge of Andover extends into the character area, although the character area is tranquil away from the settlement.

Borough level LCA

1.1.43 At the borough level, the parcel falls entirely within [Landscape Character Type \(LCT\) 10. Open Chalklands](#)^{iv} and within the component Andover Chalk Downland LCA. Relevant key valued characteristics of this LCA represented in the parcel are:

- An elevated downland landscape sloping down towards the River Anton and Andover, with far reaching views towards wooded horizons.
- Rural lanes with single-tracks, thick hedgerows with mature trees and soft un-engineered verges.

Designated landscape interests/designations relevant to landscape character

1.1.44 N/A

Landscape functions

- 1.1.45 Key landscape functions of the parcel are productive landscapes/food production, with localised biodiversity corridors through hedgerows and areas of scrub. The open landscape of the northern and central areas provides separation between Picket Piece and Picket Twenty.

Landscape sensitivity analysis

Landscape value

- 1.1.46 The parcel is of Local level landscape value. The parcel has a moderate degree of representativeness of the wider landscape character and contain a moderate concentration of positive key landscape characteristics. These include the undulating landform and expansive views. As such, due to the local level nature of landscape interest, landscape value is judged as being at the borough level.

Landscape susceptibility

Designated landscape interests (National Parks/AONBs) and Special Qualities

- 1.1.47 N/A

Landscape scale, pattern and texture (including cultural pattern)

- 1.1.48 The northern area has a relatively low susceptibility to change arising from the scenario, as it has a regular field pattern and little established time depth and historic associations.
- 1.1.49 In the central area the expansive scale of the landscape, the predominately arable landcover and the eroded Parliamentary Enclosure field boundary pattern combine to create a simple landscape pattern. This reduces landscape susceptibility to the change scenario as there are comparatively few features which would be vulnerable to it within these landscape elements.
- 1.1.50 The irregular, more intricate field pattern of the southern area gives it a higher susceptibility to change.

Perceptual and experiential characteristics

- 1.1.51 The central area of the parcel has a more tranquil, relatively remote character by virtue of more expansive, rolling landform, sense of openness and relatively 'naturalistic' skylines. These combine to elevate susceptibility to change arising from the scenario in perceptual and experiential terms.
- 1.1.52 The settlement edge influenced landscape in the northern and southern areas has obvious urban edge influences that reduce susceptibility here, as the landscape already has a notable sense of intrusion and interruption.
- Settlement characteristics and settlement edge conditions*
- 1.1.53 The central parcel has no defined boundary to the eastern, northern and western boundaries. The southern boundary is well defined by the vegetation along London Road.

- 1.1.54 Poorly integrated settlement edges with little integration with the wider landscape have an influence on the northern and southern areas of this parcel, leading to a reduced level of susceptibility to the change scenario.

Topographic features and skylines

- 1.1.55 The distinctive rolling and domed chalk landforms and the naturalistic, wooded and open skylines to the north and central areas of the parcel would both be susceptible to change arising from the scenario, as it would fundamentally alter their legibility. Rather less susceptible are the urbanised skylines associated with the southern part of the parcel.

Visual characteristics and intervisibility

- 1.1.56 The sense of openness and elevation in the northern and central parts of the parcel give rise to notable levels of intervisibility with the expansive rural chalkland. This elevates susceptibility to the change scenario in visual terms.

- 1.1.57 In contrast the visually contained southern part of the parcel is visually less susceptible to change.

Overall landscape susceptibility to change arising from the scenario

- 1.1.58 The northern and central parts of the parcel are **highly susceptible** to change arising from the development scenario, particularly the elevated and open land. These are characterised by considerable openness and intervisibility which combine to elevate susceptibility overall.

- 1.1.59 The southern part of the parcel has a more urban fringe character and therefore has a lower, **Moderate to High** susceptibility to the change scenario.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 1.1.60 Considering the above discussion of landscape value and landscape susceptibility, the northern and central parts of the parcel on the rising and elevated land and associated open landscapes are of **High** overall sensitivity to change arising from residential and mixed use development, by virtue of these landscape characteristics.

- 1.1.61 The southern part of the parcel, has a lower (**Moderate-High**) overall sensitivity to change arising from the development scenario, by virtue of relative visual containment and the degree of settlement edge influence.

Guidance and recommendations

- 1.1.62 The below guidance only relates to the area of land to the south of London Road, due to the highly landscape sensitive and constrained nature of the land in the other parcels in the cluster. Guidance is as follows:

- Conserve and enhance the mature landscape structure and former field boundaries within the parcel/vegetation to the London Road frontage. This will help assimilate any new development in its context, as well as driving the layout of any future development.
- Ensure an appropriate set off between the root zones of mature and more valuable trees within the above and any future development, using such set off as the focus for new semi-natural greenspace provision.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT: ANDOVER EAST 2 – LAND AT PICKET PIECE

Location and context

- 1.1.63 The parcel is located on the eastern edge of Andover, within the Picket Piece area of the settlement, and to the south of the railway line and to the north of Walworth Road. The areas under consideration are two linear parcels separated by a number of similar sized plots in between. The North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is approximately 150m to the east of the eastern plot.
- 1.1.64 The parcel, its principal features and context are shown below (designated interests on the left and TVBC landscape character context on the right), along with representative photographs of the parcel.

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View looking north into the eastern parcel from Walworth Road



View looking north into the western parcel from Walworth Road

Landscape character context

National (NCA)

1.1.65 The parcel falls entirely within NCA 130: Hampshire Downs. Detail is contained in the relevant [NCA profile](#), but a summary of relevant key characteristics of the NCA represented in the parcel and context is as follows:

- Rolling, elevated arable chalk downland.
- Elevated plateaux and upper valley slopes characterised by extensive, open tracts of large, low-hedged fields with thin chalky soils, shelterbelts and ancient semi-natural woodland blocks.
- Rapidly expanding towns such as Andover on downland sites.

County LCA

1.1.66 At the county level, the parcel falls within the [Andover Open Downs \(8d\) character area](#)^v. Relevant key characteristics of this area represented in the parcel are:

- Plateau downland with gentle undulating ridges and dry chalk valleys.
- Open, expansive landscape with long distant views across downland.
- Little woodland cover, creating a simple composition of landscape elements.
- Very regular formal enclosure pattern, defined in places by a weak hedgerow structure or no boundaries at all. Particularly in the open downland areas this tends to overwrite earlier field boundary patterns.
- Urban edge of Andover extends into the character area, although the character area is tranquil away from the settlement.

Borough level LCA

1.1.67 At the borough level, the parcel falls entirely within [Landscape Character Type \(LCT\) 10. Open Chalklands](#)^{vi} and within the Andover Chalk Downland LCA. Relevant key valued characteristics of this LCA represented in the parcel are:

- An elevated downland landscape sloping down towards the River Anton and Andover, with far reaching views towards wooded horizons.
- Rural lanes with single-tracks, thick hedgerows with mature trees and soft un-engineered verges.

Designated landscape interests / other designations relevant to landscape character

1.1.68 The North Wessex Downs AONB is approximately 150m to the east of the eastern parcel.

Landscape functions

- 1.1.69 The majority of the western parcel comprises hard standing and buildings, with very little green space. Approximately half of the eastern parcel is covered by hardstanding and buildings, with the remainder rough grassland. For both parcels the key landscape features are the boundary vegetation which provide screening of the existing buildings from the adjacent plots and create a landscape context for each parcel.

Landscape sensitivity analysis

Landscape value

- 1.1.70 This parcel is judged to have a Neighbourhood level landscape value. The site has a low degree of representation of the wider landscape elements and a low concentration of positive key elements. There are no apparent important community assets and the character of both parcels is largely defined by built form. Some degree of intactness is associated with the boundary hedgerows and containment of the land use within the defined field system.

Landscape susceptibility

Designated landscape interests (National Parks/AONBs) and Special Qualities

- 1.1.71 The parcels are close to the North Wessex Downs AONB, but there is very little intervisibility with it or relationship to it.

Landscape scale, pattern and texture (including cultural pattern)

- 1.1.72 The field pattern of the parcels and the plots that surround them, are of regular rectilinear formation between the railway line and Walworth Road. Much of the landscape framework is made up of evergreen trees, with little time depth or sense of historic associations.

Perceptual and experiential characteristics

- 1.1.73 The parcels are located within the settlement and have a weak perceptual character and quality due to the urbanising and infrastructure influences of the railway line, roads and the commercial buildings that sit within them.

Settlement characteristics and settlement edge conditions

- 1.1.74 The parcels are within the line of existing modern settlement expansion. The existing settlement edge is clearly defined by the railway line, which separates the urban form to the south from the rural landscape to the north.

Topographic features and skylines

- 1.1.75 The topography of the eastern parcel is relatively flat throughout with the exception of the southern end which rises up to meet Walworth Road. This southern end of this parcel is therefore more susceptible to change than the northern and central areas. The western parcel is relatively flat and is as a result less susceptible to change. Skylines are generally undeveloped to the north and southeast. Rooflines of the existing settlement characterise skylines to the south.

Visual characteristics and intervisibility

- 1.1.76 The eastern parcel is more open and has some intervisibility with the wider rural chalkland landscapes including very limited visibility with the AONB at points. This elevates susceptibility. In contrast the western parcel is more visually contained by vegetation, and less susceptible to change.

Overall landscape susceptibility to the change scenario

- 1.1.77 Both of these parcels contain existing development and are influenced by the surrounding infrastructure/urban fringe. As such, they have a **Low to Moderate** susceptibility to the change scenario. There is higher susceptibility associated with the partially intact small scale field structure defined by robust hedgerow boundaries.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 1.1.78 Considering the discussion on landscape value and susceptibility above, overall landscape sensitivity is assessed as follows. The eastern parcel has a slightly higher sensitivity (**Moderate-Low**) due to its higher degree of intervisibility with the wider landscape.
- 1.1.79 The western parcel has a **Low** overall sensitivity to change arising from the development scenario, by virtue of the relative visual containment, being adjacent to the defined settlement boundary and influenced by the presence of large-scale infrastructure.

Guidance and recommendations

- 1.1.80 This is as follows:
- Create new vegetated defensible boundaries to provide a landscape setting for any new built form (native hedgerow with trees, with sufficient space for the same to attain maturity) and strengthening the existing local green infrastructure network.
 - Use more elevated ground within the parcels as a focus for semi-natural open space, to minimise visual impact and perception of any development in the wider landscape. Existing open space should also be conserved and enhanced to create a positive gateway into the area allied to any future development on these parcels.
 - Retain existing boundary landscape structure, surveying existing boundary vegetation and replacing with more suitable species where appropriate. Any gaps in existing boundary vegetation should be filled with species drawn from an appropriate native planting palette and to create enhanced local green infrastructure connectivity.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT: ANDOVER SOUTH EAST 1: LAND AT BERE HILL, BERE HILL FARM, BAILIFFS BOTTOM, WEST OF MICHELDEVER ROAD

Location and context

1.1.81 This parcel is located to the north of the A303, to the south-east of Andover. Much of the parcel is an open and rolling chalk landscape. It is sub-divided by Micheldever Road which runs through a wooded Holloway with steep embankments through the centre of the parcel in a north-west to south-east direction. Abutting the western boundary of the parcel is a public footpath known as Ladies Walk, following the avenue of trees along the northern/western boundary, and connecting a circular route which runs through the parcel. An historic landmark, the Grade II Listed 'Iron Bridge' provides a crossing for the Ladies Walk over the Micheldever Road to the west of the parcel. The parcel, its principal features and context are shown below (designated interests on the left and TVBC landscape character context on the right).

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Landscape character context

National (NCA)

1.1.82 The parcel falls within NCA Profile: 130 Hampshire Downs. Detail is contained in the NCA profile but a summary of relevant key characteristics of the NCA represented in the parcel and context is as follows:

- The rolling, elevated, chalk arable downland has an open, exposed character that provides open skies and long-distance views.
- Elevated plateau and upper valley slopes are characterised by extensive open tracts of large, low-hedged fields with thin chalky soils, shelterbelts.

County LCA

1.1.83 At the county level, the parcel falls within the Landscape Character Area '8D: Andover Open Downs'. Relevant key characteristics of this Local Character Area represented in the parcel are:

- Open expansive landscape with long distant views across downland and the river valleys which dissect the plateau.
- Predominately arable land use.
- There is little woodland cover creating a simple composition of landscape elements.
- A landscape with significant time depth.
- Very regular formal enclosure pattern dates predominately from the 19th century. Defined in places by a weak hedgerow structure or no boundaries at all and particularly in the open downland tends to overwrite earlier field boundary patterns.
- Urban edges of Andover extend into this character area.

Borough level LCA

1.1.84 At the borough level (Test Valley Borough Council), the parcel falls within LCT 10 Open Chalk Downlands and the component landscape character area LCA 10F Andover Chalk Downland. Relevant key characteristics of this LCA represented in the parcel are:

- Largely a landscape dominated by 19th century parliamentary enclosure.

Designated landscape interests / other designations relevant to landscape character

1.1.85 N/A

Landscape functions

1.1.86 The parcel is predominantly defined by arable agriculture. A degree of biodiversity connectivity is provided by trees and shrubs to the parcel's perimeter, by woodland along the

access track to the houses in the north, and by pockets of woodland in the northern corner of the site.

Landscape sensitivity analysis

Landscape value

- 1.1.87 This parcel is of Neighbourhood level landscape value. This value rating is given in view of the simple and relatively commonplace landscape elements defining the parcel, albeit recognising the value of local landmarks such as Ladies Bridge and the contribution that the parcel's sense of openness makes to the setting of Andover.

Landscape susceptibility

Designated landscape interests (National Parks/AONBs) and Special Qualities

- 1.1.88 N/A

Landscape scale, pattern and texture (including cultural pattern)

- 1.1.89 The parcel is defined by a simple landscape pattern of expansive scale, with fields under arable cultivation and with eroded field boundary structure, which reduces susceptibility.

- 1.1.90 It is a medium scale landscape formed largely of arable agriculture with some boundary loss. A sense of time depth is associated with the sunken lane/holloway at Micheldever Road.

Perceptual and experiential characteristics

- 1.1.91 There are urbanising influences including the aural experience of the A303, and visual intrusion created by the pylon line and the large multi-field solar array south of the A303. These elements locally reduce susceptibility in experiential terms.

Settlement characteristics and settlement edge conditions

- 1.1.92 A generally well-integrated, treed and wooded settlement edge, partly contained within remnant co-axial field boundary lines, elevating susceptibility to change in these terms.

Topographic features and skylines

- 1.1.93 Open and rolling chalk landscapes define much of the parcel. Views of strongly naturalistic qualities are apparent, especially to the north.

Visual characteristics and intervisibility

- 1.1.94 In some areas of the parcel, there is a strong sense of visual openness and intervisibility, with views of Harewood Forest to the south-east, and long views to the North Wessex Downs AONB to the north. These far-reaching views create a sense of exposure. Views are directed by the landform and in places are partially contained by the nature of the landform and vegetation around the parcel's boundary. There are glimpsed views south to the solar farm.

Overall landscape susceptibility to change arising from the scenario

- 1.1.95 Considering the above, the site has a **Moderate-High** overall susceptibility to change arising from the scenario. This is by virtue of the sense of relative time depth, the landform variation and the visual characteristics. Within this overall judgement there is however some degree of

variation, with areas of lower (**Moderate**) susceptibility in relation to the A303 corridor and associated landscapes which are more perceptually influenced by relatively recent, large scale development at Picket Twenty. The openness and degree of intervisibility throughout the parcel (and in the more elevated lands in the south of the parcel) however mean that overall the parcel is relatively susceptible to change arising from the scenario.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 1.1.96 Considering the above discussion of landscape value and landscape susceptibility, the parcel has a **Moderate-High** overall sensitivity to change arising from the scenario. The expansive views and sense of openness raise sensitivity overall. Within this judgement, there are some limited areas of variation, with the more settlement influenced land near Picket Twenty and the landscape in the A303 corridor of lower, **Moderate**, sensitivity for these reasons, albeit with the visual sensitivity still remaining high on the more elevated and visually prominent land here.

Guidance and recommendations

- 1.1.97 This is as follows:
- Conserve, enhance and reinforce the Parliamentary Enclosure landscape structure with a mix of locally occurring native species (wooded shaw with understorey, hedgerow) to assimilate any future development.
 - In considering any potential future development, use areas of strong and distinctive landscape structure such as the mature co-axial hedgerows and mature tree belts to inform the layout of development and semi-natural greenspace provision, and to conserve and enhance the setting of PRow.
 - The southern part of the parcel, whilst also influenced by the A303 corridor and the Picket Twenty development, in places has a stronger relationship with the wider landscape due to the level of intervisibility. Any development here should be of an appropriate scale and density, and concentrated in the lower lying and less visually prominent areas.
 - Within any future development, adequate space should be allowed for appropriate and larger grade and larger species trees, including use of semi mature and extra heavy standard tree planting for greenspaces and street trees to visually break the mass/roofscape of any development. Adequate and appropriate foundation design should also be provided to facilitate appropriate tree grades and species and garden trees should also be planned within any development layout, with enough space for them to attain maturity.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT: ANDOVER SOUTH EAST 2 – LAND SOUTH OF LONDON ROAD / SOUTH EAST OF LONDON ROAD (EAST OF MIDDLEWAY)

Location and context

- 1.1.98 The parcel is located on the eastern edge of Andover, to the east of the Picket Twenty area of the settlement to the south of London Road. The parcel is made up of two arable fields and is bounded to the south by ancient woodland. The parcel is divided into two areas by a linear tree belt and effectively forms one smaller western part and a larger eastern part.
- 1.1.99 The parcel, its principal features and context are shown below (designated interests on the left and TVBC landscape character context on the right), followed by two representative photographs.

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View north-west across the western part of the parcel from The Middleway



View east looking south in the eastern part of the parcel from the commercial property along London Road

Landscape character context

National (NCA)

1.1.100 The parcel falls entirely within NCA 130: Hampshire Downs. Detail is contained in the relevant [NCA profile](#), but a summary of relevant key characteristics of the NCA represented in the parcel and context is as follows:

- Rolling, elevated arable chalk downland.
- Elevated plateaux and upper valley slopes characterised by extensive, open tracts of large, low-hedged fields with thin chalky soils, shelterbelts and ancient semi-natural woodland blocks.
- Rapidly expanding towns such as Andover on downland sites

County LCA

1.1.101 At the county level, the parcel falls within the [Andover Open Downs \(8d\) character area](#)^{vii}. Relevant key characteristics of this area represented in the parcel are:

- Plateau downland with gentle undulating ridges and dry chalk valleys.
- Open, expansive landscape with long distant views across downland.
- Predominately arable land use.
- Little woodland cover, creating a simple composition of landscape elements except where there are notable deposits of clay with flints – here woodland cover becomes dominant e.g. Harewood Forest.
- Very regular formal enclosure pattern, defined in places by a weak hedgerow structure or no boundaries at all. Particularly in the open downland areas this tends to overwrite earlier field boundary patterns.
- Urban edge of Andover extends into the character area, although the character area is tranquil away from the settlement.

Borough level LCA

1.1.102 At the borough level, the parcel falls entirely within [Landscape Character Type \(LCT\) 10. Open Chalklands](#)^{viii} and within the component Andover Chalk Downland LCA. Relevant key valued characteristics of this LCA represented in the parcel are:

- An elevated downland landscape sloping down towards the River Anton and Andover, with far reaching views towards wooded horizons.
- Rural lanes with single-tracks, thick hedgerows with mature trees and soft un-engineered verges.
- Largely a landscape dominated by 19th century parliamentary enclosure.

- Woodland copses located on ridges.

Designated landscape interests / other designations relevant to character

- 1.1.103 A large block of ancient woodland (Harewood Forest) abuts the southern boundary, locally defining the horizon.

Landscape functions

- 1.1.104 Key landscape functions of the parcel are productive landscapes/food production, with localised biodiversity corridors created by the hedgerows and rows of trees. The parcel forms part of the agricultural setting to Harewood Forest.

Landscape sensitivity analysis

Landscape value

- 1.1.105 This parcel is judged to have a Local level landscape value. This is by virtue of the parcel's moderate degree of representation of the wider landscape character and contains a moderate concentration of key positive landscape characteristics identified in the LCA. These include the regular field pattern and woodland edge of Harewood Forest. Many of the landscape characteristics of the parcel occur widely across the borough.

Landscape susceptibility

Designated landscape interests (National Parks/AONBs) and Special Qualities

- 1.1.106 N/A

Landscape scale, pattern and texture (including cultural pattern)

- 1.1.107 The parcel has a regular rectilinear pattern formed by arable use, with a smaller scale than the large-scale, expansive character of the wider landscape to the north. The parcel itself has a limited time depth and historic associations, although it is adjacent to Harewood Forest which is clearly readable and prominent landscape feature within the landscape.

Perceptual and experiential characteristics

- 1.1.108 The western part of the parcel is more tranquil, due to its enclosed nature surrounded by linear tree belts. The eastern part of the parcel is less tranquil and more open to the surrounding development and noise from London Road to the north, which creates a more notable sense of intrusion and interruption.

Settlement characteristics and settlement edge conditions

- 1.1.109 The parcel forms part of the eastern edge of the settlement that is made up of sporadic development along London Road, beyond the more built-up, higher density area of Picket Twenty within the wider settlement to the west. Harewood Forest forms a clearly defined and defensible settlement edge to the south of London Road.

Topographic features and skylines

- 1.1.110 The landform of the parcel falls gently from the higher ground to the north to the south towards Harewood Forest. The skyline to the south is defined by the edge of Harewood Forest which leads to more elevated susceptibility in view of the predominantly naturalistic

skyline character here. To the north the skylines are defined by the vegetation along property boundaries and occasional buildings.

Visual characteristics and intervisibility

- 1.1.111 The western part of the parcel has a lower level of susceptibility to change as it is enclosed by trees and vegetation to all sides. The eastern part is slightly higher in susceptibility as it is more open and has greater intervisibility with the more open landscape to the north.

Overall landscape susceptibility to change arising from the scenario

- 1.1.112 The eastern part of the parcel is of **Moderate to High** susceptibility to change arising from the development scenario due to its openness and the potential for the change scenario to affect the characteristic landscape features and settlement pattern.
- 1.1.113 The western part of the parcel has a lower (**Moderate**) susceptibility to the change scenario due to visual containment and relationship to the existing settlement.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 1.1.114 Considering the above discussion of landscape value and landscape susceptibility, the more open landscape which defines the eastern part of the parcel is of **Moderate to High** overall sensitivity to change arising from residential and mixed use development.
- 1.1.115 The western part of the parcel has a lower (**Moderate**) overall sensitivity to change arising from the development scenario, by virtue of relative visual containment and settlement edge influence.

Guidance and recommendations

- 1.1.116 This is as follows:
- The eastern part of the parcel has a stronger relationship with the wider landscape and is therefore more constrained in terms of its ability to accommodate potential future development.
 - In the less visually constrained, more settlement-influenced landscape in the western half of the parcel, in considering the accommodation of any potential future residential development, create new defensible boundaries to separate any new built form from the wider landscape. This could take the form of native thicket or dense native hedgerow planting.
 - The existing local green infrastructure network should be conserved and enhanced, securing connectivity with the adjacent landscape structure of the ancient woodland at Harewood Forest, to provide nature pathways/'stepping stones to nature'.
 - In planning any future development, provide an appropriate and proportionate buffer zone between the forest and any development (at least 50m as an absolute minimum), as a focus for new semi natural greenspace to serve any future development.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT: ANDOVER SOUTH EAST 3 – LAND SOUTH OF FOREST LANE

Location and context

- 1.1.117 This parcel is located on the southern edge of Andover, adjacent to the Picket Twenty area of the settlement and to the north of the A303. The parcel is bounded to the east by ancient woodland. The Old Pound Copse earthwork Scheduled Monument sits within the woodland approximately 50m from the parcel.
- 1.1.118 The parcel, its principal features and context are shown below (designated interests on the left and TVBC landscape character context on the right, with site photographs of relevant landscape characteristics also presented below).

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View southeast from Forest Lane across the parcel, looking towards Harewood Forest



View southeast from Forest Lane across the parcel, looking towards the A303

Landscape character context

National (NCA)

1.1.119 The parcel falls entirely within NCA 130: Hampshire Downs. Detail is contained in the relevant [NCA profile](#), but a summary of relevant key characteristics of the NCA represented in the parcel and context is as follows:

- Rolling, elevated arable chalk downland.
- Elevated plateaux and upper valley slopes characterised by extensive, open tracts of large, low-hedged fields with thin chalky soils, shelterbelts and ancient semi-natural woodland blocks.
- Network of distinctive and ancient droving roads and trackways, plus evidence of Roman estates.
- Rapidly expanding towns such as Andover on downland sites

County LCA

1.1.120 At the county level, the parcel falls within the [Andover Open Downs \(8d\) character area](#)^{ix}. Relevant key characteristics of this area represented in the parcel are:

- Plateau downland with gentle undulating ridges and dry chalk valleys.
- Open, expansive landscape with long distant views across downland.
- Predominately arable land use.
- Little woodland cover, creating a simple composition of landscape elements except where there are notable deposits of clay with flints – here woodland cover becomes dominant e.g. Harewood Forest.
- Very regular formal enclosure pattern, defined in places by a weak hedgerow structure or no boundaries at all. Particularly in the open downland areas this tends to overwrite earlier field boundary patterns.
- Urban edge of Andover extends into the character area, although the character area is tranquil away from the settlement.

Borough level LCA

1.1.121 At the borough level, the parcel falls entirely within [Landscape Character Type \(LCT\) 10. Open Chalklands](#)^x and within the component Andover Chalk Downland LCA. Relevant key valued characteristics of this LCA represented in the parcel are:

- An elevated downland landscape sloping down towards the River Anton and Andover, with far reaching views towards wooded horizons.
- Rural lanes with single-tracks, thick hedgerows with mature trees and soft un-engineered verges.

- Largely a landscape dominated by 19th century parliamentary enclosure.
- Woodland copses located on ridges.

Designated landscape interests/other designations relevant to character

- 1.1.122 A large block of ancient woodland abuts the eastern boundary, locally defining the horizon. One scheduled monument on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), The Old Pound Copse earthwork is located just outside the parcel to the east. The monument is contained within woodland and has little relationship with the parcel.

Landscape functions

- 1.1.123 Key landscape functions of the parcel are productive landscapes/food production, with localised biodiversity corridors formed by the hedgerows and woodland edge. The site forms part of the landscape setting of the southern edge of the settlement, separating it from the A303.

Landscape sensitivity analysis

Landscape value

- 1.1.124 The parcel is judged to be of Local landscape value. This is because it has a moderate degree of representation of the wider landscape character and contains a moderate concentration of key positive landscape characteristics identified in the LCA. These include the undulating landform and woodland edge of Harewood Forest. For these reasons and the fact that, with the exception of Harewood Forest, many of these landscape characteristics occur widely across the borough, the parcel is judged to have a borough level landscape value. There is local recreational value associated with a public right of way along the northern boundary of the site, connecting into a network of routes within the woodland.

Landscape susceptibility

Designated landscape interests (National Parks/AONBs) and Special Qualities

- 1.1.125 N/A

Landscape scale, pattern and texture (including cultural pattern)

- 1.1.126 The parcel comprises an irregular shape, relatively large field that forms part of the wider irregular field pattern. The parcel itself has a limited time depth and historic associations, although it is adjacent to Harewood Forest ancient woodland which is a clearly readable and prominent landscape feature within the landscape.

Perceptual and experiential characteristics

- 1.1.127 The parcel has a generally strong rural character, although the local landscape is influenced by the existing settlement edge, the aural presence of the A303 and visual elements such as a nearby pylon line. These combine to reduce susceptibility to change here, as the landscape already has notable sense of intrusion and interruption.

Settlement characteristics and settlement edge conditions

- 1.1.128 The northernmost part of the parcel is for the most part defined by its interface with the Picket Twenty area of Andover and associated native woodland planting provided as part of the scheme, which is growing towards maturity. As such there is a clearly defined and defensible existing settlement edge, which would be susceptible to change arising from the scenario.

Topographic features and skylines

- 1.1.129 Distinctive undulating landform and naturalistic, wooded and open skylines are prominent and legible landscape features to the south and east. These would be susceptible to change arising from the scenario, as it would fundamentally alter their legibility and prominence.

Visual characteristics and intervisibility

- 1.1.130 There is a sense of openness in the parcel, with some intervisibility with the wider rural landscape to the south. The parcel is more contained to the east and north.

Overall landscape susceptibility to change arising from the scenario

- 1.1.131 A proportion of the parcel is **moderately to highly** susceptible to change arising from the development scenario, particularly the elevated and open part of the parcel to the south and east.
- 1.1.132 The lower lying, settlement influenced land in the northern and central parts of the parcel has a lower, **Moderate** susceptibility to the change scenario.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 1.1.133 Considering the above discussion of landscape value and landscape susceptibility, the elevated southern and eastern parts of the parcel are of **High** overall sensitivity to change arising from residential and mixed use development by virtue of relative visual prominence and openness.
- 1.1.134 The northern and central parts of the parcel on the lower lying ground away from the A303, have a lower (**Moderate**) overall sensitivity to change arising from the development scenario, by virtue of lower elevation, relative visual containment and the degree of settlement edge influence.

Guidance and recommendations

- 1.1.135 This is as follows:
- In considering and planning any potential future development, retain and enhance areas of strong and distinctive landscape structure such as the mature hedgerows and woodland edges, which provide existing legible boundaries in the local landscape.
 - Any new structural planting should have physical and visual connectivity with existing vegetation and should contribute to new areas of semi-natural greenspace, both as defensible boundaries and to integrate the settlement edge. Such greenspace provision should also contribute to the buffer to//separation form the ancient woodland to the east, as well as creating connectivity with the existing PRoW.

- Any development within the parcel should employ a reduced development density to the settlement edge to create a positive landscape interface and edge between urban and rural environments, allied to areas of semi-natural greenspace provision as described above and native landscape screening buffers as part of a landscape led design approach.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT: ANDOVER SOUTH WEST – LAND NORTH OF ABBOTTS ANN AND LITTLE ANN

Location and context

- 1.1.136 The parcel is located on the south-western edge of Andover, separated from the settlement by the A303. It is to the north of Abbots Ann and Little Ann and to the south of the railway. The parcel is bisected north-south by the A343 and Red Post Lane. The majority of the parcel sits within the Abbots Ann and Anna Valley Local Gap. A proportion of the southern boundary of the site is adjacent to the Abbots Ann Conservation Area.
- 1.1.137 The parcel, its principal features and context are shown below (designated interests on the left and TVBC landscape character context on the right, with representative photographs also shown below).

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View southeast across the parcel south of Farm Road, looking over the arable fields



View north looking over the rising ground from Cattle Lane

Landscape character context

National (NCA)

1.1.138 The parcel falls entirely within NCA 130: Hampshire Downs. Detail is contained in the relevant [NCA profile](#), but a summary of relevant key characteristics of the NCA represented in the parcel and context is as follows:

- Rolling, elevated arable chalk downland.
- Elevated plateaux and upper valley slopes characterised by extensive, open tracts of large, low-hedged fields with thin chalky soils, shelterbelts and ancient semi-natural woodland blocks.
- Rapidly expanding towns such as Andover on downland sites.

County LCA

1.1.139 At the county level, the parcel falls within two character areas. The [Andover Open Downs \(8d\) character area^{xi}](#) covers the northern part of the parcel. Relevant key characteristics of this area represented in the parcel are:

- Plateau downland with gentle undulating ridges and dry chalk valleys.
- Open, expansive landscape with long distant views across downland.
- Predominately arable land use.
- Little woodland cover, creating a simple composition of landscape elements.
- Very regular formal enclosure pattern, defined in places by a weak hedgerow structure or no boundaries at all. Particularly in the open downland areas this tends to overwrite earlier field boundary patterns.
- Urban edge of Andover extends into the character area, although the character area is tranquil away from the settlement.

1.1.140 The [Test Valley \(3b\) character area^{xii}](#) covers the southern part of the parcel. Relevant key characteristics of this area represented in the parcel are:

- Steep abrupt valley sides becoming gentler further south, long tributaries extending deep into the chalk hinterland.
- Generally meandering and braided river course bordered by luxuriant riverine vegetation, reedbeds, marshes and former water meadows.
- Valley sides have a range of different enclosure patterns and scales with fields defined by hedgerow and hedgerow trees.
- Generally unspoilt, remote and tranquil except for urban influences and noise intrusion close to major towns and roads.

- Generally winding roads and lanes following the edge of the valley floor.

Borough level LCA

1.1.141 At the borough level, the parcel falls entirely within Landscape Character Type (LCT) 10. Open Chalklands^{xiii} and within the component landscape character area LCA 10C Thrupton and Danebury Chalk Downland. Relevant key characteristics of this LCA represented in the parcel are:

- Large scale arable landscape, characteristic of the most extensively farmed chalkland areas.
- Fragmented hedgerow structure, adding to the open landscape character.
- Infrequent blocks or belts of trees occasionally break up the landscape.
- Scattered settlement pattern dominated by large farms, and occasional large houses with parkland in dry valleys.

Designated landscape interests/other designations relevant to landscape character

1.1.142 A proportion of the southern boundary (approximately 100m) of the site is adjacent to the Abbots Ann Conservation Area.

Landscape functions

1.1.143 Key landscape functions of the parcel are productive landscapes/food production and localised biodiversity corridors with the historic hedgerows, along with the physical and perceptual separation the open landscape provides between Andover and outlying rural settlements such as Abbots Ann.

Landscape sensitivity assessment

Landscape value

1.1.144 The landscape value of the parcel is judged to be Local. This is because the parcel has a moderate degree of intactness with a moderate level concentration of positive key characteristics such as the open chalk downland. The two parcels to the east of the A343 are a lower value more obviously urban edge influenced areas in the lowest western part of the parcel. The more eroded, large scale landscape pattern, relatively weak landscape fabric and landscape/green infrastructure functionality also contributes to a reduced landscape value. Public rights of way through the south-eastern part of the parcel contribute to local recreational value.

Landscape susceptibility

Designated landscape interests (National Parks/AONBs) and Special Qualities

1.1.145 N/A

Landscape scale, pattern and texture (including cultural pattern)

- 1.1.146 The expansive scale of the landscape, the predominately arable landcover and the eroded Parliamentary Enclosure field boundary pattern combine to create a simple landscape pattern with few legible features and limited sense of time depth. This reduces landscape susceptibility to the change scenario as there are comparatively few features which would be vulnerable to it within these landscape elements.

Perceptual and experiential characteristics

- 1.1.147 The central and western parts of the parcel have a relatively tranquil and remote character by virtue of rolling landform, expansive landscape character, sense of openness and relatively 'naturalistic' skylines. These combine to elevate susceptibility to change arising from the scenario. The settlement edge influenced landscape to the east of the A343, lower lying land to the west, and the more obvious urban edge influences to the south (road noise residential and commercial development) combine to reduce susceptibility in this area and contribute to localised sense of intrusion and interruption.

Settlement characteristics and edge conditions

- 1.1.148 The A303 and railway corridor form a defined and defensible existing settlement edge to the north of the parcel which would be susceptible to change. Sporadic, piecemeal residential development on the northern side of Cattle Lane is characteristic of more rural settlement form to the south of the parcel.

Topographic features and skylines

- 1.1.149 Distinctive rolling and domed chalk landforms and naturalistic, wooded and open skylines are prominent in the central part of the parcel and would be susceptible to change arising from the scenario, as it would fundamentally alter their legibility. Skylines to the east of the A343 are influenced by residential built form and suburban infrastructure.

Visual characteristics and intervisibility

- 1.1.150 The sense of openness and elevation in the central parts of the parcel gives rise to notable levels of intervisibility with the wide rural chalkland landscapes. This elevates susceptibility. In contrast the land to the east of the A343 is more visually contained.

Overall landscape susceptibility to change arising from the scenario

- 1.1.151 Much of the parcel is **highly susceptible** to change arising from the development scenario (large scale residential and mixed use development), particularly the elevated and open land in the western and central parts of the parcel. These are characterised by considerable openness and intervisibility which elevate susceptibility.
- 1.1.152 To the east of the A343 has a lower, **Moderate to High** susceptibility to the change scenario.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 1.1.153 Considering the above discussion of landscape value and landscape susceptibility, the elevated and open landscapes which define much of the parcel and have a strong sense of separation from the existing settlement are of **High** overall sensitivity to change arising from residential and mixed use development, by virtue of these landscape characteristics.

- 1.1.154 The westernmost parts of the parcel, have a lower (**Moderate-High**) overall sensitivity to change arising from the development scenario by virtue of lower elevation, relative visual containment, and the presence of large-scale infrastructure.

Guidance and recommendations

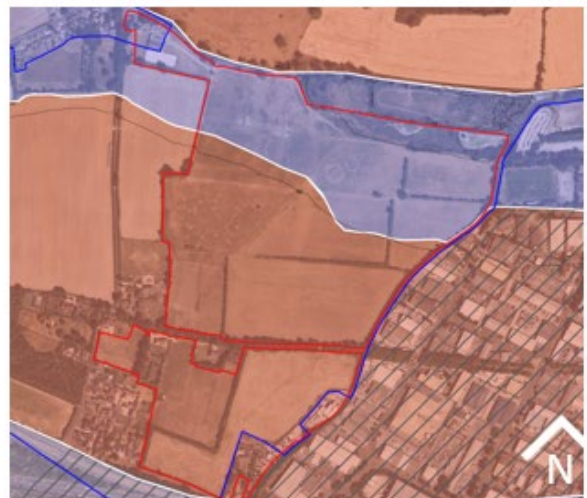
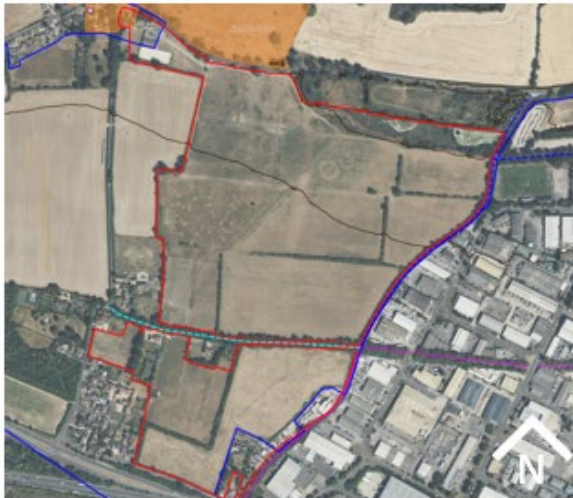
- 1.1.155 By virtue of the above sensitivity judgements and the sense of detachment from existing areas of settlement, this parcel is judged to be highly constrained to development in landscape terms.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT: ANDOVER WEST 1 – LAND AT HARROW WAY HOUSE, LAND AT HOMESTEAD FARM, LAND AT CROFT HOUSE, LAND EAST OF SHORT LANE PENTON CORNER

Location and Context

- 1.1.156 This parcel cluster is located on the western edge of the West Portway Industrial Area to the west of Andover. It forms a large part of the Weyhill / The Pentons Local Gap and is bordered by Foxcotte Lane to the north and the A342 and A303 to the south. Three Public Rights of Way (PRoW) traverse the parcel cluster.
- 1.1.157 The parcel cluster, its principal features and context are shown below (designated interests on the left and TVBC landscape character context on the right):

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View of Penton Lodge and Parkland, from Foxcotte Lane where there is intervisibility with the parcel.



View north across the southern area, from the field access off Weyhill Road, where the high degree of enclosure can be seen.

Landscape character context

National (NCA)

- 1.1.158 The parcel cluster falls within NCA 130: Hampshire Downs. Detail is contained in the [NCA Profile](#), but a summary of relevant key characteristics of the NCA represented in the parcel cluster and context is as follows:
- The rolling, elevated, chalk arable downland has an open, exposed character that provides open skies and long-distance views.
 - In contrast, within the sheltered valleys and to the east of the area, the network of hedgerows, interspersed by numerous areas of oak/ash or hazel woodland coppice and smaller meadow fields, gives a strong sense of enclosure.
 - In the valleys, there is evidence of Roman estates and nucleated medieval village settlement patterns, and fieldscapes and farmsteads across the downlands evidence the gradual and planned enclosure from the medieval period.
 - The area's distinctive appearance derives from the use of chalk cob (in the west), weatherboarded timber frame and small, handmade local brick with flint in traditional rural buildings and walls surrounding farm courtyards, with thatch surviving in many places.

County LCA

- 1.1.159 At the county level, the parcel cluster falls within County landscape character area 8d: Andover Open Downs^{xiv}. Relevant key characteristics of this area represented in the parcel cluster are:
- Open, expansive landscape with long distant views across downland and the river valleys which dissect the plateau.
 - Predominately arable land use with limited pasture.
 - Urban edges of Andover extend into this character area.
 - Dispersed pattern of nucleated villages and farmsteads.

Borough level LCA

- 1.1.160 At the borough level, the parcels fall within Landscape Character Types (LCT) 9 Semi-enclosed Clay Plateau Farmland and 5 River Valley Floor, and within the 5I Upper River Anton Valley Floor and 9A North Andover Plateau LCAs.^{xv}
- Complex plateau landscape with dry river gravel valleys and gentle ridges.
 - Contrasting open areas of arable farmland with shelter belts on higher ground.
 - Well hedged mix of mainly pasture associated with settlements.
 - Important countryside gaps between Andover and other settlements.

- Extensive views from the network of public rights of way and lanes running through the area including to undeveloped skylines of ridges and wooded horizons.
- Upper section, characterised by the river (as a small stream) set in shallow 'v' shaped pastoral valley, with roads crossing typically single carriageways enclosed by hedgerows and mature trees. The crossing point within Penton Grafton includes a ford.
- An open setting for the river partially exists within Penton Grafton with an adjacent grassed paddock which contributes to the river's rural context.
- Within Andover, the open wetland landscape of this LCA starkly contrasts with the surrounding urban built form with colour, textures and sounds. The sound of birds can be heard above the traffic and other urban noises.
- A contrast to the 'busy' urban landscape, by providing access to open space for adjacent housing areas and an easy walking environment through Andover.
- Footpath links out of Andover to surrounding countryside to the north.

Designated landscape interests/other designations relevant to landscape character

- Penton Grafton Conservation Area.

Landscape functions

- 1.1.161 The parcel cluster comprises grazed pasture, which is subdivided into small fields by hedgerows and belts of scrub, providing a degree of biodiversity. The northern part of the parcel consists of an agricultural building and wet meadows alongside the River Anton.

Landscape sensitivity analysis

Landscape value

- 1.1.162 The parcel cluster lies between Andover and the outlier villages to the west. The cluster consists of some rural characteristics and there is some sense of time-depth. The larger northern part is characterised by some long-distance views towards the wooded ridges of the North Wessex Downs AONB across the adjoining agricultural landscape. However this is otherwise a landscape with a high degree of enclosure. Pastoral agriculture in the parcels contributes to the settlement setting.
- 1.1.163 Given the above, landscape value is of a Local level overall. The parcel has some rural qualities due to the long-distance views to the north and the relationship with the adjacent pastoral landscape and parkland at Penton. While the parcel cluster generally has a high degree of enclosure, its location at the edge of Andover brings notable urban influences in places, such as haphazard infill development, telephone masts and cables, industrial units, roads, the railway line and influences from rear gardens of residential properties.

Landscape susceptibility

Designated landscape interests (National Parks/AONBs) and Special Qualities:

- 1.1.164 N/A

Landscape scale, pattern, and texture (including cultural pattern):

1.1.165 The parcel cluster is of medium scale and has an irregular pattern, with some smaller scale features in the southwest between Short Lane and Harrow Way. The land-cover is predominantly open pasture bordered by mature hedgerows and scrub belts which creates a simple texture. The field pattern reflects the transport routes that are the legacy both of pre-enclosure field systems and of mid-19th Century development, and this combined with the pasture, wet meadow and equine uses creates some degree of time-depth, which increases susceptibility. The southwest of the parcel cluster is characterised by paddocks and has a peri urban greenfield land appearance, character and quality, with some sub-division created by hedgerows within the parcel.

1.1.166 The vegetated and ancient holloway of the Harrow Way, running along the ridge which bisects the two parcels marks an important separation point between this character and the historic landscape associated with Penton Park and its setting on the northern side of the ridge.

Perceptual and experiential characteristics:

1.1.167 Some rural characteristics are experienced through long distance views to wooded ridges and the close relationship with the adjacent arable land, particularly in association with the northern parcel. Sense of tranquillity and remoteness is locally eroded due to the urban influences at the edge of Andover which reduces susceptibility in perceptual and experiential terms.

Settlement characteristics and settlement edge conditions:

1.1.168 In the northern parcel (north of the PRoW) the West Portway Industrial Area is set back behind a hedgerow with mature trees which provides a defensible boundary between the Penton Grafton Conservation Area and its surrounding setting, including Penton Park. This defensible settlement edge increases susceptibility in these terms.

1.1.169 The southern parcels in the cluster are markedly influenced by large scale, modern development, notably the large industrial estate to the east and the busy A303 road corridor immediately south. Small, 20th century residential gardens and associated vegetated boundaries define the settlement interface to the west.

Topographic features and skylines:

1.1.170 The central part of the parcel cluster is located on an elevated plateau, and slopes away to the River Anton along the northern boundary. The parcel cluster is part of an interlocking ridge and valley landform extending north towards the North Wessex Downs AONB. These combine to increase susceptibility to change in these terms.

1.1.171 The ridgeline on which The Harroway is sited, towards the south, is also locally distinctive and prominent.

Visual characteristics and intervisibility:

1.1.172 The southern parcel (south of the PRoW) is visually contained by the large industrial development to the east, the tree belts along the A303 corridor and along the northern boundary, and susceptibility is therefore lower in visual terms. The northern parcel is generally visually enclosed but there are some long-distance views to wooded ridges to the

north (North Wessex Downs AONB), which provides a sense of openness and wider intervisibility.

Overall landscape susceptibility to change arising from the scenario

- 1.1.173 The pastoral texture and cultural pattern form the setting of the adjacent Penton Grafton Conservation Area and remnant historic landscape which forms the setting to the designed landscape at Penton Park. This together with the long-distance views and rural character across the northern parcel are **highly susceptible** to change from the development scenario.
- 1.1.174 The southern parcels in the cluster have a **Moderate** overall susceptibility to change arising from the scenario, with susceptibility reduced by the urbanising influences, although it should be noted that this judgement is confined to the lower lying land influenced by the industrial estate, and to the south of and below the ridgeline on which the historic Holloway, The Harroway sits. This is important skyline feature relating to the more historically intact south facing slopes to the north, which visually relate to the historic designed landscape of Penton Park. As such this ridgeline is visually important.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 1.1.175 Taking into account the above discussion of landscape value and landscape susceptibility, the northern parcel has a **Moderate-High** overall sensitivity to change arising from the development scenario. This is by virtue of its influence on the setting of the conservation area, Penton Lodge and Parkland, and the sense of openness with the wider agricultural landscape to the north, balanced against the urban fringe, perceptual and aural influences of Andover and the A-roads.
- 1.1.176 The parcel to the south is of **moderate** overall sensitivity due to eroded character and urban fringe influences, although as noted above the ridgeline associated with 'The Harroway' marks an important break in landscape character and sensitivity, with only the land south of the ridgeline, influenced by the industrial estate, falling within the moderate sensitivity category.

Guidance and recommendations

- 1.1.177 This is as follows:
- Wherever possible any development in the historically and landscape sensitive northern parcel should be avoided. Seek to contain the bulk of any new development within the southern parcel, in proximity to the existing settlement edge and contained by the robust vegetation structure along 'The Harroway' (PRoW) that would form a defensible edge and screen built form, as well as maintaining the character and sense of separation associated with the existing Local Gap. Ensure an appropriate offset to the mature vegetation of The Harroway (an ancient Green Lane), to respect tree root protection areas.
 - Use areas of strong and distinctive landscape structure such as the vegetation along the ancient Holloway 'The Harroway' as foci for new areas of semi natural greenspace and to enhance the setting and recreational experience of the PRoW.

- Ensure that proposed built form is of an appropriate type and scale, in the context of the existing development and considering views across the surrounding landscape, and in the context of the open countryside of the Local Gap between Andover and Penton Grafton.
- To assimilate any new development, create new structural planting that has physical and visual connectivity with existing vegetation, particularly to the northern and western boundaries of the cluster.
- Retain and reinforce existing vegetation using understorey planting, infill hedgerow and tree planting drawn from an appropriate and locally specific native planting palette. This should be used to provide a defensible boundary to the proposed development that screens views from the wider rural and more sensitive landscape.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT: ROMSEY NORTH 1 – LAND AT JERMYNS LANE (ALSO KNOWN AS LAND AT BRENTRY NURSERIES)

Location and context

- 1.1.178 The parcel is located on the northern edge of Romsey, to the east of the Abbotswood House area of the settlement. The site forms part of the existing Hilliers Nursery complex, to the south of Jermyns Lane. The northern boundary is adjacent to the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum Registered Park and Garden.
- 1.1.179 The parcel, its principal features and context are shown below (designated interests on the left and TVBC landscape character context on the right, with representative photographs also shown below).

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View from Jermyns Lane looking south towards the parcel, with the view following the existing access road



View from the site entrance along Jermyns Lane looking south-west towards the parcel, with the view following the existing access road

Landscape character context

National (NCA)

1.1.180 The parcel falls within NCA Profile: 128 South Hampshire Lowlands. Detail is contained in the [NCA profile](#) but a summary of relevant key characteristics of the NCA represented in the parcel and context is as follows:

- Well-wooded farmed landscape, characterised by ancient woodland such as Botley Wood and West Walk, the remnants of the Royal Hunting Forest of Bere.
- Mixed agricultural landscape dominated by pasture with small pockets of horticulture and arable.

The more rural hinterland is characterised by small, loosely clustered or dispersed settlements, intermixed with isolated farmsteads.

County LCA

1.1.181 At the county level, the parcel falls within Landscape [Character Area 2D](#): Romsey to Eastleigh Wooded Lowland Mosaic^{xvi}. Relevant key characteristics of this Local Character Area represented in the parcel are:

- Significant amount of semi natural ancient woodland and conifer replanted woodland.
- A predominantly wooded assart landscape of mid-medieval origin fragmented and significantly altered by 18th and 19th century enclosures, conifer plantation and extensive expansion northwards of Southampton in the latter half of the 20th century.

Borough level LCA

1.1.182 At the borough level, the parcel falls within '[LCT3 Mixed Farmland and Woodland – Medium Scale](#)' and within [the 'LCA3A Baddesley Mixed Farmland and Woodland'](#)^{xvii}. Relevant key characteristics of this LCA represented in the parcel are:

- Trees, woodland and hedges create a sense of enclosure and intimacy and provide strong containment to the settlement edge of Romsey and North Baddesley, limiting views.
- Rural character of roads lined by mature trees, hedgerows, grass verges and ditches.
- A number of streams with stream-fed lakes.
- Medium-sized irregular assarts and copses with wavy boundaries between Crampmoor and Ampfield.

Designated landscape interests/other designations relevant to landscape character

1.1.183 Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum Registered Park and Garden lie to the north of the parcel, whilst ancient woodland lies to the north-east.

Landscape functions

- 1.1.184 The key function of the landscape is horticulture. Biodiversity corridors and connectivity are created by linear tree belts linking through the site to surrounding woodland. The woodland edge contributes to the setting of the Registered Park and Garden at the Arboretum.

Landscape sensitivity analysis

Landscape value

- 1.1.185 The parcel is judged to be of Neighbourhood level landscape value. This is due to the fact that the parcel has a low degree of representation of the wider landscape elements and a low concentration of positive key elements of the landscape, as the majority of the site is a commercial plant nursery. Surrounding woodland is of greater value.

Landscape susceptibility

Designated landscape interest (National Parks/AONBs) and Special Qualities

- 1.1.186 N/A

Landscape scale, pattern and texture (including cultural pattern)

- 1.1.187 The parcel forms part of a large scale horticultural site that has resulted in localised sub-division of the landscape over time, and loss of the original framework which has resulted in a limited sense of time depth and legibility. The nurseries however form an important part of the local landscape character, pattern and identity as a functional horticultural landscape.

Perceptual and experiential characteristics

- 1.1.188 The parcel has a very weak perceptual character and quality, as the site is a commercial plant nursery, consisting of polytunnels, glasshouses and internal growing spaces. A sense of enclosure is created by the surrounding belt of woodland.

Settlement characteristics and settlement edge conditions

- 1.1.189 There is no interface with the existing settlement, and there is no direct relationship with the settlement boundary. Relatively recent expansion of the north-east of Romsey has brought residential development up to the woodland boundary of the nursery site, with the settlement edge located some 100m to the south-west of the parcel. A significant area of glasshouses lies between the southern boundary and the residential area.

Topographic features and skylines

- 1.1.190 The topography of the parcel is relatively level and simple throughout. The trees which enclose the site largely contain views from within and also create a wooded quality to the skyline. As a result, this elevates susceptibility of the parcel to change in these terms.

Visual characteristics and intervisibility

- 1.1.191 The landscape is visually extremely contained and enclosed, and therefore is less susceptible to change in visual terms. Views are inward looking and kept short by the surrounding woodland, resulting in low levels of intervisibility with the surrounding landscape.

Overall landscape susceptibility to change arising from the scenario

- 1.1.192 The large scale, flat, visually contained site results in a **Low** overall level of susceptibility to the change scenario.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 1.1.193 Considering the above discussion of landscape value and landscape susceptibility, the enclosed commercial landscape of the parcel has a **Low** overall landscape sensitivity to change arising from the scenario.

Guidance and recommendations

- 1.1.194 This is as follows:

- In considering and planning any potential future development, retain and enhance areas of strong and distinctive landscape structure such as the woodland edges, which provide existing legible boundaries in the local landscape.
- Ensure that proposed built form is of an appropriate type and scale, in the context of existing nearby development and considerate of the existing enclosed visual structure established by the surrounding woodland.
- To assimilate any new development, strengthen existing woodland edges and create new structural planting that has physical and visual connectivity with existing vegetation, particularly to the east of the parcel.
- Retain and reinforce existing vegetation using understorey planting and tree planting drawn from an appropriate and locally specific native planting palette, to retain a defensible settlement boundary that screens views from the wider rural and more sensitive landscape.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT: ROMSEY NORTH 2 – LAND AT GANGER FARM

Location and context

- 1.1.195 The parcel is divided into two distinct areas, east and west, by a broad corridor of mature woodland which runs from north to south. The western part of the parcel sits on an elevated area of land to the east of Ganger Road, north of Hunters Crescent, backing onto an existing area of housing. The eastern part of the parcel sits to the south of a new area of housing development to the south of Ganger Farm Way.
- 1.1.196 The parcel, its principal features and context are shown below (designated interests on the left and TVBC landscape character context on the right, with representative photographs also shown below).

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View of mature, well wooded boundaries of the parcel.



Landscape character context

National (NCA)

1.1.197 The parcel falls within NCA Profile 128: South Hampshire Lowlands. Detail is contained in the NCA profile but a summary of relevant key characteristics of the NCA represented in the parcel and context is as follows:

- Well-wooded farmed landscape.
- Mixed agricultural landscape dominated by pasture with small pockets of horticulture and arable.

County LCA

1.1.198 At the county level, the parcel falls within the Hampshire County Landscape Character Area 2D: Romsey to Eastleigh Wooded Lowland Mosaic. Relevant key characteristics of this area represented in the parcel are:

- A sense of elevation above the adjoining coastal and valley landscapes of the Test and Itchen, and moderately undulating topography with a variety of clay and sandy gravel geology.
- Watershed of the Test and Itchen with chalk fed tributaries and boggy heath and mire, in shallow valleys.
- Predominantly improved grassland, but also significant amount of semi-natural ancient woodland and conifer replanted woodland with internationally designated damp and boggy acid heath habitat in central area creating a rich biodiversity.
- A predominantly wooded assart landscape of mid-medieval origin fragmented and significantly altered by 18th and 19th century enclosures, conifer plantation and extensive expansion northwards of Southampton in the latter half of the 20th century.
- Huge loss of heathy commons and irregular medieval fields to enclosure and development of Romsey, Baddesley and Chandler's Ford in the last 150 years.
- Until the 19th century, a landscape with a dispersed settlement pattern relatively little changed since the 14th century.

Borough level LCA

1.1.199 At the borough level, the parcel falls within [LCT3 Mixed Farmland and Woodland – Medium Scale](#) and within the component Landscape Character Area [LCA3A Baddesley Mixed Farmland and Woodland](#)^{xviii}. Relevant key characteristics of this LCA represented in the parcel are:

- Trees, woodland and hedges create a sense of enclosure and intimacy and provide strong containment to the settlement edge of Romsey.
- On the higher ground evidence remains of the previously wooded environment with narrow discrete roads and tracks, assarted fields.

- Ancient semi-natural woodland linked by hedgerows.
- Trees along hilltops frame views.

Designated landscape interests/other designations relevant to landscape character

1.1.200 There is ancient woodland in Ganger Wood.

Landscape functions

1.1.201 The predominant landscape function of the parcel is that of arable agriculture with areas of pasture.

Landscape sensitivity analysis

Landscape value

1.1.202 The parcel contains a moderate concentration of positive key landscape characteristics identified in the LCA and assets of importance such as Ancient Woodland and woodland corridors. There is notable potential for restoration and enhancement with regard to green infrastructure, nature pathways and ecological connectivity. As such, the parcel is assessed as having a Local level landscape value.

Landscape susceptibility

Designated landscape interests (National Parks/AONBs) and Special Qualities

1.1.203 N/A

Landscape scale, pattern and texture (including cultural pattern)

1.1.204 The parcel is defined by an irregular field pattern, the legacy of its historically assarted edge and has a moderate sense of time depth. This and the associated sense of time depth elevates susceptibility to change arising from the scenario in these terms.

Perceptual and experiential characteristics

1.1.205 The parcel is a large expanse of land assarted from woodland into two distinct areas, and with significant woodland to the edges providing a sense of perceived relative naturalness.

1.1.206 Eastern Area: This is partly divided by a mature north-south treeline. The majority of this area is arable farmland, with an area of pasture to the north. A strong woodland framework is created by mature and semi-mature woodland, imparting a feeling of remoteness and sense of intactness. These factors elevate susceptibility to change.

1.1.207 Western Area: This is a smaller scale, well-enclosed area defined by pasture (although apparently ungrazed). A strong woodland framework to the east and south and a mature treeline along the northern edge, defines the horizon and creates a sense of enclosure. These elements elevate susceptibility to change.

Settlement characteristics and settlement edge conditions

- 1.1.208 Eastern Area: Beyond the wooded northern boundary is the housing development at Ganger Farm Way. The parcel otherwise has little relationship to the settlement edge, increasing its susceptibility to change in this context.
- 1.1.209 Western Area: Woodland forms the boundary with the existing settlement edge. Part of the west boundary is more open and formed by rear garden boundaries.

Topographic features and skylines

- 1.1.210 Eastern Area: This part of the parcel is defined by relatively flat to gently undulating landform, falling to the dense woodlands to the south at Ganger Wood. The parcel is defined by wooded skylines to the east, south and west, elevating susceptibility to change.
- 1.1.211 Western Area: The landform falls towards the south. Skylines are predominantly wooded with some settlement rooflines.

Visual characteristics and intervisibility

- 1.1.212 Eastern Area: The landscape is visually extremely contained and enclosed, and therefore is less susceptible to change in visual terms. Views are inward looking and kept short by the surrounding woodland, resulting in very low levels of intervisibility with the surrounding landscape.
- 1.1.213 Western Area: The landscape is visually well contained.

Overall landscape susceptibility to change arising from the scenario

- 1.1.214 Overall landscape susceptibility to change is judged to be **Moderate-High**. This is in view of the sense of time depth, pattern and relative naturalness created by the assorted landscape character, and the mostly weak relationship of the parcel to the settlement edge.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 1.1.215 Considering the above discussion of landscape value and landscape susceptibility, the parcel has a **Moderate-High** sensitivity to change arising from the scenario. This is due the factors noted in the overall landscape susceptibility assessment above.

Guidance and recommendations

- 1.1.216 This is as follows:
- Retain and enhance the distinctive woodland structure throughout the parcel, which provides existing legible boundaries and contributes to local green connectivity.
 - Ensure that proposed built form is of an appropriate type and scale, in the context of existing nearby development and considerate of the existing enclosed visual structure established by the woodland.
 - Any future development considered in this parcel would require a landscape led design approach with appropriate offsets for the existing woodland and root protection areas.

- Seek a reduced development density and greater degree of semi natural open space provision to the east and south. Any development should be located in proximity to the existing settlement edge to the north and west, and with defensible settlement edges provided by existing landscape elements.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT: ROMSEY NORTH 3 – LAND NORTH OF SANDY LANE (ALSO KNOWN AS LAND AT BELBINS)

Location and context

- 1.1.217 The parcel is located north of Romsey, occupying the land to the north of Sandy Lane and Belbins Road, with an access road and the Public Right of Way route 198/11/1 bisecting the parcel from north to south broadly across its centre.
- 1.1.218 The parcel, its principal features and context are shown below (designated interests on the left and TVBC landscape character context on the right, with representative photographs also shown below).

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View north towards the parcel from Sandy Lane

Landscape character context

National (NCA)

1.1.219 The parcel falls entirely within NCA 128: South Hampshire Lowlands. Detail is contained in the relevant [NCA profile](#), but a summary of relevant key characteristics of the NCA represented in the parcel and context is as follows:

- Mixed agricultural landscape dominated by pasture with small pockets of horticulture and arable.
- Fields generally bounded by mixed-species hedgerows or woodland.

County LCA

1.1.220 At the county level, the parcel falls within the [Romsey to Eastleigh Wooded Lowland Mosaic \(2d\)^{xix}](#). Relevant key characteristics of this area represented in the parcel are:

- Huge loss of heathy commons and irregular medieval fields to enclosure and development of Romsey, Baddesley and Chandler's Ford in the last 150 years.

Borough level LCA

1.1.221 At the borough level, the parcel falls entirely within [Landscape Character Area \(LCA\) 4B. Michelmersh to Ampfield Wooded Farmland^{xx}](#) and within the LCT4 Mixed Farmland and Woodland Small Scale Landscape Character Type. Relevant key valued characteristics of the LCA represented in the parcel are:

- Hedgerows surrounding the settlements providing screening and integration of the settlement into the landscape.

Designated landscape interests/other designations relevant to landscape character

1.1.222 N/A

Landscape functions

1.1.223 Key landscape functions of the parcel include pastureland alongside localised biodiversity corridors formed by the boundary vegetation and trees on the site.

Landscape sensitivity analysis

Landscape value

1.1.224 This parcel is judged to be of Neighbourhood landscape value. This is due to the low degree of representation of the wider landscape character and contains a low degree of positive key landscape characteristics. These are primarily confined to the vegetated boundaries. The landscape characteristics of the parcel also occur widely across the locality.

Landscape susceptibility

Designated landscape interests (National Parks/AONBs) and Special Qualities

1.1.225 N/A

Landscape scale, pattern and texture (including cultural pattern)

1.1.226 The simple, regular and rectilinear field pattern, the legacy of parliamentary enclosure, is the predominant of the landscape pattern. The parcel forms part of a small scale landscape that has been altered by varying land uses and as such has weakened legibility. As such, susceptibility to change arising from the scenario is to the lower end of the scale.

Perceptual and experiential characteristics

1.1.227 The parcel is in proximity to urbanising elements including multiple business units and adjacent residential properties. However, the parcel maintains an intrinsic relationship with the surrounding landscape through the perceptual sense of openness between the parcel and the surrounding scenic landscape. In addition, existing vegetation and landform also create and contribute to a distinct settlement edge.

Settlement characteristics and settlement edge conditions

1.1.228 The easternmost section of the parcel has a more obvious relationship to the existing pattern of development within North Romsey, with existing dispersed/scattered dwellings, a garden centre and other commercial premises. The part of the parcel to the west of the PRow has a higher degree of visual containment.

Topographic features and skylines

1.1.229 The susceptibility to change is reduced by the relatively low levels of landform variation (although the parcel forms part of a localised ridgeline) with urbanising elements present in the skyline, including multiple business units and occasional residential properties.

Visual characteristics and intervisibility

1.1.230 The landscape is somewhat contained and enclosed, due to the hedgerows and mature trees creating a degree of visual enclosure, although a local ridgeline affords longer views to the north at points. However, elements of intervisibility with noticeable human induced elements including multiple business units and adjacent residential properties are present in the setting, decreasing susceptibility to change in visual terms.

Overall landscape susceptibility to change arising from the scenario

1.1.231 The parcel is **moderately susceptible** to change arising from the development scenario, due to the presence of urbanising elements and the strength of the boundary landscape which defines the relationship with the settlement edge.

Overall landscape sensitivity

1.1.232 Considering the above discussion of landscape value and landscape susceptibility, the simple and more open landscapes which define much of the parcel are of a **Moderate** overall landscape sensitivity to change arising from residential and mixed-use development. This is by virtue of the presence of urbanising elements such as business units and residential dwellings and the fact that the existing vegetation and landform create and maintain a strong

sense of settlement edge. However, within this judgement, it is also recognised that the tree-lined, wooded character of Sandy Lane and Belbins Road is highly important in defining the existing settlement edge and extents. Consequently, any potential to extend the settlement without adversely changing this character is highly limited. In this context the ridge and long views to the north are also significant.

Guidance and recommendations

1.1.233 This is as follows:

- Retain current land use and enhance existing habitats and linkages to reinforce the local green infrastructure network.
- The southernmost parts of this parcel, associated with Sandy Lane, have some potential for a degree of linear/ribbon development mirroring the development form on the opposite side of Sandy Lane (low density leafy suburbs which define the gateway to Romsey at this point). Appropriately designed development in this location could be used to reinforce this character, subject to reinforcing existing boundaries with suitable native hedgerow and tree planting to create a new defensible boundary to the settlement edge and maintain the perception of the open landscape in wider views and from ridgelines to the north.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT: ROMSEY NORTH 4 – LAND AT OXLEASE

Location and context

- 1.1.234 This cluster comprises of two small parcels of land. The north parcel is a small area of rough pasture bounded by mature trees to the north of Romsey with the Andover Canal and a PRow running parallel to the western boundary. The south parcel is the extent/curtilage of a large residential dwelling. This parcel has a number of outbuildings and a tennis court within it.
- 1.1.235 The parcel, its principal features and context are shown below (designated interests on the left and TVBC landscape character context on the right, with representative photographs also shown below.

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View from Jermyns Lane looking south towards the parcel, with the view following the existing access road

Landscape character context

National (NCA)

1.1.236 The parcel falls entirely within NCA 128: South Hampshire Lowlands. Detail is contained in the relevant [NCA profile](#), but a summary of relevant key characteristics of the NCA represented in the parcel and context is as follows:

- Low-lying.
- Well-wooded farmed landscape.
- Mixed agricultural landscape dominated by pasture.
- An intimate and enclosed field pattern.
- In parts, very urban. (Author's note: The parcels in this cluster have a settlement fringe location).

County LCA

1.1.237 At the county level, the parcel falls within the [Test Valley \(3b\) landscape character area](#).^{xxi}. Relevant key characteristics of this LCA represented in the parcel are:

- Unimproved grazed floodplain meadows, arable production.
- Views limited to valley floor.
- Generally unspoilt, except for urban influences and noise intrusion close to major towns and roads.

Borough level LCA

1.1.238 At the borough level, the parcel falls entirely within [Landscape Character Type \(LCT\) 5B Lower Test Floodplain](#)^{xxii} and within the component River Valley Floor Landscape Character Area (LCA). Relevant key valued characteristics of this LCA represented in the parcels are:

- Variable density of trees.
- Linear settlements.
- Settlements have a strong rural character with mainly hedgerows and low walls as property and garden boundaries create inter-visibility through the settlements.
- Limited views across area, with strong sense of isolation and enclosure.
- A landscape with a strong remote small scale undeveloped rural character.

Designated landscape interests/other designations relevant to landscape character

- 1.1.239 The River Test SSSI runs parallel to the western boundary of the northern parcel and runs to the west of the southern parcel.

Landscape functions

- 1.1.240 Key landscape functions of the parcel include biodiversity corridors formed by the boundary vegetation and the trees within the parcel.

Landscape sensitivity assessment

Landscape value

- 1.1.241 The landscape value of this parcel is judged to be at the Local level. Both the northern and southern parcels in this cluster have a moderate degree of representativeness of the wider landscape character and contain a moderate degree of positive key landscape characteristics. These include confined views across the area and a variable density of trees. These landscape characteristics also occur widely across the borough. Fishlake Meadows nature reserve and the canal to the west of the northern parcel are of greater value, which should be considered in the context of the north parcel.

Landscape susceptibility

Designated landscape interests (National Parks/AONBs) and Special Qualities

- 1.1.242 N/A

Landscape scale, pattern and texture (including cultural pattern)

- 1.1.243 The intricate, irregular field pattern is the predominant aspect of the landscape pattern. As such, in these terms susceptibility to change arising from the scenario is to the higher end of the scale by virtue of this intricacy and the intimate landscape scale it creates.

Perceptual and experiential characteristics

- 1.1.244 The parcel cluster has a close proximity to settlement fringe elements however, existing vegetation and landform create and maintain a strong sense of settlement edge, this is especially the case for the northern parcel in the cluster. The northern parcel is adjacent to the canal (part of the River Test SSSI) and beyond that extends the wetland of Fishlake Meadows nature reserve. This elevates susceptibility to change in perceptual terms in relation to the northern parcel.

Settlement characteristics and settlement edge conditions

- 1.1.245 The southern parcel has a more obvious relationship to the existing pattern of development within North Romsey, with existing dispersed/scattered dwellings along Battenburg Close (to the north) and Oxlease Meadows (to the west). The northern parcel borders Treviglio Close to the east, however there is a higher degree of visual containment and associated lower degree of relationship to the settlement edge. This elevates susceptibility to change in these terms.

Topographic features and skylines

- 1.1.246 Susceptibility is reduced in these terms due to the low levels of landform variation within the parcel, with development influences present on the skyline.

Visual characteristics and intervisibility

- 1.1.247 The landscape is somewhat visually contained and enclosed, especially regarding the southern parcel due to the existing settlement, hedgerows and mature trees creating a degree of enclosure. There are elements of intervisibility between the north parcel and adjacent canal and meadows. There are also noticeable human induced elements apparent in proximity to the parcels, reducing susceptibility in visual terms.

Overall landscape susceptibility to change arising from the scenario

- 1.1.248 The parcel has a **Moderate-High susceptibility** to change arising from the development scenario, particularly in the north parcel due to the proximity to the meadows and canal. The presence of settlement fringe and development influences the southern parcel, balanced against the strength of the boundary landscape which defines the relationship with the settlement edge and lowers the susceptibility to **Moderate**.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 1.1.249 Taking into account the above discussion of landscape value and landscape susceptibility, existing vegetative corridors and existing development and settlement fringe influences, the parcel cluster is assessed as having an overall **Moderate-High sensitivity** to change arising from residential and mixed use development, by virtue of the above characteristics. There is a slightly lower (moderate) sensitivity associated with the southern parcel due to separation from the nature reserve and canal.

Guidance and recommendations

- 1.1.250 This is as follows:
- Any future development of parcels in this cluster should retain the mature and established woodland belts to the site edges (northern parcel) and individual trees/stands (southern parcel), as well as maintaining an appropriate offset between tree root zones and any development.
 - Such an offset could logically be used as the focus for new semi natural greenspace for any development, to create a transitional zone between any development and the wider landscape.
 - Due to the fact that the southernmost of the two parcels has a stronger, more direct relationship to the existing pattern of development, any new development would be better concentrated here, rather than the northern parcel, for reasons of landscape integration and to avoid adverse impacts on the wetland landscape.
 - It is likely that any new development in the southern parcel would best be of a low density, relatively dispersed character, both to reflect existing development to the west and to enable integration with the mature pattern of vegetation which characterises much of this parcel. Retained existing mature vegetation would also assist in creating a broken or 'dappled' roofscape in any views to new development.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT: ROMSEY NORTH EAST – LAND SOUTH OF CRAMP Moor LANE

Location and context

- 1.1.251 This small rectilinear parcel is located off a cul-de-sac to the north-east of Romsey, along Crampmoor Lane. The site is relatively well enclosed, with treelines to the north and east, and trees/woodland along the railway line to the south. The western boundary abuts the boundary of a single dwelling house to the west; the north-south aligned garden extends down the whole western boundary of the parcel.
- 1.1.252 The parcel, its principal features and context are shown below (designated interests on the left and TVBC landscape character context on the right, with representative photographs also shown below).

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View looking from the gate along the northern boundary, facing south towards the railway line

Landscape character context

National (NCA)

1.1.253 The parcel falls within [NCA Profile: 128 South Hampshire Lowlands](#). Detail is contained in the NCA profile but a summary of relevant key characteristics of the NCA represented in the parcel and context is as follows:

- Mixed agricultural landscape dominated by pasture with small pockets of horticulture and arable.
- The more rural hinterland is characterised by small, loosely clustered or dispersed settlements, intermixed with isolated farmsteads.

County LCA

1.1.254 At the county level (Hampshire County Council), the parcel falls within the [Landscape Character Area '2D: Romsey to Eastleigh Wooded Lowland Mosaic'](#)^{xxiii}. Relevant key characteristics of this LCA represented in the parcel are:

- A predominantly wooded assart landscape of mid-medieval origin, fragmented and significantly altered by 18th and 19th century enclosures, conifer plantation and extensive expansion northwards of Southampton in the latter half of the 20th century.

Borough level LCA

1.1.255 At the borough level, the parcel falls within '[LCT3 Mixed Farmland and Woodland – Medium Scale](#)' and within the component Landscape Character Area [LCA3A Baddesley Mixed Farmland and Woodland](#)^{xxiv}. Relevant key characteristics of this LCA represented in the parcel are:

- An area of mixed farmland made up from medium size arable fields, small pasture fields, woodlands and areas of nursery tree planting. Hedgerows enclose the fields; however their quality varies throughout.
- Residential development abuts the open areas of arable and pasture farmland, as seen on the eastern edge of Romsey.

Designated landscape interests/other designations relevant to character

1.1.256 N/A

Landscape functions

1.1.257 The key function is that of productive landscape - grazing/pasture. The parcel's wooded margins provide localised biodiversity corridors.

Landscape sensitivity analysis

Landscape value

1.1.258 There is a moderate concentration of positive key landscape characteristics identified in the LCA.

- 1.1.259 The site has a moderate/low degree of intactness, and a low degree in functionality in terms of living systems, natural resources and natural capital assets. As such, landscape value is judged to be at the Local level.

Landscape susceptibility

Designated landscape interests (National Parks/AONBs) and Special Qualities

- 1.1.260 N/A
- Landscape scale, pattern and texture (including cultural pattern)*
- 1.1.261 This is a small parcel with a simple, rectilinear pattern. It forms part of a small scale network of fields around the railway line and forms part of a fragmented landscape. but is of a small scale, which elevates susceptibility to change arising from the scenario.
- Perceptual and experiential characteristics*
- 1.1.262 The parcel is relatively well enclosed, with tree lines to the north and east, and trees/woodland along the railway line to the south.
- 1.1.263 Moderate levels of scenic quality and tranquillity are experienced due to limited road noise and trees to boundaries, albeit with the train line running immediately adjacent to the parcel to the south.
- Settlement characteristics and settlement edge conditions*
- 1.1.264 The parcel lies at the end of a row of residential properties to the south of Crampmoor Lane. Properties to the north of Crampmoor Lane continue along the road to the east. Areas of housing branch out from Romsey and continue to the north of this area, notably The Straight Mile which extends towards the north-east. To the south of the parcel, the railway line runs parallel to Crampmoor Lane. The parcel has a relatively strong relationship to the existing settlement edge, indicating a lower landscape susceptibility.
- Topographic features and skylines*
- 1.1.265 Topography falls from the northern edge south towards the railway line, with a low sense of landform relief. The skyline is dominated by trees and sloping landscape to the south of the railway line, with a somewhat naturalistic quality. These elements elevate susceptibility to change arising from the development scenario.
- Visual characteristics and intervisibility*
- 1.1.266 The western boundary abuts the garden curtilage of a single house to the west, with its garden extending along the western site boundary. The parcel is relatively well enclosed by trees and woodland, and is visually well contained, with short views due to vegetation and topography, and consequently restricted intervisibility. These reduce susceptibility to change in visual terms.
- Overall landscape susceptibility to change arising from the scenario**
- 1.1.267 The parcel is influenced by the settlement around it and is visually well contained. It therefore has a **Moderate-Low** susceptibility to change arising from the development scenario.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 1.1.268 Considering the above discussion of landscape value and landscape susceptibility, the overall landscape sensitivity to the change scenario is **Moderate-Low**. This is due to the relationship with the existing settlement edge.

Guidance and recommendations

- 1.1.269 This is as follows:
- In planning for any future development, use a strong structural landscape network based on a native planting palette, allied to reduced development density to development edges, to create a positive landscape edge and interface between the settlement and adjacent rural areas.
 - The above principle should be allied to areas of semi-natural greenspace provision and native landscape screening buffers as part of a landscape led design approach, and to assimilate any development. As part of this approach, landscape edges should be designed to complement the wider field boundary network and to enhance landscape and ecological connectivity.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT: ROMSEY EAST 1 – LAND NORTH OF HIGHWOOD LANE

Location and context

1.1.270 The parcel is located on the eastern edge of Romsey, to the south of Crampmoor. The railway line and Tadburn Lake watercourse edge the site to the north, with landform of the site falling towards this aspect; to the north-east there is a connection with woodland and other habitats edging the railway line and watercourse. Halterworth Lane runs along the western boundary, beyond which extends the eastern fringes of Romsey. Open countryside is located beyond Highwood Lane, which edges the parcel to the south. Stroud School forms a significant built mass to the south-east of the parcel. Beyond the site boundary in the south-western corner lies a residential farmstead conversion, the buildings were originally associated with the parcel and other surrounding land.

1.1.271 The parcel, its principal features and context are shown below (designated interests on the left and TVBC landscape character context on the right), with representative photographs of the site shown below.

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View south-east across the northern, lower lying parts of the parcel adjacent to the railway line and Tadburn Lake watercourse



View north from the southern boundary, looking across the falling topography towards wooded skylines, with rooftops visible.

Landscape character context

National (NCA)

1.1.272 The parcel falls within [NCA 128: South Hampshire Lowlands](#). Detail is contained in the relevant NCA profile, but a summary of relevant key characteristics of the NCA represented in the parcel and context is as follows:

- Well-wooded, farmed landscape, characterised by ancient woodland.
- Mixed agricultural landscape dominated by pasture.
- An intimate and enclosed field pattern with many small and irregular fields generally bounded by mixed-species hedgerows or woodland.
- Rural hinterland is characterised by small, loosely clustered or dispersed settlements, intermixed with isolated farmsteads.

County LCA

1.1.273 At the county level, the parcel falls within the [Romsey to Eastleigh Wooded Lowland Mosaic \(2d\) character area](#). Relevant key characteristics of this area represented in the parcel are:

- A sense of elevation above the adjoining coastal and valley landscapes.
- Moderately undulating topography with a variety of clay and sandy gravel geology.
- Watershed of the Test and Itchen with chalk fed tributaries and boggy heath and mire, in shallow valleys.
- Predominantly improved grassland, but also significant amount of semi-natural ancient woodland.
- A predominantly wooded assart landscape of mid-medieval origin, fragmented and significantly altered by 18th and 19th century enclosures.

Borough level LCA

1.1.274 At the borough level, the parcel falls entirely within Landscape Character Type (LCT) 3 Mixed Farmland and Woodland -Medium Scale, and within the component [Baddesley Mixed Farmland and Woodland \(LCA 3a\)](#). Relevant key characteristics of this LCA represented in the parcel are:

- Predominantly rural character with mixed farmland.
- Trees, woodland and hedges create a sense of enclosure and intimacy and provide strong containment to the settlement edge of Romsey, limiting views.
- Rural character of roads lined by mature trees, hedgerows, grass verges and ditches.
- Key views include long views to wooded ridges.

- A number of streams with stream-fed lakes.
- Surviving traditional farmsteads.
- Trees along hilltops frame views.

Designated landscape interests/other designations relevant to character

- 1.1.275 Ancient and semi-natural woodland (Ganger Wood) is located approximately 140m to the north of the parcel, contributing to naturalistic skylines and time-depth.

Landscape functions

- 1.1.276 The key landscape function of the parcel is that of a productive landscape, as pasture. The northern portion has a more semi-natural character (with groups of trees, scrub, rough/long grass and ditches) providing ecological/hydrological functionality and contributes to the biodiversity corridor along Tadburn Lake and the adjacent railway line. Additionally, treelines and hedgerows at the site boundaries function as biodiversity corridors/features.

Landscape sensitivity analysis

Landscape value

- 1.1.277 Landscape value of the parcel is judged as being at the Local level. Upon the elevated land to the south, adjacent to Highwood Lane, there are scenic views of Ganger Wood (much of which is designated as ancient woodland), albeit with rooftops of houses around Crampmoor and pylons/overhead wires creating human influences to those views. There is a semi-natural character to the northern portion of the parcel as it aligns with the railway line and the watercourse Tadburn Lake, with higher levels of relative remoteness, albeit influenced by the railway infrastructure which reduces tranquillity when in use. There are notable mature/veteran Oak trees at the boundary along Highwood Lane, located on an old hedgebank providing biodiversity value and sense of time depth – it has the character of a holloway. These elements combine to elevate value. The presence of road and railway noise, the perception of the settlement edge and human influences in some locations combine to reduce value in such areas.

Landscape susceptibility

Designated landscape interests (National Parks/AONBs) and Special Qualities

- 1.1.278 N/A

Landscape scale, pattern and texture (including cultural pattern)

- 1.1.279 The site is of medium-scale, and the combination of pasture, semi-natural features across the northern portion, ditches and sloping topography create a relatively complex pattern and textural interest, which would be vulnerable to change arising from the development scenario.

Perceptual and experiential characteristics

- 1.1.280 The presence of natural features to the north of the parcel, contributing to a semi-natural character, elevates the sense of naturalness and remoteness. Additionally, for the most part, the parcel is well contained by mature treelines and hedgerows, limiting perception of human

activity/built form. These aspects increase the susceptibility of the parcel to change. However, perceptible road and rail infrastructure, glimpses of roof tops amongst woodland on the horizon, the urban edge influences of the adjacent school to the east and settlement edge to the west, and the presence of pylons/overhead wires which run through the centre of the site combine to reduce susceptibility to change arising from the development scenario.

Settlement characteristic and settlement edge conditions

- 1.1.281 There is a somewhat abrupt edge to Romsey's eastern fringes to the west of the parcel, however significant treelines along Halterworth Lane limit the perception of the built form. The farmstead that was once associated with the parcel is located to the south-west corner by the junction of Halterworth Lane and Highwood Lane, now converted to residential dwellings – this ensemble, together with scattered development along Highwood Lane create a relatively undeveloped character to this aspect. The school to the east provides an urban edge character, and houses around Crampmoor to the north (rooftops visible amongst woodland upon the ridgeline) provide a sense of settlement character influence here.

Topographic features and skylines

- 1.1.282 The parcel falls from south to north, with the lower areas located within the vicinity of the railway line and the watercourse, Tadburn Lake. Upon the higher land to the south looking to the north, woodland at Ganger Wood provides naturalistic skylines, however rooftops are visible of properties at Crampmoor as are pylons/overhead wires which run through the centre of the parcel; these are detracting elements to these views. For most other aspects the outlook is of trees/treelines at the parcel boundaries. The sloping topography and natural features at skylines would be susceptible to change arising from the development scenario.

Visual characteristics and intervisibility

- 1.1.283 The wooded skylines to the north experienced from the elevated ground to the south, as well as views towards the predominantly natural features at the parcel boundaries (and to some extent within the parcel itself) would be susceptible change arising from the development scenario. Pylons/overhead lines which run through the centre of the parcel reduce susceptibility to the change scenario.

Overall landscape susceptibility to change arising from the scenario

- 1.1.284 The parcel is considered to be **moderately to highly susceptible** to change arising from the development scenario in landscape terms. This is due to the combination of naturalistic qualities and features to the north and at the site boundaries, which increase the sense of remoteness and relative tranquillity, as well as the falling topography, and the wooded skylines experienced upon the elevated land to the south.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 1.1.285 Considering the above discussion on landscape value and landscape susceptibility, the parcel is considered to be of **Moderate-High Sensitivity** overall due to the presence of the semi-natural character within the northern portion (adjacent to the Tadburn Lake watercourse and railway corridor), as well as the falling topography, and naturalistic skylines experienced from elevated land to the south. The presence of pylons, the perception of settlement edge within some parts of the parcel and road/rail noise combine to reduce tranquillity and the sense of remoteness, reducing sensitivity to some extent.

Guidance and recommendations

- 1.1.286 This parcel is highly constrained in the context of residential development, in light of the combination and juxtaposition of the sensitive landscape characteristics noted above.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT: ROMSEY EAST 2 – LAND AT HIGHWOOD LANE/HALTERWORTH LANE

Location and context

- 1.1.287 This parcel is an expansive area of mixed farmland comprising of medium size arable and pasture fields. A PRow runs east-west across the parcel and the parcel sits within a Local Gap to the east of Romsey.
- 1.1.288 The parcel, its principal features and context are shown below (designated interests on the left and TVBC landscape character context on the right), with representative photographs of the site shown below.

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View looking north from the Public Right of Way to the west of the site



View looking west from the Public Right of Way to the east of the site

Landscape character context

National (NCA)

1.1.289 The parcel falls within NCA 128: South Hampshire Lowlands. Detail is contained in the NCA profile but a summary of relevant key characteristics of the NCA represented in the parcel and context is as follows:

- Mixed agricultural landscape dominated by pasture with small pockets of horticulture and arable.
- The more rural hinterland is characterised by small, loosely clustered or dispersed settlements, intermixed with isolated farmsteads.

County LCA

1.1.290 At the county level, the parcel falls within Landscape Character Area 2D: Romsey to Eastleigh Wooded Lowland Mosaic. Relevant key characteristics of this LCA represented in the parcel are:

- Predominantly improved grassland.

Borough level LCA

1.1.291 At the borough level, the parcel falls within '[LCT3 Mixed Farmland and Woodland – Medium Scale](#)' and within the component [Landscape Character Area LCA3A Baddesley Mixed Farmland and Woodland^{xxv}](#). Relevant key characteristics of the LCA represented in the parcel are:

- Predominantly rural character with mixed farmland.
- Trees, woodland and hedges create a sense of enclosure and intimacy and provide strong containment to the settlement edge of Romsey.
- Rural character of roads lined by mature trees, hedgerows, grass verges.
- Hedgerows are a locally important feature but their quality is very variable and they are sometimes absent resulting in large open areas.
- Parliamentary field enclosure.

Designated landscape interests/other designations relevant to landscape character

1.1.292 N/A

Landscape functions

1.1.293 The landscape function of the parcel is that of productive agricultural land, turf farming and grazing/pastureland.

Landscape sensitivity analysis

Landscape value

- 1.1.294 Landscape value of the parcel is judged as being at the Local level. This is due to the fact that the site has a moderate degree of representativeness of wider landscape character and contains a moderate concentration of positive key landscape characteristics identified in the LCA. A PRow dissects the site centrally east-west, providing local recreational value.
- 1.1.295 Within the partly fragmented parliamentary enclosure landscape structure, there is notable potential for restoration and enhancement of landscape and ecological connectivity, and with regard to green infrastructure and nature pathways.

Landscape susceptibility

Designated landscape interests (National Parks/AONBs) and Special Qualities

- 1.1.296 N/A

Landscape scale, pattern and texture (including cultural pattern)

- 1.1.297 This is a large parcel of mixed arable agricultural land and pasture, composed of multiple parliamentary field enclosures, with field margins of old overgrown/ sparse hedgerows and tree planting. An area of turf production within the parcel is also visible from the PRow.
- 1.1.298 The large scale and partly eroded landscape framework has experienced boundary loss over time, resulting in weakened time depth that reduces landscape susceptibility to change arising from the scenario.

Perceptual and experiential characteristics

- 1.1.299 Users of the PRow experience a distinct change from the suburban edge to the rural landscape within the parcel. Fences, gates and barns along or visible from the PRow are generally in poor, dilapidated condition, detracting from the perceptual experience of the local landscape.
- 1.1.300 The landscape of the parcel contributes to the Local Gap, creating a clear sense of separation and setting to the settlement. Notwithstanding the above comments about detracting features and boundary fragmentation, the parcel also has some degree of scenic quality and relative tranquillity. These elevate the susceptibility of the perceptual landscape to change arising from the scenario.

Settlement characteristics and settlement edge conditions

- 1.1.301 Residential development within Romsey abuts the parcel to the west, creating a degree of connection with the settlement edge, with built form perceptible beyond tree-lined boundaries. This locally reduces susceptibility to change, although the expansiveness of the wider parcel to the east bears little relationship to the settlement pattern and is therefore more susceptible to change.

Topographic features and skylines

- 1.1.302 A line of pylons crosses the parcel, creating a notable urbanising and visually intrusive feature to the skyline at points.

- 1.1.303 The field network within the parcel is defined by variable and gappy hedgerows and mature hedgerow trees, which contribute to skyline character. The largely flat landform reduces susceptibility to change arising from the scenario.

Visual characteristics and intervisibility

- 1.1.304 The parcel is defined by mostly tree-lined horizons, with occasional rooflines / houses visible to the western edge, and pylons, which reduce the sense of naturalness of the visual character.

- 1.1.305 Views are largely kept short/ within the parcel in areas where denser field boundary vegetation persists. Inter layered field boundary vegetation provides visual filtering and reduces opportunities for intervisibility. However, due to the scale of the parcel, there is a sense of visual openness within it, elevating susceptibility to change in these terms.

Overall landscape susceptibility to change arising from the scenario

- 1.1.306 Considering the above, the site has a **Moderate** overall susceptibility to change arising from the scenario. Overall susceptibility is elevated due to the sense of openness and associated visual character which persists at points.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 1.1.307 Considering the above discussion of landscape value and landscape susceptibility, the overall landscape sensitivity to the change scenario is **Moderate**.

- 1.1.308 The parcel is influenced to a degree by the settlement around it, notably to the west, although the sense of relative separation and openness elsewhere in the parcel elevate sensitivity to change.

Guidance and recommendations

- 1.1.309 This is as follows:
- Conserve, enhance and reinforce the Parliamentary Enclosure landscape structure with a mix of locally occurring native species (wooded shaw with understorey, hedgerow) to assimilate any future development and to contribute to maintaining the integrity of the Local Gap.
 - Use areas of strong and distinctive landscape structure, such as the mature hedgerow oaks within the parcel, as a focus for new areas of semi natural greenspace, to enhance the setting and experience of the PRoW.
 - Within any future development, complement existing mature trees with appropriate larger species and larger grade street trees and trees within the development, to visually break up the roofscape and perceived mass of development in wider views from without. Ensure that any development makes adequate and appropriate provision in terms of foundation design and space for such trees, in order that they can be accommodated and attain maturity.
 - Use a reduced development density to the edges of any future development, to create a positive landscape edge and interface between settlement and adjacent rural areas, allied to areas of semi-natural greenspace provision and native landscape buffer planting

as part of a landscape led design approach. Reinforce existing native planting to hedgerows along Highwood Lane, to further assist in assimilating any development and to contribute to maintaining the integrity of the Local Gap.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT: ROMSEY SOUTH 1 – LAND SOUTH OF ROMSEY BYPASS (ADJACENT TO BURMA ROAD)

Location and context

- 1.1.310 A rectilinear parcel on the south-western edge of Romsey and surrounded by playing fields and pitches to the east and south-east. The Romsey Conservation Area abuts part of the parcel's northern boundary. The parcel is adjacent to the Registered Park and Garden at Broadlands and the parcel includes a small part of the registered landscape in the north-western corner, associated with the Grade II listed mock-Tudor, timber beamed and tile hung gabled lodge/gatehouse to Broadlands and associated properties in the private road at Burma Road behind.
- 1.1.311 The parcel, its principal features and context are shown below (designated interests on the left and TVBC landscape character context on the right), with representative photographs of the site shown below.

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View north-west towards the parcel from the unnamed road directly south of the parcel

Landscape character context

National (NCA)

1.1.312 The parcel falls entirely within NCA 128: South Hampshire Lowlands. Detail is contained in the relevant [NCA profile](#), but a summary of relevant key characteristics of the NCA represented in the parcel and context is as follows:

- Low-lying.
- Well-wooded farmed landscape.
- Mixed agricultural landscape dominated by pasture.
- An intimate and enclosed field pattern.
- In parts, very urban.

County LCA

1.1.313 At the county level, the parcel falls within LCA [Test Valley \(3b\)](#).^{xxvi} Relevant key characteristics of this LCA represented in the parcel are:

- Unimproved grazed floodplain meadows, arable production.
- Views limited to valley floor.
- Generally unspoilt, except for urban influences and noise intrusion close to major towns and roads.

Borough level LCA

1.1.314 At the borough level, the parcel falls entirely within [Landscape Character Type \(LCT\) 5A Lower Test Floodplain](#)^{xxvii} and within the component Test Valley Landscape Character Area. Relevant key valued characteristics of this LCA represented in the parcel are:

- Areas of unimproved grassland.
- Listed buildings on the edge of this LCA and floodplain.
- Patchwork of small fields with intermittent hedgerows and irregular shaped woodlands.
- Broadlands, a 19th century parkland which includes landscape grounds and associated historic features, defines southern edge of Romsey.
- Intermittent and framed views of properties.

Designated landscape interests/other designations relevant to landscape character

1.1.315 Romsey Conservation Area abuts the northern edge of the parcel and includes numerous listed buildings. The parcel is intersected to the west by the Broadlands Registered Park and

Garden (RPG), which forms the designed landscape setting for the Grade I listed Broadlands House, and extends to the west and south, with a small part of the RPG extending into the parcel, as described above.

Landscape functions

- 1.1.316 Key landscape functions of the parcel include productive landscapes/food production with localised biodiversity corridors formed by the boundary vegetation and trees on the site.

Landscape sensitivity analysis

Landscape value

- 1.1.317 The parcel has a moderate degree of representativeness of the wider landscape character and contain a moderate degree of positive key landscape characteristics. These include isolated small woodlands and villages characterised by mature trees. Overall these result in a Local level landscape value, although this is locally elevated to the west by virtue of the presence of the listed lodge/gatehouse for the Broadlands Estate and associated cluster of vernacular dwellings at Burma Road immediately behind.

Landscape susceptibility

Designated landscape interests (National Parks/AONBs) and Special Qualities

- 1.1.318 N/A

Landscape scale , pattern and texture (including cultural pattern)

- 1.1.319 The parcel's susceptibility to change is influenced by its regular and rectangular field pattern, the legacy of parliamentary enclosure. The relatively intimate scale of the fields elevates susceptibility to change.

Perceptual and experiential characteristics

- 1.1.320 The parcel has a close proximity to some urbanising elements such as the football ground and stands for Romsey Town Football Club and other sporting facilities to the southeast. However existing vegetation and landform create and maintain a strong sense of settlement edge. The historic associations with Broadlands also influence susceptibility to change.

Settlement characteristics and settlement edge conditions

- 1.1.321 The northernmost aspect of the parcel has a more obvious relationship to the existing pattern of development within North Romsey, with existing dispersed/scattered dwellings in the north-west corner and residential properties adjacent to Bypass Road directly north of the parcel. The west of the parcel has a higher degree of visual containment, but overall the two parts are provisionally judged to be relatively susceptible to change noting the above.

Topographic features and skylines

- 1.1.322 Low levels of landform variation and urbanising elements within the skyline reduce susceptibility to change.

Visual characteristics and intervisibility

- 1.1.323 The landscape is somewhat contained and enclosed, due to the hedgerows and mature trees creating a degree of visual enclosure. Elements of intervisibility with noticeable human induced elements present in the setting, reducing susceptibility to change slightly.

Overall landscape susceptibility to change arising from the scenario

- 1.1.324 The above mentioned heritage considerations markedly elevate the susceptibility to change of what would otherwise be a commonplace site in landscape terms, although there is variation within this. The western and southern parts of the parcel are of higher (**High**) susceptibility than the northern and eastern parts (**Moderate** susceptibility), as discussed above.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 1.1.325 Taking into account the above discussion of landscape value and landscape susceptibility, the intimate landscape which defines much of the parcel is of a **Moderate-High** overall sensitivity to change arising from residential and mixed-use development, by virtue of the urbanising factors balanced with the heritage considerations.

Guidance and recommendations

- 1.1.326 This is as follows:
- Conserve, enhance and reinforce the woodland structure that is the key feature influencing the character of this site and forming the edge of Broadlands RPG.
 - Any future development should be localised to the northern boundary of the parcel, extending the existing built development pattern along Bypass Road, whilst maintaining an offset from the listed gatehouse, with the southern aspect of the parcel left free of development to maintain the context associated with the Broadlands Registered Park and Garden and its setting.
 - Use a reduced development density to the edges of any future development, to create a positive landscape edge and interface between settlement and adjacent rural areas, allied to areas of semi-natural greenspace provision and native landscape buffer planting as part of a landscape led design approach.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT: LUDGERSHALL 1 AND 2: LAND NORTH OF ANDOVER ROAD (LAND EAST OF LUDGERSHALL) AND SOUTH OF ANDOVER ROAD (LAND SOUTH OF A342 AND EAST OF SHODDESSEN LANE)

Location and context

- 1.1.327 This parcel is formed from two areas to the north (Ludgershall 1) and south (Ludgershall 2) of the A342 Andover Road and the parallel (military use) railway line, on the approach to Ludgershall. It comprises a simplified and enlarged Parliamentary Enclosure Field Pattern, with some hedgerows and arable landcover. Due to landform variation, the southern area has a relatively high level of intervisibility. The northern area of the parcel has a higher degree of enclosure due to surrounding vegetation. A variety of urbanising land uses characterise the A342 road corridor.
- 1.1.328 The parcel, its principal features and context are shown below (designated interests on the left and TVBC landscape character context on the right).

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Landscape character context

National (NCA)

1.1.329 The parcel falls entirely within NCA 130: Hampshire Downs. Detail is contained in the relevant [NCA profile](#), but a summary of relevant key characteristics of the NCA represented in the parcel and context is as follows:

- Rolling, elevated arable chalk downland.
- Elevated plateaux and upper valley slopes characterised by extensive, open tracts of large, low-hedged fields with thin chalky soils, shelterbelts and ancient semi-natural woodland blocks.
- Network of distinctive and ancient droving roads and trackways, plus evidence of Roman estates.
- Rapidly expanding towns such as Andover on downland sites.

County LCA

1.1.330 At the county level, the parcel falls within the North West Hampshire Downs LCA (7a) to the north of the A342 road and the Andover Open Downs LCA (8d) to the south. Relevant key characteristics of the two LCAs represented in the parcel are as follows:

LCA7a:

- Varied landform comprising high rolling hills cut by steep sided, long, sinuous dry valleys, scarps and dramatic combs.
- Biodiversity value from remnant areas of chalk grassland and ancient woodlands.
- Strong hedgerow structure defining arable fields, sometimes with hedgerow trees.
- Mosaic of arable farmland between woodland.

LCA 8d:

- Plateau downland with gentle undulating ridges and dry chalk valleys.
- Occasional prominent hills within the downland create visual features.
- Open, expansive landscape with long distant views across downland and the river valleys which dissect the plateau.
- Predominately arable land use with limited pasture in the west and south.
- There is little woodland cover creating a simple composition of landscape elements except where there are notable deposits of clay with flints.

Borough level LCA

- 1.1.331 At the borough level, the parcel falls within the Semi Enclosed Clay Plateau Farmland LCT and component LCA 9A: North Andover Plateau to the north of the road, and the Open Chalklands LCT and component LCA 10C: Thrupton and Danebury Chalk Downland. Relevant key valued characteristics of these two LCAs represented in the parcel are:

LCA 9A:

- Complex plateau landscape with dry river gravel valleys and gentle ridges.
- Contrasting open areas of arable farmland with shelter belts on higher ground.
- Well hedged mix of mainly pasture associated with settlements.
- Important countryside gaps between Andover and other settlements.

LCA 10c:

- An elevated gently undulating area of very open chalk downland, dominated by arable farming; provides opportunities and experiences for long views with big expansive skies and wide views, which also provides a development free backdrop and contrast to the adjacent LCT5: River Valley floors.

Designated landscape interests/other designations relevant to landscape character

- 1.1.332 The northern edge of the north area of this parcel abuts the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Landscape functions

- 1.1.333 Key landscape functions of the parcel are those of arable agriculture and food production.

Landscape sensitivity analysis

Landscape value

- 1.1.334 The close proximity to the AONB, some shared characteristics and associated aspects of intervisibility elevate the landscape value of what is otherwise a simple and commonplace rural chalk landscape of a kind often found in Test Valley Borough and the county/south of England more widely. Local degradations in character and detracting elements, such as the urbanising uses along the A342 road corridor (tyre fitters, car breakers and car dealership) locally erode landscape value. As such, the northernmost section of the parcel butting the AONB and sharing characteristics in common with AONB Special Qualities is elevated to being of National value, with the rest of the parcel of Local landscape value.

Landscape susceptibility

Designated landscape interests (National Parks/AONBs) and Special Qualities

- 1.1.335 The northern boundary of the northern area is common to the edge of the North Wessex Downs AONB and has intervisibility with it. This section of the parcel also shares a number of

landscape characteristics in common with the Special Qualities of the AONB, namely chalk landforms relating to the systems of high chalk plains and plunging scarps which characterise much of the AONB.

Landscape scale, pattern and texture (including cultural pattern)

- 1.1.336 Both northern and southern areas of the parcel are defined by a simplified and enlarged Parliamentary Enclosure Field Pattern, with some hedgerows and arable landcover. The busy A342 Andover Road linking Ludgershall and Andover divides the two areas of the parcel along with an associated sliver of land containing a tyre fitters, breaker's yard and car dealership, which create a locally urbanising character, albeit surrounded by trees.

Perceptual and experiential characteristics

- 1.1.337 A mostly rural open chalk landscape with some views north towards the downlands of the North Wessex Downs AONB. There is localised urbanising influence, in the form of both the garage and car brakers development on the A342 Andover Road and some intervisibility with the mid-20th century eastern edge of the large linear village of Ludgershall, which sits just beyond the local authority boundary and county boundary, in Wiltshire. The southern area forms part of rolling, open downland that extends south of Ludgershall.

Settlement characteristics and settlement edge conditions

- 1.1.338 There is a degree of intervisibility with settlement edges, notably the play area at Pretoria Road on the mid-20th century eastern edge of Ludgershall. The southern area, south of the railway, has a strong rural character, with little influence from the existing settlement.

Topographic features and skylines

- 1.1.339 Gently undulating chalk landforms are notable as are, to the north a network of woodlands, wooded shaws and hedgerows which create wooded skylines.

Visual characteristics and intervisibility

- 1.1.340 A gently undulating chalk landform and the relative sparsity of vegetation creates high levels of intervisibility in the southern area of the parcel. The northern area has a slightly higher degree of enclosure formed by the adjacent woodland, wooded shaw and hedgerow network to the east and south, creating wooded skylines.

Overall landscape susceptibility to change arising from the scenario

- 1.1.341 This varies across the parcel. Whilst the greater degree of visual containment in the northern section and the relationship to urbanising influences along the A342 road corridor locally reduce susceptibility, the relationship to the AONB is highly important and elevates susceptibility here. The much more open and visually prominent southern section, with its associated intervisibility, have the highest susceptibility in view of such characteristics. Overall, a **Moderate-High** landscape susceptibility to change arising from the scenario, for both areas of the parcel.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 1.1.342 Considering the discussion on landscape value and landscape susceptibility above, the parcel is judged to have a **Moderate-High** landscape sensitivity overall to change arising from the development scenario. This is by virtue of the proximity to the AONB and shared

landscape characteristics in the north, and the visual prominence and intervisibility afforded by the rolling chalk landforms and more open visual character in the south. The southern area of the parcel is more open, visually exposed and therefore more constrained in landscape and visual terms to any future potential development.

Guidance and recommendations

1.1.343 This is as follows:

- Avoid development type, form and scale that would form prominent urban sprawl in the exposed chalk downland landscape, particularly limiting the development through the south area of the parcel.
- Provide areas of semi-natural greenspace around and through development parcels, with appropriate new planting including native species to any future development edge, to contribute to and reinforce setting from the North Wessex Downs AONB, as well as creating a clear and defensible boundary to any new built form.
- Allied to the semi-natural greenspace provision described above, use a reduced development density to the edges of any future development to create a positive landscape edge and urban/rural interface.
- Provide new structural planting that has visual and physical connectivity with existing structural landscape fabric, to enhance and reinforce the local green infrastructure network and nature pathways.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT: NORTH BADDESLEY 1 AND 3 – LAND SOUTH OF BOTLEY ROAD (ROUNABOUTS COPSE) AND LAND AT PACKRIDGE FARM

Location and context

- 1.1.344 The parcels in this cluster are located on the southern edge of North Baddesley. The eastern parcel forms part of the North Baddesley – Chilworth Local Gap and the A27 Botley Road borders the eastern boundary, whilst North Baddesley Junior School adjoins the northern boundary. Consisting of a considerable area of woodland, part of which is designated as ancient woodland, the parcel forms part of a wider, continuous woodland belt along the southern edge of North Baddesley. The western parcel is also bordered by the settlement on its northern side, and by Rownhams Lane to the east. It consists of grazed pasture, delineated into separate paddocks by fencing. Other notable landscape features forming the context to the parcel include the Toot Hill Camp (a scheduled Hill Fort), woodland glades and low-lying landform, with a network of ditches and streams. There is limited public access to the landscape south of North Baddesley.
- 1.1.345 The parcel, its principal features and context are shown below (designated interests on the left and TVBC landscape character context on the right), with representative photographs of the site shown below.

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View of the mature vegetation on the densely wooded eastern boundary.



View south across the western parcel, from Hoe Lane, showing the lower lying northern edge, overhead lines and Toot Hill Fort.

Landscape character context

National (NCA)

- 1.1.346 The parcel falls within NCA 128: South Hampshire Lowlands. Detail is contained in the relevant [NCA profile](#), but a summary of relevant key characteristics of the NCA represented in the parcel and context is as follows:
- Well-wooded farmed landscape.
 - The more rural hinterland is characterised by small, loosely clustered or dispersed settlements, intermixed with isolated farmsteads.

County LCA

- 1.1.347 At the county level, the parcel falls within the 2d Romsey to Eastleigh Wooded Lowland Mosaic^{xxviii} Landscape Character Area. Relevant key characteristics of this area represented in the parcel are:
- Moderately undulating topography.
 - Significant amount of semi-natural ancient woodland.

Borough level LCA

- 1.1.348 At the borough level, the eastern parcel falls entirely within Landscape Character Type (LCT) 2. Pasture and Woodland Associated with Heathland and within the component Landscape Character Area 2B North Baddesley to Chilworth Woodland Mosaic^{xxix}. The western parcel falls entirely within Landscape Character Type (LCT) Mixed Farmland and Woodland – Medium Scale and within the component Landscape Character Area 3A Baddesley Mixed Farm and Woodland.
- 1.1.349 North Baddesley to Chilworth Woodland Mosaic LCA: Relevant key characteristics of this character area represented in the parcel are:
- Pockets of gently undulating pasture and arable fields within a strong framework of hedgerows and woodland cover.
 - Woodland provides containment to golf courses and assists in reducing their potential landscape and visual impact.
 - Woodland and generous woodland belts provide containment to suburban residential development extending from Southampton and Chandler's Ford.
 - Pattern of fields separating Ampfield and Chandler's Ford / Valley Park / North Baddesley.
- 1.1.350 Baddesley to Chilworth Woodland Mosaic LCA: Relevant key characteristics of this character area represented in the parcel are:
- Trees, woodland and hedges create a sense of enclosure and intimacy and provide strong containment to the settlement edge of North Baddesley, limiting views.

- Ancient semi-natural woodland linked by hedgerows.
- Telegraph Wood containing a possible Iron Age hill fort on a small rise forms a local landmark feature.

Designated landscape interests/other designations relevant to landscape character:

1.1.351 These include:

- Ancient Woodland
- Chilworth Old Village Conservation Area (over 800m to the south)
- The Toot Hill camp is located 500m from the western parcel and is a scheduled monument on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). It is a potential Iron Age Hill Fort and consists of a domed landform with tall evergreen trees, creating a prominent local landmark feature.

Landscape functions

1.1.352 Key landscape functions of the eastern parcel are in relation to biodiversity, and contribution to the local green infrastructure network. The woodland cover to the north of the eastern parcel partially bounds North Baddesley and provides physical and perceptual separation between the open landscape and the small outlying rural settlements including Chilworth Old Village Conservation Area. The western parcel functions as a productive / recreational agricultural and working landscape and is managed as grazed pasture. It is also used for energy transmission with an overhead line traversing the central part of the site.

Landscape sensitivity analysis

Landscape value

1.1.353 Landscape value of this parcel is judged as being at the Regional level. The eastern parcel is relatively small and forms part of a continuous woodland belt and low-lying drainage network. It therefore contributes to a wider network of natural capital and green infrastructure assets. At a site level, landscape value is increased due to the mosaic of habitats which create ecological interest, such as:

- The Ancient Woodland on site.
- Open woodland glades and watercourses create a habitat mosaic.

1.1.354 The western parcel has a simple pattern and texture; however the mature field boundaries provide belts of vegetation that also contribute to local green infrastructure corridors. At a site level, landscape value is increased due to the cultural pattern and sense of time-depth which creates historical interest, such as:

- The pattern of grazed pasture and its relationship to historic routeways.
- The scheduled monument at Toot Hill Camp, a possible Iron Age Hill Fort, and the local landmark it creates.

- There is some variation in landscape value across both parcels. In the eastern parcel the inter-relationship between landscape features provides texture and pattern, and the individual elements are considered to be in good condition, although this is at a localised scale. At a site level the parcel is influenced by its settlement edge location, where residential properties, overhead power lines, the adjacent school and golf course affect the landscape experience. The A27 Botley Road borders the eastern boundary which reduces tranquillity. There is no public access. Taking the above points in to account together with the sense of time depth and the cultural heritage and biodiversity designated interests, the parcel is judged to have a regional/county level landscape value.

Landscape susceptibility

Designated landscape interest (National Parks/AONBs) and Special Qualities

1.1.355 N/A

Landscape scale, pattern and texture (including cultural pattern)

1.1.356 The eastern parcel is of small scale and irregular formation. Due to the density of vegetation it was not possible to determine the land use, although with reference to aerial photography it is assumed that much of the site is unused due to dense vegetation. The wooded cover and small-scale open glades and watercourse create intricate patterns and texture that increases susceptibility. The western parcel is medium scale and regular in form, and it has a simple texture and pattern which reduces susceptibility to change. The wider cultural pattern, including vegetation belts and 19th century access routes remain intact and the prominent and elevated site of the scheduled monument (Toot Hill Camp) combine to locally elevate landscape susceptibility, due to the sense of time depth and legibility they provide, which would be vulnerable to the change scenario.

Perceptual and experiential characteristics

1.1.357 Neither parcel was accessible during the site visit, but taking account of the settlement edge location, the eastern parcel is influenced by the adjoining school, golf course driving range and A27 Botley Road. These give rise to urbanising perceptual influences which reduce landscape susceptibility to the change scenario. The western parcel is also influenced by its settlement edge location, such as Rownhams Lane and the overhead power lines that traverse the centre of the site, lowering susceptibility in experiential and perceptual terms.

Settlement characteristics and settlement edge conditions

1.1.358 The northern and eastern boundaries of both parcels are defined by the settlement edge of North Baddesley, where residential properties, roads and other urbanising elements are located with limited setback which reduces susceptibility to change. To the eastern parcel the mature woodland cover across the parcel itself provides a clearly defined and defensible settlement edge, which would be susceptible to change arising from the scenario. To the western parcel, the subtle ridgeline that aligns with the overhead powerlines provides a defensible boundary, which would also be susceptible to change arising from the scenario.

Topographic features and skylines

1.1.359 The eastern parcel is located in a low-lying area within the local landform, where the topography gently rises to the north and south from the watercourse. This, together with the dense woodland cover, limits views towards skylines and reduces susceptibility in these

terms. The western parcel consists of a subtle topographical ridge through its centre and the terrain falls away to the south and east, and more steeply in the north towards Hoe Lane. The ridgeline and land to the south of it form part of local skylines and would therefore be susceptible to change, whilst the lower lying areas, particularly the northern part of the parcel, have a lower susceptibility in these terms, due to their relatively lower prominence.

Visual characteristics and intervisibility

- 1.1.360 To the eastern parcel, its low-lying and wooded nature results in an enclosed landscape. Views are confined to short distance glimpses into adjoining land, although intervisibility with the floodlit driving range, road and the school reduces susceptibility in visual terms. The western parcel has some intervisibility with the adjoining pasture which is framed by the prominent landform of Toot Hill Camp, which has more of a visual influence on the central and southern parts of the parcel, increasing susceptibility to change in visual terms.

Overall landscape susceptibility to change arising from the scenario

- 1.1.361 The eastern parcel is **highly** susceptible to change arising from the development scenario (large scale residential and mixed-use development), particularly the woodland and open glades. These are characterised by small-scale patterns and intricate landscape texture and the presence of ancient woodland provides a defined settlement edge, which combine to elevate susceptibility to change.
- 1.1.362 In the western parcel, the central ridge and land to the south of it are also **highly** susceptible to change arising from the development scenario. Although overhead lines traverse this part of the site, the landform provides a defensible boundary and forms part of localised skylines with intervisibility with the nearby scheduled monument at Toot Hill Camp. The lower lying northern and eastern areas, that relate more closely with the edge of North Baddesley, have a lower susceptibility for these reasons.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 1.1.363 Taking into account the above discussion of landscape value and landscape susceptibility, at the eastern parcel the overall landscape sensitivity to the change scenario is **High**. This is due to the small-scale cultural pattern and texture that the mature woodland and open glades create. The parcel also contributes to defining the settlement edge, as well as forming part of the North Baddesley – Chilworth Local Gap.
- 1.1.364 To the western parcel there is some variation in landscape sensitivity. The central and southern areas that afford a closer relationship with the surrounding pastoral landscape have a **Moderate-High** sensitivity to the change scenario. This is by virtue of the ridged landform and the intervisibility it provides with the scheduled Hill Fort and also the defensible boundary it provides to the settlement.
- 1.1.365 The lower lying northern and eastern parts have a lower, **Moderate-Low** sensitivity, as they lie below the ridge where there is more visual containment and relationship with the settlement.

Guidance and recommendations

- 1.1.366 This is as follows, and focuses only on the marginally less landscape constrained western parcel, by virtue of the level of mature and established woodland cover in the eastern parcel which would restrict any potential for development in practical terms:

- Reinforce and strengthen existing field boundaries and create a dense new hedgerow boundary with hedgerow trees to the southern boundary (and clear of any wayleave zones for the pylon line to the south). This would, over time, effectively round off the settlement and define any new development edge at this point.
- Seek a reduced development density to the southern edge to create a more porous, landscape integrated development edge in this location, allied to new semi natural greenspace provision.
- Respond to and reflect the existing development layout to the north, in terms of allowing for street trees (and enough space for these to attain maturity, as well as space for larger species trees), which will have the effect of visually breaking up roofscape and perceived development mass over time.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT: NURSLING 1 – LAND WEST OF A3057 (ALSO KNOWN AS LAND AT UPTON LANE/UPTON TRIANGLE)

Location and context

- 1.1.367 This parcel cluster includes two parcels: One is a sub-divided, irregular field of pasture bounded to the west by the arc of the slip road (M271) for the M27 Junction, to the north and east by woodland clusters and dispersed/occasional residential properties along Upton Lane, and to the south by an electricity substation. A pylon line crosses the parcel cluster. It is not possible to get access onto the parcel although much of it can be viewed from gaps in the vegetation on Upton Lane.
- 1.1.368 The other parcel in the cluster is the smaller piece of pastoral agricultural land immediately south of the above, and due west of Upton, also crossed by pylons, and bounded by tree-lines and roads.
- 1.1.369 The parcels in the cluster, their principal features and context are shown below.

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Landscape character context

National (NCA)

- 1.1.370 The parcel cluster falls within NCA Profile: 128 South Hampshire Lowlands. Detail is contained in the relevant [NCA profile](#) but a summary of relevant key characteristics of the NCA represented in the parcel cluster and context is as follows:
- Mixed agricultural landscape dominated by pasture with small pockets of horticulture and arable.
 - An intimate and enclosed field pattern with many small and irregular fields generally bounded by mixed-species hedgerows or woodland.
 - In parts, a very urban NCA dominated by the city and port of Southampton and other large towns.

County LCA

- 1.1.371 At the county level, the parcel falls within LCA 3B: Test Valley. Relevant key characteristics of this area represented in the parcel are:
- Steep abrupt valley sides becoming gentler further south.
 - Valley sides have a range of different enclosure patterns and scales with fields defined by hedgerow and hedgerow trees.
 - Generally unspoilt, remote and tranquil except for urban influences and noise intrusion close to major towns and roads.
 - Small settlements in main valley and tributaries and very lightly populated chalk surroundings contrast in the south with the urban setting beyond the valley edge of Totton and Southampton.

Borough level LCA

- 1.1.372 At the borough level, the parcel falls within LCA 2B: North Baddesley to Chilworth Woodland Mosaic. Relevant key characteristics of this area represented in the parcel are:
- Pockets of gently undulating pasture and arable fields within a strong framework of hedgerows and woodland cover.
 - Remnant heathland and unimproved grassland.
 - Large areas of assarting present within the northern portion of this character area, many of a small scale intimate character.
 - Woodland and generous woodland belts provide containment to suburban residential development extending from Southampton and Chandler's Ford.
 - Views are generally short, mostly to the next field boundary or woodland edge.

Landscape functions

- 1.1.373 Key landscape functions of the parcels in this cluster are those of pastoral agriculture and in creating settlement setting and separation.

Landscape sensitivity analysis

Landscape value

- 1.1.374 The parcels in the cluster are defined by a suite of commonplace landscape elements and also characterised by detracting features such as the M27 motorway, M271 slip road for the M27 and pylons. As such landscape value is at the Neighbourhood level.

Landscape susceptibility

Designated landscape interests (National Parks/AONBs) and Special Qualities:

- 1.1.375 N/A

Landscape scale, pattern, and texture (including cultural pattern):

- 1.1.376 The northern parcel is essentially flat to gently undulating, grazed land characterised by a series of small scale sub-divisions to form paddocks. Judging by the pattern of established broadleaf woodland blocks which form the northern and eastern boundaries, which appear to link to the wider pattern of woodland immediately west (before the local severance which was created by the M271 slip road to the western boundary), the parcel appears to have formed part of an historic assart. Whilst the assart landscape pattern would have the potential to elevate susceptibility to change, some of the other elements reduce susceptibility in these terms.
- 1.1.377 The southern parcel is a simple, medium scale pasture field bounded by roads, tree-lines and woodland. An old hedgerow and trees on a raised bank along the southern edge of the site at Lymer Villas. The hedge along Upton Lane to the west is also on a slightly raised bank, with the ground level slightly higher than the road. The hedgebank locally elevated susceptibility to change.

Perceptual and experiential characteristics:

- 1.1.378 To the northern parcel, the M271 slip road is separated from the parcel by a single, relatively thin, tree belt and as such the road markedly influences local perceptual character.
- 1.1.379 The northern parcel is crossed by pylons served by a sub-station in the south of the parcel. To the southern parcel, pylons are also present on site (one within the northern half and one on the southern boundary) with cables aligning in various directions. These and the aural presence of the M27 motorway notably reduce tranquillity and perceptual quality.
- 1.1.380 The visual and aural presence of the motorway and the visual presence and prominence of the pylons combine to reduce susceptibility to change in perceptual terms.

Settlement characteristics and settlement edge conditions:

- 1.1.381 The northern parcel has markedly less settlement influence than the south, although it is encircled to the west by the M271 slip road and contains a large electricity sub-station to the south facing Upton Lane. The southern parcel is bordered to the east by 1960s and 1970s

bungalows and two storey houses which mark the western edge of Upton. All of these elements combine to reduce susceptibility to change in these terms.

Topographic features and skylines:

- 1.1.382 The parcels are defined by a gently undulating topography, with land falling subtly to the south west.
- 1.1.383 In terms of skylines, the northern parcel is defined mostly by the skyline formed by the wooded boundary with the M27. The southern parcel is defined by a strong tree-line to the eastern boundary along the A3057 Romsey Road, with boundary trees and woodlands largely forming the skylines of the parcel. Pylons define the skylines of both parcels at points, reducing the susceptibility of skylines to change.

Visual characteristics and intervisibility:

- 1.1.384 Whilst the parcels are relatively contained visually by virtue of boundary vegetation, they have glimpsed intervisibility with the wooded hills to the west (towards, at distance, the New Forest National Park and Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB. This locally elevates susceptibility to change in visual terms.

Overall landscape susceptibility to change arising from the scenario

- 1.1.385 The parcel cluster is of a **Moderate-Low** landscape susceptibility to change arising from the scenario overall. This is by virtue of the commonplace series of landscape elements and the detracting features noted above.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 1.1.386 Taking into the account the above discussion of landscape value and landscape sensitivity, overall landscape sensitivity to change is judged **Moderate- Low** by virtue of the degraded character created by the detracting features.

Guidance and recommendations

- 1.1.387 This is as follows:
- The northern parcel is far less related to the existing settlement, relating more to large scale transport infrastructure and thereby being better placed for employment development (noting the practical and environmental constraints formed by the pylons), subject to the retention of the mature landscape edges to the parcel, minimising vegetation losses for site access and retaining an appropriate buffer between the rootzones of the trees and any development in the parcel.
 - The southern parcel has a more obvious relationship to the existing pattern of residential development at Upton and could have the potential to assimilate a quantum of well-designed development facing on to the existing settlement edge at Romsey Road, provided that the existing hedgerow and trees were retained and enhanced to create a positive green edge to the new development.
 - The pylon line and associated wayleave crossing the southern parcel marks a natural technical and environmental constraint to development and larger scale vegetation could

not be accommodated here for this reason. However, effective landscape and visual screening is already provided to the parcel's boundary to the north and west.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT: NURSLING 2 – LAND AT FOUR HORSESHOES

Location and context

- 1.1.388 The site is located south east of the M27 J3 Nursling Interchange. The site sits to the north of Nursling Street, directly opposite The Four Horseshoes pub and is formed of the car park for the pub, and a paddock field.
- 1.1.389 The parcel, its principal features and context are shown below (designated interests on the left and TVBC landscape character context on the right, with representative photographs of the site shown below).
- 1.1.390 This set of images show this parcel and its designated interests and landscape character context described above, supported by representative photographs.

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View looking north-west with the M27 J3 Nursling Interchange in the distance, looking over the existing car parking and outdoor seating



View looking north-east over the existing area of parking, over the existing paddock towards the M27 behind the trees visible beyond the fence line

Landscape character context

National (NCA)

1.1.391 The parcel falls within [NCA Profile: 128](#) South Hampshire Lowlands. Detail is contained in the NCA profile but a summary of relevant key characteristics of the NCA represented in the parcel and context is as follows:

- Mixed agricultural landscape dominated by pasture with small pockets of horticulture and arable.
- An intimate and enclosed field pattern with many small and irregular fields generally bounded by mixed-species hedgerows or woodland.

County LCA

1.1.392 The site sits within the catchment of the Southampton City Area and is therefore not evaluated as part of the Hampshire Landscape Character Assessment. The parcel of land sits within the 'Lowland Mosaic Heath Associated' Landscape Character Type.

1.1.393 Relevant key characteristics of this LCT represented in the parcel are:

- Typically grazed pasture small enclosures, in well wooded settings closely linked with adjoining heath and common land.
- Widespread horse grazing and urban fringe uses.
- Typically, small to very small size regular pattern field with very strong association with 19th century origins of enclosure over commons.

Borough level LCA

1.1.394 At the borough level (Test Valley Borough Council), the parcel falls within the 'Pasture and Woodland Associated with Heathland' Landscape Character Type, and within the component landscape character area LCA2B North Baddesley and Chilworth Woodland Mosaic. ^{xxx}
 Relevant key characteristics of this LCA represented in the parcel are:

- Views are generally short, mostly to the next field boundary or woodland edge.

Designated landscape interests/other designations relevant to landscape character

1.1.395 N/A

Landscape functions

1.1.396 Primary functions of the parcel are recreational (pub car park and garden), equestrian land use and grazing/pastureland.

Landscape sensitivity analysis

Landscape value

- 1.1.397 The parcel contains a low concentration of positive key landscape characteristics identified in the LCA. It includes assets of community importance and exhibits considerable enhancement potential. For these reasons landscape value is judged to be at the Local level.

Landscape susceptibility

Designated landscape interests (National Parks/AONBs) and Special Qualities

- 1.1.398 N/A

Landscape scale, pattern and texture (including cultural pattern)

- 1.1.399 The parcel is of a regular rectilinear pattern with fields under pasture. It has a smaller scale, comparatively, to parcels of land within the local area to the north of the M27, elevating its susceptibility to change arising from the scenario in these terms.

Perceptual and experiential characteristics

- 1.1.400 Attributes indicating lower susceptibility to change arising from the scenario are the parcel's very weak and eroded perceptual character and quality, defined by its proximity to the M27. The parcel lies directly southeast of junction 3 of the M27, with associated road noise and views of queuing traffic from more elevated ground, significantly reducing perceptual qualities. Overall the transport infrastructure and associated urbanising features combine to reduce susceptibility to change.

Settlement characteristics and settlement edge conditions

- 1.1.401 Attributes indicating lower susceptibility to change are the fragmented settlement pattern. Junction 3 of the M27 is evident. Along Nursling Street, to the east of the parcel, two houses are partially screened by a line of mature and semi-mature trees and vegetation. A wider area of trees/ small band of woodland screen views of the allotments to the north of these houses. A row of terraced houses along Nursling Street faces the parcel, standing behind a barn of traditional appearance along the southern boundary, behind which an area of new housing has been recently developed.

Topographic features and skylines

- 1.1.402 The landform of the parcel falls gently from the north-easternmost point towards the car park to the south, with little to no landform relief or variation/distinction. This reduces landscape susceptibility to change arising from the scenario.

Visual characteristics and intervisibility

- 1.1.403 The poorly integrated settlement pattern reduces susceptibility to change. Views are kept short by a tree belt along the eastern and northern boundary, although pylons and overhead lines are visible in views to the north / east. The southern edge is characterised by the built form of Nursling Street, the pub and the adjacent row of cottages. There are glimpsed views of traffic along junction 3 of the M27 over and between gaps in the vegetation.

Overall landscape susceptibility to change arising from the scenario

- 1.1.404 This small, flat parcel, adjacent to the M27, would have a **Moderate-Low** level of susceptibility to the change scenario, by virtue of such urbanising physical and perceptual influences and as described above.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 1.1.405 This small, flat parcel, adjacent to the M27, would have a **Moderate-Low** level of susceptibility to the change scenario, by virtue of such urbanising physical and perceptual influences and as described above.

Guidance and recommendations

- 1.1.406 This is as follows:
- In considering and planning any potential future development, retain and enhance areas of strong and distinctive landscape structure such as the mature hedgerow and tree boundaries, which provide existing legible boundaries and visual screening in the local landscape.
 - Any development here should be of an appropriate scale and density, in the context of existing nearby development, considering the rural qualities of the settlement cluster.
 - Retain and reinforce existing vegetation using understorey planting, infill hedgerow and tree planting drawn from an appropriate and locally specific native planting palette. This should be used to provide a defensible boundary to the proposed development that screens views from the wider rural landscape and retains a screen to the motorway.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT: ROWNHAMS 1 – LAND AT FIELDS FARM

Location and context

- 1.1.407 The parcel is located on the eastern edge of Rownhams, to the east of Rownhams Lane and south of the emerging Broadleaf Park housing development. Lord’s Wood ancient woodland edges the parcel to the east and a series of small-scale fields lie to the south. The site comprises two main fields to the east (adjacent to Lord’s Wood) and west (adjacent to Rownhams Lane), with a single on-site residential dwelling and surrounding grounds dividing the two areas. The parcel also includes a block of woodland to the south-east, adjoining Lord’s Wood. Bakers Drove serves the single dwelling in the central part of the parcel, as well as two other properties to the south (one of which forms the ‘cut-out’ of the site boundary seen in the images below). The Lords Wood Greenway follows the southern boundary.
- 1.1.408 The parcel, its principal features and context are shown below (designated interests on the left and TVBC landscape character context on the right), supported by representative photographs.

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View east across the western part of the parcel from Rownhams Lane, looking towards the house which lies within the central part of the parcel.



View south from Anderton Avenue looking across the eastern part of the parcel towards the woodland block to the south of the site. Lord’s Wood is to the east.

Landscape character context

National (NCA)

1.1.409 The parcel falls within [NCA 128: South Hampshire Lowlands](#). Detail is contained in the relevant NCA profile, but a summary of relevant key characteristics of the NCA represented in the parcel and context is as follows:

- Well-wooded farmed landscape characterised by ancient woodland.
- Mixed agricultural landscape dominated by pasture with small pockets of horticulture and arable.
- An intimate and enclosed field pattern with many small and irregular fields generally bounded by mixed-species hedgerows or woodland.

County LCA

1.1.410 At the county level, the parcel falls within the [Romsey to Eastleigh Wooded Lowland Mosaic \(2d\)](#) character area. Relevant key characteristics of this area represented in the parcel are:

- Moderately undulating topography with a variety of clay and sandy gravel geology.
- Predominantly improved grassland, but also significant amount of semi-natural ancient woodland.
- A predominantly wooded assart landscape of mid medieval origin fragmented and significantly altered by 18th and 19th century enclosures, conifer plantation and extensive expansion northwards of Southampton in the latter half of the 20th century.

Borough level LCA

1.1.411 At the borough level, the parcel falls entirely within Landscape Character Type (LCT) 2 Pasture and Woodland Associated with Heathland, and within the [North Baddesley to Chilworth Woodland Mosaic character area \(LCA 2b\)](#). Relevant key characteristics of the LCA represented in the parcel are:

- Pockets of gently undulating pasture and arable fields within a strong framework of hedgerows and woodland cover.
- Woodland and generous woodland belts provide containment to suburban residential development extending from Southampton and Chandler's Ford.
- Views are generally short, mostly to the next field boundary or woodland edge.

Designated landscape interests/other designations relevant to character

1.1.412 Ancient and semi-natural woodland (Lord's Wood) abuts the eastern boundary of the parcel, contributing sense of enclosure, naturalistic skylines and time-depth.

Landscape functions

- 1.1.413 The key landscape function of the parcel is that of a productive landscape as arable, pasture, or used for hay crop (currently unmanaged). Treelines, hedgerows and woodland at the site boundaries or within the site function as biodiversity corridors/features. A small portion of the parcel appears to serve as the recreational external space/garden of the centrally located residential property.

Landscape sensitivity analysis

Landscape value

- 1.1.414 Landscape value is judged to be at the Local level. Deciduous woodland which forms part of the southern portion of the parcel, connecting with Lord's Wood ancient woodland, elevates the value of the parcel due to the natural character, sense of remoteness, and biodiversity connectivity it provides. Additionally, the naturalistic edge and wooded skylines to the east provided by Lord's Wood (along with the sense of tranquillity and time-depth), and mature treelines and hedgerows along other boundaries, elevates the value of the parcel. Areas adjacent to the settlement edge and road infrastructure to the east and north are more affected by urban fringe influences which reduces the landscape value for those areas.

Landscape susceptibility

Designated landscape interests (National Parks/AONBs) and Special Qualities

- 1.1.415 N/A

Landscape scale, pattern and texture (including cultural pattern)

- 1.1.416 The site is made up of two small-scale, irregularly shaped fields, and a block of woodland forming the southern portion; this creates a relatively intricate landscape pattern, and varied texture. The presence of Lord's Wood edging the eastern boundary contributes to historic landscape character. The above characteristics would all be susceptible to change arising from the development scenario by virtue of the potential for alteration to the landscape fabric and legibility.

Perceptual and experiential characteristics

- 1.1.417 Within the eastern and south-eastern part of the site, adjacent to Lord's Wood and onsite woodland, there is a notable sense of relative tranquillity and remoteness which would be vulnerable to change arising from the development scenario. Anderton Avenue (located on the southern edge of the emerging Broadleaf Park development, to the north of the site) lies adjacent to much of the northern boundary. Additionally, properties along Rownhams Lane have gardens abutting the parcel. Though there is generally a well-established treeline/hedgerow along this edge, there is a perception of the built edge, with human induced structures visible, lowering susceptibility for the northern parts of the parcel. Additionally, road noise and glimpses of vehicular movement along Rownhams Lane to the western boundary reduces tranquillity in the west.

Settlement characteristics and settlement edge conditions

- 1.1.418 Much of the northern boundary and the western boundary have a notable relationship with the eastern fringes of Rownhams, with houses perceptible beyond treelines/hedgerows. For

the most part however, treelines/hedgerows are well established and provide a substantial boundary in many locations along these edges.

Topographic features and skylines

- 1.1.419 Landform of the western field is relatively flat, falling slightly from west to east, giving rise to lower susceptibility to change. Skylines for this western part of the site are generally wooded but with intermittent views of houses. The eastern field again falls gradually from west to east/south-east, the woodland in the southern portion forms the lowest part of the parcel. This area comprises naturalistic skylines to the eastern and southern aspects, which would be susceptible to change arising from the development scenario.

Visual characteristics and intervisibility

- 1.1.420 Overall, the parcel is well contained by woodland and treelines/hedgerows but with occasional intervisibility with the settlement edge or human induced elements such as road infrastructure, buildings or fencing which reduces susceptibility. The majority of the site has intervisibility with wooded skylines to the east, increasing susceptibility, although this is reduced in the more wooded parts of the parcel.

Overall landscape susceptibility to change arising from the scenario

- 1.1.421 The eastern and south-eastern parts of the parcel are **highly susceptible** to change arising from the development scenario, particularly areas in proximity to ancient woodland or within the wooded parts of the site itself, where the sense of perceived naturalness is higher, with the woodland/woodland edge providing an intimate landscape character. All of these elements combine to elevate susceptibility.
- 1.1.422 The western part of the site, and to a certain extent the northern edges are influenced by the settlement edge and road infrastructure. These areas generally have a reduced level of relative tranquillity, albeit with mature treeline/hedgerow vegetation providing a strong boundary in many locations. These areas have lower **Moderate susceptibility** to the change scenario for the foregoing reasons.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 1.1.423 Considering the above discussion of landscape value and landscape susceptibility, the enclosed eastern/south-eastern part of the parcel, characterised by the adjacent ancient woodland edge and on-site woodland, are of **Moderate-High** Sensitivity by virtue of these landscape characteristics.
- 1.1.424 The area of on-site woodland is considered to be of **High** Sensitivity due to its naturalistic landscape character and connectivity with ancient woodland, which enhances landscape character in this location.
- 1.1.425 The western part of the site and parts of the northern edge are more influenced by road infrastructure and human activity, and therefore are of lower, **Moderate sensitivity**.

Guidance and recommendations

- 1.1.426 In spite of the mixed sensitivity reported above this parcel is largely very constrained for residential and mixed-use development due to the relationship with the ancient woodland edge and on-site woodland, providing an intimate character with heightened levels of relative tranquillity. The western end of the site, adjacent to Rownhams Lane could accommodate a

limited degree of sensitively designed development without changing wider landscape character adversely. Guidance is as follows:

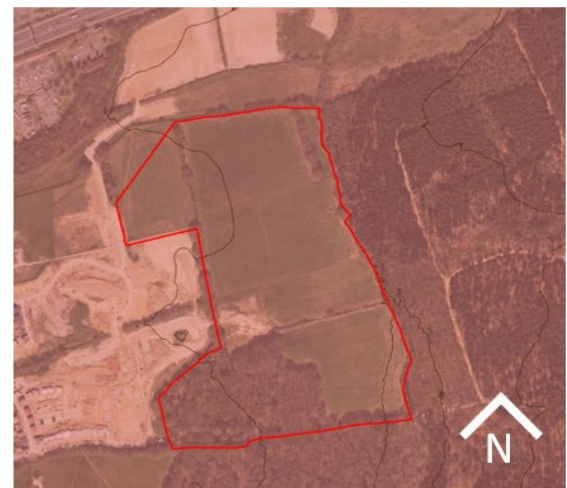
- Any development should be small scale, low density and contained within the existing landscape structure and line of the existing settlement in the west of the parcel.
- In order to assimilate any new development, create new structural planting that has physical and visual connectivity with existing vegetation and contributes to new areas of semi natural greenspace and integration of the settlement edge. This would also assist in creating a defensible boundary and with strengthening local green infrastructure connectivity.
- Retain and enhance the woodland block as part of a landscape led masterplan for the parcel.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS: ROWNHAMS 2 – LAND AT ROWNHAMS LANE

Location and context

- 1.1.427 The parcel is located on the eastern edge of Rownhams, to the south of the M27 and east of the emerging Broadleaf Park housing development. Lord’s Wood ancient woodland edges the parcel to the east and a series of small-scale fields lie to the north, between the site and M27. The site comprises five small fields bound by a mix of woodland, hedgerows with occasional trees and internal fences. Clams Copse is a small area of woodland in the southwest of the site, The parcel is partly separated from the adjoining development site by a line of mature trees.
- 1.1.428 The parcel, its principal features and context are shown below (designated interests on the left and TVBC landscape character context on the right), supported by representative photographs.

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View east into the parcel beyond the mature treeline in the mid-ground, with the backdrop of Lord’s Wood clearly visible



View east into the parcel (background), showing the strongly wooded skyline formed by Lord’s Wood to the east

Landscape character context

National (NCA)

1.1.429 The parcel falls within [NCA 128: South Hampshire Lowlands](#). Detail is contained in the relevant NCA profile, but a summary of relevant key characteristics of the NCA represented in the parcel and context is as follows:

- Well-wooded farmed landscape characterised by ancient woodland.
- Mixed agricultural landscape dominated by pasture with small pockets of horticulture and arable.
- An intimate and enclosed field pattern with many small and irregular fields generally bounded by mixed-species hedgerows or woodland.

County LCA

1.1.430 At the county level, the parcel falls within the [Romsey to Eastleigh Wooded Lowland Mosaic \(2d\)](#) character area. Relevant key characteristics of this area represented in the parcel are:

- Moderately undulating topography with a variety of clay and sandy gravel geology.
- Predominantly improved grassland, but also significant amount of semi-natural ancient woodland.
- A predominantly wooded assart landscape of mid-medieval origin fragmented and significantly altered by 18th and 19th century enclosures, conifer plantation and extensive expansion northwards of Southampton in the latter half of the 20th century.

Borough level LCA

1.1.431 At the borough level, the parcel falls entirely within Landscape Character Type (LCT) 2 Pasture and Woodland Associated with Heathland, and within the [North Baddesley to Chilworth Woodland Mosaic character area \(LCA 2b\)](#). Relevant key characteristics of the LCA represented in the parcel are:

- Pockets of gently undulating pasture and arable fields within a strong framework of hedgerows and woodland cover.
- Woodland and generous woodland belts provide containment to suburban residential development extending from Southampton and Chandler's Ford.
- Views are generally short, mostly to the next field boundary or woodland edge.

Designated landscape interests/other designations relevant to character

1.1.432 Ancient and semi-natural woodland (Lord's Wood) abuts the east and south boundaries of the parcel, contributing a sense of enclosure, naturalistic skylines and time-depth.

Landscape functions

- 1.1.433 The key landscape function of the parcel is that of a productive landscape, including arable, pasture and use for hay crop (currently unmanaged). Treelines, hedgerows and woodland at the site boundaries or within the site function as biodiversity corridors/features. A small portion in the west of the parcel appears to serve as an attenuation pond to the adjacent residential development.

Landscape sensitivity analysis

Landscape value

- 1.1.434 Landscape value is judged to be at the borough level. Deciduous woodland within the southwest of the parcel, connecting with Lord's Wood ancient woodland, elevates the value of the parcel due to the naturalistic character and biodiversity connectivity it provides. The naturalistic edge and wooded skylines to the south and east provided by Lord's Wood (along with the sense of tranquillity and time-depth), and mature treelines and hedgerows along other boundaries, elevates the value of the parcel. The ongoing residential development to the west, alters this experience in part, with settlement fringe influences that reduce the landscape value for those areas.

Landscape susceptibility

Designated landscape interests (National Parks/AONBs) and Special Qualities

- 1.1.435 N/A

Landscape scale, pattern and texture (including cultural pattern)

- 1.1.436 The parcel is made up of five small-scale, generally rectangular fields, and a woodland copse in the southwest. This creates a relatively intricate landscape pattern, and varied texture. The presence of Lord's Wood edging the southern and eastern boundaries contributes to historic landscape character. The above characteristics are all susceptible to change arising from the development scenario by virtue of the potential for alteration to the landscape fabric and legibility.

Perceptual and experiential characteristics

- 1.1.437 Within the south and east of the parcel, adjacent to Lord's Wood and onsite woodland, there is a notable sense of relative tranquillity and remoteness which is vulnerable to change arising from the development scenario. Properties on Shutter Close and Harrison Way within the emerging Broadleaf Park development, to the west of the parcel, will be largely set back behind the existing treeline that bounds the site. Although there is generally a well-established treeline/hedgerow along this edge, there will be a perception of the built edge, with built structures visible, lowering susceptibility for the western parts of the parcel. Additionally, road noise and glimpses of vehicular movement along the M27 to the north of the parcel reduces tranquillity in the north.

Settlement characteristics and settlement edge conditions

- 1.1.438 The western boundary has a notable relationship with the eastern fringes of the emerging residential extension to Rownhams, with houses perceptible beyond treelines/hedgerows. For the most part however, treelines/hedgerows are well established and provide a substantial boundary in many locations along these edges.

Topographic features and skylines

- 1.1.439 The landform slopes down from the west of the site, through the site to the brook that flows along the eastern site boundary. It then begins to rise again, through the woodland to the east of the brook. Skylines to the north, south and east of the parcel are generally wooded/treed. Skylines to the west are characterised by the emerging residential development on rising landform.

Visual characteristics and intervisibility

- 1.1.440 Overall, the parcel is well contained by woodland and treelines/hedgerows but with intervisibility with the settlement edge or elements such as road infrastructure, to the north and west, which reduces susceptibility.

Overall landscape susceptibility to change arising from the scenario

- 1.1.441 Overall the parcel has **Moderate susceptibility** to change arising from the development scenario, as a result of consideration of the existing attributes and land uses. The woodland edges and small-scale, intricate landcover pattern are particularly susceptible to change. The parcel is well contained, which reduces susceptibility in part.
- 1.1.442 The western part of the parcel, and to a certain extent the northern edges are influenced by the settlement edge and road infrastructure. These areas generally have a reduced level of relative tranquillity, albeit with mature treeline/hedgerow vegetation providing a strong boundary in many locations. These areas have **Moderate susceptibility** to the change scenario for the foregoing reasons.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 1.1.443 Considering the above discussion of landscape value and landscape susceptibility, the parcel, characterised by the adjacent ancient woodland edge and on-site woodland, is of **Moderate-High** landscape sensitivity by virtue of these landscape characteristics.
- 1.1.444 The area of on-site woodland is considered to be of **High** Sensitivity due to its naturalistic landscape character and connectivity with ancient woodland, which enhances landscape character in this location.

Guidance and recommendations

- 1.1.445 In spite of the mixed sensitivity reported above this parcel is largely very constrained for residential and mixed-use development due to the relationship with the ancient woodland edge and on-site woodland, providing an intimate landscape character with heightened levels of relative tranquillity.
- 1.1.446 The western and northern parts of the parcel, adjacent to the emerging development could accommodate a small-scale, limited degree of sensitively designed development without changing wider landscape character adversely. This should be well integrated, using new and existing landscape structure that provides an appropriate buffer to the ancient woodland.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS: CHILWORTH – LAND AT CHILWORTH, OLD VILLAGE

Location and context

1.1.447 The parcel is located on the north-western edge of Chilworth Old Village, with the southern and eastern boundaries abutting the Chilworth Old Village Conservation Area. The characteristically wooded nature of the village, with clusters of houses set within generous tree and hedge cover, occupies land to the south. Botley Road/A27 runs immediately adjacent to the north-eastern boundary, beyond which lies mixed farmland and further woodland blocks. To the west is an open landscape with equestrian related activity, beyond which lies Chilworth Golf Club, and the major settlement of North Baddesley to the west. To the south of the golf course and connecting with Chilworth Old Village to the east is a significant area of ancient woodland known as Home Copse.

1.1.448 The parcel, its principal features and context are shown below (designated interests on the left and TVBC landscape character context on the right):

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View from Botley Road/A27 looking south, with mature trees at the eastern and southern boundary.



View west from Chilworth Old Village towards woodland which defines the horizon.

Landscape character context

National (NCA)

1.1.449 The parcel falls within NCA 128: South Hampshire Lowlands. Detail is contained in the relevant [NCA profile](#), but a summary of relevant key characteristics of the NCA represented in the parcel and context is as follows:

- Mixed agricultural landscape dominated by pasture.
- An intimate and enclosed field pattern with many small and irregular fields generally bounded by mixed-species hedgerows or woodland.

County LCA

1.1.450 At the county level, the parcel falls within the [Romsey to Eastleigh Wooded Lowland Mosaic \(2d\) character area](#). Relevant key characteristics of this area represented in the parcel are:

- A sense of elevation above the adjoining coastal and valley landscapes of the Test and Itchen, and moderately undulating topography with a variety of clay and sandy gravel geology.
- Predominantly improved grassland, but also significant amount of semi-natural ancient woodland.
- A predominantly wooded assart landscape of mid-medieval origin.

Borough level LCA

1.1.451 At the borough level, the parcel falls within [Landscape Character Type \(LCT\) 2 Pasture and Woodland Associated with Heathland](#), and within the North Baddesley to Chilworth Woodland Mosaic character area (LCA 2b). Relevant key characteristics of this LCA represented in the parcel are:

- Pockets of gently undulating pasture and arable fields within a strong framework of hedgerows and woodland cover.
- Some long views northwards and westwards in the vicinity of Chilworth Old Village to wooded ridges.

Designated landscape interests

1.1.452 The parcel abuts the Chilworth Old Village Conservation Area boundary to the south and east. The parcel contributes to the sense of openness to the west and north of the conservation area, as well as to the perception of mature trees and hedgerows, which are both key boundary features of the conservation area.

Landscape functions

- 1.1.453 The landscape comprises recreational and commercial functions, as a small area of pasture/grassland, hardstanding, shed and outside storage areas including a small livestock pen. The site also provides physical and perceptual separation between North Baddesley and Chilworth Old Village/Chilworth (as recognised by the Local Gap), as experienced in westerly and northerly views from Chilworth Old Village Conservation Area. Boundary hedgerows and trees also provide habitat functionality.

Landscape sensitivity analysis

Landscape value

- 1.1.454 Long views northwards and westwards towards wooded ridges elevate the value of the parcel, particularly in relation to the outlook from the adjacent conservation area. The sense of elevation above the adjoining valley landscape, and the parcel's pasture landcover (albeit of small scale) set within a strong framework of hedgerows and woodland cover within the surrounds of Chilworth Old Village also elevate potential value. The cluttered nature of the southern part of the site (shed, small enclosures, areas of hardstanding and vehicle storage) and proximity to the busy A27 Botley Rd, combine to slightly reduce landscape value, resulting in overall local value.

Landscape susceptibility

Designated landscape interests (National Parks/AONBs) and Special Qualities

- 1.1.455 The site lies immediately adjacent to the Chilworth Old Village Conservation Area and has a strong functional relationship with the historically designated area. The Chilworth Old Village Conservation Area policy document recognises key features that maintain the character of the conservation area to be the open vista to the west, and the generous cover of mature trees and hedgerows at the boundaries. The site contributes to these characteristics and is therefore susceptible to change in these terms arising from residential and mixed-use development.

Landscape scale, pattern and texture (including cultural pattern)

- 1.1.456 The site is of small scale, simple pattern, but adjoins and forms part of a much larger open landscape to the west. The mix of uses makes for a somewhat cluttered landscape texture; these elements lower landscape susceptibility to the change scenario as there are few features which would be vulnerable to it. However, boundary hedgerow and tree vegetation would be susceptible to the change scenario. Additionally, time depth and historic associations of the site in relation to the historic village elevate landscape susceptibility, as these elements would be vulnerable to the change scenario.

Perceptual and experiential characteristics

- 1.1.457 The site lacks tranquillity and a sense of remoteness due to road noise from the busy Botley Road/A27 and the adjacent village. These elements reduce susceptibility to change arising from the scenario. The expansive landscape character, with naturalistic skylines (albeit with views degraded by intervening pylons) to the west and north, and the sense of openness to these aspects combine to elevate susceptibility to change arising from the scenario.

Settlement characteristics and settlement edge conditions

- 1.1.458 The Chilworth Old Village settlement defines the landscape of the site, by virtue of its proximity. The village is characterised by its wooded setting, and the perception of this would be susceptible to change arising from the development scenario. Due to the wooded nature of the village, there is limited perception of the built character in relation to the site, slightly reducing susceptibility. However, there is intervisibility with St. Denys Church (Grade II Listed) which is set back from the road on a slightly elevated position, and which increases susceptibility.

Topographic features and skylines

- 1.1.459 The site is of flat to gently undulating topography which would not be overly susceptible to change arising from the scenario. However, the open landscape and naturalistic, wooded skylines to the west and north would be susceptible as the scenario would fundamentally alter the legibility of this feature. It is worth noting that views of pylons reduce susceptibility to a certain extent.

Visual characteristics and intervisibility

- 1.1.460 The sense of openness and elevation to the northerly and westerly aspects gives rise to notable levels of intervisibility with the wide rural landscapes surrounding the site, albeit with pylons prominent in views. The site also has intervisibility with the wooded character of Chilworth Old Village including the Grade II Listed St Denys Church. These aspects elevate susceptibility. In immediate proximity to the north-east is the Botley Road/A27 which the site has direct intervisibility with, this element is visually far less susceptible to change.

Overall landscape susceptibility to change from residential and mixed-use development

- 1.1.461 Considering the above discussion, the majority of the site is **Highly** susceptible to change arising from the development scenario, most notably due to the sense of openness that the site contributes to the historic character, as recognised by the conservation area designation. The southern tip of the site which contains clutter and is spatially associated with the dwellings to the north of the village is of overall **Moderate** susceptibility for these reasons.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 1.1.462 Considering the above discussion of landscape value and landscape susceptibility, the overall landscape sensitivity to the change scenario is **High** for the majority of the parcel. This is due to the open qualities and the sense of elevation experienced within the larger northern parts, taking into consideration the sense of openness experienced in views across the site to the west and north from the adjacent Chilworth Old Village Conservation Area.
- 1.1.463 In the southern tip of the site, existing clutter including hardstanding, a shed and outside storage areas, including a small livestock pen, and spatial association with the settlement edge, have the potential to reduce sensitivity. However, due to the perception of the wooded edge of Chilworth Old Village experienced by receptors from the south, this area is still judged to be of **High** sensitivity overall.

Guidance and recommendations

1.1.464 This parcel is highly constrained to potential development in landscape and visual terms, and with particular reference to its relationship with the conservation area and elevated location. Guidance is as follows:

- Any development should be low density and contained within the existing landscape structure and line of the existing settlement.
- In order to assimilate any new development, create new structural planting that has physical and visual connectivity with existing vegetation and contributes to new areas of semi natural greenspace and integration of the settlement edge. This would also assist in creating a defensible boundary and with strengthening local green infrastructure connectivity.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS: CHANDLERS FORD-LAND 1 – LAND NORTH WEST OF ST JAMES’ PARK (ALSO KNOWN AS LAND ADJ KING EDWARDS PARK, LAND ADJACENT TO TROTTS COPSE)

Location and context

- 1.1.465 This parcel is located to the north-west of the Park Home development at St James’ Park, Chandlers Ford. It is an area of grassland which appears to have been historically assarted from woodland, site with no public access and the ancient woodland of Trodds Copse SSSI wraps around the site to the north-west, effectively enclosing it completely.
- 1.1.466 The parcel, its principal features and context are shown below (designated interests on the left and TVBC landscape character context on the right), supported by representative photographs.

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Showing wooded backdrop to parcel and tree planting taking place at time of the survey



Showing grassland historically assarted from surrounding woodland

Landscape character context

National (NCA)

- 1.1.467 The parcel falls within NCA 128: South Hampshire Lowlands. Relevant key characteristics of the NCA represented in the parcel are as follows:
- Outlying chalk ridge and associated elevated landform.
 - Mixed farmland including pasture, and woodland, with some 18% of the NCA being wooded.
 - Almost half of the woodland in the NCA is designated ancient woodland, a remnant of the ancient Royal hunting forest at the Forest of Bere. Ampfield Wood is one of the most significant surviving ancient woodland blocks.

County LCA

- 1.1.468 At the county level, the parcel falls within LCA 2D: Romsey to Eastleigh Wooded Lowland Mosaic. Relevant key characteristics of the LCA represented in the parcel are as follows:
- A sense of elevation and moderately undulating topography.
 - Predominantly improved grassland but also significant amount of semi-natural ancient woodland and conifer replanted woodland with internationally designated damp and boggy heath habitat in central area creating a rich biodiversity.
 - A predominantly wooded, assarted landscape of mid-medieval origin fragmented and significantly altered by 18th and 19th century enclosures.

Borough level LCA

- 1.1.469 At the borough level, the parcel falls within LCA 2B: North Baddesley to Chilworth Woodland Mosaic. Relevant key valued characteristics of this LCA represented in the parcel are as follows:
- Pockets of gently undulating pasture and arable fields within a strong framework of hedgerows and woodland cover, including plantation.
 - Large areas of assarting present within the northern portion of this character area, many of a small scale intimate character.
 - Woodland and generous woodland belts provide containment to suburban residential development extending from Southampton and Chandler's Ford.

Designated landscape interests/other designations relevant to landscape character

- 1.1.470 Ancient woodland at Trodds Copse SSSI fringes the parcel and which defines its setting and context.

Landscape functions

- 1.1.471 Key landscape functions of the parcel are pastoral agriculture and contribution to the settlement setting of Chandlers Ford.

Landscape sensitivity analysis

Landscape value

- 1.1.472 The landscape value is judged to be local (neighbourhood) level, due to the common-place nature of landscape elements within the parcel and the settlement fringe influence provided by the Park Home development. Due to the level of containment afforded by the density of the surrounding woodlands there is little relationship to the wider landscape or any sense of scenic quality.

Landscape susceptibility

Designated landscape interests (National Parks/AONBs) and Special Qualities

- 1.1.473 N/A

Landscape scale, pattern and texture (including cultural pattern)

- 1.1.474 A small scale intimate landscape, with a single irregular grassland field which appears to have been historically assarted from the surrounding ancient woodland of Trodds Copse SSSI. Much of the textural and pattern interest within the landscape is derived from the adjacent ancient woodland. The parcel itself is of a simple, uniform character.

Perceptual and experiential characteristics

- 1.1.475 A strong sense of enclosure established by the ancient woodland which wraps around the site. Perceptual character is otherwise influenced by the proximity to and intervisibility with the Park Home site at St James' Park.

Settlement characteristics and settlement edge conditions

- 1.1.476 This is largely defined by the adjacent Park Home Development of chalet caravans set within woodland with distinctive trees. Late 20th century, medium density housing along cul-de-sacs is typical, beyond the woodland buffer to the east.

Topographic features and skylines

- 1.1.477 Land falls to the west across the parcel and skylines beyond are defined by the ancient woodland of Trodds Copse SSSI.

Visual characteristics and intervisibility

- 1.1.478 This parcel has a strong enclosed character and views are kept short by virtue of the density of the surrounding woodland, resulting in little or no intervisibility with the wider landscape.

Overall landscape susceptibility to change arising from the scenario

- 1.1.479 Overall landscape susceptibility to change resulting from the development scenario is judged to be at the lower end of **Moderate-Low**. This is due to the level of visual containment, the

simple landscape character and the degree of settlement edge influence with the Park Home development at St James' Park.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 1.1.480 Considering the discussion on landscape value and landscape susceptibility above, overall landscape sensitivity of the parcel to change arising from the development scenario is judged to be **Low**. This is due to the commonplace nature of landscape elements and localised nature of landscape value, allied to the simplicity of landscape character and extent of visual containment.

Guidance and recommendations

- 1.1.481 This is as follows:
- In considering and planning any potential future development, retain and enhance areas of strong and distinctive landscape structure such as the woodland edges of Trodds Copse and mature tree belt boundaries which provide existing legible boundaries in the local landscape.
 - Any new structural planting should have physical and visual connectivity with existing vegetation and should contribute to new areas of semi-natural greenspace, both as defensible boundaries and to integrate the settlement edge. Such greenspace provision should also contribute to the buffer to/separation from the ancient woodland, with areas of woodland edge planting and longer grassland/meadow to create a managed transition between active recreational open space and less active space (avoiding compaction in relation to tree root zones).

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT: VALLEY PARK 2 AND 3 – LAND NORTH AND SOUTH OF FLEXFORD ROAD

Location and context

- 1.1.482 This parcel cluster lies west of Chandler’s Ford. The northern parcel (Valley Park 2) forms part of the eastern edge of the Ampfield – Chandler’s Ford Local Gap, separated from the Valley Park urban extension by Flexford Road. The southern parcel (Valley Park 3) forms part of the eastern edge of the North Baddesley – Valley Park Local Gap, separated from Valley Park by mature woodland. The northern parcel is defined by the railway line, with Monk’s Brook and adjacent woodland in proximity, beyond which lies St James Mobile Home Park and an emerging development off Baddesley Road. Trodds Copse SSSI is a significant Ancient Woodland to the north of the railway line. To the west lies open countryside, with field boundary hedgerows, treelines and woodland blocks. The southern parcel is bordered by the woodland of Great Covert (part Ancient Woodland) to the south, and grazed pasture to the north and east. Flexford Road and a PRoW are near the northern boundary, with a PRoW to the southern boundary.
- 1.1.483 The parcel, its principal features and context are shown below (designated interests on the left and TVBC landscape character context on the right), supported by representative photographs.

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View north across the western part of the site from a field gate along Flexford Road, with woodland defining the horizon.



View south across the southern parcel from PRoW, where a high degree of enclosure is evident.

Landscape character context

National (NCA)

1.1.484 The parcels fall within NCA 128: South Hampshire Lowlands. Detail is contained in the relevant [NCA profile](#), but a summary of relevant key characteristics of the NCA represented in the parcels and context is as follows:

- Well-wooded farmed landscape (particularly to the east of Southampton), characterised by ancient woodland.
- Mixed agricultural landscape dominated by pasture with small pockets of horticulture and arable.
- An intimate and enclosed field pattern with many small and irregular fields generally bounded by mixed-species hedgerows or woodland.

County LCA

1.1.485 At the county level, the parcels fall within the [Romsey to Eastleigh Wooded Lowland Mosaic \(2d\) landscape character area](#). Relevant key characteristics of this area represented in the parcel are:

- A sense of elevation above the adjoining coastal and valley landscapes of the Test and Itchen, and moderately undulating topography with a variety of clay and sandy gravel geology.
- Watershed of the Itchen with chalk fed tributaries and boggy heath and mire, in shallow valleys.
- Predominantly improved grassland, but also significant amount of semi-natural ancient woodland.
- A predominantly wooded assart landscape of mid-medieval origin fragmented and significantly altered by 18th and 19th century enclosures, and extensive expansion northwards of Southampton in the latter half of the 20th century.

Borough level LCA

1.1.486 At the borough level, the parcel falls within [Landscape Character Type \(LCT\) 2 Pasture and Woodland Associated with Heathland](#), and within the component North Baddesley and Chilworth Woodland Mosaic character area (LCA 2b). Relevant key characteristics of this LCA represented in the parcel are:

- Pockets of gently undulating pasture and arable fields within a strong framework of hedgerows and woodland cover.
- Large areas of assarting present within the northern portion of this character area.

- Woodland and generous woodland belts provide containment to suburban residential development extending from Chandler's Ford.
- Views are generally short, mostly to the next field boundary or woodland edge. Pattern of fields separating Ampfield and Chandler's Ford / Valley Park.

Designated landscape interests/other designations relevant to landscape character

- 1.1.487 Trodds Copse SSSI (also designated as Ancient Woodland) lies adjacent to the northern parcel across the railway line to the north, defining the horizon in this location. Clothiers Copse is located to the south of the northern parcel (on the southern side of Flexford Road) and is designated as ancient semi-natural woodland, contributing to the woodland framework that the parcel sits within, to the south. The southern parcel is bordered by Tredgoulds Copse and Great Covert, also designated as ancient woodland. Grade II Listed Buildings are located along Flexford Road and North Baddesley, including Baddesley Manor.

Landscape functions

- 1.1.488 Key landscape functions of the parcels are recreational as it is mostly under paddock fields/equestrian related use. There are wider strategic biodiversity and green infrastructure corridors, including the railway line, and ancient woodland that borders the southern parcel. The parcels also contribute to the physical and perceptual separation between North Baddesley and Valley Park and Ampfield and Chandler's Ford (as recognised by the Local Gaps).

Landscape sensitivity analysis

Landscape value

- 1.1.489 The parcels form part of a large area of gently undulating agricultural / equestrian landscape between North Baddesley and Chandler's Ford. Both parcels in the cluster fall within Local Gaps and the high degree of enclosure often results in an intimate and tranquil setting, with a degree of scenic quality. The northern parcel is highly contained within a wooded framework, and is bordered to the north, south and east by the settlement edge, with the railway and Flexford Road defining the boundary. The railway line together with some of the ancillary equestrian features such as post and wire fencing, and field stables, reduce landscape value – Local level landscape value overall. The southern parcel is separated from the Valley Park urban extension by mature woodland blocks and belts and it is reflective of the cultural pattern to the east of North Baddesley and therefore forms part of the setting to Baddesley Manor and other nearby listed buildings. The parcel has notable potential for restoration and enhancement in terms of green infrastructure, nature pathways and ecological networks.

Landscape susceptibility

Designated landscape interests (National Parks/AONBs) and Special Qualities

- 1.1.490 N/A

Landscape scale, pattern and texture (including cultural pattern)

- 1.1.491 The northern parcel is part of a small-scale field system comprising open pasture, subdivided with post and wire fencing, creating a relatively simple landscape pattern. The lower lying eastern parts of the site contain urban fringe elements and clutter and comprise a notable

association with the settlement edge; these areas are therefore less susceptible to the change scenario. There are very few noteworthy landscape features within the site itself which would be vulnerable to change, however boundary vegetation such as hedges, and tree lines would be susceptible to the change scenario, due to the mature and established nature of such features, that are also reflective of the historic transport routes. The southern parcel is medium scale and is also comprised of open pasture. Whilst it has a simple pattern and texture, it is reflective of the cultural pattern surrounding the historic settlement of North Baddesley, which increases susceptibility to change in these terms.

Perceptual and experiential characteristics

- 1.1.492 In the northern parcel the settlement edge influenced landscape in the lower lying land to the east, with the presence of equestrian uses, the adjacent Flexford Road and the railway line, combine to reduce susceptibility at this location, as the landscape already has a notable sense of intrusion and interruption. However, the southwestern part of the parcel, upon more elevated ground, comprises a slightly more remote landscape character, with wooded skylines experienced to the north, northeast and northwest. The relationship between open pasture and the surrounding woodland belts contributes to the sense of enclosure and sense of place, resulting in a locally higher susceptibility to change arising from the scenario. However, tranquillity is reduced in this location due to the presence of the busy Flexford Road adjacent to the site. The northern and north-western part of the parcel benefits from a strong vegetated boundary, albeit with the railway line passing just beyond it, which reduces the sense of tranquillity somewhat. The southern parcel also consists of similar perceptual characteristics as outlined above, which together with the relationship to the historic settlement of North Baddesley, further elevates susceptibility in these terms.

Settlement characteristics and settlement edge conditions

- 1.1.493 Valley Park on the south-eastern side of the Flexford Road is generally set well behind the treed edges of the carriageway. A small cluster of properties and woodland are located on the northern side of Flexford Road adjacent to the eastern part of the parcel. The boundaries of the properties abut the parcel and create a direct relationship with the parcel. The access from Flexford Road for the stables is located to the eastern tip of the parcel. At this point the parcel has a more direct association with houses to the very north of Valley Park, (adjacent to the railway crossing); this area is less susceptible to change due to settlement edge influences at this location. Along the north-eastern edge, the mature tree and woodland vegetation along the railway line forms a defensible boundary with St James Mobile Home Park beyond. The southern parcel is bordered by mature woodland blocks and belts along the eastern boundary, these provide a defensible boundary to the settlement edge, and the parcel therefore has more of a relationship with the adjoining rural landscape (Including the Local Gap), which increases susceptibility to change.

Topographic features and skylines

- 1.1.494 The landform of the northern parcel is gently undulating, falling from the south and south-west towards the north and north-east, and woodland defines the horizon to the north. Susceptibility reduces to the lower lying areas due to lower prominence and sense of the horizon. The southern parcel also contributes to the gently undulating local landform, the topographic high points to the west of the parcel and extensive woodland cover to the south (much of which is coniferous), restrict the area of skylines that the parcel forms part of, reducing susceptibility to change in these terms.

Visual characteristics and intervisibility

- 1.1.495 There is some variation in visual terms, with some middle distance views from the south-western and western parts of the northern parcel, and some glimpsed middle distance views from the southern parcel. However as noted in the Test Valley LCA there is generally a high degree of enclosure and visual containment with low levels of intervisibility, which reduces susceptibility to change in visual terms.

Overall landscape susceptibility to the change scenario

- 1.1.496 The majority of the northern parcel has low susceptibility to change arising from the development scenario, specifically the lower lying, settlement fringe influenced land in the eastern part of the parcel, characterised by equestrian uses with associated sub-division with poor quality fencing and field stables, and with more of a direct relationship with the settlement edge. The slightly more elevated land to the west and south-west has a more open character including intervisibility with woodland to the north and an increased level of relative remoteness. However, the small triangular shape of the parcel is bounded by two residential areas at the edge of Chandlers Ford, and in terms of settlement characteristics and integration this results in a medium-low susceptibility to change.
- 1.1.497 In terms of settlement pattern and defensible boundaries the southern parcel is more disconnected from Chandler's Ford. It therefore has a closer relationship to the surrounding rural landscape, and its scale and texture reflect the cultural pattern that contributes to the setting of the historic settlement of North Baddesley, resulting in a **medium-high susceptibility** to change.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 1.1.498 In the northern parcel, considering the above discussion of landscape value and landscape susceptibility, the overall landscape sensitivity to the change scenario is **Low** for the eastern, lower lying settlement edge influenced parts of the parcel. The overall landscape sensitivity of the more elevated western parts to the change scenario is **Moderate-Low** due to the inter-relationship of open pasture and surrounding woodland, which creates an intimate and enclosed landscape, resulting in a relative sense of tranquillity and remoteness. The southern parcel sits beyond the defensible boundary that defines the western edge of Valley Park; it therefore has a close relationship with the adjoining rural landscape. It is also reflective of the cultural pattern which forms part of the setting of local heritage assets, which results in an overall **Moderate-High** sensitivity to change arising from the scenario.

Guidance and recommendations

- 1.1.499 This is as follows:
- To the western parcel, conserve the PRow and its setting/recreational experience as part of the focus for semi natural greenspace within the arc of woodland to the east (thereby also maintaining the 'assarted' character in this location).
 - Substantially reinforce the field boundary hedgerow to the west with hedgerow trees and additional suitable native planting to assimilate any new development, allied to a reduced development density to the edges.
 - Conserve and enhance the surviving mature hedgerows within the parcel, as part of a landscape led design approach for any future development.

- To the northern parcel, conserve and enhance existing mature treelines to the boundaries, maintaining an appropriate offset between these and any new development for root protection.
- Concentrate and new development within the more settlement linked eastern corner and northern edge of the parcel, creating new hedgerows with trees and structure planting to any new development extents to the west (potentially on historic alignments) to assimilate any new development in the landscape.
- Maintain the remainder of the northern parcel as semi natural open space, for the purpose of landscape integration.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT: VALLEY PARK 4 – LAND AT VELMORE FARM (INCLUDES LAND AT CASTLE LANE)

Location and context

- 1.1.500 The parcel comprises a series of pasture fields located on the western edge of Eastleigh. Templars Way runs along the north-eastern boundary. Castle Lane forms part of the northern boundary with Knightwood (a small village to the south of Chandlers Ford) beyond. Woodland called The Rough and Austins Copse form the western boundary. A significant block of plantation woodland called Hut Wood forms the southern boundary, extending south to North Stoneham. To the south-east lies the Hampshire Corporate Park. Velmore Farm buildings lie along the southern boundary. A public footpath edges the southern boundary and a public bridleway crosses the site to the west, partially edging the western boundary. A Roman Road dissects the site from the north-eastern boundary to the southern boundary at Hut Wood, although there is little sign of the historic route on the ground. The majority of the site forms part of a Local Gap between Eastleigh and Chilworth.
- 1.1.501 The parcel, its principal features and context are shown below (designated interests on the left and TVBC landscape character context on the right), supported by representative photographs.

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View north-east across the parcel where Bridleway 050/6/1 joins the site at the south-western corner.



View north-west across the parcel where Footpath 050/7/1 joins the site at the south-eastern corner.

Landscape character context

National (NCA)

1.1.502 The parcel falls within NCA 128: South Hampshire Lowlands. Detail is contained in the relevant [NCA profile](#), but a summary of relevant key characteristics of the NCA represented in the parcel and context is as follows:

- A well-wooded farmed landscape.
- Mixed agricultural landscape dominated by pasture.

County LCA

1.1.503 At the county level, the parcel falls within the [Romsey to Eastleigh Wooded Lowland Mosaic \(2d\) character area](#). Relevant key characteristics of this area represented in the parcel are:

- A sense of elevation above the adjoining coastal and valley landscapes of the Test and Itchen, and moderately undulating topography with a variety of clay and sandy gravel geology.
- Significant amount of conifer replanted woodland.
- A predominantly wooded assart landscape of mid medieval origin fragmented and significantly altered by 18th and 19th century enclosures, conifer plantation and extensive expansion northwards of Southampton in the latter half of the 20th century.

Borough level LCA

1.1.504 At the borough level, the parcel falls entirely within [Landscape Character Type \(LCT\) 2 Pasture and Woodland Associated with Heathland](#), and within the North Baddesley to Chilworth Woodland Mosaic character area (LCA 2b). Relevant key characteristics of the LCA represented in the parcel are:

- Pockets of gently undulating pasture and arable fields within a strong framework of hedgerows and woodland cover, including plantation.
- Remnant heathland and unimproved grassland.
- Wooded character of Chilworth (which extends to the south-western edge of the parcel).
- Woodland and generous woodland belts provide containment to suburban residential development extending from Southampton and Chandler's Ford.
- Views are generally short, mostly to the next field boundary or woodland edge with some long views.

Designated landscape interests / other designations relevant to landscape character

1.1.505 N/A

Landscape functions

1.1.506 The key landscape function of the parcel is that of productive landscape as pasture associated with a cattle farm. The site also provides recreational opportunity with PRoW located within the site (public footpath 050/7/1 edges the southern boundary and public bridleway 050/6/1 crosses the site to the west, partially edging the western boundary). Additionally, localised biodiversity corridors are apparent across the site, separating fields, as well as at the site edges in the form of tree belts and woodland. The site also functions as part of a Local Gap between Eastleigh and Chilworth/ North Baddesley.

Landscape sensitivity analysis

Landscape value

1.1.507 Landscape value is judged to be at the Local level. Long views to the north and east from PRoW and the sense of elevation within the south-western part of the site, with views across the undulating landform and open countryside towards woodland on the horizon (albeit with pylons in view), elevate the value of the parcel. Additionally, PRoWs passing through (or adjacent to) woodland, which provides a notable landscape framework to the site, also contribute to enhanced value due to increased sense of naturalness and remoteness in those areas. However, pylons which cross the site reduce the sense of remoteness for most parts of the site, also reducing value. The busy Castle Lane/Templar Way edges the site to the northern and north-eastern boundary; these infrastructure/urban fringe influences also reduce the value of the parcel, within those areas.

Landscape susceptibility

Designated landscape interests (National Parks/AONBs) and Special Qualities

1.1.508 N/A

Landscape scale, pattern and texture (including cultural pattern)

1.1.509 The small to medium scale fields are set within a well wooded context, the undulating/rolling landforms across much of the site, together with prominent field boundaries combine to create a relatively complex landscape pattern. These features would be susceptible to change arising from residential and mixed-use development, due to the potential for it to affect their legibility. Additionally, the course of a Roman Road within the parcel and which contributes to historic landscape character would be susceptible to the change scenario. Lower lying land to the northern and eastern edges is less susceptible due to the less complex pattern of these areas.

Perceptual and experiential characteristics

1.1.510 The site has a relatively strong sense of tranquillity, and relative remoteness within the western and south-western areas, away from road infrastructure and the settlement edge. These areas would have a higher susceptibility to change resulting from the change scenario. The parts of the site to the north and east which are more influenced by urban

fringe qualities would have lower susceptibility to change. Pylons which are perceptible across much of the site are a visual intrusion/human influence, reducing susceptibility overall.

Settlement characteristics and settlement edge conditions

- 1.1.511 The settlement edge to the north and east is abrupt and comprises modern development. However, the integration of these with the landscape of the site is aided by significant treelines on both sides of Templars Way and Castle Lane, combining to create a defensible boundary. Due to landform and vegetation the experience of the settlement edge is limited, with the roads themselves comprising the most notable human influence at these locations. To the south-west, the site adjoins houses extending from Chilworth along Woodside. The wooded context and large gardens limit relationship with the settlement edge at this location.

Topographic features and skylines

- 1.1.512 Across much of the site there is a prominent sense of landform relief and topographic features which would be susceptible to the change scenario. Eastleigh is present on the lower lying ground to the north and east of the site, but the skylines to this aspect from elevated land to the south-west appear as undeveloped, with naturalistic and open qualities. Across other parts of the site, the strong wooded framework surrounding the site provide skylines with relatively natural qualities. The experience of these more naturalistic skylines would be susceptible to change arising from the development scenario.

Visual characteristics and intervisibility

- 1.1.513 The south-western parts of the site are characterised by open, expansive views with extensive intervisibility with adjacent woodland, with high susceptibility to change arising from the development scenario. To the north and east views are more contained and enclosed, kept short by vegetation and/or landform, resulting in less intervisibility with surrounding landscapes, and lower levels of susceptibility.

Overall landscape susceptibility to change arising from the scenario

- 1.1.514 Much of the parcel is **highly susceptible** to change arising from the development scenario, particularly the elevated and open land in the south-west, the localised undulating landform and historic Roman Road, and the experience of relative remoteness along PRow. The considerable openness and intervisibility, prominent topography, historic landscape interest and levels of remoteness combine to elevate susceptibility overall.
- 1.1.515 The lower lying and visually contained land to the north and east, where the landscape is influenced by infrastructure/urban fringe elements has lower, **Moderate-High susceptibility** to the change scenario.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 1.1.516 Considering the above discussion of landscape value and landscape susceptibility, this is a landscape of **High** overall sensitivity. This is by virtue of the elevated character of the open landscapes which define the western, north-western, south-western and central parts of the site, together with the experience of relative remoteness and sense of place provided by landscape pattern (including the presence of the Roman Road).
- 1.1.517 There is variation within this overall landscape sensitivity judgement. The north, north-east, east, and south-east edges of the site, on lower lying ground with less intricate landform, some visual containment from existing vegetation structure and with more influence from

road infrastructure and human activity, albeit with the presence of the historic interest provided by the Roman Road, have a lower, **Moderate-High sensitivity**. This is by virtue of their lower elevation and reduced prominence and the greater influence of modern infrastructure in the landscape.

Guidance and recommendations

- 1.1.518 Much of this parcel is constrained for residential and mixed-use development in landscape terms. This is by virtue of the sense of openness, landscape pattern and form, visual prominence and relative elevation across much of the site.
- 1.1.519 The lower lying land immediately to the north, north-east, east and south-east edge is less constrained. It benefits from some existing visual containment and is influenced by road infrastructure, although the existing settlement sits well behind an existing defensible vegetated boundary.
- 1.1.520 Considering the identified constraints, any future development would be, subject to the below principles:
- Any development should use a reduced density to the development edge to create a positive landscape edge and interface between urban and rural areas. This should be allied to areas of semi-natural greenspace provision and native screening buffers as part of a landscape led design approach. which contributes to maintaining the integrity of the Local Gap.
 - Retain and enhance areas of strong and distinctive landscape structure such as the mature hedgerows and woodland edges, which provide legible boundaries in the local landscape.
 - Use the historic route of the former Roman Road to inform any potential development layout and as a focus for semi natural greenspace provision as part of any development.
 - Create new structural planting that has physical and visual connectivity with existing vegetation and contributes to new areas of semi natural greenspace, providing defensible boundaries to integrate the settlement edge and contributing to the setting and recreational experience of the PRow.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT: STOCKBRIDGE 1 – LAND EAST OF OLD LONDON ROAD

Location and context

- 1.1.521 The parcel is located near the centre of the town of Stockbridge, and occupies the land to the south of London Road, to the east of Old London Road and to the north of the A3057. The majority of the site sits within the Stockbridge conservation area.
- 1.1.522 The site, its principal features and context are shown below (designated interests on the left and TVBC landscape character context on the right):

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View northwest towards the parcel, east of Old London Road

Landscape character context

National (NCA)

1.1.523 The parcel falls entirely within NCA 130: Hampshire Downs. Detail is contained in the relevant [NCA profile](#), but a summary of relevant key characteristics of the NCA represented in the parcel and context is as follows:

- Elevated plateaux and upper valley slopes.
- The settlement pattern varies between the relatively dense strings of villages along the lower river valleys at a very low-density.

County LCA

1.1.524 At the county level, the parcel falls within the [Test Valley \(3b\) character area](#)^{xxi}. Relevant key characteristics of this area represented in the parcel are:

- Steep, abrupt valley sides.
- Valley sides have a range of different enclosure patterns and scales with fields defined by hedgerow and hedgerow trees.
- Generally unspoilt, remote and tranquil except for urban influences and noise intrusion close to major towns and roads.
- Views limited to valley floor.

Borough level LCA

1.1.525 At the borough level, the parcel falls entirely within [Landscape Character Area \(LCA\) 10D. Leckford and Chilbolton Downs](#)^{xxii} and within the LCT10 Open Chalklands landscape character type. Relevant key valued characteristics of the LCA represented in the parcel are:

- An elevated gently undulating area of very open chalk downland dominated by arable farming.
- Isolated small woodlands.
- Straight roads characterised by straight cut native hedgerows and individual mature yew trees.
- Villages characterised by mature trees.

Designated landscape interests

- The parcel falls partially within the Stockbridge Conservation Area.
- Within 300m of the parcel there are 12 Grade II Listed Building and 2 Grade II* Listed Buildings.
- Just over 100m west of the parcel is the Stockbridge Fen SSSI.

Landscape functions

- 1.1.526 Key landscape functions of the parcel are productive landscapes/food production, with localised biodiversity corridors formed by the boundary vegetation and trees within the parcel.

Landscape sensitivity analysis

Landscape value

- 1.1.527 The parcel has a moderate degree of representation of the wider landscape character and contains a moderate degree of key positive landscape characteristics. These include isolated small woodlands and villages characterised by mature trees. For these reasons and the fact that these landscape characteristics occur widely across the borough, the parcel is judged to have a Local level landscape value.

Landscape susceptibility

Designated landscape interests (National Parks/AONBs) and Special Qualities

- 1.1.528 N/A

Landscape scale, pattern and texture (including cultural pattern)

- 1.1.529 The parcel has a higher susceptibility to change arising from the scenario in these terms, as it has an irregular field pattern and an established time depth and historic associations. It also has intervisibility with the Conservation Area and with Listed Buildings.

Perceptual and experiential characteristics

- 1.1.530 The site has a close proximity to some urbanising factors, including residential properties and the town of Stockbridge to the west, however existing vegetation and landform create and maintain a strong sense of tranquillity, which elevates susceptibility to change.

Settlement characteristics and settlement edge conditions

- 1.1.531 The hedgerows and mature trees within the parcel create a degree of visual enclosure in relation to the Stockbridge conservation area in the southern half, and the historic linear town of Stockbridge lies immediately to the west on lower lying land maintaining a strong intact, historic settlement pattern. Overall, the settlement and its historic form are susceptible to change.

Topographic features and skylines

- 1.1.532 The pronounced and prominent landform, associated sense of relief and naturalistic qualities all combine to elevate susceptibility to change in topographic terms.

Visual characteristics and intervisibility

- 1.1.533 The landscape is mostly extremely contained and enclosed, due to the hedgerows and mature trees creating a degree of visual enclosure with inward looking views. This reduces susceptibility to change in visual terms. However the central part of the parcel forms part of a much larger field extending eastwards, with associated intervisibility and elevation of visual susceptibility to change in this area.

Overall landscape susceptibility to change from residential and mixed-use development

- 1.1.534 The parcel is **Highly** susceptible to change arising from the development scenario, due to the topography and the intervisibility with the Conservation Area in which it is partly located.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 1.1.535 Considering the above discussion of landscape value and landscape susceptibility, the elevated landscape which define much of the parcel is of **High** overall landscape sensitivity to change arising from residential and mixed-use development. This is also by virtue of the parcel's location within the Stockbridge Conservation Area and the naturalistic landform, maintaining a strong sense of scenic quality.

Guidance and recommendations

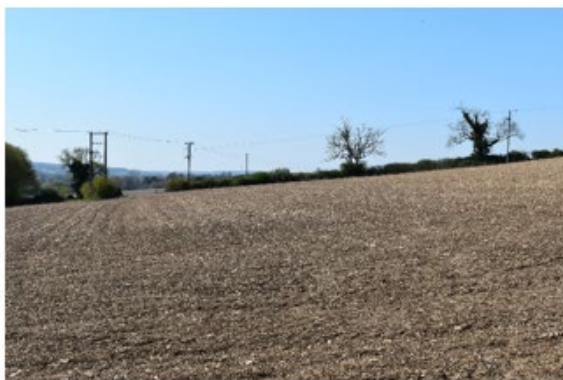
- 1.1.536 This parcel is highly constrained to potential development in landscape and visual terms, and with particular reference to its relationship with the conservation area and quality of landscape features. Guidance is as follows:
- Any development should be low density and contained within the existing landscape structure.
 - Retain and use existing landscape structure such as mature hedgerows and trees as foci for any new areas of semi natural greenspace and to contribute to green infrastructure connectivity within the locale.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT: STOCKBRIDGE 2 AND 3 – LAND WEST OF TEST VALLEY SCHOOL AND LAND WEST OF HOUGHTON ROAD

Location and context

- 1.1.537 Stockbridge is located centrally within the borough. It is a traditional linear settlement confined to the valley bottom and lower slopes. The parcel cluster is positioned at the western edge of the settlement, where there is some later 20th Century development. The eastern edge of the parcel cluster abuts the Stockbridge Conservation Area. Other nearby heritage assets include scheduled ancient monuments on the opposite side of the valley, the most prominent being the hill fort at Woolbury Ring.
- 1.1.538 The parcel, its principal features and context are shown below (designated interests on the left and TVBC landscape character context on the right):

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View south across the parcel from gaps in the vegetation at the Holloway to the north.



View northwest across the parcel towards the school site on rising ground

Landscape character context

National (NCA)

1.1.539 The parcel falls within NCA 130: Hampshire Downs. Detail is contained in the relevant [NCA Profile](#), but a summary of relevant key characteristics of the NCA represented in the parcel and context is as follows:

- The rolling, elevated, chalk arable downland has an open, exposed character that provides open skies and long-distance views.
- Elevated plateaux and upper valley slopes are characterised by extensive open tracts of large, low-hedged fields with thin chalky soils, shelterbelts, and ancient semi-natural woodland blocks on clay-with-flint caps on some of the steeper slopes.
- In contrast, within the sheltered valleys and to the east of the area, the network of hedgerows, interspersed by numerous areas of oak/ash or hazel woodland coppice and smaller meadow fields, gives a strong sense of enclosure.
- The rivers and streams of the Test and Itchen catchments are internationally significant, and distinctive chalk rivers, running in deep valleys, cut into the Chalk.
- A network of distinctive and ancient droving roads and trackways is a particular feature across the Downs.
- In the valleys, there is evidence of Roman estates and nucleated medieval village settlement patterns, and fieldscapes and farmsteads across the downlands evidence the gradual and planned enclosure from the medieval period.
- The area's distinctive appearance derives from the use of chalk cob (in the west), weatherboarded timber frame and small, handmade local brick with flint in traditional rural buildings and walls surrounding farm courtyards, with thatch surviving in many places.

County LCA

1.1.540 At the county level, the parcel falls within the [Test Valley \(3b\) character area^{xxxiii}](#). Relevant key characteristics of this area represented in the parcel are:

- Steep abrupt valley sides becoming gentler further south, long tributaries extending deep into the chalk hinterland.
- Clear alkaline nutrient rich spring water supporting a rich biodiversity and nationally designated riverine, wetland, grassland, and woodland habitats.
- Generally meandering and braided river course bordered by luxuriant riverine vegetation, reedbeds, marshes and former water meadows.
- Unimproved grazed floodplain meadows, arable production on valley terraces, pasture and arable on valley sides.

- Valley sides have a range of different enclosure patterns and scales with fields defined by hedgerow and hedgerow trees.
- Intact historic village morphology little altered by 20th century development and significant concentration of use of cob as a building material.
- Generally winding roads and lanes following the edge of the valley floor.
- Views limited to valley floor but good views across and along the valley from open parts of the valley sides.

Borough level LCA

1.1.541 At the borough level, the parcel cluster falls entirely within Landscape Character Type (LCT) 10. Open Chalklands and within the component Thrupton and Danebury Chalk Downland LCA (LCA 10C). It is also adjacent to Landscape Character Type (LCT) 5. River Valley Floor and the Middle Test Valley Floor LCA (LCA 5B).

1.1.542 Relevant key valued characteristics LCA 10C represented in the parcel are:

- An elevated gently undulating area of very open chalk downland, dominated by arable farming; provides opportunities and experiences for long views with big expansive skies and wide views, which also provides a development free backdrop and contrast to the adjacent LCT5: River Valley floors.
- Enclosed, historic routeways, e.g the public right of way leading south from Broughton Road to Houghton Down Farm.
- Small hills including Chattis Hill create interest on the skyline, as well as opportunities for viewing across the landscape as many have good public access.
- Local buildings are predominately brick and flint with clay tiled roofs.
- A few isolated woodlands and shelter belts which traverse the landform.
- Woodlands within adjacent LCAs create wooded horizons.
- Properties found in commanding positions on elevated ridges, characterised and framed by mature trees.
- Some areas of pasture and hedgerows on the periphery of older settlements reduce their visibility within the open landscape.
- The lack of visibility of settlements within the southern section of this LCA, creates a strong feeling of remoteness.
- Parklands occasionally found on the edge of settlements provide diversity.
- Good network of public rights of way.
- Largely a landscape dominated by 19th century parliamentary enclosure.

1.1.543 Relevant key valued characteristics of LCA 5B represented adjacent to the parcel are:

- Multi braided water channels of clear spring water with even flows all year.
- Valley floor dominated by pasture, rough grassland and small woodlands.
- Variable density of trees alongside the river providing areas of enclosure as well as semi openness.
- Frequent patches of broadleaved woodland including carr woodland with alder and willow.
- Linear settlements located on first river terrace on the valley sides with road system that follows the gravel terraces which define the transition from valley floor to valley sides.
- Traditional styles of built form include brick walls with thatch or clay tile roofs, and white render or chalk cob walls. Larger older properties in Stockbridge include stone detailing.

Designated landscape interests

- A number of scheduled monuments on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) fall within 2km to the east of the parcel, including Woolbury Ring Hill Fort, a cluster of bowl barrows at Stockbridge Down, and other sites to the south associated with John of Gaunt. The hill fort in particular has a wide visual influence within the valley.
- The River Test Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) abuts the north-eastern boundary of the parcel.
- Stockbridge Conservation Area also abuts the parcel's north-eastern boundary.
- Marsh Court, a Registered Park and Garden (RPG) is located within 1km of the settlement and Houghton Lodge, also a RPG, at a distance of 1.4km.

Landscape functions

1.1.544 Key landscape functions of the parcel are productive landscapes/food production, nationally significant biodiversity corridors (River Test SSSI) plus wider biodiversity connectivity in the form of historic hedgerows linking to the SSSI, and the physical and perceptual separation the open landscape provides between the Stockbridge Conservation Area and North Houghton. The cultivated arable land also contributes to water quality in the aquifer through infiltration of precipitation through underlying chalk geology. Other functions of the parcel are contributions to ecosystem services and the green infrastructure network.

Landscape sensitivity analysis

Landscape value

1.1.545 The landscape value of what would otherwise be a commonplace open arable chalkland landscape is elevated by:

- The relationship with and influence of the River Test and its richly textured, braided chalk watercourses, a SSSI ecological designation of national importance, as well as being part

of the UK's notable concentration of this globally scarce landscape type, habitat and ecosystem.

- Intact cultural pattern of medieval settlement and 19th Century enclosures.
- Gently undulating valley slopes that contain the settlement.
- Long views, open skies, lack of visibility of settlements outside of Stockbridge.

1.1.546 This is therefore an overall average Regional landscape value. Within this it is recognised that areas of the parcel are of markedly lower landscape value, for instance the lower eastern parts of the parcel influenced by the existing expanded parts of settlement and by the school. The potential contribution the parcel makes to water quality and its contribution to green infrastructure and ecosystem services notably the distinctive riverine habitats of the chalk river is also recognised.

Landscape susceptibility

Designated landscape interests (National Parks/AONBs) and Special Qualities

1.1.547 N/A

Landscape scale, pattern and texture (including cultural pattern)

1.1.548 The parcel cluster is large-scale and irregular and comprises an expanse of cultivated arable land bordered by hedgerows and mature trees. Whilst simple landscape textures and patterns such as this would otherwise have a low susceptibility, the cultural pattern remains intact, this includes medieval routes, droeways and 19th Century field enclosures that border the parcel, which increases susceptibility to change in these terms.

Perceptual and experiential characteristics

1.1.549 The southern part of the parcel cluster has a degree of perceptual and experiential quality. It has intervisibility with the adjoining fields and is generally well screened from the settlement of Stockbridge. Whilst there are some urbanising elements in the landscape, such as nearby overhead lines, the experience is that of a relatively remote and tranquil landscape which increases susceptibility to change in these terms. The northern and eastern parts of the parcel, adjacent to Roman Road have a lower susceptibility to change, by virtue of the relationship with the settlement edge, and due to the fact that it is more visually contained by existing tree belts.

Settlement characteristics and settlement edge conditions

1.1.550 The south east part of the parcel cluster is defined by the River Test, where the vegetated corridor of pasture and tree belts provide a defensible boundary to the conservation area and integrate it within the wider landscape. This together with the linear settlement pattern on the first river terrace is noted as a valued characteristic in the Test Valley LCA and increases susceptibility to change in these terms. Small pockets of later development have occurred beyond the river to the west. These do not reflect the linear settlement and cultural pattern, and they also mirror less the vernacular character of the historic core of the settlement and they therefore lower susceptibility in the northern and eastern parts of the parcel.

Topographic features and skylines

- 1.1.551 The river corridor at Stockbridge is relatively narrow which is likely to be one of the physical features that attracted medieval settlers (shallow crossing/ford). This together with some prominent domed high points in the local landform on both the eastern and western sides of the river valley (including Chittis Hill adjacent to the parcel) result in fairly abrupt and well-defined valley sides, which, together with the expansive skylines are highly susceptible to change.
- 1.1.552 Much of the parcel cluster is located on the lower slopes of the western side of the valley, here topographical variation and skyline influence are more limited, which reduces susceptibility to change.

Visual characteristics and intervisibility

- 1.1.553 Stockbridge is located in the floor of the river valley, and this is a valued characteristic of the Test Valley LCA, where settlements are hidden in valley bottoms. Much of parcel 237 and the westernmost part of parcel 236 are further up the valley side where there are longer distance views and intervisibility with surrounding hills and skylines, which increases susceptibility to change in visual terms. The eastern part of parcel 236 is more visually contained by virtue of the settlement edge and lower elevation. Intervisibility with both the conservation area and surrounding hills and skylines is therefore relatively limited, and these parts are therefore visually less susceptible to change.

Overall landscape susceptibility to change from residential and mixed-use development

- 1.1.554 The western part of the parcel and parcel 237, from approximately the school site up to the western boundary is **moderately-highly/highly** susceptible to change arising from the scenario. This is particularly due to the rising landform and intervisibility with surrounding hills and skylines resulting in a relative sense of remoteness, as well as providing physical separation that assists in hiding the settlement within the wider landscape.
- 1.1.555 The lower lying and settlement edge influenced eastern part of the parcel is far less susceptible to change. This is due to the following: Whilst there is a degree of cultural pattern, the adjacent school and modern residential properties brings visual and perceptual influences. Combined with the visual containment afforded by the low lying valley location here and limited intervisibility with the conservation area and surrounding hills and skylines, this lowers susceptibility to change.

Overall landscape sensitivity

- 1.1.556 Taking into account the above discussion of landscape value and landscape susceptibility, the rising landform and intervisibility with surrounding hills and skylines which defines the northern and western parts of the parcel results in a **Moderate-High** sensitivity to change arising from the development scenario.
- 1.1.557 The eastern part of the parcel (west of Roman Road properties and slightly south of Test Valley School up to Houghton Road) which are defined by the more modern settlement edge and blocks of vegetation, have a lower, **Moderate** overall sensitivity to change arising from the development scenario, by virtue of the more 'urban' influences, lower elevation and visual containment created by this and woodland belts.

Guidance and recommendations

- 1.1.558 This parcel cluster has a number of constraints to potential development in landscape and visual terms, and with particular reference to its rising landform and intervisibility with the surrounding hills and skylines. Guidance is as follows:
- Use existing contours to guide and contain the extent of any development.
 - Retain and use existing landscape structure such as remnant hedgerows as foci for any new areas of semi natural greenspace and to contribute to recreational links/connectivity within the locale.
 - Contain any development within the southeast of the parcel, in proximity to the existing settlement edge and not extending beyond the existing western line of development, in order to retain the character of the settlement located within the valley floor.
 - To assimilate any new development, create new structural planting that has physical and visual connectivity with existing vegetation and contributes to new areas of semi natural greenspace and integration of the settlement edge. This would also assist in creating a defensible boundary and with strengthening local green infrastructure connectivity.

ⁱ Hampshire County Council, 2010, *Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment*
ⁱⁱ North Wessex Downs Council of Partners, *North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2019-2024*

ⁱⁱⁱ Hampshire County Council, 2010, *Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment*
^{iv} Test Valley Borough Council/Terrafirma Landscape Architects, 2018, *Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment*

^{vii} Hampshire County Council, 2010, *Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment*
^{viii} Test Valley Borough Council/Terrafirma Landscape Architects, 2018, *Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment*

^{ix} Hampshire County Council, 2010, *Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment*
^x Test Valley Borough Council/Terrafirma Landscape Architects, 2018, *Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment*

^{xi} Hampshire County Council, 2010, *Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment*

^{xii} Hampshire County Council, 2010, *Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment*

^{xiii} Test Valley Borough Council/Terrafirma Landscape Architects, 2018, *Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment*

^{xiv} Hampshire County Council, 2010, *Op Cit*

^{xv} Test Valley Borough Council/Terrafirma Landscape Architects, 2018, *Op Cit*

^{xvi} Hampshire County Council, 2010, *Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment*

^{xvii} Test Valley Borough Council/Terrafirma Landscape Architects, 2018, *Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment*

^{xviii} Test Valley Borough Council/Terrafirma Landscape Architects, 2018, *Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment*

^{xix} Hampshire County Council, 2010, *Op Cit*

^{xx} Test Valley Borough Council/Terrafirma Landscape Architects, 2018, *Op Cit*

^{xxi} Hampshire County Council, 2010, *Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment*

^{xxii} Test Valley Borough Council/Terrafirma Landscape Architects, 2018, *Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment*

^{xxiii} Hampshire County Council, 2010, *Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment*

^{xxiv} Test Valley Borough Council/Terrafirma Landscape Architects, 2018, *Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment*

^{xxv} Ibid

^{xxvi} Hampshire County Council, 2010, *Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment*

^{xxvii} Test Valley Borough Council/Terrafirma Landscape Architects, 2018, *Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment*

^{xxviii} Hampshire County Council, 2010, *Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment*

^{xxix} Test Valley Borough Council/Terrafirma Landscape Architects, 2018, *Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment*

^{xxx} Test Valley Borough Council/Terrafirma Landscape Architects, 2018, *Op Cit*

^{xxxi} Hampshire County Council, 2010, *Op Cit*

^{xxxii} Test Valley Borough Council/Terrafirma Landscape Architects, 2018, *Op Cit*

^{xxxiii} Hampshire County Council, 2010, *Op Cit*

