Brinklow Quarry

Section 73 application and proposed extension of the operational area

Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment

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September 2015
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## Contents

1.0 Introduction 5  
1.1 Scope of the assessment 5  
1.2 Assessment methodology 6  
1.3 Weather 7  
1.4 Guidance etc 8  

2.0 Landscape Policies and Designations 9  
2.1 National and regional policy 9  
2.2 Designations 11  
2.3 Interim Summary 14  

3.0 The Proposed Development 14  

4.0 Effects on the Landscape 17  
4.2 Landscape baseline 20  
4.3 Landscape context of the site 23  
4.4 Public access 24  
4.5 Landscape baseline summary 24  
4.6 Effects on the Landscape 25  

5.0 Effects on Visual Amenity 40  
5.2 Visual Sensitivity 40  
5.3 Assessment criteria 41  
5.4 Visual Baseline 42  
5.5 Visual receptors 48  
5.6 Visual baseline summary 49  
5.7 Effects on Visual Amenity 50  

6.0 Summary and Conclusions 62  
6.1 Summary of findings 62  
6.2 Policy considerations 64  
6.3 Designated landscapes 64  

7.0 Appendices 66  
7.1 Appendix 1 – Policy 66  
7.2 Appendix 2 – Methodology 74  
7.3 Appendix 3 – Figures 86
Tables

Table 4-1 Indicative criteria for assessing Landscape Sensitivity .......................... 18
Table 4-2 Indicative criteria for assessing Magnitude of Landscape Change ............. 19
Table 4-3 Indicative criteria for assessing Landscape Effects ................................. 19
Designated landscapes: sites considered cumulatively ........................................... 36
Table 4-4 Significance of landscape effects ............................................................ 37
Table 5-1 Indicative criteria for assessing Visual Sensitivity .................................... 40
Table 5-2 Indicative criteria for assessing Magnitude of Visual Change ................. 41
Table 5-3 Indicative criteria for assessing Visual Effects ........................................ 42
Table 5-4: Assessment photographs ....................................................................... 50
Table 5-5: Significance of visual effects ................................................................. 60
Table 7-1 Criteria for Landscape Susceptibility ...................................................... 76
Table 7-2 Criteria to determine landscape value ...................................................... 78
Table 7-3 Considerations for assessing Magnitude of Landscape Change ............... 78
Table 7-4 Indicative criteria for Visual Sensitivity .................................................. 82
Table 7-5 Considerations for assessing Magnitude of Visual Change ..................... 83
1.0 Introduction

1.1 Scope of the assessment

1.1.1 WYG is instructed by Sustainable Direction Ltd. to prepare this Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) which relates to the Section 73 application and proposed extension of the operation area of Brinklow Quarry, Coventry. The total site area is 100.3ha, as shown on Figure LA.01.

1.1.2 Brinklow Quarry is located in Rugby Borough in the county of Warwickshire, approximately 3.4 km east of Coventry and 1km southwest of the village of Brinklow.

1.1.3 The current planning permission (reference: R687/1547/1486/P) is dated 13th May 1991. It is a condition of that permission that the extraction of sand and gravel shall cease no later than 25 years from the data of that permission. This date is the 13th May 2016. An extension of time (Section 73 application) is sought to extend the period of mineral workings until 2026.

1.1.4 In addition, Brinklow Quarry proposes an extension to the operational area of the quarry of an additional 31 hectares, able to produce an approximate further 3.1 million tonnes of usable sand and gravel.

1.1.5 The area to which the existing quarrying permission pertains is 69.3 hectares. Combined with the extension of 31 hectares, the total operational area would be 100.3 hectares, worked in a series of phases over the next 25 years, followed by restoration.

1.1.6 This Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) provides the baseline against which the effects of the proposed development, on the landscape of the site and its context, are assessed. The design of the proposed development and the identification of mitigation measures incorporated within the design to minimise adverse effects, is informed by the findings of the assessment. During the assessment, effects on features identified as important to the scenic quality, or effects on the landscape character of the site and its setting are assessed. Effects on peoples’ views of the site and its setting, or visual amenity, are also assessed.

1.1.7 An environmental impact assessment has been sought by Warwickshire County Council following pre-application advice dated 5th August 2015 and this LVIA forms part of that assessment.

1.1.8 For the purposes of assessing the landscape and visual effects of this proposal, study areas have been defined:

- The “Section 73 site” and the “extension site” extend to the boundaries of the site shown on Figure LA.01.
1.1.9 The objectives of the assessment are to:

- Describe and evaluate the landscape of the site and surrounding landscape context and the visual amenity of people in the surrounding area, which might be affected by the proposed development;
- Examine the development proposals and analyse the potential effects on the landscape and visual amenity associated with the scheme’s design or operation, and whether they are likely to be significant;
- Set out mitigation measures which could be implemented in order to avoid, reduce or offset adverse effects, especially those identified as significant;
- Describe any enhancements of the landscape or visual amenity incorporated in the development proposals, and
- Provide an assessment of the significance of the landscape and visual effects of the proposed development with integral mitigation measures in place.

1.1.10 The LVIA is presented with separate chapters dealing with effects on landscape, effects on visual amenity, and cumulative effects. The LVIA is illustrated by plans and photographs, (see Appendix 3) as follows:

- Figure LA01 Site Location Plan
- Figure LA02 Designations
- Figure LA03 Visual appraisal
- Figure LA04 Zone of Theoretical Visibility
- Figure LA05 Assessment photographs
- Figure LA06 Appraisal Photographs
- Figure LA07 Site Photographs

1.2 Assessment methodology

1.2.1 The methodology used for assessing the landscape and visual effects is based on the recommendations in Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Assessment 3rd Edition published by The Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment in 2013 (GLVIA3). A summary of the methodology used is set out in Appendix 1.

1.2.2 The assessment process comprises a combination of desk studies and field surveys, with subsequent analyses, and involved:
A review of landscape designations and planning policies for the landscape, and of other landscape studies relevant to the area, as indicators of landscape value, including national and local landscape character assessments;

A survey of the site and landscape context study areas and inspection of views of the site from publicly accessible viewpoints, including a photographic survey. The proposed viewpoints were supplied to Wiltshire County Council for their comment.

Evaluation of the features and elements of the landscape and their contribution to the landscape character, context and setting, based on these studies;

Analysis of the development proposals and consideration of potential landscape and visual effects of the proposed development;

Assessment of the susceptibility and sensitivity of the landscape to the changes likely to arise from the development;

Identification of the extent of theoretic visibility of the development and viewers, their susceptibility and sensitivity, and view locations, supported by a viewpoint analysis;

Consideration of the proposals and the mitigation measures to avoid, reduce or offset adverse effects;

Assessment of magnitude of change, the degree and nature of effects on the landscape and on visual amenity and their significance, with the mitigation proposals in place.

Assessment and mitigation

1.2.3 The effects of the development, whether beneficial or adverse, may vary in nature and degree through its lifecycle and, where feasible, mitigation measures are proposed to be incorporated in the design of the development. Where design measures cannot address identified likely adverse effects, measures such as management of the construction and operational processes are proposed. The purpose of mitigation measures is first, to prevent or avoid the potentially adverse effects identified, and if that is not possible, to reduce the potential adverse effect. Where adverse effects are unavoidable, the purpose is to offset or compensate for the effect.

1.2.4 Details of the methodology for assessment of landscape effects and visual effects are set out in those respective chapters.

1.3 Weather

1.3.1 The weather is a factor affecting the assessment of, especially, visual impacts. The Met Office\(^1\) publish average statistics for weather patterns for the region, monthly and annual, for maximum and minimum temperatures, days of air frost, hours of sunshine, amount of rainfall - both generally and the number of days when rainfall is above 1mm. For Church Lawford, the nearest Climate station to where the site is located:

\(^1\) The data quoted are those for Church Lawford and the Midlands, obtained from The Met Office website: [http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/climate/gcr41hcwm#?tab=climateTables](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/climate/gcr41hcwm#?tab=climateTables)
Rainfall above 1mm per day, which limits visibility, occurs on an average of 121.3 days in the year, about 33.2% of the year.

There are on average 49.6 days when air frost occurs, which can produce hazy conditions limiting visibility, about 13.5% of the year.

There is an average of 1438 hours of sunshine per annum for the Midlands district, less than the South England regional average of 1554.3 hours).

1.4 Guidance etc

1.4.1 In addition to GLVIA3, the Landscape Institute’s Advice Note 01/11 Photography and Photomontage in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment was referred to.

1.4.2 Relevant policy, landscape character assessments, and other contextual information sources were also referred to, including:

- Natural England updated character area descriptions, July 2013
- Policies relevant to the landscape and visual amenity in regional and local policy including the Minerals Local Plan for Warwickshire (February 2005), the emerging Warwickshire Minerals Development Framework, the Rugby Borough Council Local Development Framework, the Rugby Borough Council Core Strategy Adopted Plan (June 2011), Rugby Borough Council - Local Development Scheme (January 2015), the Landscape Assessment of the Borough of Rugby: Sensitivity and Condition Study; and the Rugby Borough Council – Brinklow Parish Plan / Village Design Statement.

Photography

1.4.3 Photographs have a special role in describing landscape character and illustrating key views. In order for photograph to be representative and to create an image that is as similar as possible to that which is seen with the human eye, the LI advises using a lens with a focal length equivalent to 50 mm for a 35 mm Single Lens Reflex (SLR) camera, and a horizontal field of view of a little under 40 degrees². The camera used for the appraisal photography was a Canon EOS 5D Mark iii digital SLR camera with a single frame sensor. Photographs were taken with a focal length of 50mm.

1.4.4 Landscape photography includes wide angle or panoramic views requiring a sequence of photographs to be taken across the view. Where this approach is taken, a series of overlapping photographs are digitally spliced together in Adobe Photoshop CS using a cylindrical projection to provide a panorama approximating to the normal field of view in a landscape context. Where necessary, the contrast and brightness of individual

² The Landscape Institute, Landscape Institute Advice Note 01/11, Photography and photomontage in Landscape and Visual Assessment, March 2011
photographs is slightly manipulated in order to create a consistent panorama without visible joins. The viewpoint locations are shown on Figure LA.03.

2.0 Landscape Policies and Designations

2.1 National and regional policy

National Planning Policy Framework

2.1.1 National planning policy of relevance to mineral development are contained within chapter 13 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) entitled, Facilitating the Sustainable Use of Minerals.

2.1.2 NPPF confirms that mineral extraction should avoid unacceptable adverse impacts on the natural and historic environment... visual intrusion; and take into account the cumulative effects of multiple impacts from individual sites and/or a number of sites in a locality. It is also stated that worked land is reclaimed at the earliest opportunity.... and that high quality restoration and aftercare of mineral sites takes place, ...conserving soil resources, geodiversity, biodiversity, native woodland, the historic environment and recreation.

Regional and Local Policy

2.1.3 The site lies within the boundaries of the Rugby District. Local planning guidance of relevance to the proposed development of the site is provided by the Rugby Borough Council Local Development Framework, the Rugby Borough Council Core Strategy Adopted Plan (June 2011). The local Plan is currently under development and the latest document available is the Development Strategy Consultation Document (July 2014). Minerals planning is the responsibility of Warwickshire County Council through the Minerals Local Plan for Warwickshire (February 2005) and the emerging Warwickshire Minerals Development Framework.

2.1.4 Also of relevance to the site is the Rugby Borough Council – Brinklow Parish Plan / Village Design Statement (2005).

2.1.5 Relevant landscape policies in each of these plans relating to the proposed development are listed below. Details of these policies can be found in Appendix 1 of this report.

Rugby Borough Council Core Strategy (Adopted June 2011)

- **CS1 Development Strategy**, The site lies within the area designated as Green Belt. Policy for the Green Belt states that “New development will be resisted; only where national policy on Green Belt allows will development be permitted.”
- **CS14 Enhancing the Strategic Green Infrastructure Network** states that “Where appropriate new developments must provide suitable GI linkages
throughout the development and link into adjacent strategic and local GI networks or assets, where present.”

- **CS16 Sustainable Design** states that “All development will demonstrate high quality, inclusive and sustainable design and will only be allowed where proposals are of a scale, density and design that would not cause any material harm to the qualities, character and amenity of the areas in which they are situated.”

**Minerals Local Plan for Warwickshire (February 1995 - saved policies)**

- **Policy M1: Areas of Search and Preferred Areas** - permissions will normally only be given within these areas. It does not follow that all applications within these areas will be acceptable.
- **Policy M4: Sand and Gravel Extraction in the context of Landbanks** - Applications for planning permission for the working of sand and gravel will be considered in the context of an assessed regional demand.
- **Policy M6: Considerations and Constraints affecting Minerals Extraction** - Applications for the extraction of minerals whether within or outside the identified areas of search and preferred areas will be considered on the basis of the provisions of the Development plan and their likely overall impact on designated landscape sand other areas of importance.
- **Policy M7: Mitigation and Planning Conditions/Agreements** - seeks to ensure that any adverse environmental effects and the implications for residents' quality of life are mitigated at all mineral workings.
- **Policy M9: Restoration of Mineral Workings** - Restoration of workings to a high standard and a beneficial after use will be required in accordance with the development plan. Satisfactory arrangements for aftercare will also be sought.
- **Policy M10: Monitoring of Minerals Sites** - The county council will regularly monitor mineral workings and restoration schemes for their effect on the local environment to ensure compliance with planning conditions.

**Warwickshire Minerals Development Framework - Mineral Core Strategy - Revised Spatial Options**

- **Policy Principle 1 Criteria for assessing Mineral Development Proposals** - Proposals put forward for all Site Allocations in the Minerals Development Core Strategy and planning applications will be assessed against the demonstrated need for the mineral, the provisions of the Development Plan and the potential impacts and proposed mitigation measures on the criteria outlined in Appendix 1.
- **Policy Principle 2 Extensions to Existing Mineral Workings** - Proposals for the extension of existing mineral workings will be encouraged for allocated and un-allocated sites, where contiguous with an existing, dormant or un-restored site, and provided their impacts are environmentally acceptable and in accordance with the development criteria set out in Policy Principle 1. Site submissions and applications will be carefully assessed against the cumulative impact of developments on local communities.
- **Policy Principle 4a Mineral Safeguarding**: Minerals Safeguarding Areas and Mineral Consultation Areas will be established. Planning Permission should not normally be granted for development contained in such areas where the sterilisation of mineral resources is likely to occur.

- **Policy Principle 5 Buffer Zones**: The Minerals Core Strategy will state no minimum distance around settlements, properties and other important sites but standoff zones around mineral developments from sensitive receptors will be decided at the application stage on a site by site basis.

- **Policy Principle 6 Transport**: Sites put forward for allocation must have good access to major roads and demonstrate that there will be no unacceptable adverse impact on communities.

- **Policy Principle 7 Sand and Gravel**: Applications for the extraction of sand and gravel will be considered within the context of the assessed regional demand and against the development criteria for sites set out in Policy Principle 1.

- **Policy Principle 15 Restoration of Mineral Sites**: All proposals for mineral developments will have approved restoration and after use schemes which should be of a high environmental standard...Restoration schemes for mineral developments must make a positive contribution to agreed biodiversity action plan targets.

- **Policy Principle 19 Renewable energy and carbon reduction measures**: Operators should be required to demonstrate how proposed minerals operations would enable a proportion of renewable energy to be produced on site and/or how low carbon technologies could enable carbon reduction measures.

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**Rugby Borough Council – Brinklow Parish Plan / Village Design Statement**

**2.1.6** The Village Design Statement includes a number of guidelines for development of the village which are also of relevance to the development of the site:

- The preservation of the Green ‘Belt is of great importance in maintain the character and ‘shape’ of the village;
- The existing hedges, trees, wild areas and ponds should be protected and enhanced; and
- The new planting of indigenous species in appropriate areas should be encouraged, and the opportunity to develop more planted areas should be considered.

**2.2** Designations

**2.2.1** Landscape designations provide an indication of landscape value; they are areas that have been recognised for the scenic beauty and recreational potential of the landscape. Designations are shown on **Figure LA.02**.

**2.2.2** There are no internationally designated sites relating to landscape value at or close to the application area. No part of the site is designated as a Site of Special Scientific
Interest (SSSI), National Nature Reserve (NNR), Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) or National Park.

Open Access Land

2.2.3 There is no open access land either within or adjacent to the site, the only area within the study area is a small area of woodland which lies 2.5km to the south-west of the site boundary at Piles Coppice.

Historic and Cultural landscape designations

Conservation areas and listed buildings

2.2.4 The nearest listed buildings to the site are located to the west at the Coombe Country Park entrance, to the north-west at Coombe Abbey, to the north at East Lodge and Woodhill Farm and to the east within Brinklow. Listed buildings and structures located within 3km of the site are shown in Figure LA02.

2.2.5 There are four conservation areas within 5km of the site boundary which could potentially be affected by the Development:

- Brinklow (1.5 km north-east);
- Brandon (2 km south-west);
- Wolston (2.5 km south-west); and
- Easenhall (4.2 km east north-east).

2.2.6 The setting of conservation areas and listed buildings is a consideration during the preparation of landscape and visual impact assessments.

Scheduled Monuments

2.2.7 Scheduled Monuments are shown on Figure LA02. The nearest to the site is located around 1.2km to the south-east, Barrow cemetery 1/4 mile (400m) NE of Bretford.

2.2.8 1.4km to the east lies a Motte and Bailey Castle, 30m east of St John the Baptists Church in Brinklow (known locally as The Tump). “The motte and bailey castle is situated in a commanding position on a short elevated ridge running east-west. It was built to command the line of the Fosse Way, a former Roman road of considerable military importance in the medieval period.”

Registered Parks and Gardens

2.2.9 There are three Registered Parks and Gardens within 7km of the site boundary.

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3 Extract from English Heritage's record of scheduled monuments: http://www.magic.gov.uk/Metadata_for_magic/rsm/21547.pdf
2.2.10 **Coombe Abbey**, lies 1.2 km north-west of the development site. The abbey includes a late 18th century park landscaped by Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown with structures designed by Henry Holland, together with mid and late 19th century formal gardens laid out by William Andrews Nesfield and William Miller which incorporate elements of late 16th and early 17th century formal gardens. The citation on the register states that “There are views across surrounding agricultural land to the north and north-east from within the site, while to the south there are views across the A427 road towards Birchley Wood, The Grove and New Close Wood, areas of predominantly deciduous woodland through which the two avenues extend south towards the village of Brandon.”

2.2.11 Newnham Paddox (6.7 km north-east) and Ryton House (5 km south-west) are unlikely to be affected by the development due to landform and intervening features.

**Green Belt**

2.2.12 The site lies within the West Midlands Green Belt. The Minerals Local Plan seeks to protect the green belt but also recognises that minerals can only be worked where they are found and that extraction need not be incompatible with Green Belt objectives.

2.2.13 Green Belt has not been used as an absolute constraint for the purposes of identifying mineral extraction areas, although the onus is on the operator to demonstrate that high environmental standards can be achieved during working and restoration and that it is necessary to work within the Green Belt.

**Ecological designations**

**Sites of Special Scientific Interest**

2.2.14 The nearest SSSI to the site lies at **Coombe Pool**, approximately 0.8km north-west of the site boundary. “Coombe Pool lies in the grounds of Coombe Abbey to the east of Coventry. The pool is fed by the Smite Brook and was created as part of an extensive landscape scheme designed by Capability Brown in the eighteenth century. The site includes the pool of 36 hectares, reed beds, and woodland. Coombe Pool is one of the most important ornithological sites in Warwickshire for its herons *Ardea cinerea*, and other breeding birds, and for its wintering wildfowl.”

2.2.15 Just over 3km south-west of the site, **Herald Way Marsh** SSSI “lies to the east of Coventry on glacial sands and gravels overlaid by coal spoil. The site contains a range of wetland communities which are scarce in the county. They range from open water through swamp and fen to marsh, as well as areas of grassland, scrub and woodland. However, the site has been selected for its assemblage of invertebrates, a number of which are nationally rare.”

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4 http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/citation/citation_photo/1001242.pdf
5 http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/citation/citation_photo/1005052.pdf
Other designations

2.2.16 There are a number of Local Nature Reserves within 5km of the site boundary. **Stoke Floods** Local Nature Reserve is the closest, lying around 3km west of the site boundary at its nearest point. The reserve has a large lake, reed beds and scrub next to the River Sowe. The lake is the result of mining subsidence and supports many wetland plants such as yellow flag and reed canary grass.

2.2.17 Around 3km south-west of the site the area of the Herald Way Marsh SSSI is also classified as a Local Nature Reserve.

2.2.18 Within 2km of the site there are three areas of **ancient woodland**: Birchley and New Close Wood, High Wood and Little Wood.

2.3 Interim Summary

2.3.1 In terms of the landscape planning context the following locally specific issues need to be considered in the assessment of effects:

- The site lies within an area designated as Green Belt, the Minerals Local Plan seeks to protect the green belt but also recognises that extraction need not be incompatible with Green Belt objectives
- The site is not located within a nationally important landscape designation, such as a National Park or an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Ensure that there are no significant adverse impact on local landscape character, scenic quality and distinctive landscape features
- Careful consideration should be given to the potential effects the development proposals may have on setting of historic assets including listed buildings, scheduled monuments and Registered Parks and Gardens
- Careful consideration should be given to the impact development proposals may have on residential amenity; and
- Ecological designations, although not specifically related to landscape amenity, are an indication of landscape value.

2.3.2 The next section of the LVIA sets out the development proposals for the application site.

3.0 The Proposed Development

3.1.1 Details of the proposed development are provided on the planning application drawings and within the planning supporting statement. This section describes the main aspects of the proposed development which could potentially affect landscape and/or visual amenity. It also identifies features of the proposals which will assist in mitigating adverse landscape and visual impacts.
Sources of potential effects on landscape and views

3.1.2 The main features of the development proposal which could potentially result in landscape and visual impacts are:

- The completion of mineral extraction and restoration works within the Quarry as approved under the Existing Planning Permission;
- Phased extraction of sand and gravel for a period of 5-7 years (circa 1 million tonnes of resource);
- Retention of the other activities that have planning permissions that are linked to the quarry development including:
  - The Mortar Plant - Brinklow Quarry produces sands to a specification suitable for the production of quality-assured mortars
  - The Open Windrow Composting Facility - The site has the capacity to manufacture a range of green-waste derived compost grades under the auspices of the PAS 100 Standard and Quality Protocol
  - The Inert Waste Recycling Facility - Products from the IWRF are manufactured under the terms of the EA/WRAP Aggregates Protocol and constitute a sustainable supplement to the range of virgin aggregate products offered by the quarry.

3.1.3 These uses are conditioned to co-terminate with the main quarry Planning Permission reference R687/1547/1486/P. Following the cessation of quarrying operations, the following would have an impact:

- Phased and progressive restoration of the site in accordance with the approved Restoration Plan - The Phasing Plan Figure 5 (reference PP/04/15) illustrates the general progressive restoration concept, designed to minimise the extent of active operational areas, return land to continued agricultural production and to deliver landscape improvement and habitat diversification by means of tree planting and restoration to wetland at the earliest possible juncture. These elements would be designed to integrate with existing completed restoration to enhance the local landscape character in its wider setting.

Mitigation measures

3.1.4 The potential for adverse effects on landscape and visual amenity have been recognised and mitigation measures incorporated in the scheme to avoid or reduce adverse effects or to offset or compensate for unavoidable adverse effects.

3.1.5 In order to minimise the landscape impact of the development, a number of mitigation measures have been incorporated into the scheme and are described below, along with their associated effects.

3.1.6 The site is already partially screened by existing vegetation, particularly boundary vegetation along Coventry Road to the north and existing vegetation on the screen
bund to the south east, along with woodland blocks of vegetation in the wider landscape.

3.1.7 The phasing of the mineral working has been designed to form a progressive sequence of working and restoration operations, which should minimise the area of land undergoing mineral working.

3.1.8 Mitigation measures incorporated into the scheme design include:

- Retention of existing hedgerows along Coventry Road to screen views into the site form the north
- Retention of the existing screen bund along the southeast boundary to screen views into the site from the east
- Other mitigation measures relating to quarry operations as defined in Chapter 2.

Restoration

3.1.9 It is proposed that restoration arrangements currently permitted under the Conditions of the Existing Planning Permission are revised to reflect a more sustainable location of water bodies, considering the relative depth of the water table on the eastern and western extremities of the site.

3.1.10 The Phasing Plan and the Restoration Scheme in Chapter 2 show the general progressive restoration concept.

3.1.11 The restoration scheme is designed to return as much of the quarried area to agricultural production with tangible benefits to all areas in terms of landscape improvement and habitat diversification through tree planting and wetland creation. The scheme aims to deliver high-quality restoration and long-term agricultural and landscape benefits.

3.1.12 An illustration of the restoration proposals following extraction of mineral from Phases A to F is depicted in the Restoration Concept Drawing reference RS/04/15. The restoration scheme is designed to return much of the quarried area to agricultural production with tangible benefits to all areas in terms of landscape improvement and habitat diversification through tree planting and wetland creation. The scheme aims to deliver high-quality restoration and long-term agricultural and landscape benefits.

3.1.13 In summary, the restoration proposals include:

- The creation of three new lake areas. Birchley Lake (see the Restoration Scheme in Chapter 2) will be publicly accessible with recreational facilities for the community. The other lakes at Lords Lake and Sandy Field Lake will be restricted form public access but will be enhanced for wildlife habitat. Tree planting to the north of Sandy field Lake will separate it from the recreational area of
Birchley Lake. Lakes are to be designed not to encourage air strike species due to airport safeguarding.

- Tussocky grassland to encourage reptile species will be planted to the south of Birchley Lake and to the north of Sandy Field Lake. An island within Lord Lake will include woodland planting.
- The central part of the site will be restored to agriculture, with former hedgerow boundaries restored.
- The eastern extent of the site in the area of the screen bund will be used for the deposit of overburden, following which it will be planted as native woodland.
- The development of Birchley Lake will include recreational facilities to the northwest, including a car park, toilets and visitor centre.
- An area of native scrub planting and wildflowers will be included to the south of Sandy Field Lake to encourage reptiles, including great crested newts.
- Lords Lake will include areas of tussocky grassland for reptile habitat and an amenity lake for fishing.
- Wildlife corridors throughout the site will be encouraged with belts of trees, scrub and new hedgerows connecting to the overburden plantation in the east. New tree planting to the north of Birchley Lake and Lords Lake strengthens the bat corridor. Bird and bat boxes will be erected in this area where appropriate.

4.0 Effects on the Landscape

4.1.1 This chapter deals with the effects on the landscape of the site and its context of the proposed construction and occupation of the site.

Assessment methodology

4.1.2 A summary of the methodology for assessing the likely effects and the criteria used are set out in Appendix 2.

Sensitivity, or susceptibility to change

4.1.3 The sensitivity of landscape receptors is dependent on their value and susceptibility to, or ability to accommodate, the changes that would be brought about by the proposed development. The sensitivity of landscape receptors combines professional judgments of their susceptibility to the type of change arising from the development proposal and the value attached to the landscape or its components. Criteria for determining the Landscape Value and Landscape Susceptibility are contained in Appendix 2.

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6 The term used for elements and aspects of the landscape that might be affected by the proposals and people with views of the development.
Landscape sensitivity

4.1.4 The following categories of landscape sensitivity to change are used, combining consideration of landscape value and susceptibility, with the criteria applied:

Table 4-1 Indicative criteria for assessing Landscape Sensitivity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Indicative criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High sensitivity</td>
<td>A highly valued landscape e.g. of national or international importance, whose character or key characteristics are susceptible to change;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aspects of the landscape character are highly valued as “key characteristics” and susceptible to change in National or local character assessments;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The landscape character is highly valued as intact and in good condition and particularly vulnerable to disturbance;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A highly valued landscape with no or limited potential for substitution or replacement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate sensitivity</td>
<td>A landscape of local importance or value, whose character or key characteristics are susceptible to change;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other characteristics of the landscape character also noted in National or local character assessments and susceptible to change;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The landscape character is valued for moderate condition and not particularly vulnerable to disturbance;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A moderately valued landscape with some potential for substitution or replacement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesser sensitivity</td>
<td>No or little evidence of value or importance attached to the landscape area, its features or characteristics;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Few features, characteristics or qualities susceptible to disturbance or particularly susceptible to improvement or upgrading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Good potential for substitution or replacement.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.1.5 These are the criteria against which receptors are considered in order to arrive at a judgement as to their sensitivity, but it is not necessary for all the criteria set out for a category to apply.

Assessment criteria

4.1.6 The degree of the likely landscape effects of the proposed development is determined by relating the sensitivity of the receptors to the changes arising from the development proposals, and the degree and nature of the changes in the landscape arising from the proposals.
4.1.7 The scale of magnitude of the changes is related to considerations of the size or scale of the change, the geographical extent of the area influenced, and the duration and reversibility of the change. The scale of magnitude of the changes is graded, as follows:

**Table 4-2 Indicative criteria for assessing Magnitude of Landscape Change**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Magnitude of Change</th>
<th>Landscape Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Great change</td>
<td>Major size or scale of change, affecting the landscape type or character of the area within which the proposal lies or extending over the wider area; continuing into the longer term or permanently, with low prospect of reversibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium change</td>
<td>Intermediate size or scale of change, affecting part of the landscape type or character of the area within which the proposal lies, or larger scale of change at the level of the site or immediate context; continuing into the medium term, with good prospect of reversibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small change</td>
<td>A minor proportion of the extent of the character type or area is affected or smaller scale of change over a larger extent; the changes occur at the level of the site or immediate context, are short term and reversible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>No change to landscape characteristics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.1.8 The degree of effect, whether adverse or beneficial, is assessed by relating the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of change, by considering the following indicative criteria:

**Table 4-3 Indicative criteria for assessing Landscape Effects**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landscape effect</th>
<th>Indicative criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
<td>Highly sensitive landscape completely degraded or greatly changed, with little or no scope for mitigation; Great improvement, sufficient to upgrade overall landscape character.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Medium change to moderately sensitive landscape; lesser change to higher sensitivity landscape or greater change to less sensitive landscape.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>Localised or limited adverse change to the existing landscape character; greater change to less sensitive landscape; Considerable scope for mitigation; Localised improvement to the existing landscape.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negligible</td>
<td>Little or no perceived change to the existing landscape character;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.1.9 Intermediate conditions may be described, such as Moderate-Major, where the criteria for Moderate may be exceeded but not qualify as Major. Where there is no magnitude of change, the effect would be none.

4.1.10 Major effects are likely to be considered “significant”, especially if or adverse and long term or not reversible, and Minor or Negligible effects as “not significant”. The relative significance of intermediate effects is indicated in the assessment below. These are effects that are not significant, but may be important considerations in decision making about the proposed development.

4.1.11 In addition, in some instances the effect may be offset by other considerations, for example, through the mitigation proposals, and the resulting effect is neither beneficial nor adverse.

4.2 Landscape baseline

4.2.1 The landscape baseline is a description and analysis of the existing landscape, against which the effects of the proposed development are assessed, first, by reference to landscape character assessments for the area in which the site is located, at national and local levels and, then, from site-specific surveys and analysis carried out for the purposes of this assessment.

National landscape character assessment

4.2.2 The desk study has made reference to National Character Areas for England7. National Character Areas (NCAs) divide England into 159 distinct natural areas. The new NCA profiles update the previously published Joint Character Area (JCAs) and Countryside Character Area descriptions (1998-1999 by the Countryside Agency). Each NCA is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural and economic activity. Their boundaries follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries, making them a good decision making framework for the natural environment.’

4.2.3 The site is located within the National Character Area 96: Dunsmore and Feldon, predominantly a rural, agricultural landscape, crossed by numerous small rivers and tributaries. It is an important food producing area and the agricultural expanse of large arable fields, improved pasture and small villages forms a transitional landscape between the surrounding National Character Areas. Coventry, to the west, exerts a huge influence on the area, with Rugby being the other nearby main settlement to the east. The key characteristics are identified as:

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7 National Character Area Profile - Character Area 121: Low Weald, Natural England, July 2013
The sense of a predominantly quiet, rural landscape is heightened by its close proximity to several urban areas, with a gently undulating landscape of low hills, heathland plateaux and clay vales separated by the occasional upstanding escarpment.

The underlying lower Lias clays and Mercia mudstones are similar throughout Dunsmore and Feldon but the Quaternary ‘superficial’ deposits are what mark the change in character between Dunsmore and Feldon.

Light sandy soils associated with the west (Dunsmore) supporting mixed farming and some intensive arable with fertile alkaline soils to the east (Feldon) supporting grazed pasture.

Generally low woodland cover across the area, although there are areas of well-wooded character and ancient woodlands, especially in the north, providing habitats for bluebells, molluscs and fritillary butterflies; these woodlands are linked with landscaped parklands and hedgerow trees.

Remnants of the formerly extensive Dunsmore Heath, preserving characteristic heathland archaeology, can still be found in woodland clearings. Natural regeneration on sand and gravel soils also occurs along roadside verges, although bracken is often abundant.

Narrow, meandering river valleys with pollarded willows, streamside alders and patches of scrub supporting dipper, kingfisher, otter and Atlantic stream crayfish.

Canals, including the Grand Union Canal, and Draycote Reservoir provide important riparian habitats and a well-used recreational resource.

Mainly large fields, with regular or rectilinear shapes, although some smaller fields also feature. Numerous areas of remnant ridge-and-furrow and earthwork remains of medieval settlements as found at Lower Tysoe, Radwell and Napton on the Hill.

Predominantly nucleated settlement pattern with a low density of isolated farmsteads and some field barns sitting within a landscape of piecemeal and planned enclosure of the open fields which extended from the villages over large parts of this area. Many villages have recently expanded but the traditional buildings, constructed of red brick or Lias limestone, still retain their blue brick or ironstone details.

The busy roads and large industrial units on the outskirts of the main settlements of Leamington Spa, Coventry and Rugby exert an urban influence on the surrounding area.

Limestone quarrying for the cement industry was formerly a feature in the centre and south of the area, and disused quarries are now prominent elements in the landscape. The rock exposures and spoil heaps are of geological importance, as well as having interesting limestone grassland communities.

Within the ‘Landscape Change’ section, the following points are of relevance to the area:

Recently there has been significant creation of new woodland by individual landowners as part of farm diversification: game shooting, shelter and screening.
Principally these are broadleaved or mixed woodlands and generally are of small scale (less than 10 ha).

- Around a tenth of the ancient woodland was destroyed between 1925 and 1988, and a further two-fifths converted to plantation (Warwickshire AWI 1989).
- Neglect, through a cessation of coppicing, has been an equally significant factor in the loss of woodland biodiversity since the mid-1900s. Isolation of woodlands has left them unable to sustain some woodland species populations.
- There is a lack of mature and over mature trees in many secondary, plantation and new woodlands that is leading to very limited deadwood habitats.
- Inappropriate development bordering key woodlands is having a negative impact on woodland condition.
- The prolonged and continued loss of hedgerows that has occurred over the last 50 years has left many habitats, such as woodlands, and some species isolated.
- There has been the removal of hedgerows because of agricultural intensification leading to the creation of larger fields. Urban development, for example housing and roads, has also lead to losses.
- There has been a decline in the practice of hedge laying, resulting in gaps and loss of structure.
- The loss of mature trees within hedgerows was acute following the major Dutch elm disease epidemic of the 1970s and semi-mature elms succumb to re-infestation, and as oak and ash succumb belatedly to the drought summers of the 1990s.
- The practice of annual trimming of hedgerows, often without tagging and retaining trees in the hedgerows, is reducing their biodiversity value and leading to gappy hedgerows and loss of hedgerows.
- Ridge and furrow and other historical earthworks have and continue to be lost as a result of ploughing, reseeding and conversion to arable.
- In 1918 about 4 per cent of the NCA was historic parkland. In terms of the share of the resource the area was ranked 42 nationally. By 1995 it is estimated that two-thirds had been lost. About a third of the remaining parkland is covered by a Historic Parkland Grant.
- Quarrying for limestone and clay is carried out within this NCA supporting the cement industry centred on Rugby. Established management has increased and some of the active quarries have land informally set aside for nature conservation for example at Southam and Edge Hill.
- Habitat creation – a number of important schemes are in progress or at the planning stage. At Rugby Works, plans for a new quarry include final restoration to wildlife habitat. The ongoing extension of Southam Quarry may create opportunities for major habitat creation in future years while at Edge Hill Quarry preparation is being made for establishing a wildlife site within the main quarry.
- Ufton Fields Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and Newbold Quarry Country Park LNR are disused quarries and are good examples of alternative uses for those sites both for conservation and their potential recreational use.
Mineral extraction will continue but this could bring opportunities for nature conservation as more quarry companies actively look to set aside areas for biodiversity and through post-extraction habitat creation.

County and District level landscape assessments

4.2.5 The most recently published Landscape Character assessment of relevance to the site is the **Landscape Assessment of the Borough of Rugby, Sensitivity and Condition Study**, which was published in April 2006. The site lies within the **Dunsmore Parklands** Landscape Character Area.

4.2.6 "Dunsmore Parklands is a gently rolling estate landscape with a well-wooded character, defined by woodland edges, parkland and belts of trees. Wooded streamlines and mature hedgerow and roadside trees, (typically oak), reinforce this impression by creating a sequence of linked wooded spaces. Large blocks of woodland and smaller coverts help to create a sense of scale and enclosure in an otherwise intensively farmed landscape. Field pattern is large but poorly defined, and in places absent altogether, allowing middle distant views to wooded skylines."\(^8\) The area is evaluated by the study as follows:

- **Sensitivity – Fragility**: Cultural sensitivity is generally moderate due to the historic coherent pattern which exists in this area. Where it is high this is due to a slightly older, more unified pattern (ancient woodlands are contributing to this pattern). Overall ecological sensitivity is **moderate** due to the ancient wooded landscape character.
- **Sensitivity – Visibility**: Visibility is generally low, due both to the level of tree cover, as well as to the low-lying, rolling topography. It is **moderate** when tree cover is reduced.
- **Overall sensitivity**: Overall sensitivity is **moderate** as a result of both cultural (time depth) and ecological factors – primarily ancient woodlands.
- **Condition**: Apart from an area to the south of Harborough Parva, where the condition is strong, this area is generally in decline.

4.3 Landscape context of the site

**The landscape of the site**

4.3.1 The site and the surrounding area lies within the National Character Area 96: Dunsmore and Feldon. Key characteristics of the area include the gently undulating landscape of low hills, narrow, meandering river valleys. Agricultural areas consist of mainly large fields, with regular or rectilinear shapes. Woodland cover in the wider LCA is sparse, though in the area around the site has a well wooded character, with parkland and belts of trees forming key landscape features in the area.

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\(^8\) Rugby Borough Council, Landscape Assessment of the Borough of Rugby, Sensitivity and Condition Study, April 2006, p.14
Features of the site

4.3.2 The Quarry and associated recycling and manufacturing operations share a single common entrance off Coventry Road, the main highway (B4428) passing north of the site, the current working area of the quarry is approximately 800m to the south of this entrance. A 2 metre high security gate controls access with roadside splays ensuring adequate visibility for vehicles leaving the site. The general Quarry area is secured by fencing enclosing the surrounding agricultural land.

Characteristics and aesthetics

4.3.3 The site is situated at the bottom of a shallow valley between two ridgelines, the height difference between the valley bottom and the ridges reaches a maximum of 38m to the north and 18m to the south. This is just sufficient to create some isolation and enclosure for the site from the surrounding landscape in these directions. The topography to the west and east is much flatter. The site is well enclosed by surrounding vegetation, to the north by wood Hill, High Wood and the well vegetated landscape of Coombe Country Park and Birchley Wood and New Close Wood to the southwest. High hedgerows in the area to the north and west of the site also add to the sense of enclosure. To the south as the landform rises the land becomes more open, with low or more well maintained hedgerows contributing to a greater sense of openness. Many hedgerows in this area still contain large trees, which provide maturity to the landscape setting and filter views towards the site.

4.4 Public access

4.4.1 The principal attractions for informal outdoor recreation in the area include walking the network of public footpaths, byways and minor roads, cycling and horse riding. A public footpath crosses the eastern part of the existing site before running along its northern boundary between the existing site and the proposed extension, eventually joining the bridleway that runs along the east side of Birchley Wood towards the west of the existing site. This bridleway, which runs approximately north to south, is the only other publically accessible part of the site, although a lane with public access runs along the far south-eastern boundary and the north-westernmost part of the site is bordered by the B4428.

4.4.2 There are numerous other public footpaths and bridleways in the surrounding landscape, particularly to the south, which include the Centenary Way (200m to the west) and the Coventry Way (400m to the east). The nearest are of access land lies approximately 2.5km to the south-west of the site. There are no National Cycle Routes in the study area.

4.5 Landscape baseline summary

4.5.1 The site is situated within an area of low ridges and valleys lying between Leamington Spa, Coventry and Rugby, known as Dunsmore, and is predominantly a rural,
agricultural landscape with a wooded character. Following the desk top studies and fieldwork the following key landscape issues need to be considered in the detailed assessment of the effects:

- Retaining the rural agricultural character of the area with mainly large regular or rectilinear fields;
- Retention of areas of woodland linked by landscaped parklands and hedgerow trees;
- The impact of the proposal on the character and setting of the Green Belt;
- Consideration of the setting of Coombe Abbey Registered Park and Garden, scheduled monuments and listed buildings as important historical features of the area.

4.6 Effects on the Landscape

4.6.1 This section examines the significance of the landscape effects arising as a result of the proposed development with reference to:

- the potential operational effects on landscape fabric within the site;
- the potential operational effects on landscape character, including consideration of the significance of effects on designated landscapes; and
- the potential effects on the landscape amenity of Local residents, users of public rights of way and roads.

**Potential Effects on Landscape Fabric**

4.6.2 Effects of the landscape fabric may occur where there are either direct or indirect physical changes to the landscape. Direct changes to landscape fabric would only occur within the application boundary.

**Potential Effects on Landscape Character**

4.6.3 The effect of the proposed development on landscape character will depend on key characteristics of the receiving landscape; the degree to which the proposed development are considered consistent with or at odds with them; and how the proposed development would be perceived within the setting, with perception being influenced by:

- the distance to the site;
- weather conditions; and
- the appearance and ‘fit’ of the proposed development within the landscape.

4.6.4 There is an overlap between the perception of change to landscape character and visual amenity, but landscape character is derived from the combination and pattern of landscape elements within the view. The effects of the proposed development on landscape character would arise from its relationship to these combinations and patterns. The following assessment is undertaken with reference to Figure LA.02
which includes the Natural England Character Areas. The descriptions of the areas are included within Section 4.2.

**Sensitivity**

4.6.5 In considering the impact of the proposed development on the site and its context the most sensitive features in the landscape are the existing vegetation surrounding the site and the open character of the adjacent rural areas. The main issues likely to be critical are the effects of proposed development on the features which contribute to landscape character.

**Vegetation pattern**

4.6.6 The character of the landscape is partly derived from the vegetation pattern, which is particular to the character of Dunsmore. Medium to large regular shaped arable fields are divided by mature hedgerows and interspersed by numerous small areas of mature woodland. In the area around the site the hedgerows are dense and mature while towards the edges of the study area the landscape is more open with larger fields, maintained hedgerows and fewer areas of woodland. The areas of woodland and hedgerows are of landscape importance within the local context, forming the character of the area. The vegetation within the site is considered to be of high value as it is forms part of the hedgerow pattern which is a distinctive characteristic of the area, and has high susceptibility to removal due to the proposed development, and is thus of high sensitivity.

**Landscape features and character**

4.6.7 The rural character of the site contributes to the landscape character of the wider area. The site is currently in a mixture of arable agricultural and quarrying use. There are numerous small woodlands in the surrounding landscape while the majority of the surrounding open land is also under arable agriculture, the exception being the parkland around Coombe Abbey to the north-west. The typical character of the rural landscape of Dunsmore is seen within the site and the surrounding area.

4.6.8 At a national level the site is located within National Character Area 96: Dunsmore and Feldon. The value of the character area is considered to be high due to the important landscape and cultural features of the area, however the susceptibility of the area is considered to be low as the changes arising from the development would not alter the overall character of the area. This results in an overall moderate sensitivity for the NCA.

4.6.9 At a district level, the site forms a part of the Dunsmore Parklands Landscape Character Area, where rolling estate landscape with a well-wooded character, defined by woodland edges, parkland and belts of trees. The Landscape Character assessment describes this area as being of moderate sensitivity. Aspects of the landscape character are moderately valued as “key characteristics” and susceptible to change, but
the changes arising from the development would not alter the overall character of the area.

**Public access and settlement**

4.6.10 Recreation and enjoyment of publicly accessible places is highly valued and inextricably linked to the landscape character of the wider area and moderately susceptible to the changes arising from the development; is assessed as a landscape receptor of **moderate sensitivity**. The landscape amenity as experienced by people who use the public byways, and footpaths in the immediate vicinity of the site is of moderate value and susceptibility, and is thus considered of **moderate sensitivity**. The landscape amenity of vehicle travellers is of **lesser sensitivity**, as it is of moderate-lesser value and lesser susceptibility to change. The landscape amenity of residents within the site context is related partly to landscape amenity but highly susceptible to changes in the landscape context. Viewers in residential or community properties with open views of the site are highly sensitive, but viewers "... with partial or largely screened views ..." are moderately sensitive. The setting of residential properties is screened by existing vegetation and development, therefore the landscape amenity of residents is a receptor of **moderate sensitivity**.

**Designations**

4.6.11 There are no nationally designated landscapes within the study area such as a national park or an AONB, the site and the majority of the study area is designated as part of the Green Belt by Rugby Borough Council. Designated landscapes within the study area are shown on [Figure LA02](#).

4.6.12 The Green Belt is considered to be of **moderate sensitivity**, as aspects of the landscape character are highly valued, but of low susceptibility to change.

4.6.13 The nearest designated landscapes are Coombe Abbey Country Park/Registered Park and Garden, 0.1 km to the north-west of the site.

4.6.14 The landscape of the Coombe Abbey Country Park/ Registered Park and Garden is of **moderate sensitivity** as it is highly valued; but due to intervening features is of low susceptibility to change as a result of the development.

4.6.15 The south-westernmost boundary of the site is bordered by an area of Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland, a designation which also appears just to the north of the site to the north of the B4428, which is also of **moderate sensitivity** as it is highly valued; but of low susceptibility to change as a result of the development.

4.6.16 Other landscape designations within the study area scheduled monuments and listed buildings. There may be interrelationships with the cultural heritage topic and specialist input from cultural heritage professionals assists with interpreting the cultural and historic landscape and identifying important visual relationships. Heritage assets in the vicinity of the proposed development and their settings are taken into account in the
accompanying heritage appraisal, including strategic views relating to the heritage assets, landmarks, and other key views and vistas in urban areas. The assessment of visual effects in the L&VApp addresses the views available to people and their visual amenity, and includes views from scheduled monuments and listed buildings.

**Magnitude of change**

**Vegetation pattern: sites considered cumulatively**

4.6.17 During the continued operation of the Section 73 site along with the proposed operation of the extension site, the movement of equipment and quarry activity would be partially screened by boundary vegetation, this would be further aided by the existing woodland to the south-west and by hedgerow vegetation elsewhere. Where visible, it would be viewed in the context of the existing quarrying activities on the site and with vehicle movement and agricultural activities in the surrounding landscape. The retention of field boundaries and the continued presence of the screen bund to the southeast would reduce the visibility of the active area of the quarry and of quarrying activities.

4.6.18 Existing vegetation on the site boundaries would be retained, where possible. Small areas of vegetation within the site boundary, including the hedgerows and hedgerow trees forming the field boundaries, would be removed (see Chapter 7, Ecology, for [Hedgerow Removal Plan](#)). The overall magnitude of change would be small.

4.6.19 There would initially be a small change to the vegetation pattern of the area during the restoration phases, with the planting of proposed woodland, hedgerows and scrub areas. Over time, as the vegetation matures, this would create a great scale change to the vegetation pattern of the area.

**Vegetation pattern: Section 73 and extension site considered separately**

4.6.20 When the Section 73 and extension sites are considered separately, there would also be a small change to the vegetation pattern during the operational periods, with removal of hedgerow boundaries within each of the sites.

**Landscape features and character: sites considered cumulatively**

4.6.21 During the operational period of the mineral operations, the associated activity including movement of equipment would continue to be visible, although this would be viewed in the context of vehicle movement and agricultural activities in the surrounding landscape. The proposed extension site would increase this area to the north, but would still be contained within the existing vegetation to the north on Coventry Road.

4.6.22 There will continue to be a medium change from operational activities on the local landscape character, this will be offset by screening and containment provided by retention of hedgerows and boundary vegetation around the site.

4.6.23 There would also be a medium scale change to the local landscape as a result of the operational activities moving into the extension site, again this would be offset by screening and containment provided by existing vegetation.
4.6.24 There would be no direct changes to the landscape and agricultural land located immediately adjacent to the site as development is contained within the red line boundary. Views towards the surrounding landscape have been considered within the assessment of visual effects below.

4.6.25 There would be a medium scale of change to the local landscape character during the restoration period. Immediately following restoration, this would reduce to small. Over time the impact of the maturing woodland hedgerows, establishment of the tussocky grassland and scrub would create a medium scale of change to the immediate local landscape character of the area.

Landscape features and character: Section 73 and extension site considered separately

4.6.26 For the section 73 site, there will continue to be a medium change from operational activities on the local landscape character. For the extension site only, the magnitude of change would be small, due to the containment of this smaller area within the wider landscape.

Public access and settlement: sites considered cumulatively

4.6.27 There will be a change to the landscape setting of public footpaths and roads in the area. The magnitude of change is dependent on the dominance of the quarrying/restoration activities within the landscape setting of the path.

4.6.28 This ranges from great for views from the footpaths and bridleways within the site, see Appraisal Photographs 6 and 7 to small where the continued quarrying activities and propped extension site are a minor element within the wider landscape and have minimal impact on the setting of the route (such as the view from Appraisal Photograph 13 and Assessment Photographs 4 and 5), to none for those areas of roads and public footpath where the development is a not a perceptible element within the view and therefore has no impact on the setting of the route, as illustrated by Appraisal Photograph 17 and Assessment Photograph 6, and roads to the southeast, Appraisal Photographs 15 and 16).

4.6.29 There will be no change to the setting of the long distance footpaths within the study area, as illustrated by Appraisal Photographs 10, 11 and 15; and discussed in further detail below.

4.6.30 For residential properties the scale of change would continue to be medium for the dwelling at Woodhill Farm, while the extension site would increase the scale of change from small to medium for properties at Highwood Lodge and East Lodge with the introduction of quarrying activities closer to the setting of the properties.

4.6.31 There would continue to be a small scale of change for a small number of dwellings on Heath Lane who may be aware of quarrying activities within the setting of the property. These properties are largely separated from the operational site by vegetation and distance.
4.6.32 There would be no change to the landscape setting of dwellings to the east such as Cottage Farm, whose setting is maintained by the screen bund. There will be no impact on the setting of residential properties in Brinklow.

**Public access and settlement: Section 73 and extension site considered separately**

4.6.33 The magnitude of change for areas of public access for the section 73 site only ranges from great (see Appraisal Photographs 6 and 7 looking west) for views from the footpaths and bridleways within or immediately adjacent to the site, reducing to small/none for those areas of roads and public footpath where the development is a minor element or a not a perceptible element within the view and therefore has no impact on the setting of the route. There will be no change to the setting of the long distance footpaths within the study area.

4.6.34 For residential properties the scale of change would continue to be medium for the dwelling at Woodhill Farm and small for properties at Highwood Lodge and East Lodge. There would continue to be a small scale of change for a small number of dwellings on Heath Lane who may be aware of quarrying activities within the setting of the property.

4.6.35 The magnitude of change for areas of public access for the extension site only ranges from great (see Appraisal Photographs 6 and 7 looking east) for views from the footpaths and bridleways within or immediately adjacent to the site, reducing to small/none for those areas of roads and public footpath where the development is a minor element or a not a perceptible element within the view and therefore has no impact on the setting of the route. There will be no change to the setting of the long distance footpaths within the study area. For residential properties the scale of change would be medium for properties at Highwood Lodge and East Lodge with the introduction of quarrying activities and small for the dwelling at Woodville Farm. There would be no change for properties at Heath Lane.

4.6.36 For both the extension site only and the Section 73 site only there would be no change to the landscape setting of dwellings to the east such as Cottage Farm, whose setting is maintained by the screen bund. There will be no impact on the setting of residential properties in Brinklow.

**Designated landscapes: sites considered cumulatively**

4.6.37 There would be only a small change to the setting of the Green Belt as the areas from which the proposed development is a perceptible element in relation to the setting of the Green Belt are limited.

4.6.38 There would be no change to the setting of the Coombe Park Registered park and Garden and Country Park as the park’s setting is well contained within existing mature vegetation. There will be no change to areas of ancient woodland.
**Designated landscapes: Section 73 and extension site considered separately**

4.6.39 There would be only a **small** change to the setting of the Green Belt as the areas from which the proposed development is a perceptible element in relation to the setting of the Green Belt are limited.

4.6.40 There would be **no change** to the setting of the Coombe Park Registered Park and Garden and Country Park as the park’s setting is well contained within existing mature vegetation. There will be **no change** to areas of ancient woodland.

**Assessment**

**Assessment of Impacts during operation/ restoration**

**Vegetation pattern: sites considered cumulatively**

4.6.41 The character of the landscape is partly derived from the vegetation pattern including visually prominent blocks of deciduous woodland along with hedgerows which support mature trees. This pattern is regarded as a receptor of high sensitivity.

4.6.42 During the initial phases of quarrying, existing vegetation within the site boundary, including hedgerow trees would be removed resulting in some disruption to the vegetation pattern. The areas of vegetation to be removed are small and their contribution to the vegetation pattern is minor. Birchley Wood and mature vegetation along the north boundary of the site would be retained in its entirety.

4.6.43 The impact on the vegetation pattern would be **minor adverse** during quarrying. This would reduce to **negligible/minor beneficial** in the long term when the proposed planting undertaken during the restoration of the site becomes part of the pattern of woodland in the wider landscape.

**Vegetation pattern: Section 73 and extension site considered separately**

4.6.44 The impact on the vegetation pattern would be **minor adverse** during quarrying for both the section 73 site and the extension site when considered separately. This would reduce to **negligible/minor beneficial** in the long term when the proposed planting undertaken during the restoration of the site becomes part of the pattern of woodland in the wider landscape.

**Landscape features and character: sites considered cumulatively**

4.6.45 The quarry and restoration activities would have an impact on the landscape character of the area. The character of the site will be moderately affected, but will only be perceptible from a local scale. The retention of existing vegetation around the site boundary limits the possibility for impacts on the wider landscape, with the overall impact on the character of the landscape ranging from **moderate adverse** for areas closer to the site, to **negligible** in the context of the wider landscape.
Landscape features and character: Section 73 and extension site considered separately

4.6.46 For the section 73 site only, the overall impact on the character of the landscape would range from *moderate adverse* for areas closer to the site, to *negligible* in the context of the wider landscape.

4.6.47 For the extension site only, the impact would be *minor adverse* to *negligible* in the context of the wider landscape, as the site is well contained within the wider landscape.

Public access and settlement: sites considered cumulatively

4.6.48 The potential indirect impact on public rights of way and roads within the study area of the proposed continuation of activities to achieve final restoration includes physical disruption and change to the character of the setting and its visual qualities. The public footpaths within the area surrounding the site will continue to experience views of the site activities at certain key viewpoints, as discussed below.

4.6.49 Of those paths where there are views the development will have a *major adverse*- *minor adverse* impact on their landscape setting.

4.6.50 However there are limited views of the site from footpaths in the area, as illustrated by the photographs in Figures LA.04 and LA.05. *Appraisal Photograph 8* shows a view from the bridleway within the west of the site, which as a closely located route with direct views of the conveyor, as well as more distant views of the plant area, would have a *moderate-major adverse* impact on its landscape setting of this section of the route dependent on the scale and dominance of quarrying operations in relation to the setting of the path.

4.6.51 For sections of footpath/bridleway beyond the site boundary, the impact is restricted due to surrounding vegetation. *Assessment Photograph 4* shows a view from the bridleway which runs through the site, to the south of the site boundary near Birchley Farm, views into the Section 73 and extension site are screened by existing boundary vegetation. Quarrying activities would have a *slight adverse* impact on this section of the route.

4.6.52 More distant footpaths and bridleways, such as the routes to the south of the site (as seen in *Assessment Photograph 5* and *Appraisal Photograph 13*), will continue to experience a *minor adverse-negligible* impact. Other footpaths in the area surrounding the site which do not experience views will continue to experience a *negligible* impact on their setting.

4.6.53 The impact on long distance footpaths within the study area will be *negligible* as the continued quarrying activities in the Section 73 site and proposed quarrying activities in the extension site are not perceptible elements within the setting of these routes.

4.6.54 Vehicle travellers would perceive the development of the site to a lesser extent than pedestrians. Views of the site are possible from Coventry Road and Heath Lane.
However, as these are only glimpsed views, users of the roads within the study area would continue to experience a minor adverse - negligible impact on the landscape setting, as the development would be viewed in the context of vehicle movement and agricultural activities in the surrounding landscape.

4.6.55 The potential adverse impacts on the amenity of the nearby residents during quarrying operations are reduced by careful design and phasing of the quarry. There would however be periods of increased disturbance during vegetation clearance, and during quarrying of the northern part of the Section 73 site and extension site.

4.6.56 Views from the principal area of settlement at Brinklow to the northeast of the site have their views obscured by vegetation; the impact on the setting of these areas will continue to be negligible.

4.6.57 Properties to the north of the site at Highwood Farm, Woodhill Farm and East Lodge largely appear to have their views obscured by vegetation. There is potential for some properties to experience views from higher windows in the upper stories. The impact on the setting of these properties will be moderate-minor adverse, dependent on the scale and prominence of quarrying activities in the setting of the properties.

Public access and settlement: Section 73 and extension site considered separately

4.6.58 For the section 73 site only, the impact on publicly accessible routes would be major adverse for those routes located within or immediately adjacent to the site, (see Appraisal Photographs 6 and 7 looking west), reducing to minor adverse-negligible for those areas of roads and public footpath where the development is a minor element or a not a perceptible element within the view and therefore has no impact on the setting of the route (as seen in Assessment Photograph 5 and Appraisal Photograph 13). There will be negligible impact on the setting of the long distance footpaths within the study area.

4.6.59 For residential properties the impact would continue to be moderate adverse for the dwelling at Woodhill Farm and minor adverse for properties at Highwood Lodge and East Lodge. There would continue to be a minor adverse scale of change for a small number of dwellings on Heath Lane who may be aware of quarrying activities within the setting of the property.

4.6.60 The impact on areas of public access for the extension site only ranges from major adverse (see Appraisal Photographs 6 and 7 looking east) for views from the footpaths and bridleways within or immediately adjacent to the site, reducing to minor adverse-negligible for those areas of roads and public footpath where the development is a minor element or a not a perceptible element within the view and therefore has no impact on the setting of the route. There will be negligible impact on the setting of the long distance footpaths within the study area. For residential properties the impact would be moderate adverse for properties at Highwood Lodge and East Lodge with the introduction of quarrying activities and minor adverse for the
more distant dwelling at Woodville Farm. There would be **negligible** impact on properties at Heath Lane.

4.6.61 For both the extension site only and the Section 73 site only there would be no impact to the landscape setting of dwellings to the east such as Cottage Farm, whose setting is maintained by the screen bund. There will be no impact on the setting of residential properties in Brinklow.

**Designated landscapes: sites considered cumulatively**

4.6.62 There would be a **negligible** impact on the Registered Park and Garden/Country Park at Coombe Park. There would be no impact on areas of ancient woodland.

4.6.63 There will be a **slight adverse-negligible** impact on the setting of the Green Belt as the areas from which the proposed development is a perceptible element in relation to the setting of the Green Belt are limited therefore the proposed development will not have an impact on the wider views and setting of the area.

**Designated landscapes: Section 73 and extension site considered separately**

4.6.64 There would be a **minor adverse - negligible** impact on the setting of the Green Belt as the areas from which the proposed development is a perceptible element in relation to the setting of the Green Belt are limited.

4.6.65 There would be **negligible** impact to the setting of the Coombe Park Registered Park and Garden and Country Park as the park's setting is well contained within existing mature vegetation. There will be no impact on areas of ancient woodland.

**Assessment of Impacts after restoration - Residual Impacts**

**Vegetation pattern: sites considered cumulatively**

4.6.66 Once new planting defined on the restoration plan has been implemented the overall impact on vegetation will improve to **slight beneficial**. This includes planting for tussocky grassland, lake margins, individual tree planting, hedgerows, scrub and deciduous woodland areas.

4.6.67 The application site will benefit from an increase in native tree and shrub cover, and supplementary and replacement tree planting that will reinforce existing boundaries. In the medium-term, there should be an increase in the nature conservation value of the site. In the longer term, once vegetation defined on the restoration plan matures and establishes, the impact will be **major beneficial**.

**Vegetation pattern: Section 73 and extension site considered separately**

4.6.68 The proposed hedgerow and woodland planting following restoration would have a **minor beneficial** impact on the vegetation pattern of the area for the section 73 site immediately following restoration, increasing to **moderate beneficial** once vegetation has established.
For the extension site only, the proposed hedgerow planting following restoration would have a **negligible** impact on the vegetation pattern of the area immediately following restoration, increasing to **minor beneficial** once vegetation has established.

**Landscape features and character: sites considered cumulatively**

Following completion of restoration there will be a change from operational activities to a diverse area of restored agricultural land within a framework of retained tree lines, woodland and shallow ponds, tussocky grassland and woodland areas. There will also be recreational areas developed, which will create additional recreational amenity values for the area. This improved landscape amenity will have a **moderate beneficial** impact on the landscape character of the area.

**Landscape features and character: Section 73 and extension site considered separately**

For the Section 73 site, following completion of restoration there will be a change from operational activities to a diverse area of restored agricultural land within a framework of retained tree lines, woodland and shallow ponds, tussocky grassland and woodland areas. This improved landscape amenity will have a **moderate beneficial** impact on the landscape character of the area.

For the extension site only, the area will be restored to agricultural land and a lake with tussocky grassland, which will have a **minor beneficial** impact on the landscape character of the area.

**Public access and settlement: sites considered cumulatively**

Following restoration the impact on the public footpaths/bridleways within the site would initially be **minor beneficial**, improving over time to **moderate-major beneficial**, with the introduction of further planting which would contribute to improving the landscape setting of the routes. Additional recreational amenity features and paths within the restoration scheme will improve recreational connections in the area, by connecting to the existing routes and improving access, which also has a beneficial impact.

The impact on vehicle travellers would be **negligible**, increasing to **minor beneficial** once vegetation forming part of the restoration proposals has matured.

Following restoration of the site the impact on the setting of residential properties would initially reduce to **negligible**, with the potential for improved areas of vegetation to provide a **minor-moderate beneficial** impact on the amenity of the properties as it matures.

**Public access and settlement: Section 73 and extension site considered separately**

Following restoration the impact on the public footpaths/bridleways within the Section 73 site would initially be **minor beneficial**, improving over time to **moderate**
beneficial, with the introduction of further planting which would contribute to improving the landscape setting of the routes.

4.6.77 Following restoration of the Section 73 site the impact on the setting of residential properties would initially reduce to negligible, with the potential for improved areas of vegetation to provide a minor beneficial impact on the amenity of the properties as it matures.

4.6.78 Within the extension site only the impact on the public footpaths/bridleways would initially be minor beneficial, improving over time to moderate beneficial, with the introduction of further planting which would contribute to improving the landscape setting of the routes. The impact on the setting of residential properties would initially reduce to negligible, with the potential for improved areas of vegetation to provide a minor-moderate beneficial impact.

4.6.79 Following restoration of the extension site the impact on the setting of residential properties would initially reduce to negligible, with the potential for improved areas of vegetation to provide a minor beneficial impact on the amenity of the properties as it matures.

4.6.80 The impact on vehicle travellers for both the Section 73 site and extension site considered separately would be negligible, increasing to minor beneficial once vegetation forming part of the restoration proposals has matured.

Designated landscapes: sites considered cumulatively

4.6.81 The impact of the restoration proposal on the Green belt would initially be neutral. Over time as the restoration proposals mature, the areas of restored agricultural land retained tree lines, new woodland and shallow ponds, tussocky grassland and recreational areas will create additional recreational and amenity value for the Green Belt. This improved landscape amenity will have a minor beneficial impact on the wider setting of the Green Belt.

4.6.82 There would continue to be a negligible impact on other designated landscapes identified within the study area.

Designated landscapes: Section 73 and extension site considered separately

4.6.83 The impact of the restoration proposal on the Green belt for both the extension site and Section 73 site when considered separately would be minor beneficial over time. There would continue to be a negligible impact on other designated landscapes identified within the study area.
### Table 4-4 Significance of landscape effects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sensitivity of receptor/Elements</th>
<th>Section 73 site only</th>
<th>Extension site only</th>
<th>Cumulative effects - section 73 site and extension site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Magnitude of change</td>
<td>Significance</td>
<td>Magnitude of change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>operation/</td>
<td>assessment of</td>
<td>operation/</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>restoration</td>
<td>effects during</td>
<td>following</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>operation/</td>
<td>restoration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>restoration</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Residual Impacts</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetation pattern</td>
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<tr>
<td>High</td>
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<tr>
<td>Woodland, hedgerows, mature</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>Minor adverse</td>
<td>Negligible to</td>
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<tr>
<td>hedgerow trees</td>
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<td>minor beneficial</td>
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<td>restoration,</td>
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<td>increasing to</td>
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<td>moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape features/character</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>National Character Area 96:</td>
<td>Medium-none</td>
<td>Moderate adverse for</td>
<td>Minor adverse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunsmore and Feldon; Dunsmore</td>
<td></td>
<td>the immediate site</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parklands LCA</td>
<td></td>
<td>context, negligible in the wider area</td>
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</table>

<p>| LVIA |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sensitivity of receptor/Elements</th>
<th>Section 73 site only</th>
<th>Extension site only</th>
<th>Cumulative effects - section 73 site and extension site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landscape amenity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Moderate</strong></td>
<td>Moderate-major adverse for section of route within/adjacent to the site, reducing to small/none dependent on the scale of the development in the setting of the route</td>
<td>Moderate-major adverse for section of route within/adjacent to the site, reducing to small/none dependent on the scale of the development in the setting of the route</td>
<td>Moderate-major adverse for section of route within/adjacent to the site, reducing to small/none dependent on the scale of the development in the setting of the route</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public rights of way including Public byways and footpaths</td>
<td>Great for footpaths within/adjacent to site, reducing to small/none dependent on the scale of the development in the setting of the route</td>
<td>Great for footpaths within site, reducing to small for other routes</td>
<td>Great for footpaths within site, reducing to small for other routes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Moderate</strong></td>
<td>Moderate-major adverse for section of route within/adjacent to the site, reducing the minor adverse-negligible for routes outside the site boundary</td>
<td>Moderate-major adverse for section of route within/adjacent to the site, increasing to moderate beneficial once vegetation and new recreational routes established</td>
<td>Moderate-major adverse for section of route within/adjacent to the site, increasing to moderate beneficial once vegetation and new recreational routes established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public footpaths</td>
<td>Great for footpaths within site, reducing to small for other routes</td>
<td>Great for footpaths within site, reducing to small for other routes</td>
<td>Great for footpaths within site, reducing to small for other routes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lesser</strong></td>
<td>Moderate-major adverse for section of route within/adjacent to the site, reducing the minor adverse-negligible for routes outside the site boundary</td>
<td>Moderate-major adverse for section of route within/adjacent to the site, increasing to moderate beneficial once vegetation and new recreational routes established</td>
<td>Moderate-major adverse for section of route within/adjacent to the site, increasing to moderate beneficial once vegetation and new recreational routes established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roads</td>
<td>Small-none minor adverse-negligible</td>
<td>Small-none minor adverse-negligible</td>
<td>Small-none minor adverse-negligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Moderate</strong></td>
<td>Moderate-major adverse for section of route within/adjacent to the site, reducing the minor adverse-negligible for routes outside the site boundary</td>
<td>Moderate-major adverse for section of route within/adjacent to the site, increasing to moderate beneficial once vegetation and new recreational routes established</td>
<td>Moderate-major adverse for section of route within/adjacent to the site, increasing to moderate beneficial once vegetation and new recreational routes established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Residents</td>
<td>Small-medium moderate minor adverse</td>
<td>Small-medium moderate minor adverse</td>
<td>Small-medium moderate minor adverse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Designations</strong></td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>Small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Belt</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>Small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lesser</strong></td>
<td>Moderate-major adverse for section of route within/adjacent to the site, reducing the minor adverse-negligible for routes outside the site boundary</td>
<td>Moderate-major adverse for section of route within/adjacent to the site, increasing to moderate beneficial once vegetation and new recreational routes established</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lesser</strong></td>
<td>Moderate-major adverse for section of route within/adjacent to the site, reducing the minor adverse-negligible for routes outside the site boundary</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roads</td>
<td>Small-none minor adverse-negligible</td>
<td>Small-none minor adverse-negligible</td>
<td>Small-none minor adverse-negligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Moderate</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Designations</strong></td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>Small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Belt</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>Small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lesser</strong></td>
<td>Moderate-major adverse for section of route within/adjacent to the site, reducing the minor adverse-negligible for routes outside the site boundary</td>
<td>Moderate-major adverse for section of route within/adjacent to the site, increasing to moderate beneficial once vegetation and new recreational routes established</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roads</td>
<td>Small-none minor adverse-negligible</td>
<td>Small-none minor adverse-negligible</td>
<td>Small-none minor adverse-negligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Moderate</strong></td>
<td>Moderate-major adverse for section of route within/adjacent to the site, reducing the minor adverse-negligible for routes outside the site boundary</td>
<td>Moderate-major adverse for section of route within/adjacent to the site, increasing to moderate beneficial once vegetation and new recreational routes established</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Residents</td>
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<td>Small</td>
<td>Small</td>
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<tr>
<td>Green Belt</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>Small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sensitivity of receptor/ Elements</td>
<td>Section 73 site only</td>
<td>Extension site only</td>
<td>Cumulative effects - section 73 site and extension site</td>
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<tr>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Magnitude of change - operation/ restoration</td>
<td>Significance assessment of effects during operation/ restoration</td>
<td>Magnitude of change - operation/ restoration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Magnitude of change - following restoration</td>
<td>Significance assessment of effects following restoration</td>
<td>Magnitude of change - following restoration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Residual Impacts</td>
<td>Significance assessment of effects following restoration</td>
<td>Residual Impacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate Country Park/Registered historic Park and Garden at Coombe Park; ancient woodland</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td></td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.0 Effects on Visual Amenity

5.1.1 This chapter deals with the effects on visual amenity, arising from changes in the views available to people in the surrounding area.

Assessment methodology

5.1.2 The assessment process is described generally in Section 2, with a more detailed description in Appendix A. The criteria for assessing the likely effects of the proposed development are set out below.

Zone of visual influence

5.1.3 The zone around the site within which views of the site might be available was established through review of features such as landform and vegetation, locations of settlements and other features, either screening views or providing vantage points. These were initially studied from mapped information and then reviewed on site. The locations of viewpoints studied relate to the “receptors”, that is, residents and users of the landscape, and locations from which they may have views towards or of the site.

5.2 Visual Sensitivity

5.2.1 The sensitivity of viewers is affected by the susceptibility of the viewer to changes in views and visual amenity and the value attached to particular view locations and views. The context of the location contributes to susceptibility, for example, people viewing from residential properties or from a valued landscape are likely to be more susceptible to change than people viewing from an industrial context. Particular views may have importance and be valued, for example, as “classic” views depicted in art or reported in literature, or as part of the experience of a landscape of importance or promoted recreation facility or route.

5.2.2 The following criteria for visual sensitivity, combining susceptibility and value considerations, are used:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Indicative criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High sensitivity</td>
<td>Viewers in residential or community properties with open views of the site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Views experienced by many viewers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Daily, prolonged or sustained views available over a long period, or where the view of the landscape is an important attractant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A view from a landscape, recreation facility or route valued</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Category | Indicative criteria
--- | ---
Moderate sensitivity | nationally or internationally for its visual amenity
 | Viewers in residential or community properties with partial or largely screened views of the site
 | Frequent open views available of the site
 | Viewers are pursuing activities such as sports or outdoor work, where the landscape is not the principal reason for being there or the focus of attention is only partly on the view
 | A view of the site from other valued landscapes, or a regionally important recreation facility or route
Lesser sensitivity | A view of low importance or value, or where the viewer’s attention is not focused their surroundings
 | A view of the site from a landscape of moderate or less importance
 | Occasional open views or glimpsed views available of the site
 | passing views available to travellers in vehicles
 | A view available to few viewers

### 5.3 Assessment criteria

5.3.1 The degree of the likely visual effects of the proposed development is determined by relating the sensitivity of the receptors and the changes in the landscape or view of the landscape to which they will be subjected. The scale of magnitude of the changes in visual amenity is evaluated in terms of size or scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced, duration and reversibility, as follows:

#### Table 5-2 Indicative criteria for assessing Magnitude of Visual Change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Magnitude of Change</th>
<th>Visual Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Great change</td>
<td>Major size or scale of change, affecting a large proportion of the angle of the view or affecting views from a wide area; continuing into the longer term or permanently, with low prospect of reversibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium change</td>
<td>Intermediate size or scale of change, affecting angle of the view or affecting views from the wider context, or larger scale of change in views from within the site or immediate context; continuing into the medium term, with good prospect of reversibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small change</td>
<td>A minor proportion of the angle of view is affected or the contribution of the changed elements or characteristics to the composition of the view is not important; the changes are viewed from longer distances, are short term and reversible</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.3.2 The degree of effect, whether adverse or beneficial, is assessed by relating the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of change, using the following indicative criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Magnitude of Change</th>
<th>Visual Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Negligible/no change</td>
<td>Barely perceptible change</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 5-3 Indicative criteria for assessing Visual Effects**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visual effect</th>
<th>Indicative criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
<td>Large or very large change or visual intrusion experienced by highly sensitive viewers or from highly sensitive public viewpoints. The proposal would cause a great deterioration in the existing view. Large or very large improvement in the view, sufficient to upgrade overall visual amenity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Medium change or visual intrusion experienced by moderately sensitive viewers; lesser change to higher sensitivity viewers or greater change to less sensitive viewers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>Small or localised visual intrusion in the existing view, especially for less sensitive viewers. Localised reduction in visual intrusion, or improvement in the view.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negligible</td>
<td>The change in the view is imperceptible or difficult to discern.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.3.3 Great effects are likely to be considered “significant”, especially if long term or permanent, and slight or negligible effects as “not significant”. The relative significance of intermediate effects is indicated in the assessment below. These are effects that are not significant, but may be important considerations in decision making about the proposed development.

5.3.4 In addition to these criteria, in some instances the effect may be discernible or greater, but offset by other considerations, for example, through the mitigation or restoration proposals, and the resulting effect is neither beneficial nor adverse.

5.4 Visual Baseline

5.4.1 **Figure LA[LA]05** shows the predicted extent of the ZTV for the ground surface of the site, including the screening effect of woodland and buildings. The computer generated Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) is based on a digital terrain model generated from the 50m grid interval Ordnance Survey OS Terrain 50® dataset. The
ZTV is based on topographic data only; minor undulations in the terrain may not be reflected in the 50m grid interval of the dataset.

5.4.2 The screening effect of the woodland has been taken into consideration. These areas of woodland have been taken from the Ordnance Survey OS VectorMap® District ESRI® Shapefile and have been given a mean average height of 10m. The theoretical visibility of the proposed development shown by the ZTV provides an indication of visibility but is not a true representation of actual visibility. The screening effect of buildings was also taken into consideration. The ZTV is calculated to the notional 9m high building (the 9m is the building height stipulated in the 1970 Concordat) and user height of 2m.

5.4.3 For the visual impact assessment, a ZTV study area of a 4 kilometre radius from the site was investigated and mapped; refer to Figure LA[LA]05. Potentially sensitive visual receptors include people visiting areas covered by landscape designations, areas or sites of historic interest, public footpaths, bridleways and cycle routes, and visitor attractions.

5.4.4 During the field study the ZTV was used as a starting point and features such as vegetation, buildings or localised topographic variation, which define actual visibility, were identified. Representative viewpoints were then selected for the visual impact assessment.

**Viewpoint study**

5.4.5 The visual appraisal drawing, Figure LA03, illustrates the location of the proposed development and shows the locations of the assessment and appraisal photographs at a scale of 1:25,000. They are also reproduced on Figures LA04-1 and LA04-2 which shows the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV).

5.4.6 A total of seventeen views were taken to illustrate the site and its appearance in publicly available views; refer to Figures LA05 to LA07. From the viewpoint studies, a representative selection of five views is taken forward to the visual impact assessment (see Figure LA05).

5.4.7 Views of the site are available from four directions, either where relative elevation allows views over intervening features or where there are no intervening features to obscure views. The key areas of visibility are:

- **Views from the north** from Coventry Road, Brinklow Castle and Hill Crest
- **Views from the south** from public footpaths and bridleways towards Brinklow Heath
- **Views from the east** from Heath Lane, public footpaths, Fosse Way and minor roads
- **Views from the west** from Coombe Country Park and Registered Park and Garden
5.4.8 Views from within the site are also provided to illustrate the landform of the site and show other areas accessible from which the site is visible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Photograph reference</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Reasons for selection</th>
<th>Distance to site boundary (km)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>B4027 Combe Abbey</td>
<td>Near views from the north Nearby listed building Registered Park and Garden View from a B road</td>
<td>0.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Brinklow Castle</td>
<td>Views from the northeast View from a Scheduled Monument/ local viewpoint</td>
<td>1.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Heath Lane</td>
<td>Views from the east Nearby residential properties View from a minor road Nearby public footpath</td>
<td>0.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Bridleway, Birchley Wood</td>
<td>Near views from the west Views from a bridleway Nearby dwellings</td>
<td>0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Birdleway, Brinklow Heath</td>
<td>Views from the south Views from a bridleway</td>
<td>0.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>B4455, Fosse Way</td>
<td>Views from the west View from a B road Nearby long distance footpath</td>
<td>0.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>Bridleway to the east of Birchley Wood</td>
<td>Views within site View from a public route</td>
<td>On site boundary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Bridleway at Birchley Farm</td>
<td>Views within site View from a public route</td>
<td>On site boundary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>Byway off the end of Heath Lane</td>
<td>Views from the southeast</td>
<td>On site boundary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Centenary Way, Coombe Park</td>
<td>Views form the northwest View from a Registered Park and Garden/Country Park View from a long distance footpath</td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Twelve O Clock Ride</td>
<td>Views form the northwest</td>
<td>0.24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Photographs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Photograph reference</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Reasons for selection</th>
<th>Distance to site boundary (km)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>View from a Registered Park and Garden/Country Park</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>View from a long distance footpath</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Bridleway south of Birchley Farm</td>
<td>Views from the southwest View from a public route</td>
<td>0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Bridleway on Brinklow Heath</td>
<td>Views from the south View from a public route</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Bridleway at Hill Farm</td>
<td>Views from the southeast View from a public route</td>
<td>0.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Shakespeare's Avon Way</td>
<td>Distant view from the southeast View from a Scheduled Monument Long Distance footpath</td>
<td>1.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>The Lodge, Kings Newnham</td>
<td>Distant view from the southeast Minor road</td>
<td>2.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Hill Crest</td>
<td>Distant views from the north east Minor road</td>
<td>2.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Views from the North

**5.4.9** *Assessment Photograph 1* shows a view from the B4027 Coventry Road, adjacent to East Lodge. The viewpoint is located at the eastern edge of the Registered Park and Garden at Combe Abbey. The view illustrates the well vegetated nature of Coventry Road to the north of the site boundary. The hedgerow vegetation and mature hedgerow trees to the south of the road obscure views towards the operational site and extension site. A view towards the site is just discernible through a gap in the hedgerow.

**5.4.10** *Assessment Photograph 2* shows a view from the Scheduled Monument of Brinklow Castle, to the northeast of the site. The elevated motte and bailey gives a 360 degree view out over the wider area. The well vegetated nature of the area around the site is apparent. Brinklow Parish Church forms a distinctive built feature in the right of the view, while to the far left of the view the Roman Road of Fosse Way can be seen. A small area of the existing quarry site is visible beyond vegetation in the centre of the view, with a silo forming part of the quarry plant visible. Vegetation obscures the
majority of the ground surface of the existing site and the extension site from this point.

5.4.11 **Appraisal Photograph 17** illustrates the view from Hill Crest, near Stretton Under Fosse, to the northeast of the site. The view from higher ground looks southwest towards the site, which is obscured beyond vegetation in the centre of the view. Houses in Stretton Wharf are visible in the left of the view.

**Views from the South**

5.4.12 **Assessment Photograph 4** is taken from the southwest of the site boundary and looks northeast towards the site from the public bridleway to the east of Birchley Wood. The view looks out over an open arable field towards the site. Existing buildings at Woodhill Farm and Highwood Farm are visible to the left along with earthworks at Highwood Farm. The silo forming part of the quarry plant is visible in the right hand side of the view, with the working area obscured beyond the hedgerow in the view. Dense vegetation at Wood Hill forms the horizon in the left hand side of the view, obscuring views to the north.

5.4.13 **Assessment Photograph 5** is taken from the bridleway at Brinklow Heath, to the immediate south of the site. The view looks out over open arable fields towards the site, which is obscured by vegetation in the centre of the view. The view illustrates the well vegetated nature of the landscape to the south of the site, with mature trees in hedgerows obscuring all but near views. The majority of the bridleway along Brinklow Heath is enclosed by hedgerows, so other parts of this public route have even more restricted views towards the site.

5.4.14 **Appraisal Photograph 13** shows a view north from the bridleway on Brinklow Heath. The length of this bridleway is well vegetated and it is difficult to obtain views towards the site. The view looks out through a gap in the vegetation towards the operational part of the site, with some quarry plant visible in the centre left hand side of the view. The screen bund forming the eastern extent of the site is visible to the right, with buildings at Highwood Farm visible on higher ground in the distance.

5.4.15 **Appraisal Photograph 14** shows a view northwest form the bridleway near Hill Farm. The view looks out over the open arable fields in the foreground of the view towards landform descending gently towards the site. The screen bund which forms the south-eastern extent of the Section 73 site boundary is visible in the centre left of the view, with the site obscured beyond. Buildings at earthworks at Highwood Farm can be seen to the right, while woodland surrounding Coombe Abbey Registered Park and Garden forms the horizon in the left of the view.

**Views from the East**

5.4.16 **Assessment Photograph 3** shows a view from Heath Lane, to the southwest of Brinklow. The view looks out towards the operational quarry site. The silo forming the quarry plant is visible in the centre of the view. The screen bund which forms the
eastern boundary of the site is visible in the right of the view. A small part of the ground surface of the existing site is visible to the right of the screen bund. The rooflines of properties in Brinklow can be seen in the far right of the view, well surrounded by vegetation.

5.4.17 **Assessment Photograph 6** shows a view from Fosse Way, a Roman road located to the east of the site. The view looks west towards the existing quarry site over the flat open agricultural fields to the east of the site. Field boundaries with scattered mature trees are visible in the foreground of the view. The screen bund which forms the eastern extent of the existing quarry site is visible beyond vegetation in the centre of the view. The remainder of the site is obscured by this screen bund or vegetation. Buildings at Cottage Farm are visible to the right of the view.

5.4.18 **Appraisal Photograph 9** shows a view from the public byway off the end of Heath lane, at the eastern extent of the Section 73 site. The screen bund which forms the eastern end of the site fills the foreground of the view, obscuring any views into the site.

5.4.19 **Appraisal Photograph 15** looks northwest from the route of Shakespeare’s Avon Way long distance footpath, from within the scheduled monument Barrow cemetery northeast of Bretford. Willow Farm Stables frames the left of the view. Buildings at Highwood Farm are visible near the horizon in the centre of the view. The site is obscured beyond hedgerow vegetation in the centre of the view.

5.4.20 The view from **Appraisal Photograph 16** looks northwest towards the site from the Lodge, near Kings Newnham. The distinctive tower at Newnham Hall is visible in the left hand side of the view, while the woodland blocks of Chapel Wood and Rose’s Spinney are visible in the middleground of the view. The site is obscured by vegetation towards the horizon to the left hand side of Rose’s Spinney.

**Views from the West**

5.4.21 **Appraisal Photograph 10** shows a view from Centenary Way, a long distance footpath within the Registered Park and Garden and Country Park of Coombe Park. The view looks southeast towards the quarry site, which is obscured from view the surrounding vegetation within the park grounds. Coombe Abbey is located directly to the north of the viewpoint, there are no views towards the site possible form the abbey due to the surrounding vegetation within the grounds.

5.4.22 **Appraisal Photograph 11** shows the view from opposite the entrance to Coombe Country Park, at the northern end of Twelve O Clock Ride. The Ride is visible heading south in the right hand side of the view, between open agricultural fields with low field boundaries. To the left of the view, the Section 73 site is screened by the existing belt to woodland which forms a boundary to the west of the site. New Close Wood forms the horizon in the right hand side of the view.
5.4.23  **Appraisal Photograph 12** shows a view from the bridleway to the east of Birchley Wood and to the south of Birchley Farm. Birchley Farm can be seen in the centre of the view, with the site obscured beyond vegetation to either side of the farm. A small part of the ground surface of the Section 73 site is visible to the right of the farm. Vegetation surrounding Coombe Abbey Registered Park and Garden forms the horizon in the left hand side of the view, while Birchley Wood frames the far left of the view.

**Views from within the site**

5.4.24  **Appraisal Photograph 7** shows a view from the bridleway which runs through the western part of the site. The view north looks towards Coventry Road, with the open agricultural field forming the Section 73 site to the left of the byway and the extension site to the right. Woodland surrounding the Coombe Abbey Registered Park and Garden forms the horizon in the view. In the view south the Section 73 site is to the right with the extension site to the left. Birchley Wood can be seen in the centre of the view.

5.4.25  **Appraisal Photograph 8** shows a view from the byway further north on the way to Birchley Farm. The view north looks towards the towards Coventry Road, with the Section 73 site to the left of the byway and the extension site to the right. Woodland surrounding the Coombe Abbey Registered Park and Garden again forms the horizon in the view. In the view south the extension site is visible on the far left of the view, with the Section 73 site towards the right of the View. Birchley Wood frames the far right hand side of the view.

5.5  **Visual receptors**

5.5.1  The following is a résumé of the viewers and locations from where views may be available, with references to the representative viewpoints or other photographs.

**People in settlements and residential properties**

5.5.2  **Assessment Photographs 3** and **4** are representative of views from the nearest residential properties to the site, at Heath Lane and Birchley Farm respectively. Views from within properties at Heath Lane are more distant than the viewpoint and generally obscured by surrounding vegetation. Likewise the view from East Lodge at **Assessment Photograph 1** is obscured by vegetation along Coventry Road. Views towards the site from the nearest settlement in Brinklow are obscured by surrounding landform and vegetation. Viewers from residential properties are of **moderate sensitivity** because the views available are partial or largely screened.

**Users of public rights of way**

5.5.3  Users of public rights of way who would experience views of the development include the public footpath which crosses the eastern part of the Section 73 site, the bridleway that runs along the east side of Birchley Wood between the Section 73 and extension site (see **Appraisal Photographs 7 and 8**). Other public footpaths and bridleways in the surrounding landscape with views towards the development include the Centenary...
Way (Appraisal Photographs 10 and 11) and Shakespeare's Avon Way (Appraisal Photograph 15).

5.5.4 There are also views towards the site, often obscured by vegetation, from bridleways to the south, as represented by Assessment Photograph 5 and Appraisal Photographs 13 and 14; the bridleway south of Birchley Farm, as represented by Appraisal Photograph 12 and the byway off the end of Heath Lane, as represented by Appraisal Photograph 9.

5.5.5 Users of public rights of way are of moderate sensitivity, as, though they are of high susceptibility to change as their interest is likely to be focused on the landscape and on particular views, their experience of the view is transient and short term and the PROW are considered of regional value.

**Road users**

5.5.6 Travellers on roads are of lesser sensitivity, becoming less sensitive as the speed of traffic along the road increases or the duration of view along the route decreases. Views form roads are represented by Assessment Photograph 1 from Coventry Way Assessment Photograph 3 from Heath Lane and Assessment Photograph 6 from Fosse Way, as well as more distant views from Appraisal Photographs 15, 16 and 17.

**Views from other landscape interests**

5.5.7 The site is located immediately to the southeast of Coombe Abbey Country Park/Registered Historic Park and Garden. Views from Coombe Abbey are represented by Assessment Photograph 1, from the eastern extent of the Registered Park and garden and by Appraisal Photographs 10 and 11. The boundaries of the Country Park/Registered Park and Garden are well vegetated, containing views to within the park grounds.

5.5.8 Views from nearby scheduled monuments are represented by Assessment Photograph 2, from Brinklow Castle and Appraisal Photograph 15 from the barrow cemetery.

5.6 Visual baseline summary

5.6.1 A summary of the visual baseline information to be taken into account as part of the detailed assessment of the effects on visual amenity is as follows:

- Views from the north are contained by existing vegetation;
- Views from the south from public footpaths and bridleways towards Brinklow Heath are filtered by existing vegetation along these routes, only glimpsed views towards the site are available
- Views from the east from Heath Lane, public footpaths, Fosse Way and minor roads are generally screened by the screening landform. Where views are available these are glimpsed and filtered views.
- Views from the west from Coombe Country Park and Registered Park and Garden are contained by the existing mature vegetation which forms the garden boundary.

5.7 Effects on Visual Amenity

Sensitivity

5.7.1 The sensitivity of views is affected by factors such as the distance to the viewer, the number of viewers affected and the importance of the site in the overall view. The context of the viewpoint may also contribute to its ability to accommodate change; for example a view from residential properties or from a valued landscape might be regarded as less able to accommodate change, than a view from an industrial context. **Table 5-1** provides examples of High, Medium and Low sensitivity, demonstrating how the contributing factors are interpreted.

5.7.2 The visual impact assessment is based on the selection of representative views to illustrate the views available at a range of distances and for different receptors. The views identified in **Table 5-4** below are defined as sensitive to the potential impacts of the proposed development.

**Table 5-4: Assessment photographs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Photograph reference</th>
<th>Sensitivity of receptors</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Reasons for selection</th>
<th>Distance to site (km)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Road users - lesser; Visitors to Park and Garden - moderate</td>
<td>B4027 Coombe Abbey</td>
<td>Near views from the north; Nearby listed building; Registered Park and Garden</td>
<td>0.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Visitors to scheduled monument/ local viewpoint - moderate</td>
<td>Brinklow Castle</td>
<td>Views from the northeast; View from a Scheduled Monument</td>
<td>1.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Residential properties - moderate; Road users</td>
<td>Heath Lane</td>
<td>Views from the east; Nearby residential properties; View from a minor road; Nearby public footpath</td>
<td>0.43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assessment

5.7.3  The visual appraisal has been informed by the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) study as shown on Figure LA.06. It identified a number of locations from which the proposed development is theoretically visible. A selection of representative views to illustrate the views available at a range of distances and for different receptors are identified in Table 5-5 and defined as sensitive to the potential impacts of the proposed development. The six representative views are described below and the effects of the development on them assessed:

**Assessment Photograph 1**

*Existing view south from B4027 Coombe Abbey, 0.39km from site, 109m AOD*

5.7.4  The receptors in this location or nearby who would experience the change in the view are users of Coventry Road and residents of East Lodge. Road users are of lesser sensitivity, while residents of East Lodge are of moderate sensitivity.
5.7.5 The viewpoint is located at the eastern edge of the Registered Park and Garden at Coombe Abbey. The view illustrates the well vegetated nature of Coventry Road to the north of the site boundary. The hedgerow vegetation and mature hedgerow trees to the south of the road obscure views towards the operational site and extension site. A view towards the site is just discernible through a gap in the hedgerow.

*View during quarrying and restoration – sites considered cumulatively*

5.7.6 During the continued operation of the Section 73 site and operation of the extension site, quarrying activities may be a perceptible element beyond the hedgeline in the view, particularly during the winter months. During restoration, the area of the Section 73 and extension site closest to the viewpoint will be returned to agricultural pasture. Movement of equipment and restoration activities may be visible, partially screened by vegetation in the view.

*View during quarrying and restoration – Section 73 and extension sites considered separately*

5.7.7 During the continued operation of the Section 73 site, quarrying activities may be a perceptible element beyond the hedgeline in the view, particularly during the winter months. The extension site alone will be less likely to be visible as it is located further away from the viewpoint.

5.7.8 During restoration, the area of the Section 73 site closest to the viewpoint will be returned to agricultural pasture.

*View after restoration*

5.7.9 The view following restoration would be similar to the existing view, with an area of reinstated agricultural land visible beyond the hedgerow in the view during the winter months.

*Assessment – sites considered cumulatively*

5.7.10 During continued quarry of the Section 73 site, and new quarrying of the extension site, activities would create a small scale of change in the view, which would be screened by the roadside vegetation, except during the winter months. Road users would experience a negligible impact from quarrying activities, as any views of the quarrying activities would be glimpsed views as users travelled along the road, partially screened by vegetation. Residents in East Lodge have the potential for minor adverse-negligible impacts from oblique, filtered views of the quarrying activities from upper storey windows. Following restoration, when the land is restored to agricultural pasture, impacts on residents would reduce to negligible.

*Assessment – Section 73 and extension sites considered separately*

5.7.11 During quarrying of the Section 73 site activities would create a small scale of change in the view, which would be screened by the roadside vegetation, except during the winter months. Road users would experience a negligible impact from quarrying
activities. Residents in East Lodge have the potential for *minor adverse-negligible* impacts from oblique, filtered views of the quarrying activities from upper storey windows. Following restoration, when the land is restored to agricultural pasture, impacts on residents would reduce to *negligible*.

5.7.12 During quarrying of the extension site, activities may create a *small* scale of change in the view, though it is likely to be screened by the roadside vegetation. Road users would experience a *negligible* impact from quarrying activities, as would residents of East Lodge.

Assessment Photograph 2

*Existing view southwest from Brinklow Castle, 1.39km from site, 121m AOD*

5.7.13 The receptors in this location or nearby who would experience the change in the view are visitors to the motte and bailey castle of Brinklow Castle and users of the nearby public footpath on the lower slopes of the castle. The viewpoint location provides views out over the wider area surrounding Brinklow. The landscape amenity as experienced by people who use the public byways, footpaths and visitors to public viewpoints is of moderate value and susceptibility, and is thus considered of *moderate sensitivity*.

5.7.14 The elevated motte and bailey gives a 360 degree view out over the wider area. The well vegetated nature of the area around the site is apparent. Brinklow Parish Church forms a distinctive built feature in the right of the view, while to the far left of the view the Roman Road of Fosse Way can be seen. A small area of the existing quarry site is visible beyond vegetation in the centre of the view, with a silo forming part of the quarry plant visible. Vegetation obscures the majority of the ground surface of the existing site and the extension site from this point.

*View during quarrying and restoration – sites considered cumulatively*

5.7.15 During the continued quarrying of the Section 73 site, and quarrying of the extension site, movement of quarry plant and equipment will be visible where it extends beyond vegetation in the view.

*View during quarrying and restoration – Section 73 and extension sites considered separately*

5.7.16 During the quarrying of the section 73 site movement of quarry plant and equipment will be visible where it extends beyond vegetation in the view. Quarrying activities will be hidden from this viewpoint at the extension site.

*View after restoration*

5.7.17 Following restoration, the area of the site visible would be restored to agricultural pasture. Former field boundary hedgerows would be reinstated, adding additional areas of vegetation into the view.

*Assessment-sites considered cumulatively*
5.7.18  During continued quarry of the Section 73 site, and new quarrying of the extension site, activities would create a small scale of change in the view, which would be partially screened by the existing vegetation in the view, with slightly more of the site visible during winter months. Visitors to Brinklow Castle would experience a minor adverse visual impact from quarrying activities.

5.7.19  Following restoration, when the land is restored to agricultural pasture, the visual impact would reduce to negligible.

Assessment - Section 73 and extension sites considered separately

5.7.20  During quarrying of the Section 73 site, activities would create a small scale of change in the view. Visitors to Brinklow Castle would experience a minor adverse visual impact from quarrying activities. Following restoration, when the land is restored to agricultural pasture, the visual impact would reduce to negligible.

5.7.21  Quarrying activities within the extension site would be unlikely to be perceptible from this viewpoint, the impact would be none.

Assessment Photograph 3
Existing view west from Heath Lane, 0.43km from site, 86m AOD

5.7.22  The receptors in this location or nearby who would experience the change in the view are users of the minor road of Heath Lane, nearby public footpath users and nearby residents on Heath Lane. Road users are of lesser sensitivity, while local residents and users of public footpaths are of moderate sensitivity.

5.7.23  The view from Heath Lane, to the southwest of Brinklow, looks out towards the operational quarry site. The silo forming the quarry plant is visible in the centre of the view. The screen bund which forms the eastern boundary of the site is visible in the right of the view. A small part of the ground surface of the existing site is visible to the right of the screen bund. The rooftlines of properties in Brinklow can be seen in the far right of the view, well surrounded by vegetation.

View during quarrying and restoration – sites considered cumulatively

5.7.24  During the continued quarrying of the Section 73 site, movement of quarry plant and equipment will be visible where it extends beyond vegetation in the view. A more open view will be available from the section of public footpath to the west of the viewpoint, particularly after the removal of the eastern field boundary hedgerow allows open views into the Section 73 site. Views of the extension site are largely screened from this viewpoint. During restoration, this area will be restored to agricultural pasture, and hedgerows removed reinstated.
5.7.25 Following restoration, the area of the site visible would be restored to agricultural pasture. Former field boundary hedgerows would be reinstated, adding additional areas of vegetation into the view.

Assessment - sites considered cumulatively

5.7.26 During continued quarry of the Section 73 site, activities would create a small scale of change in the view, which would be partially screened by the existing vegetation in the view. For footpath users, the scale of change would be medium, with open views available into the Section 73 site following removal of the eastern hedgerow.

5.7.27 Road users would experience a negligible impact from quarrying activities, as any views of the quarrying activities would be glimpsed views as users travelled along the road, partially screened by vegetation. Residents of Heath Lane have the potential for minor adverse-negligible visual impacts from oblique, filtered views of the quarrying activities from their upper storey windows. Users of the public footpath would experience minor-moderate adverse visual impacts as a result of quarrying activities.

5.7.28 Following restoration, when the land is restored to agricultural pasture, the visual impact would reduce to negligible.

Assessment - Section 73 and extension sites considered separately

5.7.29 During continued quarry of the Section 73 site, activities would create a small scale of change in the view. For footpath users, the scale of change would be medium, with open views available into the Section 73 site. Residents of Heath Lane have the potential for minor adverse-negligible visual impacts from oblique, filtered views of the quarrying activities from their upper storey windows. Users of the public footpath would experience minor-moderate adverse visual impacts as a result of quarrying activities.

5.7.30 Views towards the extension site would create only a very small scale of change in the view. Residents of Heath Lane would likely experience negligible visual impact from quarrying activities. Users of the public footpath would experience minor adverse visual impacts as a result of quarrying activities, which would increase in scale as the footpath moves closer to the site.

Assessment Photograph 4

Existing view northeast from bridleway at Birchley Wood, 0.36km from site, 95m AOD

5.7.31 The receptors in this location or nearby who would experience the change in the view are users of the bridleway, who are of moderate sensitivity. Nearby residents at Birchley Farm have their views towards the site screened by surrounding vegetation.
5.7.32 The view is taken from the southwest of the site boundary and looks northeast towards the site from the public bridleway to the east of Birchley Wood. The view looks out over an open arable field towards the site. Existing buildings at Woodhill Farm and Highwood Farm are visible to the left along with earthworks at Highwood Farm. The silo forming part of the quarry plant is visible in the right hand side of the view, with the working area obscured beyond the hedgerow in the view. Dense vegetation at Wood Hill forms the horizon in the left hand side of the view, obscuring views to the north.

*View during quarrying and restoration – sites considered cumulatively*

5.7.33 During the continued quarrying of the Section 73 site, and quarrying of the extension site, movement of quarry plant and equipment will be visible where it extends beyond vegetation in the view.

*View during quarrying and restoration – Section 73 and extension sites considered separately*

5.7.34 Quarrying of the Section 73 site would be visible where it extends beyond the vegetation in the view. Quarrying of the extension site may also be visible where it extends beyond vegetation in the view.

*View after restoration*

5.7.35 Following restoration, the area of the site beyond the hedgerow in the view will be restored to agricultural pasture.

*Assessment – sites considered cumulatively*

5.7.36 During continued quarry of the Section 73 site, and quarrying of the extension site, activities would create a small scale of change in the view, which would be partially screened by the existing vegetation in the view. Bridleway users would experience a minor adverse impact during operation, which would reduce to negligible following restoration, when the current view minus the visible quarry plant is restored.

*Assessment -- Section 73 and extension sites considered separately*

5.7.37 During quarrying of the Section 73 site, activities would create a small scale of change in the view, which would be partially screened by the existing vegetation in the view. Bridleway users would experience a minor adverse impact during operation, which would reduce to negligible following restoration. Quarrying of the extension site only would create a similar scale of change and impact, but as it is more distant is more likely to be screened by vegetation, creating a minor adverse - negligible impact.

*Assessment Photograph 5*

*Existing view from bridleway on Brinklow Heath, 0.54km from site, 101m AOD*

5.7.38 The receptors in this location or nearby who would experience the change in the view are users of the bridleway, who are of moderate sensitivity.
5.7.39 The view looks out over open arable fields towards the site, which is obscured by vegetation in the centre of the view. The view illustrates the well vegetated nature of the landscape to the south of the site, with mature trees in hedgerows obscuring all but near views. The majority of the bridleway along Brinklow Heath is enclosed by hedgerows, so other parts of this public route have even more restricted views towards the site.

*View during quarrying and restoration - sites considered cumulatively*

5.7.40 During quarrying and restoration the site is screened beyond existing vegetation in the view.

*View during quarrying and restoration - Section 73 and extension sites considered separately*

5.7.41 During the quarrying and restoration of each separate site is screened beyond existing vegetation in the view.

*View after restoration*

5.7.42 The view following restoration would remain the same as during operation.

*Assessment – sites considered cumulatively*

5.7.43 During operation and restoration there would be no change in the view. There would be no visual impact on views from the bridleway.

*Assessment - Section 73 and extension sites considered separately*

5.7.44 During operation and restoration of each separate site there would be no change in the view. There would be no visual impact on views from the bridleway.

*Assessment Photograph 6*

*Existing west view from B4455, Fosse Way, 0.93km from site, 85m AOD*

5.7.45 The receptors in this location or nearby who would experience the change in the view are users of Fosse Way and users of the Coventry Way long distance footpath to the west. Nearby dwellings on Fosse Way share a similar view. Road users are of lesser sensitivity, while local residents and users of public footpaths are of moderate sensitivity.

5.7.46 The view looks west towards the existing quarry site over the flat open agricultural fields to the east of the site. Field boundaries with scattered mature trees are visible in the foreground of the view. The screen bund which forms the eastern extent of the existing quarry site is visible beyond vegetation in the centre of the view. The remainder of the site is obscured by this screen bund or vegetation. Buildings at Cottage Farm are visible to the right of the view. The tree lined route of the Coventry Way long distance footpath is visible in the centre of the view. Views from the long distance footpath towards the site are screened by this surrounding vegetation.
View during quarrying and restoration - sites considered cumulatively

5.7.47 During quarrying and restoration, views towards the Section 73 site are screened by existing vegetation and the screen bund in the left of the view. During restoration, equipment depositing overburden beyond the screen bund may be visible in the view.

View during quarrying and restoration - Section 73 and extension sites considered separately

5.7.48 During quarrying of the Section 73 site, views are screened by existing vegetation and the screen bund in the left of the view. This screen bund would be retained as part of the restoration proposals for the site, screening views towards the separate working of the extension site.

View after restoration

5.7.49 Following restoration, the screen bund will be planted as woodland, extending the area of vegetation visible in the current view.

Assessment - sites considered cumulatively

5.7.50 The magnitude of change as a result of the development would be **small**. Road users would experience a **negligible** impact from quarrying activities, as any views of the quarrying and restoration activities would be glimpsed views as users travelled along the road. Residents of Fosse Way have the potential for **minor adverse-negligible** visual impacts from oblique, filtered views of the quarrying and restoration activities from their upper storey windows. Users of the long distance footpath would experience **minor adverse negligible** visual impacts as a result of quarrying activities in areas where it is possible to glimpse views of this beyond the vegetated footpath corridor.

5.7.51 Immediately following restoration, when the land is restored to woodland and agricultural pasture, the visual impact would reduce to **negligible**. Once restoration proposals have established, the improved open space and vegetation will have a **minor beneficial** impact on the view from the road and the view of nearby residents.

Assessment - Section 73 and extension sites considered separately

5.7.52 Quarrying of the section 73 site would result in a small magnitude of change. Road users would experience a **negligible** impact from quarrying activities. Residents of Fosse Way have the potential for **minor adverse-negligible** visual impacts from oblique, filtered views of the quarrying and restoration activities. Users of the long distance footpath would experience **minor adverse negligible** visual impacts as a result of quarrying activities in areas where it is possible to glimpse views of this beyond the vegetated footpath corridor. Similar impacts would be experienced for the extension site only, however these are more likely to be screened from view due to distance, so are more likely to be **negligible** in the context of the wider view.
5.7.53 Following restoration, impacts for both the Section 73 site only and the extension site would reduce to **negligible**. Improved open space and vegetation will have a **minor beneficial** impact.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Viewpoint Photograph 01, B4027 Coombe Abbey</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Road users - lesser</td>
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<thead>
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<tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Viewpoint Photograph 03, Heath Lane</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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**Viewpoint Photograph 04, Bridleway, Birchley Wood**

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**Viewpoint Photograph 05, Bridleway, Brinklow Heath**

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**Viewpoint Photograph 06, B4455, Fosse Way**

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6.0 Summary and Conclusions

6.1 Summary of findings

The proposed development - sites considered cumulatively and separately

6.1.1 The extent of the proposed extension area has been defined to retain important features and minimise impact on nearby properties, which are shielded by vegetation along the edge of the B4027 Coventry Road; and settlements. The western, eastern and southern extents are defined by the existing Section 73 site.

6.1.2 The northern extent is not defined by any feature on the ground but links the western and eastern sides of the Section 73 site. The south east extent of the proposed quarry extension has been defined by the screening landform. The screening landform has the greatest effect in reducing potential adverse impacts from this direction.

6.1.3 Major adverse impacts identified are from selected areas close to or within the site boundary on publicly accessible routes and will be short term, temporary impacts.

6.1.4 The mitigation measures proposed would reduce the negative landscape and visual impacts associated with the extension of Brinklow quarry to an acceptable level.

Landscape assessment - sites considered cumulatively

6.1.5 Vegetation around the site boundaries will continue to be retained. Proposed new areas of planting as defined on the restoration and after use plan will have a minor beneficial impact on vegetation. In the longer term, as vegetation establishes and nature conservation value and amenity improve, this will increase to major beneficial.

6.1.6 There would continue to be a change in the character of the original site from agricultural land to the quarry landscape works and buildings. Likewise there would be a change from the agricultural land of the extension site to the quarry landscape. However, retained vegetation on the site boundary limits the potential for this impact. The character of the site will be moderately affected, but will only be perceptible from a local scale, with the impact on the character of the landscape ranging from moderate adverse for areas closer to the site, to negligible in the context of the wider landscape. Following restoration, this improved landscape amenity will have a moderate beneficial impact on the landscape character of the area.

6.1.7 There would be a minor adverse- negligible impact on public routes within the wider study area, dependent on the dominance of the quarry extension and Section 73 site in relation to the setting of the path. For a small section of bridleway between the Section
73 site and quarry extension the impact would be *major adverse* during operation, but then reducing to *moderate beneficial* following restoration as vegetation establishes.

6.1.8 Vehicle travellers would continue to experience glimpsed views from limited locations, resulting in glimpsed views, users of the roads within the study area would continue experience a *slight adverse - negligible* impact on the landscape setting of the road. This would reduce to negligible following restoration.

6.1.9 There will be no significant impacts on the setting of Brinklow, and limited impact on dwellings to the immediate north and east of the site. The impact on the setting of these properties will increase from *minor adverse* to *moderate adverse* where quarrying activities move closer to the setting of the property as the extension site is worked. Following restoration of the site this impact would reduce to *negligible*, with the potential for improved areas of vegetation to provide a *slight beneficial* impact on the setting of the properties.

**Section 73 and extension site considered separately**

6.1.10 Landscape impacts would be similar to that of the sites considered cumulatively, however, impacts from quarrying activities and restoration activities would be experienced as more localised landscape impacts as works are carried out on only one site or the other.

**Visual assessment - sites considered cumulatively**

6.1.11 The visual appraisal, informed by the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) study identified a number of locations from which the proposed Section 73 and extension sites are visible. Six viewpoints were identified as representative of the most sensitive views available. The visual impact is assessed as *minor-moderate adverse* during quarrying operations.

6.1.12 The progressive restoration of the quarry would be visible, and selective areas of quarry planting and return to agricultural land would soften their appearance. Following restoration of the site the visual impact would be *negligible* to *minor beneficial*.

**Section 73 and extension site considered separately**

6.1.13 Visual impacts would be similar to that of the sites considered cumulatively, however, impacts would be experienced as more localised visual impacts as works are carried out on only one site or the other.
6.2 Policy considerations

6.2.1 There would continue to be a change in the character of the original site from agricultural land to the quarry landscape works and buildings. Likewise there would be a change from the agricultural land of the extension site to the quarry landscape. However, retained vegetation on the site boundary limits the potential for this impact. The character of the site will be moderately affected, but will only be perceptible from a local scale. The quarry extension would not be a dominating feature within the area to such an extent that it would alter the character and perception of the Green Belt. There will be no significant effects on other designated landscapes within the study area, including the Registered Park and Garden/Country Park at Coombe Park (CS1, CS16, M6, policy principle 1, 2).

6.2.2 The proposed restoration strategy aims to create a diverse area of restored agricultural land within a framework of retained tree lines, woodland and shallow ponds, tussocky grassland and woodland areas. There will also be recreational areas developed, which will create additional recreational amenity values for the area. (M9,CS14, policy principle 15).

6.2.3 There will be no significant impacts on the setting of Brinklow, and limited impact on dwellings to the immediate north and east of the site during the operational period. Soils will be stripped back progressively, as described in Chapter 2 to reduce the exposed resource. Following restoration of the site this impact would reduce to negligible, with the potential for improved areas of vegetation to provide a slight beneficial impact on the setting of the properties. (M7)

6.3 Designated landscapes

Sites considered cumulatively and separately

6.3.1 There would be negligible impacts on the setting of Coombe Park Country Park/Registered Historic Park and Garden as the setting of this area is well contained within existing mature vegetation.

6.3.2 The quarry extension would not be a dominating feature within the area to such an extent that it would alter the character and perception of the Green Belt. The overall impact on the Green Belt is assessed as minor adverse during operation, with the introduction of quarrying activities, reducing to negligible following restoration, which over time has the potential to create a minor beneficial impact on the character of the Green Belt.
Appendices

Appendix 1 – Policy

Rugby Borough Council Core Strategy (Adopted June 2011)

Policy CS1: Development Strategy

7.1.1 The location and scale of development must comply with the settlement hierarchy. It must be demonstrated that the most sustainable locations are considered ahead of those further down the hierarchy.

7.1.2 Rugby town centre: primary focus for services and facilities.

7.1.3 Rugby urban area: primary focus for meeting strategic growth targets

7.1.4 Main rural settlements: (Binley Woods, Brinklow, Clifton on Dunsmore, Dunchurch, Long Lawford, Ryton on Dunsmore, Stretton on Dunsmore, Wolston and Wolvey): development permitted within existing village boundaries. Local housing needs is prioritised over market housing, local needs settlements: small scale development to meet local housing needs permitted within existing village boundaries, a threshold of 0.2 ha apply.

7.1.5 Countryside: development will not be permitted if the site could reasonably form part of a larger developable area; new development will be resisted; only where national policy on countryside locations allows will development be permitted.

7.1.6 Greenbelt: new development will be resisted; only where national policy on green belt allows will development be permitted.

Policy CS14: Enhancing the Strategic Green Infrastructure Network

7.1.7 The Council will work with partners towards the creation of a comprehensive Borough wide strategic GI Network which is inclusive of the Princethorpe Woodland Biodiversity Opportunity Areas as shown indicatively on the Proposals Map. This will be achieved through the following:

- The protection, restoration and enhancement of existing GI assets within the network as shown on the Proposals Map;
- The introduction of appropriate multi functional linkages between existing GI assets;
- Where appropriate new developments must provide suitable GI linkages throughout the development and link into adjacent strategic and local GI networks or assets, where present.
**Policy CS16: Sustainable Design**

7.1.8 All development will demonstrate high quality, inclusive and sustainable design and will only be allowed where proposals are of a scale, density and design that would not cause any material harm to the qualities, character and amenity of the areas in which they are situated.

7.1.9 Development will ensure that the amenities of existing and future neighbouring occupiers are safeguarded.

7.1.10 New development should seek to complement, enhance and utilise where possible, the historic environment and must not have a significant impact on existing designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings.

7.1.11 Sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) should be proportionately incorporated in all new scales of developments. Infiltration SUDS should be promoted where it is practical. Where infiltration SUDS are not applicable surface water should be discharged to a watercourse in agreement with the Environment Agency.

7.1.12 Considerations in reducing the use of non-renewable resources and taking into account the impacts of climate change include:

- Urban heat islands and cooling
- Promoting sustainable methods of transport;
- Conserving and enhancing the built and natural environment

7.1.13 All new residential development should meet the water conservation standards in Level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes. Non-residential development shall demonstrate water efficiency of the relevant BREEAM very good standard. Actual provision will be determined through negotiation, taking account of individual site characteristics and issues relating to the viability of development.

**Minerals Local Plan for Warwickshire (February 1995 - saved policies)**

**Policy M1: Areas of search and preferred areas**

7.1.14 Areas have been defined on the proposals map as "areas of search" and "preferred areas". Permissions will normally only be given within these areas. It does not follow that all applications within these areas will be acceptable.

**Policy M4: Sand and Gravel Extraction in the Context of Landbanks:**

7.1.15 Applications for planning permission for the working of sand and gravel will be considered in the context of an assessed regional demand and the aim to provide and maintain a stock of permitted reserves in accordance with the latest national and regional guidelines throughout the plan period.
Policy M6: Considerations and Constraints Affecting Minerals Extraction

7.1.16 Applications for the extraction of minerals whether within or outside the identified areas of search and preferred areas will be considered on the basis of the provisions of the Development plan and their likely overall impact on:

- Operational and economic needs
- Physical restraints:
  - Existing and proposed developments in the area
  - Areas of woodland, conservation, geological, geomorphological and ecological value.
  - Sites and landscapes of historical and archaeological importance
- Other considerations:
  - Transport
  - Agricultural land: quality and the feasibility of achieving a high quality restoration to an appropriate use.
  - The quality and quantity of surface and underground water.
  - Subsidence.

7.1.17 Other considerations are:

- Living conditions for people.
- Policy considerations:
  - Greenbelt
  - The Cotswolds area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
  - Areas of restraint.
  - Special Landscape Areas.

Policy M7: Mitigation and Planning Conditions/Agreements

7.1.18 In seeking to ensure that any adverse environmental effects and the implications for residents’ quality of life are mitigated at all mineral workings (IC27:7):

7.1.19 When granting planning permission the county council may impose conditions and/or seek to enter into agreements under the town and country planning act and highways acts to cover matters such as those set out in Appendix 2 and/or objectives set out in the development plan.

7.1.20 Where appropriate the county council will impose after-care conditions requiring a maintenance obligation for the proper care of the restoration scheme, normally for the maximum period allowed by statute or prescribed by the secretary of state following initial completion of restoration.

7.1.21 Where appropriate the county council may impose a condition stipulating the mode of transport to serve a mineral working. Where transport is by road and access is not directly available to the lorry route network(t6) the use of other roads will be strictly controlled; and,
7.1.22 As necessary, measures such as haul routes, routing agreements and contributions towards road improvements will be secured before planning permission is granted.

7.1.23 Proposals for operations ancillary or secondary to mineral extraction will normally be expected to be sited adjacent to primary plant. the use of plant, machinery and buildings will be restricted to processes principally using minerals produced from.

7.1.24 The site where appropriate, conditions may be imposed or agreements sought to control the life-span of operations ancillary or secondary to mineral extraction.

**Policy M9: Restoration of Mineral Workings**

7.1.25 Restoration of workings to a high standard and a beneficial after use will be required in accordance with the development plan. Satisfactory arrangements for aftercare will also be sought.

**Policy M10: Monitoring of Minerals Sites**

7.1.26 The county council will regularly monitor mineral workings and restoration schemes for their effect on the local environment to ensure compliance with planning conditions.

**Minerals Core Strategy**

**Policy Principle 1 Criteria for assessing Mineral Development Proposals**

7.1.27 Proposals put forward for all Site Allocations in the Minerals Development Core Strategy and planning applications will be assessed against the demonstrated need for the mineral, the provisions of the Development Plan and the potential impacts and proposed mitigation measures on the following criteria:

- Local Communities - amenity impacts.
- The Transport Network
- Human Health (dust, noise and air quality etc.)
- The Cumulative impact of different minerals developments
- Sites of designated International, National, Regional and Local Importance relating to the historic and natural environment including:
  - Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
  - Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
  - Sites of Importance for Natural Conservation (SINCS) and potential Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (pSINCS)
  - Local nature conservation sites (Ecosites)
  - Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)
  - Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
  - Special Landscape Areas (SLA)
  - Regional Important Geological Sites (RIGS)
  - Areas of archaeological potential including Scheduled Ancient Monuments and sites on the Warwickshire Historic Environment Record (HER)
  - Historic Parks and Gardens
  - National Trust Properties
- Listed Buildings
- Conservation Areas
- Registered Battlefields
- Land supporting habitats identified in Biodiversity Action Plans
- The presence of protected and/or Biodiversity Action Plan species.
- Landscape Character Areas.
- High Value agricultural Land (Grades 1, 2 and 3a)
- Country Parks
- Green Belt
- Public Open Space, Commons and Rights of Way
- Impact on Climate Change including carbon reduction measures
- The Hydrological Environment (Groundwater Protection Zones, Pollution Control etc)
- Contribution to Flood Risk Management and Sustainable Drainage schemes (SUDs).

Policy Principle 2 Extensions to Existing Mineral Workings

7.1.28 Proposals for the extension of existing mineral workings will be encouraged for allocated and un-allocated sites, where contiguous with an existing, dormant or un-restored site, and provided their impacts are environmentally acceptable and in accordance with the development criteria set out in Policy Principle 1. Site submissions and applications will be carefully assessed against the cumulative impact of developments on local communities.

Policy Principle 4a Mineral Safeguarding

7.1.29 Minerals Safeguarding Areas and Mineral Consultation Areas will be drawn up in conjunction with detailed surveys by the British Geographical Survey and the proposed areas will be put out for consultation in the new Preferred Option document (the next consultation stage).

7.1.30 Planning Permission should not normally be granted for development contained in such areas where the sterilisation of mineral resources is likely to occur unless the applicant demonstrates that the mineral has no current or future value as a resource, extraction of the mineral would be unviable due to the nature of the deposit, the mineral can be extracted satisfactorily prior to the development; and it is demonstrated that there is a specific need for the development which over-rides the need for mineral safeguarding.

Policy Principle 5 Buffer Zones

7.1.31 The Minerals Core Strategy will state no minimum distance around settlements, properties and other important sites but standoff zones around mineral developments from sensitive receptors will be decided at the application stage on a site by site basis.

7.1.32 Policy Principle 6 Transport

7.1.33 Sites put forward for allocation must have good access to major roads and demonstrate that there will be no unacceptable adverse impact on communities. Proposals for new
mineral developments will have to be accompanied by a traffic impact assessment and demonstrate that alternative forms of transport (rail and water) have been given full consideration.

7.1.34 Where road haulage will be the method for the bulk transportation of minerals from a site, it should be located in close proximity and have good access to the Warwickshire Advisory Lorry Route.

7.1.35 Due to the nature of their geological occurrence, coal, fireclays and building stone may be located at a distance from the roads identified in the Advisory Lorry Route and in such circumstances an acceptable route should be agreed between the operator and the Highway Authority to ensure unacceptable environmental impacts are avoided.

Policy Principle 7 Sand and Gravel

7.1.36 The MDF will seek to allocate adequate sand and gravel sites to enable the production of 18 million tonnes of sand and gravel over the plan period.

7.1.37 Applications for the extraction of sand and gravel will be considered within the context of the assessed regional demand and against the development criteria for sites set out in Policy Principle 1, with the aim of maintaining a sufficient landbank for the county and providing long term security of supply.

Policy Principle 15 Restoration of Mineral Sites

7.1.38 All proposals for mineral developments will have approved restoration and after use schemes which should be of a high environmental standard and be drawn up through consultation between the Mineral Planning Authority, the operator, landowner, local community, agricultural and ecological groups and other agencies and interested stakeholder groups.

7.1.39 The Warwickshire Minerals Forum will continue after the Mineral Development Framework process has ended, to provide a regular forum where restoration issues can be discussed.

7.1.40 Standard restoration schemes should be agreed at planning application stage rather than at site allocation stage.

7.1.41 Restoration schemes for mineral developments must make a positive contribution to agreed biodiversity action plan targets.

Policy Principle 19 Renewable energy and carbon reduction measures

7.1.42 Operators should be required to demonstrate how proposed minerals operations would enable a proportion of renewable energy to be produced on site and /or how low carbon technologies could enable carbon reduction measures. Ways in which carbon reduction could be achieved would be by demonstrating some or all of the following:

- Applying the Proximity Principle in terms of location of the operation to markets
- to reduce transport distances
- b. Use of renewable energy technologies to power some of the quarry operation
- c. Restoration schemes which could enable the production of biomass.
- d. Any other carbon reduction methods
7.2 **Appendix 2 – Methodology**

7.2.1 The following is a resume of the methodology used in this assessment, which has been based upon the recommendations in *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition* published by The Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment in April 2013 (GLVIA3).

**Landscape Effects Assessment**

**Establishing the landscape baseline**

7.2.2 Baseline studies for assessing the landscape effects included a mix of desk study and field work to identify and record the character of the landscape and the elements, features and aesthetic and perceptual factors which contribute to it.

7.2.3 The elements that make up the landscape in the study area were recorded, including:

- physical influences - geology, soils, landform, drainage and water bodies;
- land cover, including different types of vegetation and patterns and types of tree cover;
- the influence of human activity, such as, land use and management, the character of settlements and buildings, the pattern and type of fields and enclosure; and
- the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape, e.g.: its scale, complexity, openness, tranquillity, wildness.

7.2.4 The overall character of the landscape in the study area was considered, including the particular combinations of elements and aesthetic and perceptual aspects that make each distinctive, usually by identification as key characteristics of the landscape. Evidence about change in the landscape was considered, including the condition of the different landscape types and/or areas, and their constituent parts and evidence of current pressures causing change in the landscape.

7.2.5 The European Landscape Convention promotes taking account of all landscapes, including ordinary or undesignated landscapes. The relative value attached to the landscape was considered at the baseline stage to inform the judgments about the effects likely to occur, whether to areas of landscape as a whole or to individual elements, features and aesthetic or perceptual dimensions, at the community, local, national or international levels. Landscape designation is a starting point in understanding landscape value but value may also be attached to undesignated landscapes.

7.2.6 Areas of landscape whose character is judged to be intact and in good condition, and where scenic quality, wildness or tranquillity, and natural or cultural heritage features make a particular contribution to the landscape, or where there are important associations, are likely to be highly valued. For “ordinary, everyday landscapes”, the judgement was based upon the degree to which they are representative of typical
character, the intactness of the landscape and the condition of its elements, scenic
quality, sense of place, aesthetic and perceptual qualities.

7.2.7 The landscape baseline report aims to:

- describe, map and illustrate the character of the landscape of both the wider study area and the site and its immediate surroundings;
- identify and describe the individual elements and aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape, particularly those that are key characteristics contributing to its distinctive character;
- indicate the condition of the landscape, including the condition of landscape elements or features;
- project forward drivers and trends in change and how they may affect the landscape over time, in the absence of the proposal; and
- evaluate the landscape and, where appropriate, its components, aesthetic and perceptual aspects, particularly the key characteristics.

**Assessing the Landscape Effects**

7.2.8 The baseline information about the landscape was combined with understanding of the details of the proposal to identify and describe the landscape effects. The landscape receptors were identified, that is, the components or aspects of the landscape likely to be affected, such as, overall character or key characteristics, individual elements or features, or specific aesthetic or perceptual aspects.

7.2.9 Interactions between the landscape receptors and the components or characteristics of the development at its different stages were considered: construction and operation, and the different types of effect: direct and indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, adverse and beneficial.

7.2.10 Landscape effects considered included:

- change in and/or partial or complete loss of elements, features or aesthetic or perceptual aspects that contribute to the character and distinctiveness of the landscape;
- addition of new elements or features that will influence the character and distinctiveness of the landscape; and
- combined effects of these changes on overall character.

7.2.11 The landscape effects were categorised as adverse, beneficial, or negligible in their consequences for the landscape, judged from the degree to which the proposal fits with existing character and the contribution the development makes to the landscape in its own right, even if in contrast to existing character.
7.2.12 The assessment of the landscape effects was based on assessment of the sensitivity of the landscape receptors and the magnitude of the change in the landscape arising from the proposal.

Sensitivity of the landscape receptors

7.2.13 The sensitivity of landscape receptors combines judgments of their susceptibility to the type of change arising from the development proposal and the value attached to the landscape.

7.2.14 Susceptibility to change means the ability of the landscape receptor to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies.

7.2.15 The value attached to the landscape receptors was established in the baseline study.

7.2.16 The sensitivity of landscape receptors to change is categorised as high, moderate or lesser, in accordance with the criteria set out below to determine the susceptibility and value of the landscape receptor.

7.2.17 When determining the landscape susceptibility the following elements were considered:

- The ability of the landscape receptor to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the landscape character and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies;
- The degree to which the changes arising from the development would alter the overall character, quality/condition of a particular landscape type or area;
- The degree to which the changes arising from the development would alter individual elements or features or aesthetic and perceptual aspects important to the landscape character; and
- Existing landscape studies may identify the sensitivity of the landscape type or area or its characteristics to the general type of development that is proposed.

7.2.18 The following table indicates the criteria used to determine the Landscape susceptibility:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Susceptibility</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very Susceptible</td>
<td>The changes arising from the development would alter the overall character, quality/condition of a particular landscape type or area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The changes arising from the development would alter or remove individual elements or features or aesthetic and perceptual aspects important to, or add new elements incongruous to, the landscape character.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The proposed development would compromise the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susceptibility</td>
<td>Criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Susceptible</td>
<td>the landscape. The changes arising from the development would not alter or remove elements or features or aesthetic and perceptual aspects important to the landscape character, or add new elements that would reinforce the key characteristics of the landscape character.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The changes arising from the development would not alter the overall character, quality/condition of a particular landscape type or area. The proposed development would not compromise the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies for the landscape. The changes arising from the development would not alter or remove individual elements or features or aesthetic and perceptual aspects important to, or add new elements incongruous to, the landscape character.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.2.19 When determining the landscape value the following elements were considered:

- The importance of the landscape, or the perceived value of the landscape to users or consultees, as indicated by, for example, international, national or local designations;
- The importance of elements or components of the landscape in the landscape character of the area or in their contribution to the landscape setting of other areas;
- Intrinsic aesthetic characteristics, scenic quality or sense of place, including providing landscape setting to other places;
- Cultural associations in the arts or in guides to the area, or popular use of the area for recreation, where experience of the landscape is important;
- The presence and scale of detractors in the landscape and the degree to which they are susceptible to improvement or upgrading; and
- Conservation interests: The presence of features of wildlife, earth science or archaeological or historical and cultural interest can add to the value of the landscape as well as having value in their own right.
The following table indicates the criteria used to determine the Landscape value:

### Table 7-2 Criteria to determine landscape value

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Value</td>
<td>Landscapes subject to international, national or local designations, or non-designated landscapes where the following considerations apply:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Areas of landscape whose character is judged to be intact and in good condition;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scenic quality, wildness or tranquillity, and/or natural or cultural heritage features make a particular contribution to the landscape;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>There are important cultural and artistic associations;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>They are representative of typical character of the area or have a character or elements that are valued for their rarity;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Particular components may be identified as important contributors to the landscape character.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Value</td>
<td>Areas of landscape whose character is in poor condition;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scenic quality, wildness or tranquillity, and/or natural or cultural heritage features are not key characteristics of the landscape;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cultural and artistic associations are absent;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>They are not representative of typical character of the area, but are also not valued for rarity;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Particular components may be identified as important contributors to the landscape character.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Magnitude of Landscape Change

Effects on landscape receptors are assessed in terms of size or scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced, and its duration and reversibility.

### Table 7-3 Considerations for assessing Magnitude of Landscape Change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consideration</th>
<th>Indicative criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Size or scale of</td>
<td>Categorised on a scale of Large, Medium, Small, Negligible or None, based upon:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>change</td>
<td>The extent of existing landscape elements that will be lost (or added), the proportion of the total extent that this represents and the contribution of that element to the character of the landscape;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The degree to which aesthetic or perceptual aspects of the landscape are altered either by removal of existing components of the landscape or additions of new ones;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Whether the effect changes the key characteristics of the landscape, which are critical to its distinctive character.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Consideration | Indicative criteria
--- | ---
Geographical area over which the landscape would be changed | Categorised on a scale of:
- Small: at site level, within the development site itself or at the level of the immediate setting of the site;
- Medium: at the scale of the landscape type or character area within which the proposal lies;
- Large: where the development influences several landscape types or character areas.
The duration of the changes | The durations of changes due to the development are categorised as:
- Short term: zero to five years;
- Medium term: five to ten years;
- Long term: ten to twenty-five years
- Permanent: more than twenty-five.
Reversibility | The prospect and the practicality of the effect being reversed within twenty-five years

### Significance of landscape effects

**7.2.22** Final conclusions about significance relate the separate judgements about sensitivity of the receptors and magnitude of the changes combined, to judge whether the effect is significant or not.

**7.2.23** The criteria for significance are based upon the following considerations:

- Major loss or irreversible negative effects, over an extensive area, on elements and/or aesthetic and perceptual aspects that are key to the character of nationally valued landscapes are likely to be of the greatest significance.
- Reversible negative effects of short duration, over a restricted area, on elements and/or aesthetic and perceptual aspects that contribute to, but are not key characteristics of the character of landscapes of community value, are likely to be of least significance and may be judged not significant.
- Where assessments of significance place landscape effects between these extremes, judgments are made about whether or not they are significant.
- Where landscape effects are judged to be significant and adverse, proposals for preventing/avoiding, reducing or offsetting or compensating for them are set out (referred to as mitigation).

**A1-1** The significant landscape effects remaining after mitigation are summarised as the final step in the process.
Visual effects assessment

Establishing the visual baseline

7.2.24 Baseline studies for visual effects establish:

- the area in which the development may be visible
- the different groups of people who may experience views of the development
- the location where they will be affected
- the nature of the views at those points
- where possible, the approximate or relative number of the different groups of people who may be affected by the changes in views or visual amenity.

7.2.25 In identifying important viewpoints, heritage assets in the vicinity of the proposed development and their settings were taken into account.

7.2.26 The potential areas where the site and development proposal are likely to be visible were mapped. Landscape components affecting visibility, like buildings, walls, fences, trees, hedgerows, woodland and banks, were identified through field surveys and mapped.

7.2.27 The people within the area who may be affected by the changes in views and visual amenity – the visual receptors – were identified:

- people living in the area
- people passing through on roads and the local lanes
- people visiting promoted landscapes or attractions
- people engaged in recreation of different types, including users of public rights of way, bridleways and access land.

7.2.28 Views that form part of the experience and enjoyment of the landscape were noted, for example, from promoted paths, tourist or scenic routes and associated viewpoints.

7.2.29 The proposed viewpoints were discussed with the local authority, and informed by the visual appraisal, field surveys, and by desk research on access and recreation, heritage assets and other valued landscapes, tourist attractions and destinations, popular vantage points, and relative distribution of population. Viewpoints were selected to represent the experience of different types of visual receptors.

7.2.30 The details of viewpoint locations were mapped and catalogued, and the direction and area covered by the view recorded, sufficient to allow someone else to return to the location and record the same view. Photography was carried out in accordance with the Landscape Institute's guidance in Photography and Photomontage in landscape and visual impact assessment, Advice Note 01/11.

7.2.31 The baseline report aims to describe, map and illustrate:
the type and relative numbers of people (visual receptors) likely to be affected, making clear the activities they are likely to be involved in when enjoying the view;
- details of the viewpoints and of the visual receptors likely to be affected at each;
- the nature, composition and characteristics of the existing view, noting any particular horizontal or vertical emphasis, and any key foci; existing views have been illustrated in annotated photographs identifying important components of the view.
- elements, such as landform, buildings or vegetation, which may interrupt, filter or otherwise influence the views;
- whether or how the view may be affected by seasonal or weather variation.

Assessing the Visual Effects

Predicting and describing visual effects

7.2.32 The baseline information about the visual receptors was combined with understanding of the details of the proposal to identify and describe the visual effects, considering:

- changes in views and visual amenity arising from elements of the development;
- the distance of the viewpoint from the development and whether the viewer would focus on the development due to its scale and proximity or whether the development would be only a small or minor element in a panoramic view;
- whether the view is stationary or transient or one of a sequence of views;
- the nature of the changes: changes in the skyline, creation of a new visual focus in the view, introduction of new elements, changes in visual simplicity or complexity, alteration of visual scale or the degree of visual enclosure; and
- seasonal differences in effects, arising from the varying degree of screening and/or filtering of views by vegetation in summer and winter.

7.2.33 Categorising the visual effects as adverse or beneficial (or neutral) in their consequences for views and visual amenity was based on judgments about whether the changes affect the quality of the visual experience, and the nature of the existing views and the nature of the changes to the views.

7.2.34 The visual effects were assessed, based on assessment of the nature of the visual receptors and their sensitivity, and the nature of the effect on views and visual amenity, that is, the magnitude of visual change.

Sensitivity of the visual receptors

7.2.35 The people or groups of people likely to be affected at a specific viewpoint - the visual receptors - are assessed in terms of their susceptibility to change in views and visual amenity and the value attached to particular views.

7.2.36 The susceptibility of visual receptors to changes in views and visual amenity is a function of the occupation or activity of people experiencing the view at particular
locations and the extent to which their attention or interest is focused on the views or the visual amenity they experience at particular locations.

7.2.37 The visual receptors most susceptible to change include:

- residents at home;
- people engaged in outdoor recreation, including use of public rights of way, whose attention or interest is likely to be focused on the landscape and on particular views;
- visitors to designated landscapes, heritage assets, or other attractions, where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience;
- communities where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents in the area.

7.2.38 Visual receptors less susceptible to change include:

- people engaged in outdoor sport or recreation which does not involve or depend upon appreciation of views of the landscape;
- people at their place of work whose attention may be focused on their work or activity not on their surroundings and where the setting is not important to the quality of working life.
- travellers on road, rail or other transport routes, except along recognised scenic routes, where awareness of views is likely to be high.

7.2.39 Judgments were made about the value attached to the views identified, taking account of recognition, for example, in relation to heritage assets, or through planning designations, appearance in guidebooks or on tourist maps, promotion of particular locations or provision of facilities provided for their enjoyment, such as parking places, sign boards and interpretive material, or references to them in literature or art.

7.2.40 The sensitivity of visual receptors to change is categorised as high, moderate or lesser, in accordance with the criteria set out below.

**Table 7-4 Indicative criteria for Visual Sensitivity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Indicative criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High sensitivity</td>
<td>Viewers in residential or community properties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Views experienced by many viewers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Daily, prolonged or sustained views available over a long period, or where the view of the landscape is an important attractant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A view from a landscape, recreation facility or route valued nationally or internationally for its visual amenity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate sensitivity</td>
<td>Viewers in residential or community properties with partial or largely screened views of the site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Frequent open views available.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Category Indicative criteria

**Lesser sensitivity**

Viewers are pursuing activities such as sports or outdoor work, where the landscape is not the principal reason for being there or the focus of attention is only partly on the view.

A view from other valued landscapes, or a regionally important recreation facility or route.

A view of low importance or value, or where the viewer's attention is not focused their surroundings.

A view from a landscape of moderate or less importance, or a locally important recreation facility.

Occasional open views or glimpsed views available; passing views available to travellers in vehicles.

A view available to few viewers.

### Magnitude of visual change

7.2.41 The visual effects identified are evaluated in terms of size or scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced, duration and reversibility.

#### Table 7-5 Considerations for assessing Magnitude of Visual Change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consideration</th>
<th>Indicative criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Size or scale of change</td>
<td>Categorised on a scale of major, moderate, minor or none, based upon:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The degree of the loss or addition of features in the view;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The extent of changes in the composition of the view, including the proportion of the view occupied by the proposed development;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The degree of contrast or integration of the changes with the existing or remaining landscape elements and characteristics;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The nature of the view of the proposed development, whether full, partial or glimpsed, or the relative amount of time over which it will be experienced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographical area over which the changes would be experienced</td>
<td>The geographic extent reflects:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The extent of the area over which the changes would be visible;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The distance of the viewpoint from the proposed development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The duration of the changes</td>
<td>Categorised as:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Short term: zero to five years;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Medium term: five to ten years;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Long term: ten to twenty-five years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Permanent: more than twenty-five.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reversibility</td>
<td>The prospect and the practicality of the effect being reversed within twenty-five years, or within a generation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Judging the overall significance of visual effects

7.2.42 Final conclusions about significance relate the separate judgements about sensitivity of the receptors and magnitude of the changes, to judge whether the effect is significant. The following factors inform the judgment about the significance of visual effects:

- Effects on people who are particularly sensitive to changes in views and visual amenity are more likely to be significant.
- Effects on people at recognised and important viewpoints or from recognised scenic routes are more likely to be significant.
- Large scale changes which introduce new, non-characteristic or discordant or intrusive elements into the view are more likely to be significant than small changes or changes involving features already present within the view.
- As for landscape effects, where visual effects are judged to be significant and adverse, proposals for preventing/avoiding, reducing or offsetting or compensating for them are set out (referred to as mitigation).

7.2.43 The significant visual effects remaining after mitigation are summarised as the final step in the process.
7.3 Appendix 3 – Figures

7.3.1 The LVIA is illustrated by plans and photographs as follows:

- Figure LA01 Site Location Plan
- Figure LA02 Designations
- Figure LA03 Visual appraisal
- Figure LA04 Zone of Theoretical Visibility
- Figure LA05 Assessment photographs
- Figure LA06 Appraisal Photographs
- Figure LA07 Site Photographs
Zone of Theoretical Visibility

- Screening Features

Key
- Extension Boundary
- Section 73 Site
- 1km Buffers from site area
- District Boundary
- Assessment photographs
- Appraisal photographs
- Landscape & Heritage Designations
  - 'Coombe Abbey' Country Park
  - 'Coombe Abbey' Registered Park And Garden
  - Listed Buildings
  - Scheduled Monuments
- Public Rights of Way within 1km
  - Public Footpath
  - Bridleway
  - Long Distance Footpath

ZTV Note:
The computer generated Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) is based on a digital surface model generated from the 5m grid interval Ordnance Survey OS Terrain 5® dataset.
The ZTV is calculated to the quarry ground level and the user height of 2m.
The ZTV is based on topographic data and includes the screening effect of the buildings and the woodland taken from the Ordnance Survey Open Map Local ESRI® Shapefile. The buildings have been given a height of 7m and the woodland has been given a mean average height of 10m. The screening effects of other surface features such as individual trees and hedgerows are not taken into consideration during the preparation of the ZTV.
Assessment Photograph 01: View south from B4027 Coombe Abbey, 0.39km from site, 109m AOD

Assessment Photograph 02: View southwest from Brinklow Castle, 1.39km from site, 121m AOD
Assessment Photograph 03: View west from Heath Lane, Brinklow, 0.43km from site, 86m AOD

Assessment Photograph 04: View northeast from bridleway, Birchley Wood, 0.36km from site, 95m AOD
Assessment Photograph 05: View north from bridleway, Brinklow Heath, 0.54km from site, 101m AOD

Assessment Photograph 06: View west from B4455, Fosse Way, 0.93km from site, 85m AOD

The Section 73 site/extension site beyond vegetation

Screen bund

Cottage Farm

Route of Coventry Way, screened by vegetation
Bridleway

The Section 73/extension site obscured beyond vegetation

Screen bund forming eastern extent of Section 73 site

Appraisal Photograph 09: View west from byway off the end of Heath Lane

Appraisal Photograph 10: View southeast from Centenary Way, Coombe Park

Appraisal Photograph 11: View southeast from Twelve O Clock Ride


Brinklow Quarry, Section 73 and extension
Sustainable Direction Ltd

LA.06-1

Appraisal Photographs
Appraisal Photograph 12: View northeast from bridleway south of Birchley Farm

Appraisal Photograph 13: View north from bridleway on Brinklow Heath

Appraisal Photograph 14: View northwest from bridleway at Hill Farm
Appraisal Photograph 15: View northwest from Shakespeare’s Avon Way

Appraisal Photograph 16: View northwest from The Lodge, Kings Newnham

Appraisal Photograph 17: View southwest from Hill Crest
Brinklow Quarry, Section 73 and Extension

Appraisal Photograph 07: View south from bridleway to the east of Birchley Wood

Appraisal Photograph 07: View north from bridleway to the east of Birchley Wood

Appraisal Photograph 08: View north from bridleway at Birchley Farm
Appraisal Photograph 08: View south from bridleway at Birchley Farm