

Appendix 6.2: Landscape Sensitivity

A.1. Introduction

- A.1.1. The tables below set out the assessment undertaken to determine the sensitivity of the Site and the landscapes within which it sits, in its immediate vicinity and which form its local context. This comprises consideration of a given landscape's value and susceptibility. Together these inform a judgement on the overall sensitivity.
- A.1.2. The conclusions pertaining to the sensitivity analysis are presented within the Landscape and Visual Impact Chapter itself.

A.2. Landscape Value

- A.2.1. The appraisal of landscape value has been undertaken with reference Box 5.1 of GLVIA3 and applying industry standard guidance set out in TGN 02-21: 'Assessing landscape value outside national designations' (Landscape Institute, May 2021).

Table A: Appraisal of Landscape Value

Considerations	SH060: Beeston and Stapleford Urban Fringe	NC01: Erewash River Corridor	Site in its local landscape context
Formal landscape or landscape related designations	No formal landscape designations are present within the LCA within the Site's context.	No formal landscape designations are present within the LCA within the Site's context.	No such designations are present across or adjoining the Site.
Natural and cultural heritage interests (i.e. ecological, geological or heritage)	None identified. A Grade II listing (Cemetery chapel and mortuary) can be found on the north-western edge to Stapleford.	The northern extents of the Toton Fields LNR adjoins part of the southern boundary of the Site and extends to the south.	No specific natural or cultural heritage interests within the Site.
Landscape condition of individual elements or overall structure	The published character assessment defines the condition of the DPZ as moderate. Although generally well managed, features such as hedges have in places been eroded by agricultural practices. The surrounding residential areas have an urbanising effect although this is reduced in places by urban edge vegetative screening.	The published character assessment defines the condition of the DPZ as moderate. There is some evidence of management of the landscape and consideration of sensitive ecological habitats, however there is also notable influence from urban land uses both adjoining and within the valley floodplain.	The Site comprises agricultural land, composed of largely rectilinear but irregular arable fields. There are both intact and gappy hedgerow sections to the boundaries, as well as blocks of trees and scrub or woodland. Landscape features within / crossing the Site are limited to a single field ditch.

Landscape and Visual Amenity

Landscape associations	There are no known associations with well-known literature, poetry, art, TV/film and music that contribute to the perception of the landscape in this location.	There are no known associations with well-known literature, poetry, art, TV/film and music that contribute to the perception of the landscape in this location.	There are no known associations with well-known literature, poetry, art, TV/film and music that contribute to the perception of the Site and its contextual landscape.
Distinctiveness and sense of place	Typically comprising a swathe of large to medium scale largely rectilinear arable fields enclosed by a series of surrounding settlement areas, this DPZ is also influenced by transport routes. It is noted by the published character assessment for being of moderate to weak in terms of strength of character, not distinctive, with some loss of hedgerows.	The very nature of this DPZ is defined by the course of the narrow river valley floodplain set within wide valley slopes. Urbanisation is evident both in close proximity enclosing the floodplain, and in places within it – including the railway and Toton Sidings, both of which are recognised key features.	The Site primarily comprises arable fields notably influenced by the urban edge location. There are few landscape features besides some hedgerow lengths and tree groups / blocks adjoining the boundaries. The Site and its local landscape context is fairly typical of the wider DPZs in close proximity in respect of sense of place.
Recreational opportunities in the landscape context	There is a relatively extensive network of public rights of way (PRoW) across the LCA. However, there are no promoted longer distance routes. The east of the DPZ is occupied by a golf course and club house facilities.	There is an well networked number of public routes running along its length, both footpaths and bridleways that link on roads and into further routes and spaces beyond the valley east and west.	The Site is crossed by a public footpath that connects into a much wider PRoW network along the Erewash Valley and beyond the B6003 to the south and north-east, respectively. There is no formally designated recreation within the Site.
Perceptual aspects (in respect of scenic/visual quality)	The published assessment notes the DPZ's limited zone of visual influence in places, with long views from higher points across the lower-lying farmland framed by the surrounding residential areas. There are glimpses of Burnt Hill in the adjacent DPZ SH061, and views into this DPZ are generally from the adjoining urban areas.	Views are typically enclosed by the slopes either side of the valley; a strong characterising feature of the DPZ. Views to surrounding urban areas from within the valley are also common, and vice versa. There may be some opportunities for long views along the valley, where tree cover and built form allow.	The Site and its local context comprises urban edge agricultural land. It is considered to have limited scenic quality, due to the relatively enclosed views, settled edge influence and proximate railway lines and Toton Sidings.
Perceptual aspects (in respect of wildness and tranquillity)	Surrounding and linking the urban areas in the LCA are a number of busy roads including the A52 dual carriageway, and the tram line from Toton Lane east towards Nottingham city.	The River corridor is a combination of grazing, wetland vegetation, recreation, and transport infrastructure with urban edge and industrial influences, and wildness is limited. Consequently,	There is a limited sense of tranquillity across the Site and its locality, given the urban fringe context, proximity to the road and railway network including the A52 to the north.

	Partial or direct views are possible of these elements from many locations, creating intrusive urban elements in addition to the almost ever-present settled edges. Due to the extent of development there is not considered to be any sense of remoteness.	although there are ecological habitat areas, the proximate built form to valley slopes and the Toton Sidings reduce tranquillity.	
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A.2.2. On balance, it is considered that, in the context of the Site and study area, SH060: Beeston and Stapleford Urban Fringe is of medium value in landscape terms. SH061: Bramcote Wooded Hills is of medium value in landscape terms.

A.2.3. On balance, it is considered that the value of the Site and its immediate context is medium.

Landscape Susceptibility

A.2.4. In LVIA, landscape susceptibility is the ability of a landscape to accommodate change without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation.

A.2.5. Different types of development can affect landscapes in different ways and consequently landscape susceptibility is specific to the type of development proposed (i.e. residential).

A.2.6. This section determines the susceptibility with the considerations and professional judgements used summarised in the following table.

Table B: Appraisal of Landscape Susceptibility

Considerations	SH060: Beeston and Stapleford Urban Fringe	NC01: Erewash River Corridor	Site in its local landscape context
Scale of enclosure	Predominantly arable fields are medium to large scale, and in combination with the gently undulating landform and little woodland create a relatively large scale, open sense to the landscape from higher ground, particularly as the A52 and its associated tree belts sit largely in cutting. To the east the golf course has a contrasting scale and pattern of enclosure, with tree belts between fairways creating long but enclosed views.	The DPZ has a varied sense of openness and scale of enclosure, largely depending upon the distribution of tree cover and development. Any historic pattern of enclosure has been largely disrupted by the Toton Sidings, particularly in the vicinity of the Site.	The Site is part of a pocket of arable land wholly enclosed by development and separated from farm land to the east by the B6003. Field pattern is broadly medium in scale but has a sense of openness due to the sloping landform, size of the eastern field and paucity of internal landscape features. The Site's immediate context is mixed with settlement, urban edge farmland and the river valley dominated by rail infrastructure.

Landscape and Visual Amenity

Nature of land use	Land use is agricultural, predominantly arable, with some pockets of setaside, divided into a pattern of overall geometric medium to large scale fields divided by well managed hedgerows. Woodland is not typical, with tree cover limited to belts and hedgerows. Other land uses comprise a school with associated grounds and a golf course. The published character assessment sets out that urban influences from the enclosing settlements.	Land use comprises grazed meadow, wet woodland and rail infrastructure including the Freight Yard; the latter dominating this landscape in closest proximity to the Site. There is also scrubby woodland adjacent to the rail tracks connecting into the wooded Toton Field Nature Reserve.	At a Site level, land use is more typical of the DPZ SH060 character area at short distance to the west, comprising urban edge largely arable farmland, scattered trees and tree groups, although the prevalence of hedgerows is relatively low.
Nature of existing elements and features	Within the DPZ, landscape features are typical of its arable land use, with field boundary hedgerows that are typically well managed and in good condition. There are tree belts along notable transport routes through, such as the A52 and tram line. The golf course portion of the DPZ is well maintained. The landscape has a gently undulating nature and there are few apparent waterbodies. Settlement defines most of the DPZ's extents and is a notable influence on its character.	Key features and elements comprise the wetland habitat, tree cover and rail infrastructure, as well as the river's course and canal. The character is defined by the combination of the river valley and its endemic habitats, with urban influence and industrial development set within the narrow, low lying valley floor topography enclosed by often-developed valley slopes.	Features of the Site and immediate farmed context focus on the agricultural nature of the land, comprising farmed fields divided by hedgerows and / or ditches. Other proximate features are largely suburban; a combination of built form and infrastructure. The Site is gently undulating, which is reflective of the topography of its local context.

A.2.7. On the basis of the above, it is considered that, in the context of the Site and study area, SH060: Beeston and Stapleford Urban Fringe is of medium susceptibility in landscape terms. SH061: Bramcote Wooded Hills is of medium susceptibility in landscape terms.

A.2.8. It is considered that the Site and its immediate context is medium susceptibility.