

# GALE MOSS

Chorley

## LANDSCAPE & VISUAL STATEMENT

*August 2020*



## Report Control Sheet

*Project Name:* Gale Moss, Chorley

*Project Reference:* CW0136

*Report Title:* Landscape & Visual Statement

*Report Reference:* CW0136-RPT-001A

*Printing Instructions:* Print at A4 Portrait, Double Sided. Pages 15 - 18 to be printed at A3 Landscape, Double Sided.

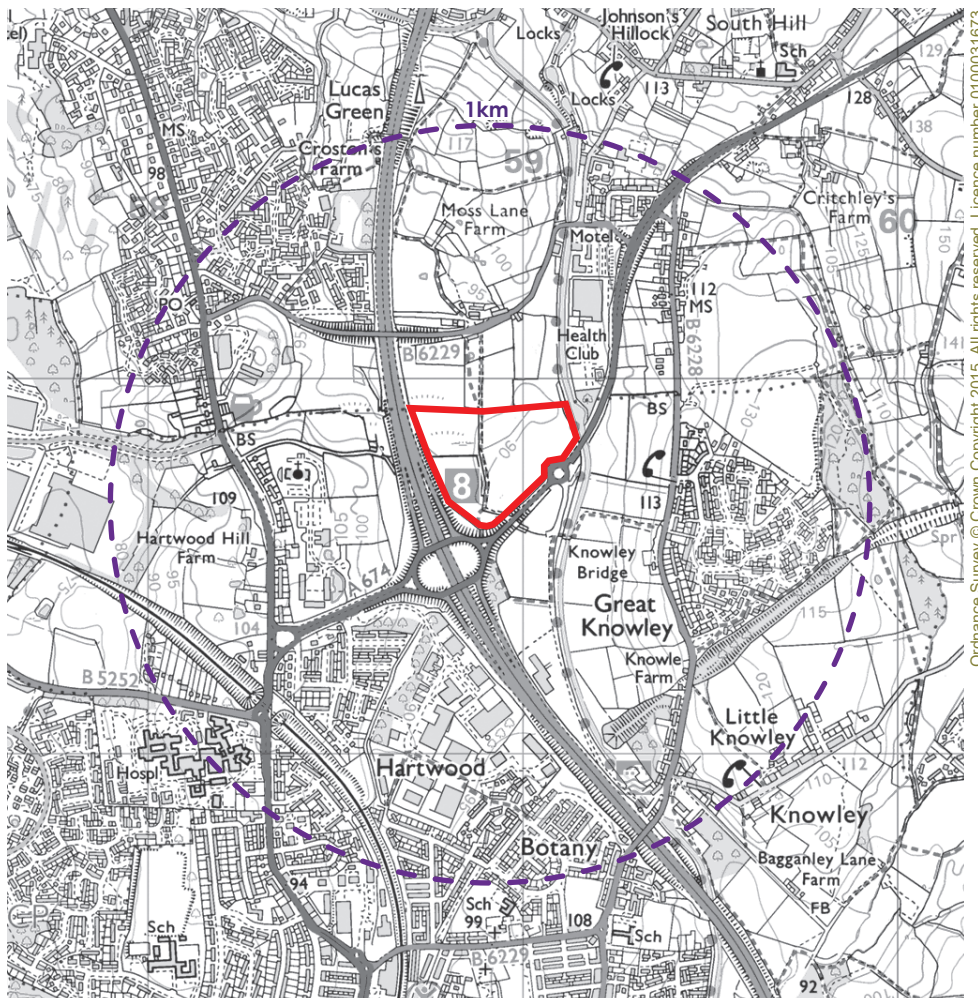
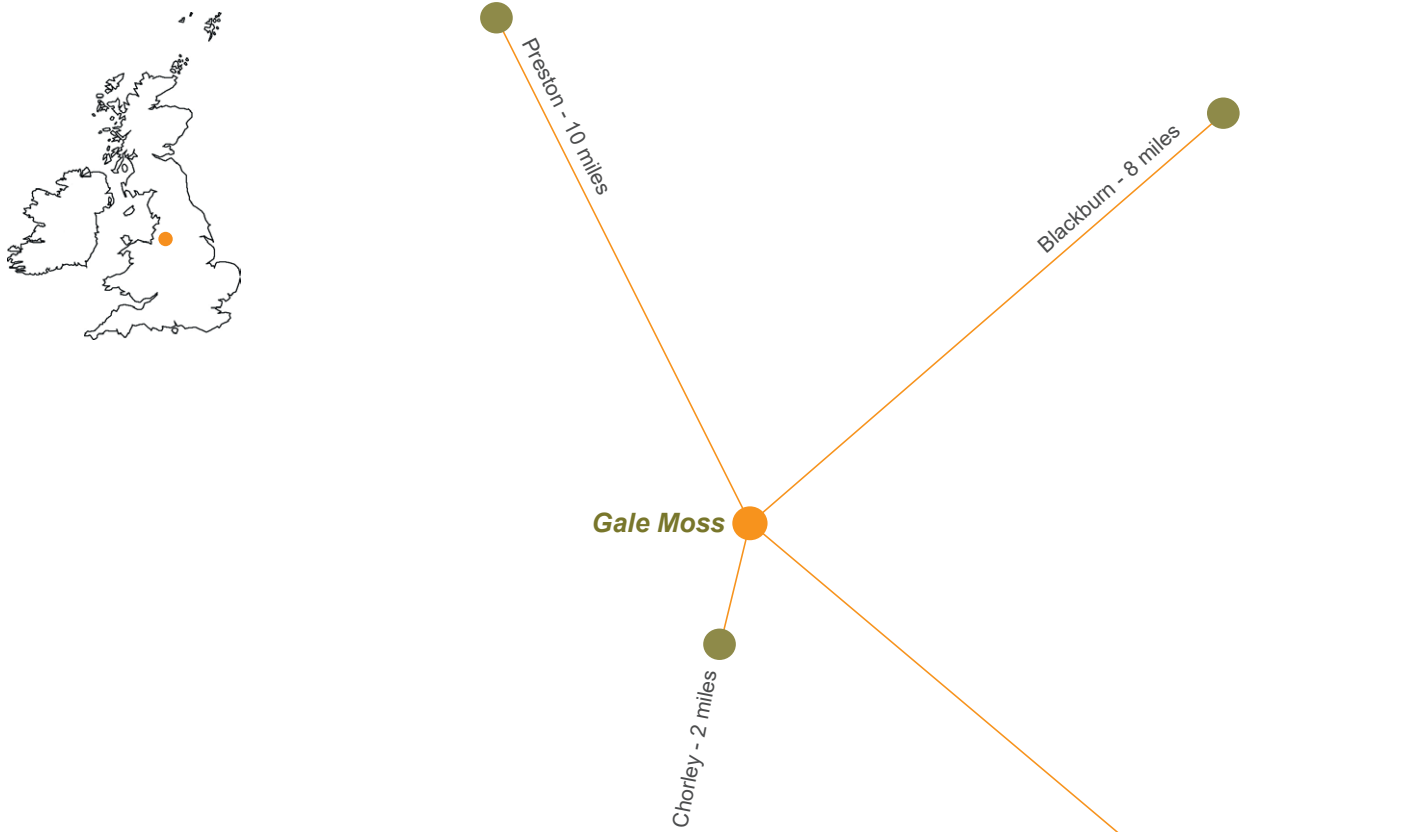
<b>Rev</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Prepared</b>	<b>Reviewed</b>	<b>Approved</b>
/	24/08/2020	Draft report sent to Client for comment.	JW	CW	JW
A	01/09/2020	Report revised to reflect comments from Client.	JW	OC	JW

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Figures 1.1, 1.2 & 1.3: Gale Moss Application Site Location.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 SCOPE & PURPOSE

1.1.1 Collington Winter Environmental was commissioned by the Minerals Planning Group Ltd to prepare a Landscape & Visual Statement (LVS), to support an application to Lancashire County Council for the prior extraction of sand, followed by restoration with inert material at Gale Moss, Chorley. This LVS is designed to be read in conjunction with other material considerations and provides an overview of the current landscape and visual baseline for the application site.

1.1.2 Pre-application advice for the proposal to extract sand, followed by restoration with inert material at the application site was sought in June 2020 and Rob Hope, the Principal Planning Officer at Lancashire County Council subsequently confirmed by email that in respect of landscape and visual matters:

- *The site is quite visible from the M61/A674 and it would not be possible to screen these views fully due to the elevation of the road. However, it is unlikely that there would be a major negative impact given that the operations would be temporary and probably relatively short term.*
- *Public footpath number 26 crosses the site. If you propose to work the area of the site with the footpath then you will need to apply to us separately for a temporary diversion should the intention be to replace the footpath back on its original line following completion of the extraction and restoration operations. We also discussed the merits of considering a permanent diversion of the footpath given the likely end use of the site.*

1.1.3 This LVS has been prepared through a desktop review of landscape character, landscape designations and an outline site assessment of landscape and visual sensitivities, to assess the potential for visibility of the application site, from publicly accessible receptors.

1.1.4 This study is not a formal assessment of landscape and visual effects, however it does take into consideration the *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment - Third Edition (2013)*, published by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (GLVIA). Therefore this study does not provide an assessment of the likely effects and impacts of the proposal to extract sand, followed by restoration with inert material at the application site.

1.1.5 A representative number of public receptors have been selected, which best describe the potential for visual sensitivities, however this study acknowledges that there may be other views afforded of the application site, within proximity to these receptors, however for the purpose of this LVS, the views set out on page 17 to 18 are considered to best represent the visual context. The field assessment was carried out by a Landscape Architect CMLI, on the 6th August 2020 in dry and overcast weather conditions.

### 1.2 LOCATION

1.2.1 See *Figures 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3*.

### 1.3 THE PROPOSAL

1.3.1 The proposal is for the extraction of c300,000 tonnes of sand and gravel at the application site to an approximate depth of 4m below the ground surface and a restoration scheme using c300,000 tonnes of suitable inert material to create an engineered construction platform for an approved (outline) B2 industrial development. Should the proposed industrial development not go ahead, the application site would be restored back to an agricultural land-use. See planning documentation for full operational details of the working scheme.

1.3.2 The application site is allocated in the Chorley Local Plan as Employment Land and it also falls within a mineral safeguarding area.

## 2.0 LANDSCAPE BASELINE

### 2.1 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

2.1.1 Landscape Character is assessed at different scales, from the national and regional, down to the county, district and site specific. The region is classified in the 'Character of England Map', as defined by Natural England, as falling on the western boundary of National character area 35: *Lancashire Valleys*. The Key characteristics of NCA 35 are described as:

- *Broad valleys of the rivers Calder and Ribble and their tributaries run north-east to south-west between the uplands of Pendle Hill and the Southern Pennines.*
- *A Millstone Grit ridge extends between the Ribble and Calder catchments (including the Mellor Ridge and part of Pendle Hill).*
- *A broad trough underlain by Carboniferous Coal Measures provided the basis for early industrialisation.*
- *Field boundaries are regular to the west and more irregular to the east. They are formed by hedges with few hedgerow trees and by stone walls and post-and-wire fences at higher elevations.*
- *Agricultural land is fragmented by towns, villages and hamlets, industry and scattered development, with pockets of farmed land limited to along the Ribble Valley, the fringes of Pendle Hill, the area to the west of Blackburn, and in the north around Skipton.*
- *Farmed land is predominantly pasture for grazing livestock, with areas of acid and neutral grassland, flushes and mires. There is some upland heath and rough pasture on Pendle Hill and the higher land to the south.*
- *Small, often ancient, broadleaved woodlands of oak, alder and sycamore extend along narrow, steep-sided cloughs on the valley sides – for example, at Priestley Clough, Spurn Clough and south of Blackburn.*
- *There are numerous large country houses with associated parklands, particularly on the northern valley sides away from major urban areas.*
- *There are many examples of proto-industrial heritage, including lime hushings, important turnpike and pack-horse routes involved in the early textile trade, and rural settlements with handloom weavers' cottages.*
- *There is evidence of a strong industrial heritage associated with the cotton weaving and textile industries, with many common artefacts such as mill buildings, mill lodges and ponds, and links to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.*
- *The many towns, including Blackburn, Accrington and Burnley, which developed as a result of the Industrial Revolution give the area a strong urban character.*
- *Robust Victorian architecture of municipal buildings contrasts with the vernacular sandstone grit buildings of the quiet rural settlements on the valley sides.*
- *Numerous communication routes run along the valley bottoms, including the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, the Preston–Colne railway and the M65 motorway.*

2.1.2 COUNTY & DISTRICT LANDSCAPE CHARACTER - At a county scale, in 1999, Lancashire County Council, in partnership with the then Countryside Agency (now Natural England), District Councils, Blackburn with Darwen Unitary Authority, North Yorkshire County Council and Craven District Council, commissioned Environmental Resources Management (ERM) to undertake a landscape character assessment of Lancashire. Informed by the landscape assessment, a subsequent landscape strategy was produced. The landscape character assessment is an objective description and classification of the Lancashire landscape which forms the basis for the evaluation and guidance provided in the landscape strategy.

2.1.3 The county landscape character assessment identified the landscape within which the application site lies as being part of two landscape character types (LCT), which are *LCT 5: Undulating Lowland Farmland* and *LCT 6: Industrial Foothills and Valleys*. See *Figure 2.1: Lancashire Landscape Character Assessment: Landscape Types*.

2.1.4 The key characteristics typical of LCT 5: *Undulating Lowland Farmland* includes:

- *Generally below 150m, the Undulating Lowland Farmland lies between the major valleys and the moorland fringes;*
- *The underlying geology is largely masked by heavy boulder clays and hedgerows predominate over stone walls;*
- *This lowland landscape is traversed by deeply incised, wooded cloughs and gorges;*
- *There are also many mixed farm woodlands, copses and hedgerow trees, creating an impression of a well wooded landscape from ground level and a patchwork of wood and pasture from raised viewpoints on the fells;*
- *Some of the most picturesque stone villages of the county occur within this well settled landscape type;*
- *The towns of Longridge and Clitheroe also occur within this type, but are not typical of the settlement pattern;*
- *The area also has many country houses whose boundary walls and designed landscapes add to the species diversity and visual appeal; and*
- *There is a high density of farms and scattered cottages outside the clustered settlements, linked by a network of minor roads*

2.1.5 The key characteristics typical of LCT 6: *Industrial Foothills and Valleys* includes:

- *The Industrial Foothills and Valleys are a complex transitional landscape of relatively small scale with intensive settlement;*
- *The area has a more gentle landform and varied vegetation cover than that of the nearby higher ground.*
- *Trees thrive around farmsteads, along stone wall boundaries and in small-medium sized woodlands;*
- *Fields are enclosed by gritstone walls or hedgerows;*
- *There is a dense network of narrow winding lanes in the rural areas and major roads link settlements along the valley floor;*
- *Settlement is heavily influenced by a history of industrial development in the villages themselves and the neighbouring urban areas. Thus the landscape character shows a mixture of rural agricultural and industrial land uses; and*
- *Gritstone is the characteristic material of farm houses, laithe houses, mills, and cottages. The frequent mill terraces, industrial buildings and more modern housing developments (often built of brick), reflect the proximity to large industrial and commercial centres and lowland clay lands.*

2.1.6 The county landscape character assessment further divides the landscape character types into landscape character areas, with 81 landscape character areas (LCA), focusing on familiar local landscape patterns within the district. The application site is located within LCA 5d: *Salmesbury - Withnell Fold* and LCA 6b: *West Pennine Foothills*. See *Appendix B* for further details about the county & district landscape character assessments.

## **2.2 THE APPLICATION SITE & LANDSCAPE SETTING**

2.2.1 The application site is defined to the west, south and east by transport infrastructure. Occupying an area of rough agricultural grassland, the application site is defined by the M61 to the west, the A674 to the south and the Leeds and Liverpool canal to the east. To the north the agricultural field extends beyond a grown out hedgerow which forms the application site boundary, towards the B6229. Land to the north of the application site forms a part of the Chorley Green Belt.

2.2.2 A series of small, rectilinear fields combine to form the application site, with largely grown out hedgerow boundaries still visible as hedgerow trees. Occasional extant hedgerows cross the wider landscape and whilst the application site is predominantly open, the green space contributes to a larger area of green space within the valley, which is dominated by trees and woodland.

- 2.2.3 The Leeds and Liverpool canal runs north-south to the east of the application site and is enclosed by vegetation. There is no access onto the canal towpath from the application site and at the time of survey there was heavy usage of the canal towpath by bicycle users and dog walkers.
- 2.2.4 A public footpath dissects the application site, running north south from the B6229 to the A674.
- 2.2.5 To the west, the slip road at junction 8 of the M61 occupies rising ground and although there is screen planting alongside the motorway, the junction slip road is largely open grass. A small shelterbelt is located at the south western corner of the application site, screening the junction roundabout. The screening vegetation extends along the A674 towards the minor roundabout, where the application site is defined by a wooden post and rail fence. Double steel gates allow access off the roundabout onto the application site and it is understood that this area has been used for regular car boot sale events.
- 2.2.6 The application site lies within a wider rolling valley landscape which is well wooded and has a predominantly small scale, pastoral character. Beyond the areas of settlement, small-scale fields are defined by hedgerows and tree cover is high, creating a rich mosaic of colours and textures. Industrial heritage is a key feature, with extant mills and industrial buildings still visible within the valley. Historic mining activity is still visible within the landscape with spoil heaps frequently visible.

### 2.3 LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS & SENSITIVITY

- 2.3.1 The statutory designations relevant to the landscape surrounding the application site are illustrated at *Figure 2.2 : Landscape Designations*.
- 2.3.2 The sensitivity of the landscape to change is the degree to which a particular landscape can accommodate changes, or new features, without significant detrimental effects to its essential characteristics. Sensitivity is defined as being high, medium or low. (See *Table A.1a*). The following table (*Table 2.1*) considers, in outline, the sensitivity of landscape receptors, identified in the Landscape Baseline and illustrated in *Figure 2.2*, to change resulting from the proposed development at the application site.

DESIGNATION	SENSITIVITY	SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS	DISCUSSION
National Landscape Character	High	Neutral	Due to the scale of these receptors and the development within that area, it is considered that there would be no perceptible effect upon the wider character and quality of the national and county landscape.
County Landscape Character	High	Neutral	
Listed Buildings	The listed buildings which are located within the study area are illustrated at <i>Figure 2.2</i> . The site assessment found there to be no intervisibility between the listed building located within the study area, due to an undulating topography and intervening mature vegetation. Therefore, these landscape receptors have been scoped out of this assessment of sensitivity.		
Registered Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest	The site assessment found there to be no intervisibility between the application site and the Registered Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest at Astley Hall, therefore, this landscape receptor has been scoped out of this assessment of sensitivity. ( <a href="https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1000943">https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1000943</a> ).		



DESIGNATION	SENSITIVITY	SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS	DISCUSSION
Local Landscape Character	Medium	Low	<p>The application site is located within a well wooded, rolling valley landscape which has a largely rural character, with a mosaic of field sizes and shapes, with pasture as the primary land-use. The features within the wider area, within which the application site is located are characteristic of and consistent with the district landscape character, as set out in '<i>A Landscape Strategy for Lancashire: Landscape Character Assessment (2000)</i>'. The mature wooded character of the valley will ensure that the effects upon landscape character will be localised and temporary in nature.</p> <p>The Leeds and Liverpool canal runs north-south at the eastern boundary of the application site, however the extraction operations will not affect the character or amenity value of this historic waterway.</p> <p>The application site contains a number of landscape elements, such as extant hedgerow trees, hedgerows and individual trees, however these features are largely boundary features and will therefore not be changed by the proposal. It is considered that the application site has the ability to accommodate the proposal, without detriment to the landscape character.</p>

Table 2.1: Landscape Sensitivity.

## 3.0 VISUAL BASELINE

### 3.1 ASSESSMENT CONTEXT

3.1.1 The visual baseline considers the potential for visibility of the application site from the surrounding public visual receptors and considers, in outline, any potential for landscape and visual sensitivities arising from the potential development. This section provides an overview of general visibility of the site as well as identifying the potential key public visual receptors to whom development of mineral extraction operations and the subsequent infilling of inert material may affect.

3.1.2 SENSITIVITY OF VISUAL RECEPTORS - The sensitivity of the landscape to change is the degree to which a particular landscape can accommodate changes, or new features, without significant detrimental effects to its essential characteristics. The sensitivity of visual receptors will depend on three key factors:

- The receptor's activity whilst exposed to the view (work, recreational activities, resident);
- Degree of exposure to view; and,
- Period of exposure to view.

3.1.3 The sensitivity of landscape character or a visual receptor is defined as being high/medium/low, where high is the most sensitive.

### 3.2 VISUAL ASSESSMENT

*“An assessment of visual effects deals with the effects of change on views available to people and their visual amenity. The concern here is with assessing how the surroundings of individuals or groups of people may be **specifically affected** by **changes** in the **content** and **character** of views as a result of the **change** or **loss** of **existing elements of the landscape** and/or **introduction of new elements.**”*  
 (‘Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment’, Landscape Institute (LI) & Institute of Environmental Management and Awareness (IEMA), Third Edition, 2013) (GLVIA3).

3.2.1 A visual assessment has been carried out according to guidance set out in *Appendix A*. All photoviewpoints are restricted to publicly accessible locations. Views from privately owned properties, where there is a likelihood of a view, have been considered within the scope of this report.

3.2.2 *Figure 3.1* at page 16 illustrates the viewpoint locations illustrated and described in this section.

3.2.3 Photograph/s have been taken using a DSLR camera with a 50mm focal length standard lens. These viewpoints are representative of views afforded towards the application site. This assessment acknowledges that there may be other views afforded of the application site, within proximity to these receptors, however for the purpose of this LVS, the following views are considered to best represent the baseline visual context. It should be noted that the site assessment was carried out in August 2020, when the broadleaved trees were in full leaf. In accordance with guidance, it is good practice to undertake visual assessments during the winter months, when the trees are predominantly bare. This is because leaves and vegetation filter views, and winter views therefore present a ‘worst case scenario’ for visual effects. Notwithstanding this, this assessment remains sound for planning decisions.

### 3.3 VISUAL BASELINE

3.3.1 Viewpoints no.1 to 3 on pages 17 to 18 illustrate the potential for visibility of the application site.

VIEWPOINT NO. 1	Grid Ref: SD 59365 19610	Looking north west from junction of B6228 and Footpath No.26
DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEW		
<p>There is a direct but partly obstructed view of the application site, seen from this elevated location to the east, at the junction of Footpath No.26 and the B6228. This view is also representative of the view from private residential properties located along the B6228, who have an open view across the valley.</p> <p>This is a rolling landscape with a strong visual structure, containing a number of elements such as mature woodland, individual trees, hedgerows with mature hedgerow trees which enhance the visual character and quality of the landscape.</p> <p>The view of the application site is not open and clear from this location and is seen within the context of mature intervening vegetation, however areas within the application site are visible. The application site and other scattered properties are seen enclosed by mature vegetation, which extends along the valley sides. The skyline is dominated by woodland, punctuated only by the Preston England Temple, which can be seen to the left of the view.</p> <p>The Leeds and Liverpool canal lies at a lower elevation and is therefore is not visible in this view, however the route of the canal towpath can be seen and, at the time of survey, was well used by cyclists and dog walkers. The elevated Junction 8 and slip-road of the M61 can be seen to the left of the view, with associated infrastructure providing vertical lines within the vegetation.</p>		
POTENTIAL VISUAL SENSITIVITIES		
<p>The receptor is the users of Public Right of Way, with a restricted view of the application site, due to intervening vegetation. The sensitivity of a user to change from certain types of development is therefore considered to be <b>medium</b>. Residential properties, located on the B6228, which overlook the application site, where there are views from principal living room windows are considered to have a <b>medium to high</b> sensitivity to change from certain types of development.</p> <p>The proposal to extract sand would constitute a <b>medium</b> magnitude of change to this view, as the agricultural land-use is replaced by mineral extraction operations, followed by infilling with inert material, which would form visible and recognisable new features within the landscape scene, however this would be a relatively temporary change for the duration of the operations and may not be a dominant feature when viewed within the context of the wider landscape setting. From this elevated location, there is a potential for greater visibility throughout the operation of the site. The location of plant, equipment and stockpiling of materials to the north of the site would also be visible. There would be a <b>moderate</b> effect significance.</p>		
VIEWPOINT NO. 2	Grid Ref: SD 58883 19926	Looking south on Footpath No.26 towards the application site.
DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEW		
<p>There is an open view of the application site, seen from Footpath No.26, which currently dissects the site.</p> <p>The view is largely open and direct, punctuated only by a row of extant hedgerow trees which form part of the north western boundary. A land-use of rough, agricultural grassland, defined and dissected by remnant hedgerows with hedgerow trees, ditches and occasional lines of post and wire fencing, creates a mosaic of colour and character. Beyond the application site, the skyline is formed by shelterbelt screen planting associated with the A674. The residential properties at Great Knowley can be seen to the far left of the view, on rising ground.</p> <p>The elevated Junction 8 slip-road and associated infrastructure of the M61 can be seen to the left of the view and the Preston England Temple extends above the skyline vegetation to the right of the view.</p>		
POTENTIAL VISUAL SENSITIVITIES		
<p>It is understood that prior to commencement of operations, Footpath No.26 will be diverted, therefore throughout the operational phases of work, a view from this location will not be afforded to public receptors. Therefore, visual sensitivities afforded from this receptor have not been assessed.</p>		

VIEWPOINT NO. 3 | Grid Ref: SD 59069 19758 | Looking north west from the A674 into the application site.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEW

There is a clear, open and direct view of the application site afforded for vehicular and pedestrian users of the A674 from this elevated location.

The application site is seen as a rolling landform of open, rough, agricultural grassland, defined by remnant hedgerows, which remain extant as hedgerow trees, with individual trees, ditches and occasional lines of post and wire and post and rail fencing, which creates a mosaic of colour and character.

The skyline beyond the application site is formed by shelterbelt screen planting associated with the M61 and mature woodland which surrounds the Preston England Temple. Mature vegetation alongside the canal encloses the application site to the east.

#### POTENTIAL VISUAL SENSITIVITIES

The receptor is the users of a main road or a passenger on public transport with a glimpsed view of the application site. The user may also be a pedestrian user of the footpath alongside the main road. The sensitivity of a user to change from certain types of development is therefore considered to be **low to medium**. The access gateway into the application site will be located at this viewpoint, therefore HGV traffic will also be an additional feature, animating the landscape.

With the addition of grassed screening mounds to either side of the access gateway prior to extraction operations and the proposed below ground level extraction, it is considered that the development of the application site would give rise to a **high** magnitude of change, as there will be a change to this view, with the access gateway, screening mounds and a partial view of operations being the dominant features within the landscape scene, which are immediately apparent. This would, however, be a relatively temporary change in character for the duration of the operations. There would be a **moderate** effect significance.

## 4.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.0.1 This landscape and visual statement has been prepared to support an application to Lancashire County Council for the extraction of sand, followed by restoration with inert material at Gale Moss, Chorley. This report has considered, in outline, existing landscape character and designations and has assessed the potential for visual effects arising from the proposal.
- 4.0.2 This study is not a formal assessment of landscape and visual effects or impacts, however it does take into consideration the 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment - Third Edition (2013)', published by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (GLVIA). Therefore this study does not provide an assessment of the likely effects and impacts of the proposal at Gale Moss.
- 4.0.3 A representative number of public receptors have been selected, which best describe the potential for visual sensitivities, however this study acknowledges that there may be other views afforded of the application site at Gale Moss, within proximity to these receptors, however for the purpose of this LVS, viewpoints no.1 to 3 are considered to best represent the visual context. In respect of landscape and visual matters, this report concludes the following:

### 4.1 CONCLUSIONS OF THE LANDSCAPE BASELINE

- 4.1.1 The application site at Gale moss is located to the north east of Chorley, within an area of rolling, wooded agricultural land. The M61 motorways forms the western boundary and the A674 is to the south. The Leeds and Liverpool canal forms the eastern boundary with open rough grassland with scattered trees and remnant hedgerows continues the agricultural land-use to the north. The wider landscape is defined by the Landscape Character Assessment for Lancashire as being within the Undulating Lowland Farmland and the Industrial Foothills and Valleys landscape character types and the local landscape is assessed as being characteristic of and consistent with the key qualities of both landscape types. The landscape has no associated designations and this LVS has found there to be no landscape designations within the wider study area which would have any sensitivities to the proposal at the application site.
- 4.1.2 The application site is allocated in the Chorley Local Plan as Employment Land and it also falls within a mineral safeguarding area.
- 4.1.3 Local planning policy in relation to landscape character and with relevance to this LVS includes the Central Lancashire Core Strategy objectives and key policies:
- 4.1.4 SO16: *To protect, conserve and enhance Central Lancashire's places of architectural and archaeological value and the distinctive character of its landscapes (page 102).*
- 4.1.5 Policy 21: Landscape Character Areas  
*New Development will be required to be well integrated into existing settlement patterns, appropriate to the landscape character type and designation within which it is situated and contribute positively to its conservation, enhancement or restoration or the creation of appropriate new features (page 111).*
- 4.1.6 The Chorley Local Plan (2012 - 2026) includes:
- 4.1.7 Policy BNE1: Design Criteria for New Development  
*f) The proposal would not have a detrimental impact on important natural habitats and landscape features such as historic landscapes, mature trees, hedgerows, ponds and watercourses. In some circumstances where on balance it is considered acceptable to remove one or more of these features then mitigation measures to replace the feature/s will be required either on or off-site;*

- 4.1.8 Policy BNE10: Trees -  
*Proposals that would result in the loss of trees, woodland areas or hedgerows which make a valuable contribution to the character of the landscape, a building, a settlement or the setting thereof will not be permitted. Replacement planting will be required where it is considered that the benefit of the development outweighs the loss of some trees or hedgerows.*

## 4.2 CONCLUSIONS OF THE VISUAL BASELINE

- 4.2.1 Viewpoints no.1 to 3 illustrate the potential for visibility of the application site. The site assessment confirmed that the application site is largely visually contained by topography and mature tree and hedgerow vegetation for potential views from the west, south and east, however views from elevated locations to the east, especially along the B6228 may be sensitive to the proposals.
- 4.2.2 It should, however, be noted that the site assessment was carried out in August 2020, when the broadleaved trees were heavily in leaf. In accordance with guidance, it is good practice to undertake visual assessments during the winter months, when the trees are predominantly bare. This is because leaves and vegetation filter views, and winter views therefore present a 'worst case scenario' for visual effects. Notwithstanding this, this assessment remains sound for planning decisions.
- 4.2.3 The visual envelope of the application site is largely restricted to views from the boundaries, especially from the A674, which is elevated above the application site. Whilst there is an open view from the slip-road of junction 8 of the M61, looking east across the application site, it is acknowledged that vehicular users of the slip road will have attention focused upon the road ahead.
- 4.2.4 There is a public footpath running north-south through the application site, however it is understood that this footpath will be diverted throughout the extraction, infilling and restoration operations and at the time of assessment, the diversion route had not been proposed. Therefore footpath No.26 has not been considered within this LVS.

## 4.3 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.3.1 Following a review of baseline information, together with consideration of likely landscape and visual sensitivities, it is considered that the application site and wider landscape are able to accommodate the proposal for mineral extraction and infilling with inert material, in landscape and visual terms, without having an unacceptable effect or loss of landscape character or visual amenity. Any loss of landscape character would be temporary and upon restoration to agricultural land-use, character would be reinforced and enhanced.
- 4.3.2 Development of the application site for mineral extraction would have an effect upon the immediate landscape setting of the application site, with a loss of agricultural land-use. However, this would be a relatively (in landscape terms) temporary loss of land-use, having a minor local effect and upon completion of extractions operations and restoration of the application site, the landscape would be reverted back to an agricultural land-use or, the already approved employment end use.
- 4.3.3 It is recommended that consideration is given to reinforcing the existing boundary features of the application site through the 'gapping up' of native hedgerows and replanting of new native, species-rich hedgerows where they have been lost. Localised tree planting will help to soften and filter any views from nearby receptors and strengthen landscape character.
- 4.3.4 Therefore, considering the long-term benefits of restoring the landscape, including the planting of native species, the long-term effects on the overall character of the landscape at this site specific scale would be beneficial.

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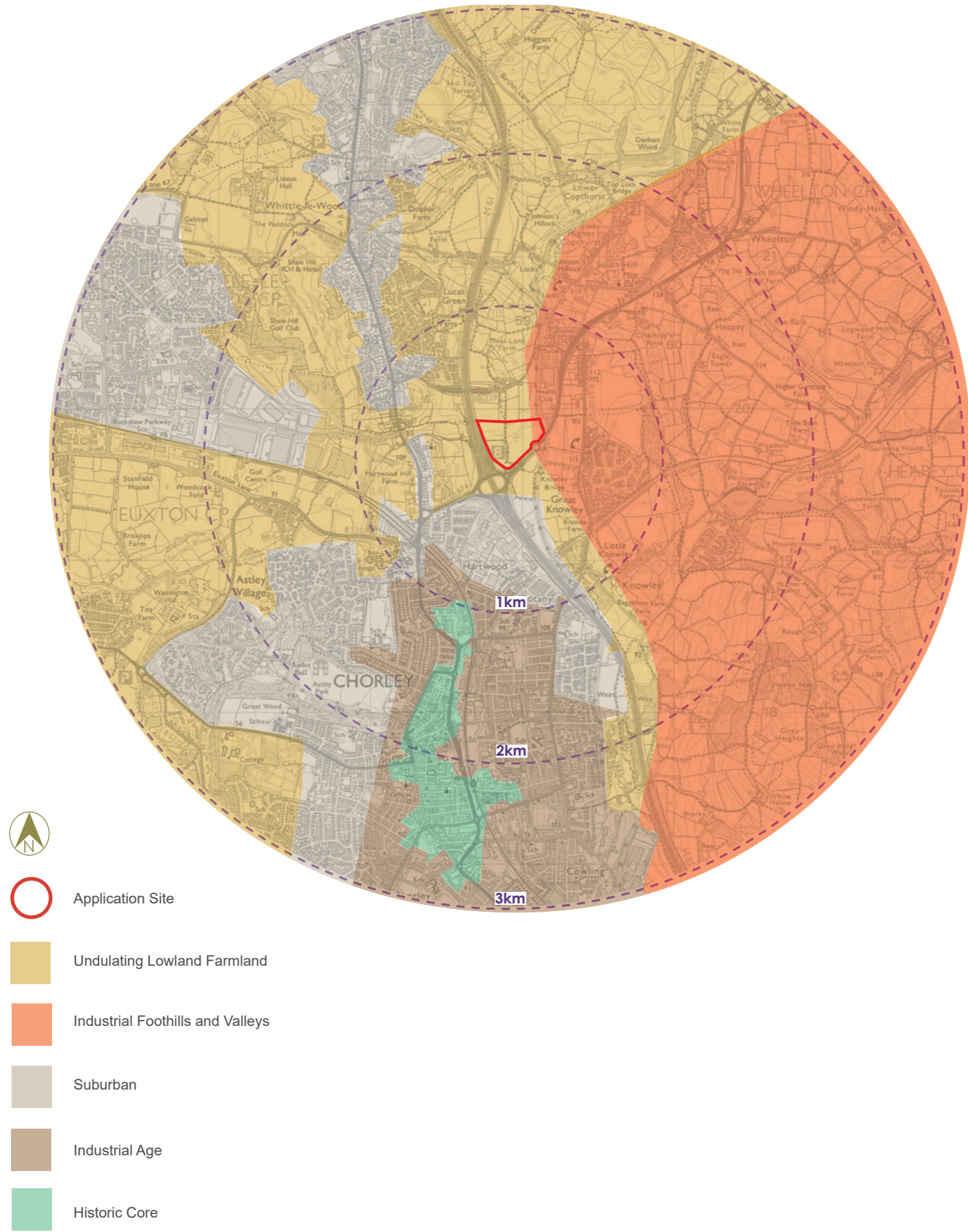


Figure 2.1: Lancashire Landscape Character Assessment: Landscape Character Types.

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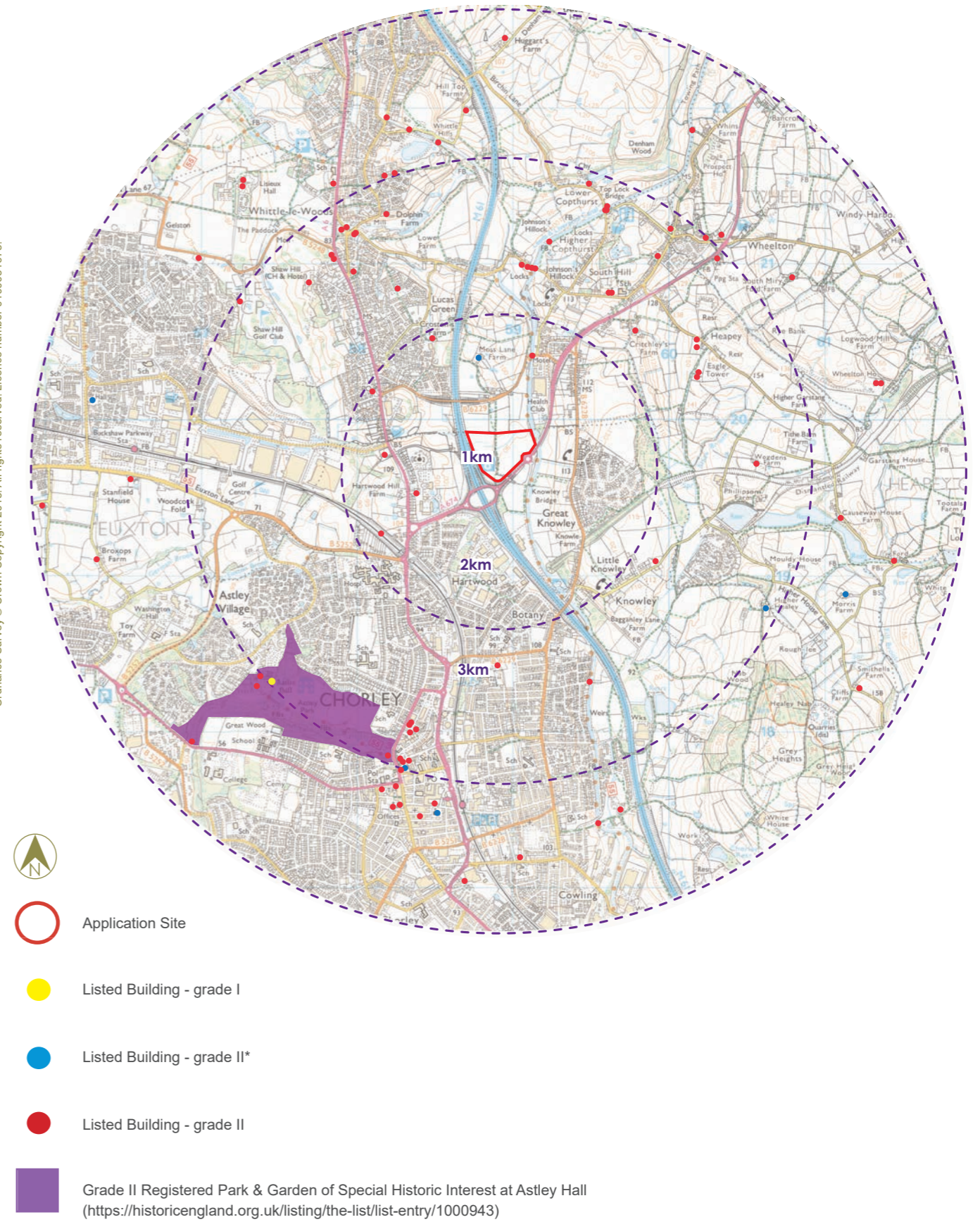
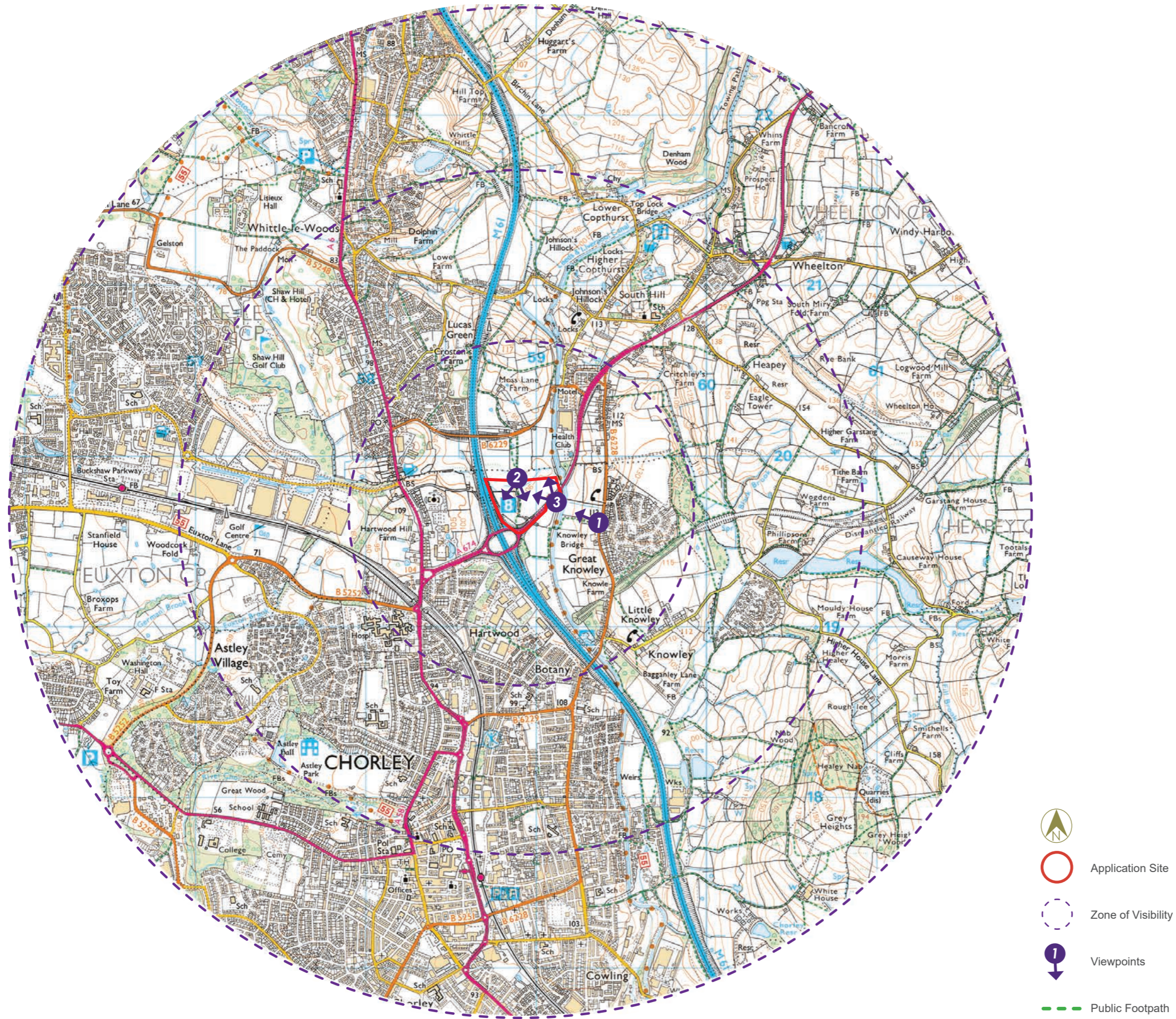


Figure 2.2: Landscape Designations.

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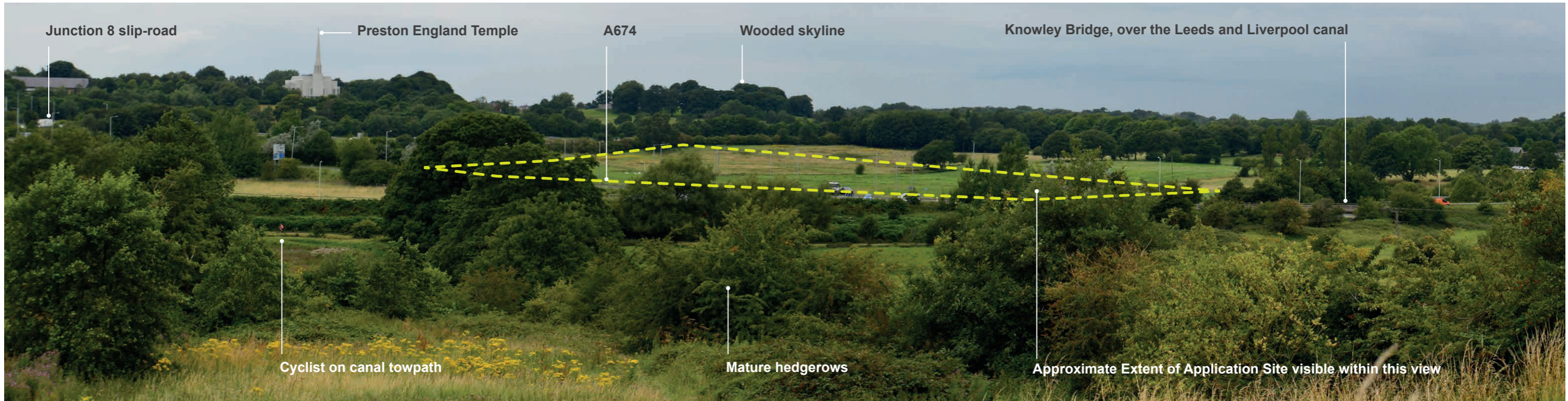
-  North
-  Application Site
-  Zone of Visibility
-  Viewpoints
-  Public Footpath

Figure 3.1: Viewpoint Locations.





Viewpoint No.1 - Looking north west from junction of B6228 and Footpath No.26.



Viewpoint No.2 - Looking south on Footpath No.26 into the application site.



Viewpoint No.3a - Looking west from the A674 across the application site towards the M61 motorway.



Viewpoint No.3a - Looking north west from the A674 into the application site, towards the B6229, with the Leeds and Liverpool Canal to the right of the view.

## **A.0 LANDSCAPE & VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY**

## A.0 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

### A.1 INTRODUCTION

A.1.1 Landscape and visual assessment has been conducted in accordance with the principles set out in:

- ‘*Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*’, Landscape Institute (LI) & Institute of Environmental Management and Awareness (IEMA), Third Edition, 2013; and
- ‘*An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment*’, Natural England, 2014; and

### A.2 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

A.2.1 To determine whether or not the landscape will be able to successfully accommodate the development this LVA will:

- Establish the nature of the potential change anticipated;
- Establish the landscape baseline, in terms of its character, condition, designations and current land use;
- Establish a visual baseline, considering likely public receptors; and
- Assess the impacts and significance effects of the potential change against the sensitivity of the landscape.

A.2.2 **Landscape Sensitivity** - The sensitivity of a landscape to a particular type of change, is defined in terms of the interactions between the landscape in its own right, the perceptions of that landscape, in the eyes of people who see it on a regular basis and the nature of the proposal.

A.2.3 Landscape sensitivity is defined as relating:

*“to the **stability of character**; the degree to which that character is **robust** enough to continue and to be able to **recuperate** from loss or damage. A landscape with a character of high sensitivity is one that, once lost, would be **difficult to restore**; a character that, if **valued**, must be afforded particular **care and consideration** in order for it to survive”. Bray C (2003) *Unpublished paper on a County Wide Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity*. Worcestershire County Council.*

A.2.4 Landscape sensitivity can be seen as a combination of the sensitivity of the landscape as a resource in its own right, which encompasses natural and cultural elements, the value that is attributed to that particular landscape, in terms of designations and the visual sensitivity, such as views and visibility from public receptors. It is important to understand that judgements about the potential for landscapes to accept and accommodate change can alter over time, not only in terms of peoples perception to a particular landscape, but also in terms of peoples attitudes towards a the type and extent of that change.

- The receptor’s activity whilst exposed to the view (work, recreational activities, resident);
- Degree of exposure to view; and,
- Period of exposure to view.

A.2.5 **Landscape Character** - Landscape character It is defined as:

*“a **distinct**, recognisable and consistent **pattern** of elements, be it **natural** (soil, landform) and/or **human** (for example settlement and development) in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse”.*

SENSITIVITY	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER
HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong landscape structure.</li> <li>• Strong positive character.</li> <li>• Good condition.</li> <li>• Strong sense of place.</li> <li>• Visually distinctive.</li> <li>• Aesthetically pleasing/occasional detracting features.</li> <li>• Distinct features of worthy conservation.</li> </ul>
MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognisable landscape structure.</li> <li>• Positive character.</li> <li>• Moderate condition.</li> <li>• Reasonable sense of place.</li> <li>• Visually notable.</li> <li>• Aesthetically satisfactory or uninspiring/ some detracting features.</li> <li>• Some features of worthy conservation.</li> </ul>
LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weak or degraded landscape structure.</li> <li>• Weak or negative character.</li> <li>• Poor condition.</li> <li>• Poor sense of place.</li> <li>• Visually notable.</li> <li>• Aesthetically unsatisfactory or unpleasant.</li> <li>• Few or no features of worthy conservation.</li> <li>• Scope for positive enhancement.</li> </ul>

Table A.1a: The General Criteria for Establishing the Sensitivity of Landscape Character.

SENSITIVITY	VISUAL RECEPTORS
HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residential properties with predominantly open views from windows, garden or curtilage. Views will normally be from principal living rooms and from windows of rooms in use during the day.</li> <li>• Users of Public Rights of Way with predominantly open views and of recreational use.</li> <li>• Non-motorised users of minor or unclassified roads in the countryside.</li> <li>• Visitors to recognised viewpoints or beauty spots.</li> <li>• Users of outdoor recreational facilities with predominantly open views where the purpose of that recreation is enjoyment of the countryside - e.g. Country Parks, National Trust sites etc.</li> </ul>
MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residential properties with views from windows, garden or curtilage. Views from ground floor windows will be oblique or partially obscured by garden and/or other intervening vegetation.</li> <li>• Users of Public Rights of Way with restricted views, in less sensitive areas or where there are significant existing intrusive features.</li> <li>• Schools and other institutional buildings, and their outdoor areas.</li> <li>• Motorised users of minor or unclassified roads in the countryside. Where alteration is focussed upon often narrow and winding routes.</li> </ul>
LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People in their place of work.</li> <li>• Users of main roads or passengers on public transport on main routes.</li> <li>• Users of outdoor recreational facilities with restricted views and where the activity is focussed within the area.</li> <li>• Occupants of industrial premises.</li> </ul>

Table A.1b: The General Criteria for Establishing the Sensitivity of Visual Receptors.

A.2.6 Landscapes are not static, they are in a constant state of change, altering in line with management, land use and climate change. Climate change is one of the largest factors that is likely to bring about changes in landscape character.

A.2.7 Landscape character should not be seen as the physical elements of the landscape in isolation, but the combination of those elements with perceptual, aesthetic and experiential aspects of the landscape, which makes one place different to another.

A.2.8 Landscape Character is assessed at different scales, from the national and regional, down to the county, district and site specific.

A.2.9 Assessment of the landscape can help in:

- Understanding how and why landscapes are important;
- Promoting an appreciation of landscape issues;
- Successfully accommodating new development within the landscape; and
- Guiding and directing landscape change.

A.2.10 The **value** (or quality) of the landscape, as a resource in its own right, can be assessed at a variety of scales and is defined as being of exceptional, high, moderate, poor or very poor value. See *table A.2*.

A.2.11 In respect of **Landscape Condition** (the physical state of the landscape), assessment is made according to the criteria set out in *table A.3*.

VALUE	CRITERIA	TYPICAL SCALE	TYPICAL EXAMPLE
EXCEPTIONAL	Very high importance (or Quality) and Rarity. No or extremely limited potential for substitution.	International, National.	World Heritage Site, National Park or AONB.
HIGH	High Importance (or Quality) and Rarity. Limited potential for substitution.	National, Regional, Local	National Park, AONB, AGLV, ALLI
MODERATE	Medium Importance (or Quality) and Rarity. Limited potential for substitution.	Regional, Local	Undesignated site but its value perhaps expressed through non-official publications or demonstrable use.
POOR	Low Importance (or Quality) and Rarity.	Local	Areas identified as having some redeeming feature or features and possibly identified for improvement.
VERY POOR	Low Importance (or Quality) and Rarity.	Local	Areas identified for recovery.

*Table A.2: The General Criteria for Establishing Landscape Value*

CATEGORY	CRITERIA	TYPICAL EXAMPLE
EXCEPTIONAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong landscape structure, characteristic landscape character with a balanced combination of landform &amp; land cover;</li> <li>• Appropriate management of land use and land cover;</li> <li>• Distinct features worthy of conservation;</li> <li>• Strong sense of place;</li> <li>• No detracting features</li> </ul>	Internationally or nationally recognised landscape, all, or the majority of which is, e.g. a World Heritage Site, National Park or AONB.
HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong landscape structure, with characteristic landscape character and a balanced combination of landform &amp; landcover;</li> <li>• Appropriate management of land use and land cover, with potential scope to improve;</li> <li>• Distinct features worthy of conservation;</li> <li>• Sense of place;</li> <li>• Occasional detracting features.</li> </ul>	Nationally or Regionally recognised landscape, e.g. parts of a National Park or AONB or the majority of AGLV
GOOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognisable landscape structure, characteristic patterns and combinations of landform and land cover are still evident;</li> <li>• Scope to improve management for land use and land cover;</li> <li>• Some features worthy of conservation;</li> <li>• Sense of place;</li> <li>• Some detracting features.</li> </ul>	Nationally or Regionally recognised e.g. localised areas within National Park, AONB or AGLV. Locally recognised e.g. all or the great majority of Area of Local Landscape Importance (ALLI).
ORDINARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distinguishable landscape structure, characteristic patterns of landform and landcover often masked by land use;</li> <li>• Scope to improve management of vegetation;</li> <li>• Some features worthy of conservation;</li> <li>• Some detracting features.</li> </ul>	
POOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weak landscape structure, characteristic patterns of landform and landcover are often masked by land use;</li> <li>• Lack of management and intervention has results in degradation;</li> <li>• Frequent detracting features.</li> </ul>	
VERY POOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degraded landscape structure, characteristic patterns and combinations of landform and land cover are masked by land use;</li> <li>• Lack of management / intervention has resulted in degradation;</li> <li>• Extensive detracting features.</li> </ul>	
DAMAGED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damaged landscape structure;</li> <li>• Disturbed or derelict land requires treatment;</li> <li>• Detracting features dominate.</li> </ul>	
DERELICT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land so damaged by industrial or other development that it is incapable of beneficial use without treatment.</li> </ul>	

Table A.3: The General Criteria for Establishing Landscape Condition

### A.3 MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE

A.3.1 The magnitude of change is the '*combination of the scale, extent and duration*' of the development and its impact on landscape character and visual receptors. In the case of landscape impacts this relates to:

- The size, extent or degree of change to landscape character or individual landscape features;
- Whether there is a direct impact resulting in the loss of landscape features or a change beyond the land take of the scheme having an impact on the character of the area; and,
- Whether the impact is permanent or temporary.

A.3.2 For visual impact this relates to:

- Degree of change to existing views;
- Distance of the receptor from the application site; and,
- Whether the impact is permanent or temporary.

A.3.3 The criteria for assessing the magnitude of change on visual receptors and landscape character are set out in *Table A.4*.

A.3.4 The magnitude of change may be negligible or no change and the resulting effect significance would also be negligible or no change, as the development would hardly be discernible or not seen at all or the loss to landscape features and the character of the area would experience very little or no change.

MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	VISUAL AMENITY
HIGH	High degree of loss or major alteration to one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the landscape character. Introduction of elements considered to be uncharacteristic when set within the attributes of the receiving landscape.	Where the proposals become the only dominant feature in the scene or would form a significant and immediately apparent element which would affect the overall impression of the view.
MEDIUM	Partial loss or alteration to one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the landscape character. Introduction of elements that may be prominent but not necessarily be considered to be substantially uncharacteristic when set within the attributes of the receiving landscape.	Where the proposals would form a visible and recognisable new feature in the scene but may not be immediately apparent, or become a dominant feature in the view.
LOW	Minor loss or alteration to one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the landscape character. Introduction of elements may not be uncharacteristic when set within the attributes of the receiving landscape.	The proposals constitute only a minor component of the wider view, and may not be immediately apparent to the casual observer. Awareness of the proposals would not have a marked effect on the overall quality of the scene.
NEGLIGIBLE	Very minor loss or alteration to one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the landscape character. Introduction of elements are not uncharacteristic with the surrounding landscape.	The proposals are largely indiscernible and/or they are at such a distance that they are scarcely appreciated. Consequently they have little effect on the scene.
NO CHANGE	No change to the landscape character is experienced.	No change to the view is experienced.

*Table A.4: The Criteria for Establishing the Magnitude of Change*



## A.4 SCORING MATRIX

A.4.1 The two principal criteria determining significance of effect are the **magnitude of change** and the environmental **sensitivity** of the location or receptor.

*'A higher level of significance is generally attached to large-scale effects and effects on sensitive or high-value receptors; thus small effects on highly sensitive sites can be more important than large effects on less sensitive sites. It is therefore important that a balanced and well-reasoned judgment of these two criteria is achieved'. (Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment', Landscape Institute (LI) & Institute of Environmental Management and Awareness (IEMA), Third Edition, 2013).*

A.4.2 The matrix shown in *Table A.5* encourages transparency in the process of identifying the significance but the experience and judgement of the landscape architect is also used. Note the significance of effects may be adverse or beneficial depending upon the nature of the magnitude of change.

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	NEGLIGIBLE	NO CHANGE
HIGH	Major	Major	Moderate	Neutral	Neutral
MEDIUM	Major	Moderate	Minor	Neutral	Neutral
LOW	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Neutral	Neutral

*Table A.5: The Significance of Effects*

## A.5 NATURE OF IMPACT

A.5.1 The determination of the nature of an impact is a result of judging whether the introduction of a proposed development would be of benefit or detriment to the existing landscape character or view. Therefore, the impact of a proposed development can be adverse or beneficial. *Table A.6* defines the difference between adverse and beneficial.

	NATURE OF IMPACT
ADVERSE	The key characteristics of the existing landscape or view would be weakened by the introduction of the proposed development.
NEUTRAL	The key characteristics would neither be weakened or strengthened by the proposed development.
BENEFICIAL	The key characteristics of the existing landscape or view would be strengthened by the introduction of the proposed development.

*Table A.6: The Nature of the Impact*

## A.6 EFFECTS SIGNIFICANCE

A.6.1 The effects arising from any given development will be categorised using the terms neutral, minor, moderate and major effects, with both moderate and major categories being considered as comprising significant effects. *Table A.7* illustrates how each of these categories have been summarised.

EFFECT SIGNIFICANCE	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	VISUAL AMENITY
<b>MAJOR ADVERSE</b>	The proposed scheme would result in effects that are at complete variance with the landform, scale and pattern of the landscape. It would permanently degrade, diminish or destroy the integrity of valued characteristic features, elements and/or their setting. A high quality landscape would be permanently changed and its quality diminished.	The proposals would cause a significant deterioration to an existing view.
<b>MODERATE ADVERSE</b>	The proposed scheme be out of scale with the landscape or at odds with the local pattern and landform and it would leave an adverse impact on the landscape to recognisable quality.	The proposals would cause a noticeable deterioration to an existing view.
<b>MINOR ADVERSE</b>	The proposed scheme would not entirely fit into the landform and scale of the landscape and it would have an effect on the landscape character.	The proposals would cause a barely perceptible deterioration to an existing view from a receptor.
<b>NEUTRAL</b>	The proposed scheme would not effect the scale, landform and pattern of the landscape and would maintain existing landscape quality.	No or negligible discernible deterioration or improvement in the existing view.
<b>MINOR BENEFICIAL</b>	The proposed scheme has the potential to improve the landscape character. It would fit in with the scale, landform and pattern of the landscape and enable the incorporation of the valued characteristic features.	The proposed development would cause a barely perceptible improvement in the existing view.
<b>MODERATE BENEFICIAL</b>	The proposed scheme would have the potential to accord with the landscape character and improve the quality of the landscape through removal of damage caused by existing land uses.	The proposed development would cause a noticeable improvement in the existing view.
<b>MAJOR BENEFICIAL</b>	The proposed scheme would have the potential to accord seamlessly with the landscape character and significantly improve the quality of the landscape through restoration and the removal of damage caused by existing land uses.	The proposed development would cause a significant improvement in the existing view.

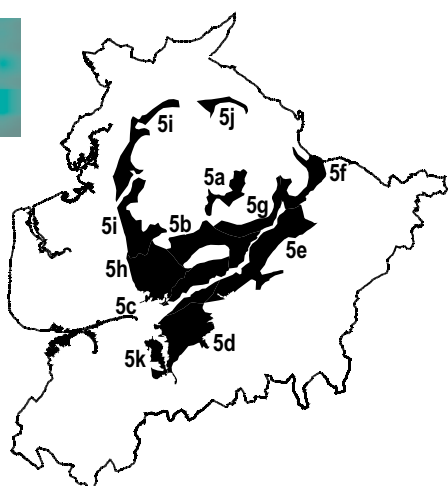
Table A.7: The Effects Significance Table

**B.0 A Landscape Strategy for Lancashire - Landscape Character Assessment Extracts.**

*5 - Undulating Lowland Farmland*

*6 - Industrial Foothills and Valleys*

5



UNDULATING LOWLAND FARMLAND

Character Areas

- 5a Upper Hodder Valley
- 5b Lower Hodder and Loud Valley
- 5c Lower Ribble
- 5d Samlesbury-Withnell Fold
- 5e Lower Ribblesdale (Clitheroe to Gisburn)
- 5f Lower Ribblesdale (Gisburn to Hellifield)
- 5g South Bowland Fringes
- 5h Goosnargh-Whittingham
- 5i West Bowland Fringes
- 5j North Bowland Fringes
- 5k Cuerden-Euxton

Landscape Character

Generally below 150m, the Undulating Lowland Farmland lies between the major valleys and the moorland fringes. The underlying geology is largely masked by heavy boulder clays and hedgerows predominate over stone walls. This lowland landscape is traversed by deeply incised, wooded cloughs and gorges. There are also many mixed farm woodlands, copses and hedgerow trees, creating an impression of a well wooded landscape from ground level and a patchwork of wood and pasture from raised viewpoints on the fells. Some of the most picturesque stone villages of the county occur within this well settled landscape type. The towns of Longridge and Clitheroe also occur within this type, but are not typical of the settlement pattern. The area also has many country houses whose boundary walls and designed landscapes add to the species diversity and visual appeal. There is a high density of farms and scattered cottages outside the clustered settlements, linked by a network of minor roads. Typical view - photo 19 below.



### Physical Influences

The Undulating Lowland Farmland forms a transitional zone between the low lying plains of soft glacial deposits and the high fells of Bowland, formed from Millstone Grit. To the west of the Forest of Bowland, running along the line of the M6, a substantial fault separates the soft Triassic rock of the lowlands from the harder Carboniferous rocks of the fells. The Clitheroe Reef Knolls SSSI, located between Worston and Downham, comprise an important geological feature. This is one of several Reef Knolls which support species-rich calcareous grassland.

This landscape type, whether composed of limestone, grit, shale or sandstone, is of gentle topography when compared to the fells and hills. Glacial action has accentuated the differences by further tempering the relief of the low-lying areas by the deposition of glacial drift. Deep drift is conspicuous where hedges predominate over stone walls, as quarrying is only possible where the drift is sufficiently thin.

Many of the woodlands which survive on the steep slopes of the deep cloughs and valley sides are of ancient origin and represent a rich natural resource. They include alder and ash woods on the base-rich soils of the valley floors grading through to lowland oakwoods and upland oak woods on the upper valley sides. Red Scar and Tun Brook Woods, situated east of Preston between Ribbleson and Grimsargh are classified as SSSI's and are important for their extensive examples of ash-wych elm woodland and alder woods. Hedges and hedgerow trees are also important as habitats in an otherwise intensively managed landscape.

Standing bodies of water are important habitats within the area; especially for birds. Rough Hey Wood, located south east of Garstang is designated as a SSSI and contains one of Britain's largest heronries.

### Human Influences

The landscape proved more favourable to early settlers than the nearby uplands. At Portfield above Whalley, large earthworks of Iron Age date defend the neck of a steep-sided promontory whose flat top had been utilized since the Neolithic period. The presence of a large aisled barn of probably

18th century date points to an earlier, perhaps medieval, successful farmstead, attesting to the favourable nature of the site.

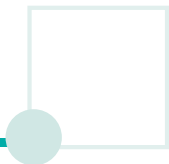
By the Roman period it is probable that much of this landscape type was already settled fairly densely and the fort established at Ribchester is known to have had some civilian government functions. Whilst Roman remains (besides roads) outside the immediate area of the forts are poorly represented in the record, the presence of Roman Kilns at Quernmore show that they exploited the natural resources of the area.

Medieval population pressures, which saw the utilisation of small areas of the mosslands elsewhere in Lancashire also led to the continuation of small woodland clearances along the Ribble and the Lune. This created a small scale intimate landscape of scattered farms linked by winding roads with irregular fields and patches of surviving woodland on stream and field edges, a landscape which has remained intact to this day.

The majority of enclosure dates from the medieval period and has created a landscape of small fields which are mostly hedged although stone walls are evident where geology lies close to the surface.

Country houses are a feature of the area and are often surrounded by parklands and well managed estates. They are evidence of the developing industrial enterprise and increasing wealth between the 16th and 19th centuries. Architecturally distinctive yeoman and gentry houses are also characteristic of this type and date from the 17th century onwards.

During the 17th century lime was used for land improvement in these lowland fringe areas and many small farm kilns remain in the landscape, along with the larger industrial kilns and quarries of the 19th and 20th century. The mining of Millstone Grit also proved to be important in this landscape type. Where suitable stone was available, querns and millstones could be quarried and manufactured to meet the needs of the population. Remains of 19th century millstone production near Quernmore can still be seen on the flanks of Clougha Pike. Lead and Silver were extracted in Rimington from the 17th century and mined and manufactured in places such as at Quernmore to meet the demands of the rapidly industrialising county.



## CHARACTER AREAS - UNDULATING LOWLAND FARMLAND

Undulating Lowland Farmland occurs on the lower fringes of the uplands, below about 150m AOD, across the whole study area.

Local	Character Areas	Description
5a	Upper Hodder Valley	<i>This is a unique hidden area of settled farmland enclosed by shale and limestone uplands and the grit moorland of the Bowland Fells. It is a lush oasis in the middle of a bleak landscape. The landscape is centred around the upper River Hodder and its tributaries and is well wooded. The underlying geology is largely overlain by boulder clays although the underlying limestone is evident as outcrops known as 'Reef Knolls' as well as in the white stone walls, bridges and limestone built villages, such as Slaidburn. The Reef Knolls are particularly characteristic of this area as are stands of beech which are often visible on hill tops.</i>
5b	Lower Hodder and Loud Valley	<i>This area forms part of the Undulating Lowland Farmland to the south of the Forest of Bowland and includes the deeply incised wooded course of the Hodder below Whitewell and its tributary, the River Loud, as far as its confluence with the Ribble. The underlying bedrock is limestone which is overlain by good soils, providing lush green pastures and good tree growth. The course of the Hodder is particularly well wooded and the pattern of incised minor wooded tributaries is distinctive to this character area. The area is little affected by modern development and the picturesque limestone villages of Chipping and Waddington have retained their vernacular character.</i>
5c	Lower Ribble	<i>The Lower Ribble is an area of lowland gritstone farmland between Longridge Fell to the north and Mellor Ridge to the south. It has a distinctive broad valley landform; the north and south valley sides are separated by a flood plain which contains the meandering course of the River Ribble. There is a particularly distinctive pattern of wooded cloughs which descend the valley sides, their streams emptying into the Ribble. A complex pattern of hedges and woodland form links to these wooded cloughs, giving an overall impression of a well wooded landscape. Although a rural valley, the area is well settled; a dense network of winding country lanes and tracks link the large number of stone farm buildings. Other features of this area are the country houses and designed landscapes, for example Stonyhurst College, Huntingdon Hall and Showley Hall. The Roman settlement of Ribchester is sited at an historic crossing point of the Ribble, a tranquil village in the centre of the valley.</i>
5d	Samlesbury-Withnell Fold	<i>An area between the Ribble Valley to the north and the Industrial Foothills to the south. It is underlain by millstone grit and sandstone, but the landscape is influenced by the mantle of glacial till which covers the surface, producing a gently undulating landscape of large lush green pastures divided by low cut hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Dramatic steep sided wooded valleys wind their way through the landscape carrying the River Darwen and its tributaries. Designed landscapes and parkland associated with Samlesbury Hall, Woodfold Hall, Pleasington Old Hall and Hoghton Tower add to the overall woodland cover in this lowland landscape and Witton Country Park provides a countryside resource on the edge of Blackburn. It is also influenced by infrastructure (major road</i>

Local	Character Areas	Description
		<i>and rail routes), industrial works, the airfield at Samesbury and built development on the edges of Preston.</i>
5e	Lower Ribblesdale (Clitheroe to Gisburn)	<i>This area forms the southern valley side of the Ribble, between Copster Green and Gisburn, on the lowland fringes of Pendle Hill. It is a particularly well settled area and provides a corridor for communication routes along the Ribble Valley. The A59(T) runs the length of the area, linking the settlements of Copster Green, Whalley, Clitheroe, Chatburn and Gisburn. The railway links the valley to Blackburn and Yorkshire. This communication structure has encouraged built development and industry; the large cement works at Clitheroe is a prominent visual landmark for miles around. This character area is underlain by limestone and has some good examples of limestone reef knolls, particularly around Clitheroe; Clitheroe Castle is located on top of one of these knolls.</i>
5f	Lower Ribblesdale (Clitheroe to Gisburn)	<i>This character area follows the upper reaches of the River Ribble between Bolton-by-Bowland and Long Preston on limestone geology. It occurs on the fringes of the Slaidburn Rolling Upland Farmland between 100 and 150m AOD. It is a highly rural area which is dominated by lush green pastures divided by hedgerows with many hedgerow trees. The mixed plantation woodlands associated with estates of Bolton Hall and Halton Place and the ancient woodlands along the Ribble itself contribute to the wooded character of this landscape character area.</i>
5g	South Bowland Fringes	<i>This character area forms the lowland fringes of Waddington Fell, to the south of the Forest of Bowland. It is a well wooded area whose limestone slopes are particularly notable for their pattern of wooded cloughs - the tributaries which descend the valley side before feeding into the Ribble. The villages of Waddington, West Bradford, Grindleton and Holdon are located at the foot of wooded cloughs. Browsholme Hall has an influence over landscape character; shelter belts and beech hedges are features of the area around Cow Ark.</i>
5h	Goosnargh-Whittingham	<i>The undulating lowland farmland on the north-east fringes of Preston forms a transitional landscape between the upland landscape of the Bowland Fells to the north-east and the agricultural Amounderness Plain to the west. It is an historically interesting area on the fringe of the Forest of Bowland AONB. The landform gently descends from 150m at the moorland fringe of Beacon Fell to the 30m contour (approximately) which defines the edge of the sandstone agricultural plain of the Fylde. However, this is not a clear boundary and the visual transition from one to the other occurs across a broad area between the M6 and main Preston to Lancaster railway line. As a result of this gradual transition it demonstrates characteristics of both the Fylde and the Bowland fringes. It is a pastoral landscape which is relatively open and intensively farmed with much hedgerow loss and few trees or woodlands although hedgerows along the network of lanes are important landscape features. There are often clear views over the plain below. The area is under pressure from built development as a result of its proximity to Preston. Vernacular buildings are of local stone, although a number of incongruous materials are seen throughout the area. The area is rich in evidence for Roman occupation.</i>

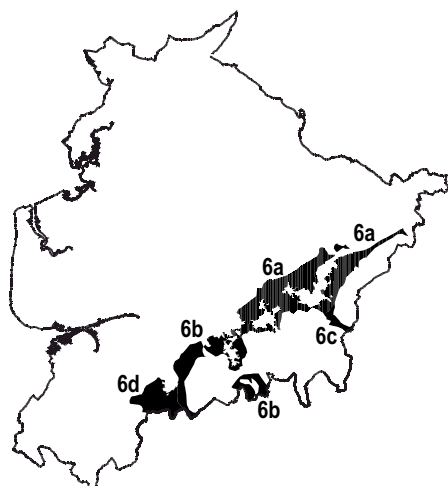


Local	Character Areas	Description
5i	West Bowland Fringes	<i>A transitional landscape between the gritstone scarps of the Bowland Fells and the coastal plain of Amounderness. A fault line provides a corridor along which the motorway, road and railway run and provides a transition to the agricultural plain. However, this transition is softened by glacial deposits, for example at Galgate where the lowland farmland merges imperceptibly with the low drumlin fields. However, at Quernmore, there is a dramatic wooded ridge (7c) which forms a definite boundary between the grit lowland fell edges and the adjacent glacial landscape to the west. The transition from fringe to fell is quite striking, particularly to the north-west below Claughton Moor where it occurs over a short distance. The valleys of the Brock, Calder and Wyre are also relatively dramatic, descending from the fells in deeply incised wooded valleys. There are exceptional views of the Amounderness Plain from the hillsides and the scarps of the Bowland fells are never far away.</i>
5j	North Bowland Fringes	<i>The north-facing gritstone slopes, known as the Forest of Mewith, is an area of undulating marginal farmland on the northern edges of the Bowland Fells It is bordered by a drumlin field to the north which influences the landform of the lowland fringe; the broadly undulating landform contrasts with the steep scarps of west Bowland. This is a rural area which is crossed by a dense network of footpaths and farm tracks; a number of small stone farm holdings are found at the end of these dead-end farm tracks.</i>
5k	Cuerden-Euxton	<i>The rural character of this landscape is largely obscured by built development which has taken place since the late 1970s. Motorways and motorway junctions dominate the northern sector. The principal landscape feature is Cuerden Valley Park, based upon the woodland and valley of the river Lostock. The park is managed for nature conservation and recreational use and is an important local resource. Pockets of farmland and vernacular buildings survive as a reminder of earlier land use and settlement pattern.</i>





6



## INDUSTRIAL FOOTHILLS AND VALLEYS

### Character Areas

- 6a Calder Valley
- 6b West Pennine Foothills
- 6c Cliviger Gorge
- 6d Adlington-Coppull

### Landscape Character

The Industrial Foothills and Valleys are a complex transitional landscape of relatively small scale with intensive settlement. The area has a more gentle landform and varied vegetation cover than that of the nearby higher ground. Trees thrive around farmsteads, along stone wall boundaries and in small-medium sized woodlands. Fields are enclosed by gritstone walls or hedgerows. There is a dense network of narrow winding lanes in the rural areas and major roads link settlements along the valley floor. Settlement is heavily influenced by a history of industrial development in the villages themselves and the neighbouring urban areas. Thus the landscape character shows a mixture of rural agricultural and industrial land uses. Gritstone is the characteristic material of farm houses, laithe houses, mills, and cottages. The frequent mill terraces, industrial buildings and more modern housing developments (often built of brick), reflect the proximity to large industrial and commercial centres and lowland clay lands. Typical view - photo 20 below.



## Physical Influences

South east Lancashire is predominantly underlain by Millstone Grits and sandstones with coal measures. These measures survived because they were downfaulted or deformed into basin structures during Carboniferous/Permian times. Where increasingly thick layers of drift deposits overlie the coal, along the eastern fringes of this landscape type, extraction is limited and the landscape character is more agricultural. Where coal deposits lie closer to the surface, more extensive coal extraction has been possible and large scale exploitation, dating from the first phases of the Industrial Revolution has substantially altered the pre-industrial landscape in places.

The Industrial Foothills and Valleys are typically found between 100 and 250 m above sea level; the higher limits form the transition to the moorland fringe. The lower slopes are generally less steep with even gradients. On the whole the Industrial Foothills are gentler and more sheltered compared to the more exposed Moorland Fringes.

Nature conservation value is limited although important habitats are found in the stream valleys. The main concentrations of semi natural woodland are found within the valleys of the Calder, Sabden, Hyndburn and Pendle Water between Nelson and Accrington. Occasional private estates and designed parklands are significant locally.

## Human Influences

Within the Industrial Foothills and Valleys, extraction and industry has to some extent masked the evidence of early development of the area, although in places the origins of field patterns and boundaries can be discerned. Some early sites survive, such as the Iron Age hillfort at Castercliffe, along with the intricate network of fields, tracks, lanes, scattered hamlets and villages which combine to give evidence of the historic landscape.

The origins of industrialisation of the area date to before the 16th century as a cottage industry based on a dual economy of agriculture and industry. It was dominated by weaving, with some small scale mining and manufacturing activity. Wool came from the

South Pennine hillsides and flax from the Lancashire and Amounderness Plain. The textile industry grew rapidly and factories appeared, which gradually replaced the domestic system. The weaving communities continued to grow and the proliferation of mills and residential development created a fragmented landscape.

Since the 1920s the textile industry has been in decline but the remains of mills and workers' houses are distinctive landscape features.

Coal mining activity increased in the mid 16th century and a number of small mines were sunk around Burnley. During the 18th and 19th centuries the shallower, more easily worked seams were being mined on an industrial scale and were employing large numbers of men. Industry required good transport links. Roads, railways and canals are conspicuous elements of the landscape and reflect the industrial age. Whilst some routes have become disused, many are still important transport routes today for commuting, commerce, industry and recreation. Evidence of coal extraction is frequently minimal due to subsequent reclamation and natural regeneration.



Photo 21. Brierfield fringe.

## CHARACTER AREAS - INDUSTRIAL FOOTHILLS AND VALLEYS

The Industrial Foothills and Valleys landscape type occurs in two distinct character areas, both located on the Lancashire Coalfield in the south of the study area.

Local	Character Areas	Description
6a	Calder Valley	<i>This landscape character area encompasses the landscape of the broad valley of the River Calder outside the urban settlements. It extends from the moorland fringes of the South and West Pennines (to the south) and Pendle Hill and Mellor Ridge (to the north) to the urban fringes of Blackburn, Darwen, Accrington, Burnley, Nelson and Colne. Agricultural activity is productive with lush, improved pastures utilised for dairy farming as well as sheep grazing. Stone walls remain the predominant boundary type on higher ground, although there are frequently hedgerows and post and wire fencing on the lower slopes and valley bottom. The landscape is well populated; there are many houses, footpaths and large farms. Stone walls and farm buildings are important remnants of earlier landuses, particularly where modern developments threaten to obscure the visual and cultural appeal of the area. Modern houses are conspicuous for their rendering or use of alien materials and their gardens and ornamental plants. Designed landscapes, such as Huntroyde and Read Park, are important locally to the visual and cultural qualities of this character area; they also contribute an important wooded element to the landscape. Mills, mill terraces and handloom weavers houses are reminders of a very different lifestyle and are usually located closer to the centres of urban areas. The urban fringes of Colne, Nelson and Burnley exert an influence over the landscape; close to the urban edge there are pockets of neglected land and urban fringe land uses such as horse paddocks, garden centres and retail or industrial buildings.</i>
6b	West Pennine Foothills	<i>This rural area forms the rolling foothills to the West Pennine Moors. Although it has the same undulating landform, underlying geology and industrial influences as the Calder Valley, it is more rural in character. It is dominated by sheep grazed pastures and includes a number of designed landscapes, with associated country houses. The villages reflect their industrial basis with rows of terraces, and sandstone quarries are present. Urban influences include allotments, horse paddocks, street lighting and kerbs, electricity pylons, communication masts, golf courses, suburban housing and road signs. Evidence of past quarrying can be seen in the numerous remnant spoil heaps which are common landscape features, for example near Withnell. The many public footpaths are an important recreational resource from which walkers may experience distant views of the urban conurbations stretching out below them.</i>
6c	Cliviger Gorge	<i>The Cliviger Gorge is a dramatic feature which was carved out by glacial meltwaters and is significantly different to the other character areas included within this type, and indeed to any other landscape in Lancashire. It is one of the most spectacular examples of a glacially over-deepened valley in the Central Pennines and a well-loved local landscape which has affinities with other similar valleys in the Hebden Bridge area of West Yorkshire. The incision of a glacial meltwater channel along the valley has caused the tributary streams to be left 'hanging' and these are now actively cutting down into the bedrock, producing natural exposures of Carboniferous rocks which are of great geological interest and which have in the past been exploited for coal. The steep slopes also have extensive landslips with a very distinctive landform. Rocky outcrops may be seen</i>

Local	Character Areas	Description
6d	Adlington-Coppull	<p><i>high on the valley sides, most obviously at Thieveley Scout. There is scattered settlement along the A646(T) on the valley floor. There are important small blocks of woodland around the settlement of Holme Chapel. These are mostly stands of late 18th century tree planting, dominated by beech and sycamore, which is part of a wider designed landscape. Industrial remains such as the silver and lead mine at Thieveley are important as a reminder of the area's past.</i></p> <p><i>This area is bordered by the Coastal Plain to the west and the town of Chorley to the north. Much of the area lies on the Coal Measures and has been extensively mined in the past, notably at Chisnall, Birkacre and Duxbury. This industrial past is reflected in the expanded industrial settlements of Coppull and Adlington. Whilst there is some evidence of early mine shafts and adits, much of the land has been reclaimed or has re-vegetated naturally. There is also evidence of sand quarrying, some disused, some ongoing, as at Rigby House. Whilst the area is not generally well wooded, it contains important semi-natural woodland within the Yarrow Valley and plantations associated with large reclamation schemes. The area is traversed by major transport routes, including the main west coast railway and M6 motorway. A major leisure facility is located at Park Hall and a large golf course at Duxbury Park. The area is under considerable pressure for further built development.</i></p>

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