

Land at Berry Hill Road, Adderbury, Oxfordshire

Appeal Statement: Landscape and Visual
Nigel Evers
Viridian Landscape Planning

February 2021

LPA reference 19/00963/OUT

On behalf of Hollins Strategic Land





Appeal Statement: Landscape and Visual

Project no. 2713

Revised Final

February 2021

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROFESSIONAL STATEMENT

- 1.1.1 My name is Nigel Evers. From October 2013 until April 2017 I was Director of Landscape at Peter Brett Associates LLP (PBA) and before that a Director at Cooper Partnership Limited. I have been a Director of Viridian Landscape Planning Ltd (VLP), an independent landscape consultancy, since its formation in October 2017.
- 1.1.2 I hold a Diploma in Landscape Architecture; I am a Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute (CMLI) and have been practising as a Landscape Architect since 1978. My professional experience has included a broad range of landscape planning and design projects, including major design schemes, new highways, and environmental impact assessments, preparing evidence for Public Inquiries, and acting as expert witness.
- 1.1.3 I have wide experience of landscape design and landscape planning throughout England, Scotland, and Wales. I have been responsible for projects with public clients, such as Bedford Borough Council, City and County of Swansea, South Gloucestershire Council and Mid Devon District Council; private clients include Taylor Wimpey, Kier, Edenstone, MF Freeman, Redrow Homes, Wainhomes, CALA Homes and Gryphonn Quarries; and community groups in Cardiff, Lincolnshire and Gloucestershire.
- 1.1.4 My evidence is set out below and is given in accordance with the guidance of the Landscape Institute, which is my professional institution. I confirm that the opinions expressed are my true and professional opinions.

1.2 COMMISSION AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 1.2.1 This Landscape and Visual Statement has been prepared on behalf of Hollins Strategic Land (HSL) in support of its appeal against the decision of Cherwell District Council to refuse outline planning permission for resubmission of application 19/00963/OUT—Outline application for permission for up to 40 dwellings with associated landscaping, open space and vehicular access off Berry Hill Road. All matters are reserved other than access.
- 1.2.2 I have been involved with the project since June 2017 when PBA was commissioned to undertake the Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) of the site and its suitability for development. After discussions with the landscape officer, VLP was subsequently commissioned by HSL to produce an Addendum, largely consisting of Landscape and Visual Effects tables based on the predicted effects from the original PBA viewpoints and additional viewpoints. It was accompanied by a methodology which expanded the original in the LVA to cover the addition of the tables. All photographs used in the Addendum were taken in winter conditions in January 2018. The tables considered



- the effects on landscape (including landscape character) and people's views and visual amenity, as separate assessment components.
- 1.2.3 The tables did not form part of an LVIA, which is often part of a wider Environmental Impact Assessment, but instead were a supplement to the LVA, providing more detail on the likely effects of the proposal.
- 1.2.4 The Addendum was produced in February 2018.
- 1.2.5 During the first application process, the 60-unit scheme was replaced by a layout comprising up to 55 units. The District Council subsequently refused planning permission for the scheme.
- 1.2.6 VLP was involved in the subsequent design of a scheme for up to 40 dwellings which formed part of a resubmission. VLP also produced a Revised Addendum (September 2019), which considered the revised scheme in comparison with both the refused scheme for up to 55 dwellings and the original scheme of up to 60 dwellings. The most significant changes were that in the refused and revised schemes:
 - the northern edge of the development had been drawn back to the south, by between 15m and 30m when compared with the original scheme, increasing the area of open space;
 - dwellings which were along the eastern boundary in the original scheme were removed, increasing the separation from that boundary, and replacing housing with an additional 0.3 ha of open space in that area; and
 - The vehicular access was moved from close to Last House to the location of the existing access with a pedestrian link close to Last House, in response to comments relating to views of the church.
- 1.2.7 The Methodology remained unchanged from that of the Addendum.
- 1.2.8 VLP has been retained by HSL for its appeal against the Council's most recent refusal of planning permission.

1.3 REASONS FOR REFUSAL

- 1.3.1 Of the three Reasons for Refusal, Reasons 1 and 2 contain points which are relevant to landscape and visual issues and which read as follows:
 - 1. The development proposed, by reason of its scale and siting beyond the built up limits of the village, in open countryside and taking into account the number of dwellings already permitted in Adderbury, with no further development identified through the Adderbury Neighbourhood Plan 2014-2031, is considered to be unnecessary, undesirable and unsustainable development. The site itself is in an unsustainable location on the edge of the village, distant from local services and facilities and would result in a development where future occupiers would be highly reliant on the private car for day to day needs. The proposal is therefore unacceptable in principle and contrary to Policies ESD1, BSC1, SLE4



and Villages 2 of the Cherwell Local Plan (2011-2031) Part 1, Saved Policy H18 of the Cherwell Local Plan 1996 and Government guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.

2. The development proposed, by virtue of its poorly integrated relationship with existing built development, its extension beyond the built limits of the village (beyond the Adderbury Settlement Boundary as defined in the Adderbury Neighbourhood Plan 2014 - 2031) causing significant urbanisation and its visual impact on the rural character, appearance of the locality and local settlement pattern, would cause unacceptable harm to the character and appearance of the area and the rural setting of the village and would fail to reinforce local distinctiveness. The proposal is therefore contrary to Policies ESD13, ESD15 and Villages 2 of the Cherwell Local Plan (2011- 2031) Part 1, Saved Policies C8, C27, C28 and C33 of the Cherwell Local Plan 1996, Policy AD1 of the Adderbury Neighbourhood Plan - 2014 - 2031 and Government guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.

1.4 SCOPE OF EVIDENCE

1.4.1 This Statement uses as its basis the LVA (October 2017), its Addendum (February 2018) and the Revised Addendum (September 2019) prepared for the planning application, which are summarised and, where appropriate, expanded in section 3 below. The Statement considers the proposals in the light of the Reasons for Refusal.

2 POLICY CONTEXT

2.1 PLANNING POLICY

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 2.1.1 A revised version of the NPPF was published in June 2019 and so I have taken the opportunity to update the relevant LVA text, as set out below.
- 2.1.2 Set out at paragraph 8 are three overarching objectives to achieve sustainable development, two of are relevant to this case. They are:
 - b) a social objective ... by fostering a well-designed...built environment, with accessible...open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and
 - c) an **environmental objective** ...to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently...
- 2.1.3 Under 'Open space and recreation', paragraph 96 explains that:
 - Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities.
- 2.1.4 Paragraph 98 sets out that:
 - Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails.
- 2.1.5 Under: 'Achieving well-designed places', paragraph 127 states that planning decisions should ensure that developments:
 - a) will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development;
 - b) are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping;
 - c) are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting...;
 - d) establish or maintain a strong sense of place, using the arrangement of streets, spaces, building types and materials to create attractive, welcoming and distinctive places to live, work and visit;



- e) optimise the potential of the site to accommodate and sustain an appropriate amount and mix of development (including green and other public space)...; and
- f) create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible...
- 2.1.6 From 'Conserving and enhancing the natural environment', paragraph 170 states that planning decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by, inter alia:
 - a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);
 - b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services....
 - d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures...
- 2.1.7 Note that the requirement of criterion b) is to recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. The requirement to protect and enhance is only relevant to criterion (a). However, there has been no suggestion that the site is a valued landscape; neither does it have any statutory status or identified quality in the development plan.
- 2.1.8 It is notable that areas of importance to the village and its setting have been identified in the Neighbourhood Plan, including:
 - Policies Map inset A showing existing, and opportunities for, green infrastructure (Appendix M); and
 - Inset Map B showing Local Green Spaces, Local Open Spaces and Local Gaps.
- 2.1.9 The site is not included in any of those, although the footpath across the northern edge of the site is identified as existing Green Infrastructure.

THE CHERWELL LOCAL PLAN: RELEVANT POLICIES FROM REASON FOR REFUSAL

- 2.1.10 Reason for Refusal 1 cites Policies ESD1, BSC1, SLE4 and Villages 2 of the Cherwell Local Plan (2011-2031) Part 1, and Saved Policy H18 of the Cherwell Local Plan 1996. None of those policies are relevant to Landscape and Visual issues except Villages 2.
- 2.1.11 Reason for Refusal 2 cites Policies ESD13, ESD15 and Villages 2 of the Cherwell Local Plan (2011- 2031) Part 1, Saved Policies C8, C27, C28 and C33 of the Cherwell Local Plan 1996, and Policy AD1 of the Adderbury Neighbourhood Plan 2014 2031. These are addressed below.



2.1.12 Policy Villages 2 from the 2011 – 2031 plan sets out the following at page 250, inter alia:

In identifying and considering sites, particular regard will be given to the following criteria:

- Whether the land has been previously developed land or is of lesser environmental value;
- Whether significant adverse impact on heritage or wildlife assets could be avoided;
- Whether development would contribute in enhancing the built environment;
- Whether significant adverse landscape and impacts [sic] could be avoided.
- 2.1.13 Note that the policy does not refer to all impacts, but only to significant landscape (and presumably visual) impacts. My assessment of the significance of such impacts (or effects) is set out in both Addenda to the LVA and in this Statement. Some adverse effects are inevitable with any development on greenfield land, but it is the significance of those effects that is important both in terms of assessment practice and the policy.
- 2.1.14 Policy ESD 13: Local Landscape Protection and Enhancement, states:

Opportunities will be sought to secure the enhancement of the character and appearance of the landscape, particularly in urban fringe locations, through the restoration, management or enhancement of existing landscapes, features or habitats and where appropriate the creation of new ones, including the planting of woodlands, trees and hedgerows.

Development will be expected to respect and enhance local landscape character, securing appropriate mitigation where damage to local landscape character cannot be avoided. Proposals will not be permitted if they would:

- Cause undue visual intrusion into the open countryside;
- Cause undue harm to important natural landscape features and topography;
- Be inconsistent with local character;
- Impact on areas judged to have a high level of tranquillity;
- Harm the setting of settlements, buildings, structures or other landmark features; or
- Harm the historic value of the landscape.

Development proposals should have regard to the information and advice contained in the Council's Countryside Design Summary Supplementary Planning Guidance, and the Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study (OWLS), and be accompanied by a landscape assessment where appropriate.

- 2.1.15 The policy accepts that harm may occur, which is not 'undue' harm, and it can be mitigated.
- 2.1.16 Policy ESD 15: The Character of the Built and Historic Environment states that:



New development will be expected to complement and enhance the character of its context through sensitive siting, layout and high quality design. All new development will be required to meet high design standards. Where development is in the vicinity of any of the District's distinctive natural or historic assets, delivering high quality design that complements the asset will be essential.

New development proposals should (inter alia):

- Be designed to deliver high quality safe, attractive, durable and healthy places to live and work in. Development of all scales should be designed to improve the quality and appearance of an area and the way it functions.
- Contribute positively to an area's character and identity by creating or reinforcing local distinctiveness and respecting local topography and landscape features, including skylines, valley floors, significant trees, historic boundaries, landmarks, features or views, in particular within designated landscapes, within the Cherwell Valley and within conservation areas and their setting.
- Respect the traditional pattern of routes, spaces, blocks, plots, enclosures and the form, scale and massing of buildings. Development should be designed to integrate with existing streets and public spaces, and buildings configured to create clearly defined active public frontages.

2.1.17 Saved Policy C8 from the 1996 Local Plan states:

Sporadic development in the open countryside including developments in the vicinity of motorway or major road junctions will generally be resisted.

2.1.18 The commentary sets out at 9.12 that:

Sporadic development in the countryside must be resisted if its attractive, open, rural character is to be maintained.

2.1.19 At 9.13:

Policy C8 will apply to all new development proposals beyond the built-up limits of settlements including areas in the vicinity of motorway or major road developments but will be reasonably applied to accommodate the needs of agriculture. There is increasing pressure for development in the open countryside particularly in the vicinity of motorway junctions. The Council will resist such pressures and will where practicable direct development to suitable sites at Banbury or Bicester.

2.1.20 Saved Policy C27 requires that development proposals in villages will be expected to respect their historic settlement pattern. The commentary explains at 9.64 that:

The settlement pattern of a village can be as important to its character as the buildings. Proposals which would result in the obliteration of part of an historic plan form or fail to respect the traditional settlement pattern will be considered contrary to policy and will be resisted.

2.1.21 At 9.65 it is stated that:

Particular attention will be paid to policy C27 within the existing and proposed conservation areas where the character of the settlement is particularly sensitive to change.

2.1.22 Saved Policy C28 explains that:

...control will be exercised over all new development, including conversions and extensions, to ensure that the standards of layout, design and external appearance, including the choice of external-finish materials, are sympathetic to the character of the urban or rural context of that development. in sensitive areas such as conservation areas, the area of outstanding natural beauty and areas of high landscape value, development will be required to be of a high standard and the use of traditional local building materials will normally be required.

2.1.23 However, this would appear to be a reserved matters policy, and does not seem relevant for this stage of the proposals.

2.1.24 Saved Policy C33 sets out that:

..the council will seek to retain any undeveloped gap of land which is important in preserving the character of a loose-knit settlement structure or in maintaining the proper setting for a listed building or in preserving a view or feature of recognised amenity or historical value.

- 2.1.25 It is not clear how this policy relates to the site or the village, as the settlement is not loose knit, no important gaps have been identified in the Local Plan or the Neighbourhood Plan which include the site, and there is no issue in the reason for refusal relating to listed buildings or views of recognised amenity.
- 2.1.26 The supporting text at 9.76 explains that not all undeveloped land:

...within the structure of settlements can be built on without damage to their appearance and rural character. Where the existing pattern of development is loose-knit there will often be a compelling case for it to remain so for aesthetic, environmental or historical reasons.

2.1.27 At 9.77, proposals that would:

...close or interrupt an important view of a historic building eg a church or other structure of historical significance, will be resisted under this policy. The Council will also have regard to the importance of maintaining the setting of a listed building and will resist infill development that would diminish its relative importance or reduce its immediate open environs to the extent that an appreciation of its architectural or historical importance is impaired.

2.1.28 Closing or interrupting an important view of an historic building or the setting of a listed building are not issues that have been identified in the Officer's Report for the \Planning Committee of 16 January 2020 or in the reasons for refusal. In contrast, Historic England, in their comments quoted in the Officer's Report at 7.26 remark that



the indicative layout shows adjustments which could result in improved views of the church from Berry Hill Road and that views from within the site could be enhanced.

2.1.29 9.78 sets out that proposals:

...that would close or interrupt an important vista across open countryside will also be discouraged, as will the loss of trees of amenity value or the loss of features such as boundary walls where they constitute an important element of an attractive or enclosed streetscape.

2.1.30 The Adderbury Neighbourhood Plan 2014 – 2031 was adopted in July 2018. Policy AD 1: Adderbury Settlement Boundary reads as follows:

Proposals for infill development within the boundary will be supported...

Development proposals will not be supported outside the Adderbury Settlement Boundary unless it is demonstrated they will enhance, or at least not harm, local landscape character. New isolated homes in the countryside will not be supported except in special circumstances described in paragraph 55 of the Framework. Proposals for the provision of affordable housing on rural exception sites immediately adjacent to the Adderbury Settlement Boundary will be supported where they meet an identified local need and relate well to the built form of the existing settlement.

2.1.31 On Policies Map Inset C, the Neighbourhood Plan identifies 12 character areas within the settlement boundary, some based on those in the Adderbury Conservation Area Appraisal. The nearest to the site is Berry Hill Road and St Mary's Road, which was not covered in the Appraisal as it is outside of the Conservation Area. At paragraph 5.53, the Neighbourhood Plan describes the area as including:

the main approaches to the village from the southeast and southwest. There are two particular areas within this larger area, which are worthy of consideration. The Berry Hill Road and St. Mary's Road/ Norris Close. Both areas comprise 20th century housing. Berry Hill Road is characterised by substantial properties set well back from the road with extensive grass verges in front and large front gardens. St. Mary's Road and Norris Close have mixed development of detached/semi-detached two storey houses and bungalows. They are characterised by large front gardens enclosed for the most part with low walls, and grass verges along the roadside.

2.1.32 The character area description does not refer to a linear form of development being an important characteristic for this part of Adderbury, as alleged by the LPA at 9.40 and 9.43 in the Officer's Report, amongst other locations.

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3 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL BASELINE: THE EXISTING SITUATION

3.1 APPROACH

- 3.1.1 I prepared the LVA after discussion with the client, when we considered whether a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) or an LVA would be appropriate. An LVIA is normally undertaken when there are likely to be significant landscape or visual effects anticipated, and most often as part of an EIA. Given the lack of sensitive landscape and visual receptors, that was, in my view, a proportionate response to the specific issues of the site and the proposals.
- 3.1.2 In post application discussions with the Landscape Officer from the Council, it was agreed that VLP would produce an Addendum to the LVA to include Landscape and Visual Effects Tables based on the predicted effects from the original PBA viewpoints, as well as any additional viewpoints, all photographed in winter conditions in January 2018. The landscape officer was concerned that there were no views in the LVA from all cardinal points, although that was a result of the original site working identifying that there was very limited visibility from the wider landscape. The tables provided additional detail on the effects of the proposals on landscape character and features and on public views and visual amenity, as separate assessment components.
- 3.1.3 The Addendum was produced in February 2018. The methodology is in **Appendix A** and the tables themselves are in **Appendices B** and **C**.
- 3.1.4 As I anticipated, the additional site work did not identify any views in the wider landscape from which the proposals were likely to be clearly visible and nor would the proposals cause undue harm in those views. It is clear that a key characteristic of this site is its limited visibility.
- 3.1.5 There were no requests for additional viewpoints nor were there any concerns communicated to me by the Council concerning the methodology used.

3.2 SCOPE OF THE LVA AND ADDENDUM

- 3.2.1 For convenience and ease of reference for the hearing, the LVA, Addendum and Revised Addendum are summarised, supplemented and consolidated below, but they can be read in full in the application documents.
- 3.2.2 The LVA and the Addendum present the methodology, context and results of the landscape and visual appraisal process and the Landscape and Visual Effects Tables, including aims and objectives of the proposed landscape strategy, which underpins the proposed landscape design for the scheme.



- 3.2.3 The figures from the LVA are included as **Appendix D** of this evidence, the accompanying photographs from the Addendum, taken in January 2018, form **Appendix E.** Note that foliage on trees provides the most favourable filtering and screening effects and therefore winter photographs have been used as the 'worst case' basis for the LVA and the Addendum.
- 3.2.4 To provide information for the landscape and visual appraisal process, the following figures were prepared (Appendix D):
 - L1: Topography;
 - L2: Landscape Planning Context;
 - L3: Landscape Character;
 - L4: Photograph Location Plan;
 - L5: Landscape and Visual Opportunities and Constraints; and
 - L6: Landscape Strategy Plan and Indicative Species List.

The LVA considered:

- Features of the site and its context:
- Landscape-related planning designations;
- Landscape character, the character of the site, and its relationship to its surroundings;
- Views towards the site;
- A landscape strategy designed to integrate the proposed development into its surroundings; and
- Changes to landscape features, landscape character and views arising as a result of the development proposals.

Both the Addendum and the Revised Addendum included:

- Appendix A: Viewpoint Photographs; and
- Figure L1: Viewpoint Location Plan.
- 3.2.5 The Addendum also included the Landscape Effects and Visual Effects Tables.

3.3 LANDSCAPE RELATED DESIGNATIONS

- 3.3.1 The landscape planning context for the site is shown on **Figure L2** in **Appendix D**. The site is not within any national designation, such as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, or more local designation such as a Special Landscape Area or Green Gap. Additionally, at no point in the consideration of the application has the Council suggested that the site is part of a Valued Landscape, nor has the Council undertaken an objective exercise at the Local Plan stage to establish if the site or the surrounding landscape should be considered valued.
- 3.3.2 The Neighbourhood Plan did not identify the site as of being of any particular importance for the village, such as green space or open space, apart from the footpath across the northern edge being part of the green infrastructure of the village.
- 3.3.3 There are no Registered Historic Parks and Gardens, Scheduled Monuments or Ancient Woodlands on the site, or within the 2km study area.
- 3.3.4 There are listed buildings within the village of Adderbury to the north and west of the site. The nearest is The Leys Cottage (Grade II), 200m to the north-west of the site.
- 3.3.5 Adderbury Conservation Area covers the village of Adderbury to the north and north-west of the site. The Conservation Area is located 120m to the north-west of the site, at the nearest point. Much of the Conservation Area is separated from the site by the former railway embankment, and intervening topography and vegetation prevents more than glimpsed intervisibility with the site.
- 3.3.6 The spire and upper parts of the tower of the Church of St Mary the Virgin, within the Conservation Area, are clearly visible from within the site.
- 3.3.7 There are several Public Rights of Way in the area. The nearest are:
 - footpath 101/13 outside of the eastern boundary;
 - footpath 101/6 within the northern edge of the site;
 - footpath 101/24 one field depth to the west of the site; and
 - bridleway 101/9 to the south-east, opposite the junction between Berry Hill Road and Oxford Road (A4260).
- 3.3.8 Those footpaths are all amenity footpaths for residents, which form part of the local network through and around the village. They include routes:
 - between houses, along back garden fences and even across the end of one garden in the case of footpath 101/24;



- between hedges, partly in a holloway and with infrequent and filtered views of the site and the countryside to the east, in the case of footpath 101/13; and
- emerging between houses from the residential street called The Leys, before crossing a couple of small fields, then entering the site with views uphill and across the paddocks, electric fences and stables of the site to the houses along Berry Hill Road on the skyline from footpath 101/6.
- 3.3.9 Bridleway 101/9 is largely enclosed by hedges as it heads south-eastwards from Oxford Road.
- 3.3.10 There are no meaningful links to long distant trails or routes, and the paths are not within designated landscapes. There are mostly circular walks, influenced by the adjacent urban edge and form, to and in the vicinity of the settlement. As a result, the expectations of the user are less than on a path within, say, a National Park or one that is part of a long-distance route. The footpaths also have limited visibility of the wider countryside beyond their enclosing hedges and landform.

3.4 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

- 3.4.1 The site is located to the south and south-east of the historic core of the village, and east of and adjacent to the 20th century development at Berry Hill Road, Milton Road and St Mary's Road.
- 3.4.2 Figure L3: Landscape Character illustrates the published landscape character areas applicable to the site and surrounding area, which are at National, County and District level. Although described in more detail at 3.6.4 of the LVA, given the large area of the NCA when compared with the site, any effect would be negligible and the NCA is not considered further here.
- 3.4.3 The Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study (Oxfordshire County Council, 2004) provides a county level assessment of landscape character. The site falls into an area of Landscape Character Type 16: Upstanding Village Farmlands. Key characteristics of this landscape character type are:

A steep-sided, undulating landform;

A well-defined geometric pattern of medium-sized fields enclosed by prominent hedgerows; and

A strong settlement pattern of compact, nucleated villages of varying sizes with little dispersal in wider countryside.



3.4.4 The site is further defined as Landscape Character Area C. Bodicote, which is described as:

The area is characterised by large-sized fields dominated by arable farming, with some smaller grass fields used for pony grazing. They are enclosed by low hawthorn hedges which are generally in good condition. Hedges bordering roadsides and old lanes are taller, well-maintained and more species-rich. There are a few young ash field maple and oak trees in the hedges, and some small tree clumps close to farms.

3.4.5 The landscape strategy for the Upstanding Village Farmlands Landscape Character Type is to:

Conserve and enhance the strong pattern of hedgerows and hedgerow trees, and the nucleated settlement pattern and strong vernacular character of the villages.

Specific guidelines include:

Strengthen and enhance the field pattern by planting up gappy hedges using locally characteristic species such as hawthorn, and hedgerow trees such as oak and ash;

Promote environmentally-sensitive maintenance of hedgerows, including coppicing and layering when necessary, to maintain a height and width appropriate to the landscape type, particularly along roadsides; and

Maintain the nucleated pattern of settlements and promote the use of building materials, characteristically the ironstones and slate tiles of the Northamptonshire Uplands, and a scale of development that is appropriate to this landscape type.

- 3.4.6 Neither the site nor its immediate setting demonstrates the full range of key characteristics of the type. The field is relatively large, but it is not arable, although is used for horse grazing, which in landscape character terms is essentially the same as pony grazing. The hedges are not low, although the hedge and trees bordering the road are tall. In the countryside further to the east and south are large-sized arable fields, from which the site is separated by substantial vegetation and its different land use. To the north is the more intense field pattern of the Sor Valley, within the River Meadowlands type, where the land falls relatively steeply to the valley floor, but that is not part of the character of the site.
- 3.4.7 The landscape strategy for the type does not set out that the landscape cannot accommodate change, but requires the use of sensitive materials, and a positive response to character as well as correct maintenance of hedgerows.
- 3.4.8 The site is approximately 4 hectares in area and is accessed off Berry Hill Road. It comprises a large field subdivided into paddocks by electric fencing, stables, an outdoor arena and access track. It is bounded to the:

- north by a footpath within the site and a hedgerow along the boundary containing mature trees;
- east by a hedgerow containing mature trees, beyond which is a lane with public footpath 101/13;
- south by a hedgerow with mature trees and a verge, but no footpath, fronting Berry Hill Road; and
- west by residential properties and their gardens along Berry Hill Road, and small grass fields.
- 3.4.9 A tree survey was undertaken by AWA Tree Consultants (October 2017) which was subsequently updated in July 2020. It identified 43 individual trees and 13 groups of trees or hedges. All are along or beyond the site boundary; none are within the paddocks.
- 3.4.10 The most significant trees are the four mature Oaks (T40 to T43), along the northern boundary, assessed as large historical trees of high arboricultural importance. Other significant individual trees include a large Sycamore (T46), beyond the western boundary and a mature Oak near the south-eastern boundary (T22). The trees and shrubs along the southern boundary are generally of lower value but, according to paragraph 3.2.6
 - when assessed collectively they have a higher landscape value and provide good screening of the site from the adjacent main road.
- 3.4.11 In terms of their function in the landscape, the hedgerows and trees along the northern, eastern and southern boundaries provide strong separation from the adjacent fields, as can be seen in Viewpoints 1A, 2A, and 3A. There are no substantive visual links from the interior of the site with the surrounding landscape, except for views from the most elevated, southern part of the site looking over the northern hedge and between its trees. From there, the wooded slopes and skyline conceal the village with the spire and upper part of the church tower visible (Viewpoint 10). That is in contrast to the claim made by the landscape officer in the Officer's Report that the site:
 - ...is out on a limb visually and intrudes into open countryside.
- 3.4.12 My Viewpoint 18LS, prepared for this Statement, in Appendix J, clearly shows the separation provided by the hedgerows either side of footpath 101/13 and the different character of the larger, more open arable landscape to the east. Indeed, with the adjacent development extending along the higher ground of Berry Hill Road and into West Adderbury, west of the site, and the weak western boundary of the site, as can be seen from my new Viewpoint 17LS, also in Appendix J, it is clear that the site is an ordinary field with no particular defining characteristics, with an edge of settlement character, and with no meaningful visual or landscape links with the wider landscape.
- 3.4.13 As can be seen from my Viewpoint 17LS in **Appendix J**, when on the site, the residential edge of West Adderbury is clearly visible both along Berry Hill Road, where rear and



side elevations as well as gardens are arranged along the skyline, with various boundary treatments, some of which are very open: Last House is an example. The visibility of properties continues from those on Berry Hill Road along to the edge of West Adderbury and as far as The Leys and Tanners Lane. Behind the viewer, in contrast, can be seen the hedge on the eastern boundary, as can be seen on Viewpoint 10 in **Appendix E** which separates the site from the countryside to the east.

- 3.4.14 The site is occupied by horse grazing, stables and yards. Although a land use that can be found in the wider landscape, when equestrian uses are combined with the residential features, in this case to the west and north-west, and separated from the larger-scale landscape to the east, land parcels can take on a settlement edge character. That has happened in the case of the site.
- 3.4.15 Topography is shown on Figure L1: Topography in Appendix E. The Sor Brook runs broadly north-west to south-east through Adderbury, joining the River Cherwell to the east. The site forms part of the southern side of the Sor Brook Valley, on land at an elevation varying between 95 and 110m AOD, sloping gently downwards to the north. The northern part of the site forms a distinctive valley feature, which descends towards the brook to the north, beyond the site. This further reinforces the separation from the wider, larger scale landscape to the east and the smaller scale landscape related to the valley floor and the edge of West Adderbury, influenced by residential development, for instance at The Leys.
- 3.4.16 The site consists of a large open field comprising paddocks defined by fencing, including timber post and rail and electric tape with wooden posts. There are associated stables, manège and yards on the eastern boundary, accessed by a track from Berry Hill Road. There is development along both sides of Berry Hill Road to the west, giving the site a developed context, as can be seen in Viewpoint 17LS (Appendix J) and Viewpoint 6a (Appendix E). The location of the core of the village is identifiable from the site, looking north-east, although only the spire and upper part of the tower of the church of St Mary the Virgin are visible. There is clear separation from the historic core of the village in the area around the church, and a much closer relationship to West Adderbury, and in particular Berry Hill Road and St Mary's Road.
- 3.4.17 The site has a generally enclosed character because of substantial hedgerows and tree belts along all boundaries except the western boundary. Even to the west, the pattern of field boundaries in the context of the site and existing development in West Adderbury limits its visibility and relationship to the wider landscape, as acknowledged in the Officer's Report, including in the comment by the specialist Landscape Officer, who wrote at paragraph 7.4 that the:

development has limited visibility in the wider landscape...

3.4.18 There is also the comment at paragraph 9.39 that:

it is agreed that the wider landscape impacts would be limited...

- 3.4.19 There are no trees within the site, although the dense belt of trees along the southern boundary and substantial double hedge on the eastern boundary gives the boundaries a wooded appearance.
- 3.4.20 The site is something of a transition between the River Meadowlands to the north and the Upstanding Village Farmlands in which it is sited. It has very little relationship with the wider landscape of the Village Farmlands, either in terms of character or intervisibility, and is more closely related in character to the valley side and the settlement of West Adderbury. It is an unremarkable area of paddocks and stables, with associated fencing, at the edge of the settlement with separation from the wider landscape to the east and south.
- 3.4.21 In the Appeal Decision of 27 March 2007 (appeal reference APP/C3105/A/06/2032232), the Inspector considered the character of the site and its role in relation to the village, and the Council has cited it in the Officer's Report. The Inspector states in paragraph 8 that the appeal site:
 - represents a particularly pleasant part of the open countryside. Moreover, the appeal site allows an attractive view of the village church. To my mind the appeal site represents an important green open area on the edge of the settlement that makes a significant contribution to the character and appearance off this part of Adderbury
- 3.4.22 However, I believe that there has been a fundamental change in the character of this landscape since the Inspector's visit in March 2007. The roadside vegetation along the site's southern boundary on Berry Hill Road has grown considerably since 2007, as is evident from aerial photographs, such that a substantial belt of vegetation has established compared with, for instance, an aerial photograph of 2009, two years after the Inspector viewed the site. It is clear that in 2009 the hedge was less substantial and the trees more widely spaced. As a result, it is likely that the Inspector was able to experience more open views from the road. Additionally, in 2007, the site was part of an Area of High Landscape Value, which would have increased its value in any assessment. That designation no longer applies. The Inspector was also considering a very different scheme, without the large area of open space and with an orientation completely at odds with Berry Hill Road.
- 3.4.23 There has been no suggestion that the site can be defined as a Valued Landscape, either in any plans or correspondence from the Council or the in The Neighbourhood Plan. However, I have undertaken a simple analysis, which appears in **Appendix F** of this Statement, and which concludes that the site and its context have none of the factors that make it a Valued Landscape. It is based on box 5.1 from GLVIA 3, and proves that the site and its setting have none of the eight factors that contribute to it being regarded as a Valued Landscape. It is a commonplace, edge of settlement landscape.
- 3.4.24 In early 2021, the Landscape Institute published a Consultation Draft of Technical Note 02/21 'Landscape Value and Valued Landscapes' (TGN 02/21, undated) for which comments were invited by 1 February 2021. Although a Consultation Draft, the



- Technical Note (TGN) is the only comprehensive analysis of the issue that has been published.
- 3.4.25 Table 1 of the TGN is the core of the process of assessing value and is based on box 5.1 of GLVIA 3 which it expands and refines. In comparison with box 5.1, Table 1 has a number of additional headings, although they largely are as a result of the 5.1 headings being split into further headings.
- 3.4.26 Having undertaken a revised Valued Landscape Assessment based on TGN 02/21, my view remains that the site is not part of a Valued Landscape for the purpose of paragraph 170a) of the NPPF, as agreed with the planning authority in the Statement of Common Ground.

3.5 SETTLEMENT PATTERN

- 3.5.1 The former railway embankment along the floor of the Sor Brook Valley separates the historic core of the village around the church to the north from the site and its setting in Berry Hill Road.
- 3.5.2 An additional plan has been produced, **Figure LS3** in **Appendix K**, to illustrate the relationship between landform and development pattern. When compared with the 1797 map which is Figure 8 of the Conservation Area Appraisal, it shows that the settlement developed on spurs in the landform either side of the Sor Brook where Water Lane/New Road cross the Brook. Subsequent expansion has extended Adderbury north along Oxford Road whilst West Adderbury has extended south along Milton Road and Berry Hill Road, along and adjacent to the roads which tend to follow the higher ground near to the settlement. This has included the development of houses either side of Berry Hill Road, leading up to the site, as well as expansion into the adjoining fields by St Mary's Road and the more recent extensions to the west along Milton Road.
- 3.5.3 Although one of the key characteristics of Character Type 16 is a strong pattern of nucleated villages, the Conservation Area Appraisal on page 19 identifies a strong linear structure defined by strong building lines, a description focussed on the Conservation Area. This historic pattern has been diluted by more recent development both within the Conservation Area and outside. For example, there is extensive C20th development to the north of the Conservation Area at Twyford and south of Berry Hill Road at St Mary's Road as well as current development to the west on Milton Road.
- The Conservation Area Appraisal identifies the historic development pattern as being 'linear' on page 19, under Land Use and Street Pattern:
 - Historic maps of the village show the development of the historic core running along the east-west axis. The development pattern has a strong linear structure, defined by strong building lines, particularly between the High Street and Cross Hill Road.



The series of linear streets are linked by winding lanes, allowing for the continuous deflection of views; this and the undulating typography create pleasant and interesting streetscapes.

- 3.5.5 However, that is not the case for more recent development.
- 3.5.6 In the Design and Access Statement of June 2020, the figures on page 19 show how the village of Adderbury has developed from 1923 to 2020. As is common in the C20th, there has been infilling of orchards and small fields within the settlement, and as shown on the maps from 1955 onwards, development to the north along Oxford Road and to the south-west along Berry Hill Road. That is consolidated on the 1980 map by development in depth at St Mary's Road, beyond the south-western side of Berry Hill Road, further extended westwards by the developments shown in 2020 along Milton Road.
- 3.5.7 Additionally, Kathryn Sather, who undertook the Heritage Statement of August 2019 in support of the project, has undertaken a commentary on the importance of the site and its context in the historic settlement pattern of Adderbury, which is included at **Appendix L.** She considers the way the settlement developed along landform, bisected by the Sor Brook, and routes between towns and cities, and how .there was no development south of the junction of Horn Hill Road and Milton Road, which is north-west of the site, until after 1922.

3.5.8 She concludes:

The nature and timing of the development of Berry Hill Road in the vicinity of the proposal site shows that it does not form part of the historic linear development of the settlement and does not contribute to the understanding of the linear development of Adderbury.

3.5.9 The existing development along Berry Hill Road is not part of the historic development pattern of Adderbury. It is typical of expansion along approach roads to this and other settlements, which has occurred as the core of the settlement extends to address demands for new housing. It is further expanded on the fields behind Berry Hill Road, of which the developments along Milton Road are more recent examples. The Neighbourhood Plan identifies both Berry Hill Road and St Mary's Road as the same character area. It does not identify a linear form of development as being a key characteristic of the character area, and indeed that can be seen from the aerial photograph on the viewpoint location plan in **Appendix K**.



- 3.5.10 The Conservation Area Appraisal of April 2012, prepared by the Council, considers, inter alia, views and character areas and does not identify any relationship between the site and the Conservation Area.
- 3.5.11 Within the Neighbourhood Plan, policy AD16: Managing Design in Berry Hill Road and St Mary's Road, addresses the character of the area adjacent to the site:

Development proposals in the Berry Hill Road and St. Mary's Road Character Area, as shown on the Policies Map, will be supported, provided they have full regard to the following design principles:

- i. Proposals retain or re-provide as necessary front gardens where possible and roadside verges; and
- ii. Proposals retain or re-provide as necessary boundary hedges (as in St. Mary's Road) and low walls (as in Norris Close) where appropriate.
- 3.5.12 Referring to the character area, paragraph 5.52 sets out the following reasoning:

As it lies outside the Conservation Area, and so was not included in the Appraisal, an analysis has been undertaken to identify the most important of design features of this character area.

3.5.13 At 5.53, the Character is described as follows:

The area lies to the south west of the Conservation Area and includes the main approaches to the village from the southeast and southwest. There are two particular areas within this larger area, which are worthy of consideration. The Berry Hill Road and St. Mary's Road/Norris Close [sic]. Both areas comprise 20th century housing. Berry Hill Road is characterised by substantial properties set well back from the road with extensive grass verges in front and large front gardens. St. Mary's Road and Norris Close have mixed development of detached/semi-detached two storey houses and bungalows. They are characterised by large front gardens enclosed for the most part with low walls, and grass verges along the roadside.

3.5.14 However, in my view, Berry Hill Road and St Mary's Road are both characterised by a mix of property sizes. Despite the Neighbourhood Plan saying that Berry Hill Road is characterised by substantial properties, on the north-eastern side, there are mostly relatively modest properties including houses and bungalows, and especially adjacent to the site on the former gas works (which is shown in the Design and Access Statement on page 19). Many of those are close together and many of the front gardens are shallow. Those properties can be seen in my Viewpoint 19LS in Appendix J as well as their relatively open boundaries when compared with those of the site.



- Additionally, the Design and Access Statement, on page 49, assesses the road as having a weakly defined urban character.
- 3.5.15 What is clear is that although there are no particular features critical to the settlement pattern, the overall mix of house types and boundary treatments can sit in successful juxtaposition, set within a robust urban landscape of tree and hedge -lined Berry Hill Road and wide verges.

3.6 VISUAL ANALYSIS

- 3.6.1 As part of the LVA, representative views towards the site were assessed from publicly available viewpoints, which were updated, and additional photographs taken in January 2018 for the Addendum. They comprise the viewpoint photographs included in Appendix E of this Statement, with the locations shown on Figure LS2: Photograph Location Plan in Appendix K.
- 3.6.2 The site has limited visibility from the wider landscape due to the mature hedgerows at the boundaries of the site, the sloping topography of the site and surrounding area and intervening overlapping layers of trees and hedgerows. As a result, the furthest view of the site was 310m away from Viewpoint 14 on the Oxford Road, so all would be regarded as local views, up to 500m, according to the methodology. Indeed, the distances from viewpoints from which there was a view are 0m, 10m, 20m, 40m, 85m, 120m, 125mand 310m as set out in the Visual Effects Table in **Appendix C**.
- 3.6.3 Publicly available views of the site typically comprise a few local transitory views from Berry Hill Road to the south, which has no footpaths along it in the vicinity of the site, and Oxford Road to the east, short lengths of the public footpath to the east and the path to the north, mostly where it crosses the site just within the northern boundary.
- 3.6.4 The views shown in the Addendum to the LVA are described in the **Visual Effects Table** in **Appendix C** and are summarised below. They were all taken in winter when the screening effect of vegetation was at its minimum.
- 3.6.5 Viewpoint 1A: a glimpsed view from Berry Hill Road, opposite the existing site entrance. There is no pavement along the road at this location and consequently receptors are limited to moderate number of motorist and few pedestrians. There is a possibility that the few pedestrians are using the verge to access the bridleway on the other side of Oxford Road, and therefore the wider countryside. Should that be the case, their focus will not be on the view from the roadside verge but moving safely along the verge before crossing the busy Oxford Road. Should those pedestrians choose to look across Berry Hill Road and through the metal farm gate, there will be a view of part of the paddocks within the site and the stable yard. The spire of the church is barely discernible through the trees.
- 3.6.6 Viewpoint 2A: an open view from the entrance to the site. Viewers are limited to those accessing the private land or stopping at the gateway. The paddocks are seen, with stables and a manège in the middle distance. The tower and spire of the Church of St



- Mary the Virgin in the historic centre of Adderbury stands out against the sky, on the wooded ridge.
- 3.6.7 **Viewpoint 3A:** Filtered view from Berry Hill Road, opposite the south-east corner of the site. There is no pavement along the road; receptors are limited to a moderate number of motorist and few pedestrians. There are substantial hedgerows along the southern and eastern boundaries.
- Viewpoint 4A and 8 are both framed and glimpsed view from the public footpath along the eastern site boundary, across the southern part of the site and across the paddocks sub-divided by post and rail fencing, with the substantial hedgerow and mature trees seen along Berry Hill Road. There are glimpsed views of properties along Berry Hill Road and within Adderbury. From Viewpoint 8, users tend to focus on views north along the path which include the church spire.
- 3.6.9 Viewpoint 5A: Open view from the public footpath within the northern edge of the site, with views south across the paddocks with the site rising to a local crest in the centre, limiting views of the southern section. The shallow valley feature becomes more pronounced towards the north of the site. Looking west there are glimpsed views of properties along Berry Hill Road.
- 3.6.10 Viewpoint 6A: A filtered and oblique view from Berry Hill Road to the south-western corner of the site. Receptors are limited to a moderate number of motorists and few pedestrians to whom the view is not the purpose of using the verge. There are existing properties along Berry Hill Road; the site occupies land to their east.
- 3.6.11 Viewpoint 7: An open view across fields from a public footpath, with intermittent trees on the skyline. Trees and a transmission pole in the north-western part of the site can be seen, but the boundary hedges and the site itself are hidden by the rising landform. To the right, a close-boarded fence prevents views from the footpath as it runs between dwellings and gardens. The spire of the church of St Mary the Virgin can be seen to the left.
- 3.6.12 Viewpoint 9: A filtered view from Berry Hill Road towards the south-western corner of the site; the surface of the site can be seen through the network of stems and branches. Receptors are limited to a moderate number of motorists and few pedestrians. It is unlikely that many receptors would experience this view as its direction is at right angles to the road and most would look obliquely and, in the case of vehicle occupants, they would have only a fleeting view at speed. Looking northwest, existing properties along Berry Hill Road are seen. The substantial hedgerow along the southern boundary heavily filters views of the church spire in the winter, which would be more heavily filtered in the summer.
- 3.6.13 Viewpoint 10: Open view across northern part of site with the village on the ridge beyond the wooded former railway line. This is not publicly accessible; viewers are limited to the few people using the site for equestrian purposes. Part of the tower and the whole of the spire of the Church of St Mary the Virgin is a striking and prominent



landmark above the wooded horizon, providing the focus of the view. The village and the nave of the church are entirely screened by the wooded valley floor and embankment.

- 3.6.14 Viewpoint 11: An open view from the end of a bridleway, across the carriageway of Oxford Road, dominated by carriageways, signage, and traffic. There are likely to be many road users and a moderate number of bridleway users, all of whom are focussed on negotiating Oxford Road and its junction with Berry Hill Road, rather than on the view. The south-east corner of site can be identified where footpath 101/13 emerges onto Berry Hill Road, and by the adjacent large tree. The site not discernible owing to roadside vegetation, hedgerows and mature trees either side of the footpath.
- 3.6.15 **Viewpoints 12, 13, 15** and **16**: There is no view of the site from these locations and therefore they were not considered further.
- 3.6.16 **Viewpoint 14**: A framed view from the roadside footpath along Oxford Road, experienced by many road users and few pedestrians, whose attention is unlikely to be focussed on the view but on the road ahead, although incidental views of fields and woods form part of the experience of travelling along the road. Roadside vegetation limits visibility, as well as hedgerows along footpath 101/13. The surface of the site and lower part of the hedgerows are hidden by the rolling landform.
- 3.6.17 It is clear that views of the site are limited to local views (the furthest being Viewpoint 14 at 310m from the nearest site boundary) and they are:
 - Glimpsed from Berry Hill Road, where there are minor gaps in the vegetation and at the site entrance;
 - Glimpsed from the public footpath (101/13) adjacent to the east of the site, where there are a few gaps in the vegetation; and
 - From the public footpath (101/6) along the northern edge of the site.
- 3.6.18 There are no medium and long-distance views of the site (beyond 0.5km). As result, visual effects will be highly localised, as confirmed in the Officer's Report. I note that the LPA did not take issue with the viewpoint selection in the Addendum of February 2018, either in email correspondence or in the Officer's Report.
- 3.6.19 None of the views in which the site is visible would be regarded as having highly sensitive receptors, in visual assessment terms. Six of those viewpoints are from two roads local to the site, which are regarded as of low susceptibility to change, where the receptor has little interest in their visual environment and therefore has low sensitivity. One viewpoint is from the site, which currently has no public access but will if the proposals are consented. Six are from two local public rights of way, with brief views glimpsed through hedges and with receptors of medium sensitivity.
- 3.6.20 The medium sensitivity is arrived at because of the settlement edge context of the paths, influenced by development, the local nature of the footpaths and the lower



expectations of the receptor when compared with, say, a user of a national trail or a path through a National Park.

4 OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

4.1 ADDRESSING OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

- 4.1.1 Landscape and visual opportunities and constraints were illustrated on **Figure L5**: Landscape and Visual Opportunities and Constraints from the LVA.
- 4.1.2 Certain landscape and visual characteristics of the site lead to it being able to accommodate residential development. These characteristics include:
 - A relatively strong framework of existing boundaries comprising mature trees and hedgerows;
 - Potential for enhancement and further strengthening of those boundaries;
 - The location of the site adjacent to existing residential development to the west;
 and
 - The relatively flat topography of the wider area surrounding the site, limiting medium and long distance views.
- 4.1.3 The LVA set out potential landscape and visual constraints to development within the site, which are repeated below, along with how such constraints can be overcome.

Constraint	How addressed	
Existing trees and hedgerows within and adjacent to the site.	Development minimises effects on existing trees and hedgerows, avoiding those of highest value; development kept away from existing trees and hedgerows; new planting undertaken as mitigation; management plan to be conditioned.	
The Public Rights of Way to the north and east of the site.	Development limited to southern part of site, retaining largely unchanged setting for northern footpath; hedgerows retained between development and eastern path.	
The existing residential properties along Berry Hill Road.	Separated by retention of existing trees and hedges.	
The settlement pattern of Adderbury.	Responds to existing building pattern as set out in the DAS.	
Adderbury Conservation Area.	Separated by distance and existing vegetated boundaries.	
Local views, including those from Berry Hill Road.	Retention of much of roadside vegetation and all of vegetation on other boundaries reduces visual effects and integrates scheme into views.	

4.2 LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

- 4.2.1 Taking into account the above landscape and visual opportunities and constraints, the LVA identified the potential for the site to accommodate residential development without causing undue harm to the setting of the site, or views into the site, subject to incorporating a sensitive design approach and landscape strategy.
- 4.2.2 A revised landscape strategy has been developed for the site, illustrated on Landscape Strategy from Design and Access Statement in Appendix G, based on the following principles which I developed in liaison with the client and the design team:
 - Maintaining a green approach to Adderbury along Berry Hill Road, with no clear gateway or sudden development edge;
 - Keeping development back from the northern part of the site to retain the integrity
 of the shallow valley feature and increase separation from the valley of the Sor
 Brook;
 - Enhancing the limited existing views of St Mary's church from Berry Hill Road and providing new, open and accessible views of the church from the open space on the site;
 - Leaving approximately 50% of the site as open space which provides a substantial opportunity for landscape and ecological enhancement across the currently rather barren site and reinforces and expands the Neighbourhood Plan's identification of the footpath across the northern part of the site as part of the existing green infrastructure of the village (Appendix M);
 - Producing an irregular edge to development along the northern edge, more in accordance with traditional settlement edge patterns; using materials and colours that are recessive in the landscape;
 - Retaining and enhancing the site boundaries, through much-needed long term management and new planting; and
 - Undertaking a comprehensive landscape scheme and management plan for the entire site to ensure the future of its landscape, including the existing trees and shrubs, any new planting and to encourage bio-diversity by grassland management.
- 4.2.3 The Landscape Strategy has developed the principles further into the following specific features:
 - Retaining almost all of the southern boundary along Berry Hill Road, and planting trees and hedges to replace the two or three removed for access;
 - Planting a new native hedge with associated trees along the western boundary to provide a new vegetated boundary, restoring elements of the landscape and reinforcing the wildlife corridors around the site;
 - The site becoming part of the village's green infrastructure not only along the northern boundary and its large open space, but by extending it through the site with new pedestrian routes north of the trees along Berry Hill Road (providing an alternative route to much of the adjacent length of Berry Hill Road), along the quiet residential roads on the site, through the open space and new woodland along



- the eastern boundary, all linking with the green infrastructure network identified by the Neighbourhood Plan beyond the site (Appendix M);
- Developing a species rich grass sward across most of the open space on the site, and within the drainage and attenuation features, minimising the amount of amenity grass;
- Mowing informal paths through the sward that link with the adjacent footpaths;
- Keeping the south-east corner undeveloped and establishing a new copse to assist with transition to open countryside as well as increase landscape and ecological diversity on the site as it currently contains no woodland;
- Planting a new orchard of traditional species along the western boundary, within its own hedged enclosure, increasing the length of hedge corridor on the site, and with species rich grassland beneath the trees;
- Planting of legacy trees across the site and in the hedgerows, providing native tree planting to develop into mature oaks and other trees for the long term;
- 4.2.4 The strategy has the potential to provide approximately:
 - 535 linear metres of new hedges;
 - 19,000 m2 of species rich grassland;
 - 24 legacy trees;
 - 1600 m2 of woodland; and
 - 2900 m2 of traditional orchard.
- 4.2.5 As a result, I understand through a recent review of the proposals by Collington Winter Environmental, that there will be nearly 25% net gain in habitat units, including orchard, meadow grassland and trees, and nearly 20% in hedgerow units, as a result of the landscape strategy.
- 4.2.6 The Biodiversity Calculation tool is appended to Mr Symons Planning Statement of Case.
- 4.2.7 The strategy for the site therefore delivers considerable enhancement when compared the existing situation in terms of:
 - views of the church;
 - safe and more enjoyable public access to paths across the site and beyond;
 - usable public open space; and
 - biodiversity.
- 4.2.8 The strategy also has to be considered in the context of the aspirations of the Parish Council's Biodiversity Project, posted on the Parish Council's Website on January 2 this year and which, according to the article, complies with the Neighbourhood Plan's biodiversity policies:
 - 1: Some areas of grass verge will not be cut back, or only cut on the edges. This includes Lake Walk Green and the verge outside Tanners in Tanners Lane.

- 2: It has been agreed with Cherwell District Council that the two amenity areas on Aynho Rd (Long Wall Close and Sydenham Close) will be managed to include wild flower areas. Long Wall Close grass will not be cut during the summer months to allow wild flowers to emerge and seed. The southern open space in Sydenham amenity area will be cleared of sycamore stumps during the winter and re-sown with meadow planting. It will be then be managed as a wild flower meadow.
- 3: A number of small fruiting trees have been ordered under the Woodland Trust's Urban tree project. The PC is working with Christopher Rawlins School staff and children to plan where these will be planted in the area used by the school next to Adderbury Court amenity area. The Adderbury WI is also involved in this tree planting project. The Council is also discussing planting some of these trees at the Rise.
- 4.2.9 The description of the Parish Council's project is very much in line with the landscape strategy for the site, and the proposal on the appeal site will deliver many enhancements in an area that will become accessible to all of the Adderbury community. trees

5 THE PROPOSALS AND THE LANDSCAPE

5.1 REASONS FOR REFUSAL

- 5.1.1 For convenience, I will repeat the relevant Reasons for Refusal from my introduction:
 - 1. The development proposed, by reason of its scale and siting beyond the built up limits of the village, in open countryside and taking into account the number of dwellings already permitted in Adderbury, with no further development identified through the Adderbury Neighbourhood Plan 2014-2031, is considered to be unnecessary, undesirable and unsustainable development. The site itself is in an unsustainable location on the edge of the village, distant from local services and facilities and would result in a development where future occupiers would be highly reliant on the private car for day to day needs. The proposal is therefore unacceptable in principle and contrary to Policies ESD1, BSC1, SLE4 and Villages 2 of the Cherwell Local Plan (2011-2031) Part 1, Saved Policy H18 of the Cherwell Local Plan 1996 and Government guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.
 - 2. The development proposed, by virtue of its poorly integrated relationship with existing built development, its extension beyond the built limits of the village (beyond the Adderbury Settlement Boundary as defined in the Adderbury Neighbourhood Plan 2014 2031) causing significant urbanisation and its visual impact on the rural character, appearance of the locality and local settlement pattern, would cause unacceptable harm to the character and appearance of the area and the rural setting of the village and would fail to reinforce local distinctiveness. The proposal is therefore contrary to Policies ESD13, ESD15 and Villages 2 of the Cherwell Local Plan (2011- 2031) Part 1, Saved Policies C8, C27, C28 and C33 of the Cherwell Local Plan 1996, Policy AD1 of the Adderbury Neighbourhood Plan 2014 2031 and Government guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.

5.2 SETTLEMENT CHARACTER

5.2.1 Under Assessment, the Officer's Report states at 9.42 that:

The proposed development would involve a large-scale development on the land. The indicative layout demonstrates dwellings fronting towards Berry Hill Road (albeit set behind the existing hedgerow) with the remaining proposed dwellings arranged extending northwards on the site. The proposal is in a reduced form to that previously considered and refused but it remains a block of development resulting in a large cul de sac which is distinctly different to the prevailing pattern of development along Berry Hill Road.

5.2.2 The pattern of development is more complex than implied in the Officer's Report and the character of the area needs to be assessed by reference to more than just a few



houses near the site. It is important to respond to the positive aspects of development in an area, and this has been set out in the Design and Access Statement from page 50 to page 71, where four character areas on the development take cues from the way the village has developed.

5.2.3 It is worth noting that the Inspector into the appeal for land off Banbury Road (appeal reference APP/C3105/A/14/2213263) in 2014 described in paragraph 28 that:

Adderbury is a substantial settlement and whilst the original core is characterised by mainly mature terraced housing of varying design and scale set at the back of or close to the pavement, the settlement has been extended very substantially to the west along New Water Lane, Cross Hill Road and Horn Hill Road and to a lesser extent to the east to the north and south of Aynho Road. These more recent and extensive areas reflect the designs, styles and types of dwellings off their periods. Thus, it would be difficult to pin down the defining character of Adderbury as a whole and conclude that this scheme failed to reflect and enhance local character.

- 5.2.4 What is clear is that the proposals respond to positive aspects of Berry Hill Road/St Mary's Road, as well as the wider settlement, such as the substantial roadside vegetation and houses set back from the road. However, the pattern of development along Berry Hill Road does not relate to the historic development pattern of Adderbury, either in terms of character or proximity, as described by Kathryn Sather.
- 5.2.5 The Council refers to the proposal as being a bolt-on estate (paragraph 9.43). Although it is alleged that there is linear development fronting Berry Hill Road, that belies the fact that behind it there is a deep and relatively dense pattern of residential development consisting of St Mary's Road and Norris Close, which has been extended recently into open countryside to the west by new development. This depth of development is not unusual, and indeed the site proposals will have development arranged along Berry Hill Road, behind the existing hedge and trees similar to the existing development. It is not apparent that there is residential development behind the houses on the western side of Berry Hill Road as they are arranged largely in a line with relatively small gaps between. It appears as continuous development, not wide plots with houses well-spaced, especially on the north-eastern side of Berry Hill Road where there are single storey houses with few trees and relatively low hedges, as shown in my Viewpoint 19LS in Appendix J.
- 5.2.6 What is clear is that the character of West Adderbury has changed as it has developed along Adderbury Road and Milton Road, away from the conservation area and has an entirely C20th/C21st character with no reference to the earlier development of the village.
- 5.2.7 It is clear therefore that the proposals are an appropriate response to Adderbury.
- 5.2.8 The Council does not explain why the scale is inappropriate, but it is commensurate with the scale of development within the area, with a mixture of detached and semi-detached houses. That is the mix proposed for the site, including link detached.

- 5.2.9 With regards to the siting, it is adjacent to existing development and, through its design, is a continuation of the development line that fronts Berry Hill Road, and a reflection of the depth of development on St Mary's Road behind that frontage. The siting is in a partly developed context, as is the recent development north of Milton Road, although that extends westwards into what was open countryside.
- 5.2.10 Paragraph 9.42 of the Officer's Report sets out:

The proposed development would involve a large-scale development on the land. The indicative layout demonstrates dwellings fronting towards Berry Hill Road (albeit set behind the existing hedgerow) with the remaining proposed dwellings arranged extending northwards on the site. The proposal is in a reduced form to that previously considered and refused but it remains a block of development resulting in a large cul de sac which is distinctly different to the prevailing pattern of development along Berry Hill Road.

- 5.2.11 The Design and Access Statement sets out in some detail how the development proposals are based on the positive aspects of the character of Adderbury rather than only responding to Berry Hill Road, between pages 50 and 71. As already discussed, St Mary's Road is a far more substantial development than the proposal on the appeal site, without the benefit of over 50% of the site being open space. However, St Mary's Close shows that development can occur at depth without adversely impacting on the character along the road, from where most people would see it.
- The Neighbourhood Plan, quite rightly, identifies the properties set well back from the road with extensive verges in front, as some of the most important design features of the area. Combined with the generally vegetated boundaries along Berry Hill Lane, the appearance along Berry Hill Road is of a well vegetated road, part of which is the hedge and trees along then frontage of the site.
- 5.2.13 In terms of its interface with Berry Hill Road, the proposals follow those principles. They are set a similar distance from the road, although behind a more substantial and consistent belt of vegetation than the properties on Berry Hill Road, which increases the separation of the site from the road when compared with its neighbours. Existing houses are mostly set behind a substantial belt of vegetation, although more domestic in species selection and punctuated by much more frequent vehicular access than with the proposals.
- The management of the vegetation is in the hands of individual property owners and subject to personal decisions on management as is demonstrated by the lack of boundary hedges in some cases resulting in more open front gardens. The important vegetation within the outline scheme, both existing and proposed, will not be in private gardens but will be on communal land, subject to a management plan agreed with the Council. As a result, the Council will be able to influence the way the vegetation is managed.
- 5.2.15 The buildings fronting the road on the site would be set behind the row of trees along the existing hedgerow rather than in large front gardens, but they would be integrated



into the development pattern by that vegetation continuing the largely vegetated character of Berry Hill Road and by the arrangement of frontages with the more substantial houses facing the road.

- 5.2.16 Along Berry Hill Road, part of the existing character is that the properties on the north-eastern side are more visible owing to their less well vegetated front boundaries and gardens (see Viewpoint 19LS in Appendix J). In contrast, the proposals will be behind the existing vegetation and for most users of the road, will not be readily visible. The vegetation focuses views in both direction to either the countryside to the east or development to the west which is set back behind verges. As can be seen from Viewpoints 3A and 11 in Appendix E, development is currently not visible along Berry Hill Road as one approaches West Adderbury. That will not change, although as one passes the development there will be a very slight increase in the width of the existing opening at the vehicular access which will allow fleeting views into the development and to the church, allowing legibility of the historic core of the settlement for users of the road. Road users will be aware of development, especially in winter, but it will appear to be a logical part of the existing development pattern along the road.
- 5.2.17 It is important to acknowledge that the development would enhance the village's green infrastructure, set out in the Neighbourhood Plan. Policy AD2: Green infrastructure is as follows:

The Neighbourhood Plan defines the Adderbury Green Infrastructure Network around and within the village, as shown on the Policies Map.

The Network comprises a variety of green infrastructure assets, including informal open space and Local Green Spaces, allotments, playing fields, assets of biodiversity value and children's play areas, footpaths, bridleways and cycleways.

Development proposals on land that lies within or immediately adjoining the defined Network must demonstrate how they maintain or enhance its integrity and green infrastructure value, by way of their landscape schemes, layouts, access and or through equivalent alternative provision nearby.

- 5.2.18 Existing Green Infrastructure, as well as opportunities, are shown on policies inset map A of the Neighbourhood Plan (Appendix M). It shows the public footpaths to the east and north as being part of the existing green infrastructure, and Berry Hill Road as an opportunity. Management of the vegetated boundaries would enhance the existing assets, and the provision of open space in the northern part of the site would extend the green infrastructure.
- 5.2.19 The development allows more open views of the church from Berry Hill Road, which have been designed into the scheme with specifically aligned road and footpath routes. They are an integral part of the scheme, rather than incidental and accidental glances through winter trees and down the current access track. This represents a much-improved situation than is currently the case.

- 5.2.20 At 7.5 the Landscape Officer writes:
 - Not convinced that the slight possibility of the church spire being possible more visible in the latest proposal is sufficient to reduce the effect of the development.
- 5.2.21 I am at a loss to understand how it can be considered that enhancement of the existing views and providing unrestricted access to better, much more open views on the proposed open space are not improvements when compared with the current situation.
- There is no slight possibility of those improvements they are clearly shown on pages 39, 46, and 47 in the Design and Access Statement and the views from the site to the church can be easily understood from my Viewpoint 10, which was part of the package of information being considered by the Council.

5.3 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL EFFECTS

5.3.1 The Landscape Effects Tables from the Addendum showed that there would be no direct landscape effects upon the limited number of designations, all of which are offsite, and, as they have limited intervisibility with the site, nor would there be any indirect landscape effects upon them.

5.4 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

- Published Landscape Character: For Character Type 16: Upstanding Village Farmlands, the proposals would not have discernible effects on the key characteristics of steep-sided, undulating landform, well-defined geometric pattern of medium-sized fields enclosed by prominent hedgerows or the strong settlement pattern, given that Adderbury consist of a series of development blocks with intervening open areas and linked by narrow bands of housing. It would accord with the guidelines to strengthen and enhance the field pattern by planting-up gappy hedges using locally characteristic species and hedgerow trees, undertaking the maintenance of hedgerows, including coppicing and layering when necessary, to maintain a height and width appropriate to the landscape type, and maintaining the nucleated pattern of settlements.
- 5.4.2 The development, and in particular the landscape strategy, retains the hedges and trees which are characteristic of Landscape Character Area C: Bodicote, as well as reinforcing the area's character by planting and maintaining hedges which would be species-rich as well as protecting and planting hedgerow trees and establishing a copse of trees.
- 5.4.3 With regards to the Cherwell District Landscape Assessment, the development would have no adverse effects on the Sor Brook, the network of small fields or lines of trees resulting from outgrown hedges and small clumps of trees in field corners which give parts of the valley a locally well-treed character.

5.4.4 The surrounding vegetation on three sides as well as the woodland and hedgerows, including that along the elevated former railway, provide substantial separation of the site from the wider countryside and the historic core of Adderbury around St Mary's church. Avoiding development on the northern part of the site reduces the potential

intervisibility further, especially from the north-west.

- 5.4.5 The Landscape Effects Table shows that all effects on landscape receptors were assessed as Not Significant, except for the effects on Local Landscape: Character of Site and Surrounding Area where a Moderate Adverse effect was shown, largely as a result of the change of the character of part of the site from paddocks to residential use, as would be inevitable with any greenfield development. However, those effects are only localised as they affect the site and its immediate context, with no significant effects on the wider landscape.
- 5.4.6 In the Revised Addendum, it was noted that the area of open space in the revised scheme had increased to about 56% of the area of the site, and the area of residential development has reduced to about 44% of the site. However, whilst beneficial to the overall assessment, the magnitude of those changes was not regarded as sufficient to change the significance of the landscape effects from earlier assessments.

5.4.7 Those effects arise because:

- An inherent characteristic of the site is that it is well contained (that will also have a bearing on visual effects) and as a result landscape effects are only local, a point with which the Council agrees in the Officer's Report. There will be little harm to the wider landscape;
- It is an unremarkable field with only currently inaccessible views to the church, underlying landform and existing vegetation on boundaries as features (the last two of which are not unusual in fields), as can be seen from my Valued Landscape Assessment;
- The relationship with the settlement, as can be seen from my photograph 17, there is a visible development edge to the east that is visible from and partly adjacent to the site (as opposed to the open countryside to the east and south, with very little intervisibility with the site); and
- The significance of the effects is reduced because of the limited extent, and where they are of moderate significance, those effects occur only on the relatively small area occupied by the site and are entirely to be expected of a greenfield site.
- 5.4.8 Whilst there would be moderate adverse effects at the site/immediate context level, these would be highly localised, consistent with any form of greenfield development, and there would not be significant effects to the wider landscape or landscape character.

5.5 LANDSCAPE FEATURES

5.5.1 For public rights of way, there would be no direct effects upon public rights of way, although the development would allow the construction of a new roadside footpath



linking the right of way to the east of the site with the part of Adderbury to the west, providing an easier route than walking along the verge, and potentially making the right of way more accessible.

- 5.5.2 For trees and vegetation, the July 2020 Arboricultural Impact Assessment explains at paragraph 4.2.1 that:
 - no significant trees will require removal to facilitate the new access arrangement. One Hawthorn shrub (T14) will require removal as it is situated in the footprint of the new access footway and retention and protection throughout the development is not suitable.
- 5.5.3 The tree is of very low retention value, category C. There will also be the need to prune a 2m section of the hedge along the boundary as well as minor crown lifting of a Horse Chestnut (T9).
- 5.5.4 The Impact Assessment also records at 4.2.5 that:

A lack of recent management to the former hedge feature G1 and G15 is leading to its gradual degeneration as a dense woody linear feature. In time, if left unmanaged, the vegetation within the group will follow their natural inclination to grow into lines of separated individual shrubby trees, and so lose its value as a linear group feature. As such, the new development at this site provides the opportunity to undertake management and restoration of the hedge group and so improve the hedgerows quality and long-term value.

- 5.5.5 G1 and G15 are the hedges and trees along the southern boundary.
- As part of the landscape strategy, new planting would mitigate for limited loss of trees and hedges to access the site, and a management plan would set out a management regime for the hedges across the site, in particular managing the hedgerows around the site boundary to ensure their sustainability. Without the development, no management and replacement strategy would be secured and the landscape condition of the site would deteriorate.
- 5.5.7 In the Officer's Report, the landscape officer records at 7.4 that, while the development has limited visibility in the wider landscape:
 - The site is surrounded by open countryside apart from one dwelling adjacent at one corner. Last House and the dwelling opposite mark the end of the built up area of Adderbury. As you turn off Oxford Road, it is not clear where the village of Adderbury starts. The site is an important green open space on the edge of the settlement that makes a significant contribution to the character and appearance of Adderbury.
- 5.5.8 In my view, the site is not surrounded by open countryside. It is a rather unremarkable field that is adjacent to existing development, partly developed because of the stable complex and, as acknowledged by the landscape officer, separated from the wider countryside. Apart from the northern part of the site, it is not related to the more intimate and complex valley landscape of small fields and hedgerows, that lead down to the railway embankment and the Sor Brook.



5.5.9 The design acknowledges the character of the site by leaving the northern part of the site free of development as it falls away into towards the Sor Brook across the gentle valley feature, and proposing development only on the southern part of the site, nearest the road, where there is already existing adjacent development.

5.6 VISUAL EFFECTS

- 5.6.1 As discussed earlier when considering landscape effects, the visual containment is a fundamental characteristic of the site, which has implications on not only landscape effects but also visual effects. That containment ensures that views of the site are limited to three local footpaths, one of which crosses the northern edge of the site, and local roads, the furthest of which is some 310m from the site boundary, and the nearest on the site boundary. Despite the landscape officer's request to me to explore viewpoints from all round the site and its context, no significantly different viewpoints were found in preparation for the Addendum: most were essentially additional and similar views from the same rights of way or from Berry Hill Road. Many new locations had no views. The Officer's Report alleges significant intrusion into the countryside (paragraph 9.43 inter alia) without any evidence for that statement. My Effects Tables assess the landscape issues robustly and systematically and do not find the alleged significant effects.
- 5.6.2 Even where there are views, those views are remarkably limited in extent. In winter, from Berry Hill Road and footpath 101/13 to the east of the site, they are limited to small and narrow gaps in the boundary vegetation, and in those cases the visual receptors (drivers and walkers) have largely oblique and fleeting views which means that the overlapping effect of vegetation effectively blocks those views. They are fleeting views of a site that is beyond the main focus of interest as the receptor travels, and no driver or walker will be travelling with their head permanently at right angles looking only to the site. The views are directed along the route, funnelled by the vegetation, as can be seen in the left side of Viewpoint 3A, the right side of Viewpoint 8A, Viewpoint 11 and Viewpoint 14.
- 5.6.3 The exception is Viewpoint 5A, which is from footpath 101/6 along the northern edge of the site where there is a more open view from the length of the footpath where it crosses the site, but that is unique in the context of the site.
- In all cases, the views from footpaths are in locations closely related to settlement in West Adderbury, rather than the open countryside. With very few exceptions, they are from paths that have views directed down the path or rarely across a field gate, as demonstrated in my photograph 18. It is important to note that in the limited views of the site, it is not seen in the context of open countryside. The views are from routes that are in a village edge context and do not generally link to long distance routes or a wider network. As a result, views from footpaths are given a moderate sensitivity.

- In terms of magnitude of the effects, the viewing opportunities from footpaths are limited in extent and number, and the magnitude is therefore assessed as negligible (Viewpoints 7, 11 and 12), slight (Viewpoint 8) and moderate (Viewpoints 4A and 5A).
- As a result, receptors are assessed as experiencing moderately significant effects from only two public rights of way viewpoints. Viewpoint 5A from footpath 101/6 has an uncharacteristic open view across the site, because it is on the site. The view includes development on the skyline along Berry Hill Road as well as the stables adjacent to the eastern boundary. Over the length of the path, the view is often influenced by adjacent development, and therefore the expectation of the receptor is less than in a more rural setting. Viewpoint 4A from footpath 101/3 shows one of the rare glimpses through the hedge and therefore is not entirely representative of the experience of path users. For most of the footpath adjacent to the site, there are no views and as the receptor travels further north, the effect of the hedge is supplemented by the path descending into a Holloway as it leads to the valley floor.
- 5.6.7 From Berry Hill Road, represented by Viewpoints 1A, 2A, 3A, 6A and 9, the sensitivity is low as visual receptors have low expectations when driving or walking. Berry Hill Road is not a scenic route for motorists, and its verges are not designated public rights of way for walkers. Those five views occur in an overall length of about 230m along Berry Hill Road, which emphasises the local effects. They are, with the exception of 6A, from immediately in front of the southern boundary of the site.
- 5.6.8 In terms of magnitude, of those Viewpoints, 1A, 2A and 9 are of assessed as of moderate magnitude as the effect of the proposals in the view will be result in a clearly noticeable change to the view. However, except for Viewpoint 6A, they are right-angle views through occasional and heavily filtered gaps in the boundary vegetation and not typical of the experience of travelling along Berry Hill Road. They are occasional and fleeting whilst the experience of travelling along Berry Hill Road is focussed on the route, with gaps barely discernible owing to the overlapping effect of the vegetation when looking along it, as can be seen in Viewpoint 3A.
- 5.6.9 No visual effects are assessed as wholly Significant, despite the unsubstantiated assessment by the Council. It is clear that it views of the site could not result in significant visual effects from any receptor.
- 5.6.10 The Visual Effects Table shows Significant Adverse effects on only two viewpoints out of the sixteen selected, which are Viewpoint 4A (public right of way to east of site, looking west) and 5A (public right of way along northern boundary of site, looking south). In both cases those effects were only of Moderate Significance partly as a result of the moderate sensitivity of the receptors, which were both users of public footpaths.
- 5.6.11 Owing to the substantial tree belt on the southern site boundary along Berry Hill Road, clear views of the Church of St Mary the Virgin across the site are limited even in winter, when the situation is regarded as 'worst case' without the additional screening provided by leaves on trees and hedges. The most open existing view of the church



across the site is from the existing gate off Berry Hill Road, which is only a fleeting view for receptors, most of whom are road users. The development has been designed to accommodate that view and open up a new view from the south-western part of the site. Additionally, by allowing public access to the site as a result of the development and the extensive area of open space, clear and open views of the church would be made available, which are currently only available to those who have access to the private land.

- 5.6.12 In the Revised Addendum, some minor amendments arose to the analysis of visual effects, so that the Visual Effects were amended and have been taken account of in **Appendix C**. None of those changes resulted in any increase to significant effects.
- 5.6.13 As a result, the assessment of Visual Effects in the Addendum remains current as it shows Significant Adverse effects on only two viewpoints out of the sixteen selected, and in both cases those effects were only of Moderate Significance as a result of the moderate sensitivity of the receptors, which were both users of public footpaths. Neither of the Significant Effects are more than local effects.
- 5.6.14 As set out in the LVA, in terms of statutory and non-statutory designations, there are none on or adjacent to the site. The Conservation Area and listed buildings are sufficiently separated by intervening vegetation and distance for there to be no discernible indirect effects.
- 5.6.15 In the Officer's Report, 7.4 refers to the Landscape Officer's response to the original scheme, and notes:
 - Comments provided to the various viewpoints submitted, some of which are considered to under-estimate the effects.
- 5.6.16 Those comments were not included in the Officer's Report, but I assume that they are those contained in the note from the Landscape Officer (Judith Ward) to the case officer (Caroline Ford) dated 22 March 2018, in **Appendix H.**
- 5.6.17 I have reviewed those comments and am not sure on what they are based. There is no indication of any methodology used, nor has there been criticism of my methodology. There is no indication of the officer's assessment of sensitivity, no identifiable measure of magnitude and no assessment of significance of the effect as a result of those two factors. They are simple, bold statements of opinion without any supporting analysis. I suggest that my Visual Effects Tables are the reliable evidence.
- 5.6.18 I have set out my response to the Landscape Officer's comments in a table in **Appendix I.**
- 5.6.19 In further comments on the original scheme, the Landscape Officer notes that:

The site allows an attractive view of the church which would mostly be lost; it would only be available as a fleeting glimpse from Berry Hill Road.

- I have analysed the views available from Berry Hill Road and explained them fully in the Visual Effects Tables, not least that the only way to obtain an unimpeded view of the church from Berry Hill Road is by going to the site entrance, see Viewpoint 2A, which involves crossing the verge. This view is only available to pedestrians walking along the road which has no roadside footpaths in the location. Before the hedge grew up and the trees became more mature, it is possible that more views would have been available, but it would still be to road users or pedestrians walking along the verge. Neither of those are regarded as sensitive receptors who would be using the road for recreational purposes where they would have a primary interest in the view. The hedge has grown up; clear views are no longer available. There are, currently, only fleeting views available.
- In any event, the development would allow public access to what is currently private land, to experience an open view across the northern part of the site, which would remain open, to the church spire and tower above the trees on the horizon. I understand that there is no longer a heritage objection to the proposal from the Council, and I am not qualified to comment on heritage issues except as elements of the landscape or views.
- 5.6.22 However, Historic England's comments in the Officer's Report at 7.26 are, inter alia, as follows:

The indicative layout and supporting information for the reduced scheme for up to 40 dwellings acknowledges and establishes the importance of views of the church from Berry Hill Road which is welcome and it is acknowledged that allowing public access to the proposed green space to the north of the site would enable new, clear views of the church which would enable better appreciation of the building within the landscape.

5.7 POLICY

- 5.7.1 In accordance with the NPPF paragraph 8, the proposals accord with social objectives b) and c) through the well-designed built environment that incudes accessible open spaces that are future–proofed by management and allow access to a large area of open space that is dominated by nature, acknowledging the value of being close to nature as being beneficial to well-being. It will also protect and enhance the natural environment through the retention of important landscape features and the development of the open spaces.
- 5.7.2 Paragraph 96 addresses open space and recreation, and the proposals will provide access to a network of high-quality open spaces across the site as well as the green infrastructure identified in the Neighbourhood Plan. In accordance with paragraph 98, the proposals protect and enhance public rights of way and access, by retaining the separation between the site and the footpath to the east and by retaining the footpath to the north and indeed improving its setting through the development of a diverse open space. The proposals will also add links to the wider rights of way network.

- 5.7.3 In accordance with paragraph 127, the proposals add to the overall quality of the site through the sustainable and accessible open space, will be visually attractive as a result of good architecture and layout which reflect the character of Adderbury, and appropriate and effective landscape design which is sympathetic to local character, the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, as identified in this Statement. It will also establish a strong sense of place, using the arrangement of streets, spaces, building types and materials as set out in the Design and Access Statement. The potential of the site will be realised to accommodate and sustain an appropriate amount and mix of development, which includes green open space, safely overlooked and readily accessible to make it safe and inclusive.
- 5.7.4 The development proposed takes account of the character of the area by having undertaken the LVA and the Addenda to establish the character of the site and its setting, and which has been used to inform the layout of the development as well as the landscape design. However, the mitigation largely delivers enhancement rather than screening or filtering of views, given the limited effects beyond the site.
- 5.7.5 As required by paragraph 170, the proposals will contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment. Although the site and its setting have not been identified or designated as valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value, nevertheless the proposals recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside by developing land that does not have a distinctive character or value and that relates more closely to the settlement edge than the wider countryside. It will also provide net gain for biodiversity, establishing coherent ecological networks that connect to the wider landscape.
- 5.7.6 With regards to the 2011 2031 Local Plan, the proposals accord with Policy Villages 2 as the land has not been identified in any robust study as being of particular environmental value, nor have significant adverse impact on landscape, heritage or wildlife. It would contribute towards enhancing the built environment by providing development that is in character with Adderbury, as set out in the Design and Access Statement.
- 5.7.7 The proposals accord with policy ESD 13 of the 2015 Local Plan through restoration, management and enhancement of existing landscape features, which in this case includes the boundary vegetation, the open character of the northern part of the site and the topography of the valley feature. It would accord with the criteria set out in the policy and which are relevant to the site, as demonstrated in this appraisal, by not causing undue visual harm to the open countryside; it would protect the natural landscape features and topography, be consistent with local character (which, in the published character assessment, requires enhancement of existing hedgerows and their sensitive management), and would not harm the setting of settlements, buildings, structures or other landmark features.
- 5.7.8 With regards to Policy ESD 15, the proposals will complement and enhance the character of its context through sensitive siting, layout and high-quality design. The layout has been dictated by the need to respect topography, existing vegetated



- boundaries, settlement pattern, increased public access and views. Even though the proposals are not in the vicinity of any of the District's distinctive natural or historic assets, the proposal achieves high quality design.
- 5.7.9 Local distinctiveness will be respected, as will local topography and landscape features, which in this case are significant trees, historic boundaries, landmarks, features or views despite not being in a designated landscape, within the Cherwell Valley or within a conservation area or its setting.
- 5.7.10 It will also respect the traditional pattern of routes, spaces, blocks, plots, enclosures and the form, scale and massing of buildings as discussed in the Design and Access Statement. It will integrate with Berry Hill Road by providing a similar frontage as well as provide a new footpath along the existing verge. There are no existing public spaces with which to integrate, but the proposed open spaces will integrate with the existing green infrastructure on and beyond the site. As can be seen from the Design and Access Statement, buildings will be configured to create clearly defined active public frontages.
- 5.7.11 Saved Policy C8 from the 1996 Local Plan requires resistance to sporadic development in the open countryside, and in particular near to major road junctions, with the commentary explaining that it will maintain the attractive, open, rural character of the countryside. Sporadic is not defined, but according to the Collins Concise Dictionary, sporadic means occurring at regular intervals; scattered; isolated. The proposals are not scattered or isolated but are closely related to the developed edge of Adderbury and will be contained within a framework of existing boundaries, reinforced by new planting and protected by setting development back from the boundaries. The site is not near a major junction and is certainly not, in character terms, in open countryside.
- 5.7.12 In accordance with Saved Policy C27, the development proposals will respect the historic settlement pattern, as set out in the Design and Access Statement, where the proposals take cues from the traditional street pattern and building form. However, the location on Berry Hill Road is not part of the historic street pattern. The proposals will not result in the obliteration of part of an historic plan form or fail to respect the traditional settlement pattern. The site is not within the conservation area.
- 5.7.13 With regards to Saved Policy C33, it is not clear how this policy relates to the site or the village, as the settlement is not loose knit, no important gaps have been identified in the Local Plan or the Neighbourhood Plan which include the site, and there is no issue in the reason for refusal relating to listed buildings or preserving a particular or important view. The Officer's Report is doubtful about the enhancement and provision of views of the church, but I believe that I have set out clearly how that doubt is not well placed.
- 5.7.14 From the Adderbury Neighbourhood Plan, Policy AD 1 requires development proposals outside the Adderbury Settlement Boundary to demonstrate that they will enhance, or at least not harm, local landscape character. It is very unusual for



proposals on greenfield sites, even on the edge of settlements, to cause no harm to landscape character. I cannot recall any sites that I have worked on that have resulted in no harm, and only enhancement. In this case, the effects are localised and anticipated for any greenfield site. Part of the planning balance, amongst such factors as housing need and heritage effects, which I do not address, there are benefits and in this case they include the protection and enhancement of the existing boundaries, and the creation of open space and expansion of, and connection, to the existing green infrastructure.

5.7.15 On Policies Map Insert C, the adjacent character area of Berry Hill Road and St Mary's Road is described. The policy does not cover the site, but nevertheless the design, as set out in the Design and Access Statement, incorporates some of the positive aspects of Berry Hill Road and St Mary's Road, including grass verges, boundary vegetation house fronting the road with a green interface (in the case of the site, the belt of trees and the verge).

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL ISSUES

- 6.1.1 The landscape and visual aspects of the proposals have been subject to a thorough analysis through the preparation of a Landscape and Visual Appraisal, expanded by the preparation of Landscape and Visual Effects Tables for the Addenda. All those documents have been prepared in accordance with recognised professional guidelines and, in particular, Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition. The original work identified the likely visibility of the proposals, the character of the site and its setting and the role it plays in that setting. Neither in consultations with the Council nor in the Officer's Report did professional officers question my approach or offer an alternative, systematic analysis.
- 6.1.2 In character terms, the site has no unusual or out of the ordinary defining characteristics. It is a very ordinary series of paddocks, with associated stables and yards, contained within strong vegetated boundaries which separate it from the adjacent countryside. It is more closely related to the developed edge of West Adderbury. The same characteristics restrict views to and from ten wider landscape, so views are from adjacent paths and Berry Hill Road where they adjoin the site's boundaries.
- 6.1.3 The Council has not designated the site as of any landscape importance or value, and the Neighbourhood Plan does not identify it as being part of any view corridor, gap or, apart from the northern footpath, green infrastructure.
- 6.1.4 The conclusion of the Appraisal, and the subsequent Landscape and Visual Effects Tables, was that the development would not have any significant adverse effects on any of the assessed landscape receptors, and indeed would have beneficial effects on trees and hedges owing to the ability to manage and monitor those features and ultimately ensure their replacement. That would not happen in the absence of sensitive development that provides sustainability for those features, as well as additional planting to increase the tree cover in the area.
- 6.1.5 In terms of visual effects, development would only be locally visible, generally only to receptors of low sensitivity, and would not result in adverse visual effects of significance. The analyses submitted to the Council on three occasions did not identify any adverse effects beyond those associated with an ordinary field on a settlement edge.
- 6.1.6 It is worth noting that the well vegetated approach to village would not be substantially changed, the existing development edge would be moved further east to the existing strong boundary and as is the case with the existing edge, the extent of development would not be readily perceptible.

6.2 SETTLEMENT PATTERN

6.2.1 The historic settlement pattern within the heart of Adderbury, and which gives the village its strong character, is absent from the existing development along Berry Hill Road. There is nothing remarkable about the layout or features of Berry Hill Road, it is a pleasant road of wide verges and some well vegetated gardens arranged along n approach road to the village.

6.3 DESIGN ISSUES

- 6.3.1 The design was based on my initial appraisal of the area and the site within it, modified after consultation with the planning officer and other specialists from the Council. The northern part of the site remained free from development.
- 6.3.2 With the proposal, large parts of the site become part of the wider green infrastructure of the area. This is achieved by not only the generous open spaces on the site expanding the village's green infrastructure, but also with new public access to and across the site, linking to the wider local footpath network.
- 6.3.3 Other enhancements include the way that the open spaces will be managed, bringing about net ecological gain on what is currently a field with little biodiversity interest, the management of the site and its trees and hedges for landscape and ecological reasons, which is currently not the case, and the supplementing of the existing vegetated new boundaries with new hedges, legacy trees, an orchard and woodland to increase the landscape and ecological interest, and the opportunities for linkages across the wider landscape. Of probably the greatest importance, in my view, is the provision of a management plan which will ensure that the existing and proposed landscape assets of the site will be sustained for the future.
- 6.3.4 Those enhancements are important benefits that need to be balanced against the limited harm which I have shown to be, in LVIA terms, not significant.

6.4 DETERMINATION

6.4.1 I believe that my Statement shows that the Appeal Site is suitable for the development proposed, which has evolved through an iterative design process to take account of landscape and visual parameters from the outset. There are no significant adverse effects on landscape or visual receptors, and indeed benefits have been identified. No landscape or visual designations would be adversely affected. The proposals respond to the site and its setting. I believe that permission should be granted.







Berry Hill Road, Adderbury

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Tables Methodology

February 2018

On behalf of HOLLINS STRATEGIC LAND



Berry Hill Road, Adderbury

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology

Project no. 2713

February 2018

	Name	Position	Signature	Date
Prepared by:	Nigel Evers	Director		28/02/18
Reviewed by:	Lindsey Evers	Director		28/02/18

Revision	Date	Description	Prepared	Reviewed



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	1.1	Introduction	1
	1.2	Baseline Data for the Landscape and Visual Assessment	1
	1.3	Site Appraisal and Photographic Record	1
	1.4	Assessment Stages	2
	1.5	Duration of Effects	2
	1.6	Nature of Effects	2
	1.7	Assessment of Landscape Effects	2
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1.1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 The methodology used by Viridian Landscape Planning for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) is based on professional experience, the Landscape Institute / Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment' (3rd Edition, 2013).
- 1.1.2 The assessment of landscape and visual effects aims to be as objective as possible, however professional judgements are required to be made, as the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd Edition, 2013) explains in paragraph 2.23, page 21:
 - 'Professional judgement is a very important part of LVIA. Whilst there is some scope for quantitive measurement of some relatively objective matters, for example the number of trees lost to construction... much of the assessment must rely on qualitative judgements, for example about what effect the introduction of a new development of land use change may have on visual amenity, or about the significance of change in the character in the landscape and whether it is positive or negative.'
- 1.1.3 In support of a planning application for residential development, Peter Brett Associates (PBA) produced a Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) in September 2017. In post application discussions with the Landscape Officer from Cherwell District Council, it was agreed that Viridian Landscape Planning would produce Landscape and Visual Impact tables based on the predicted effects from the original PBA viewpoints, as well as additional viewpoints, all photographed in winter conditions in January 2018. The tables consider the effects on landscape (including landscape character) and people's views / visual amenity as separate assessment components.
- 1.1.4 The tables do not form part of a LVIA, which is often part of a wider Environmental Impact Assessment, but instead are a supplement to the LVA, providing more detail on the likely effects of the proposal.
- 1.1.5 The assessment of landscape and visual effects makes comparison with the baseline year of **2018**, and includes assessment on completion of the development.

1.2 BASELINE DATA FOR THE LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL ASSESSMENT

- 1.2.1 A data trawl was undertaken by PBA as part of the LVA, which established the baseline landscape and landscape character information, including topography, landscape planning designations and published sources of landscape character.
- 1.2.2 Sources of information for the data trawl are set out in the LVA.

1.3 SITE APPRAISAL AND PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

- 1.3.1 The site and surrounding area were visited and a photographic record undertaken of the selected assessment viewpoints, in order to:
 - a. Determine the extent of visibility of existing built structures;



- b. Determine the visibility of the proposed development, utilising the results from the ZTV plan to guide the field work;
- c. Gain further understanding of the components which create the landscape character; and
- d. Carry out the assessment of landscape and visual effects.

1.4 ASSESSMENT STAGES

- 1.4.1 A three-stage process was undertaken, in accordance with the Landscape Institute/Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment guidelines. The following were assessed:
 - i. the nature of receptors (sensitivity);
 - ii. the nature of effects (magnitude) likely to result from the proposed development; and
 - iii. the significance of the identified landscape and visual effects on receptors, as required by the European Union Directive 2011/92/EU and UK Country Regulations.

1.5 DURATION OF EFFECTS

- 1.5.1 Effects may be temporary, permanent or reversible over time. The following terminology was used to describe the duration of landscape and visual effects arising as a result of the development proposals:
 - a. Short term: less than 1 year;
 - b. Medium term: 1-15 years; and
 - c. Long term: longer than 15years.

1.6 NATURE OF EFFECTS

1.6.1 The nature of effects may be positive (beneficial) or negative (adverse) and direct or indirect. Direct effects are those which result directly from the development; whereas indirect, or secondary, effects may arise as a consequential change resulting from the development, for example: changes to offsite and downstream vegetation as a result of alterations to a drainage regime.

1.7 ASSESSMENT OF LANDSCAPE EFFECTS

- 1.7.1 This assesses how the proposed development will affect the landscape components of the site (the 'landscape fabric', for example: landform, land use, hedgerows and trees, public rights of way, ponds or other features), and the key characteristics which contribute to its distinctive character (the 'landscape character').
- 1.7.2 A methodical consideration of each effect upon each identified landscape receptor was undertaken, in order to determine the significance of effects, in terms of:
 - a. Value and susceptibility to change (sensitivity of the landscape receptor); and
 - b. Size / scale, extent, duration and reversibility (magnitude of the landscape effect).



SENSITIVITY OF LANDSCAPE RECEPTORS

- 1.7.3 The assessment of landscape receptor sensitivity combines judgements on the value attributed to the landscape receptor and the 'susceptibility to change' of the receptor to the specific type of development proposed.
- 1.7.4 The value of potentially affected landscape receptors was assessed, including landscape character and the elements or features which contribute to that landscape character. Landscapes may be valued at community, local, national or international levels. Existing landscape designations will be taken as the starting point for the assessment, and the value of undesignated landscapes will also be assessed.
- 1.7.5 Table 1.4 sets out the relative importance of generic landscape designations and descriptions, identifying those designations applicable to the site and study area in the third column:

Table 1.1: Landscape Designations

Typical Designation	Description	lmportance (Value)	Actual Designation Applicable to the Site and Surrounding Area
World Heritage Site	Unique sites, features or areas of international importance with settings of very high quality.	International (High)	None
National Park, AONB, Conservation Area, curtilage of Grade I, II and II* Listed Buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, Scheduled Monuments, Ancient Woodland	Sites, features or areas of national importance with settings of high quality.	National (High)	None
Special Landscape Areas, Areas of Great Landscape Value, Long distance footpaths	Sites, features or areas of regional importance with intact character.	Regional (High/ Medium)	None
Areas of Local Landscape Importance, Designated Public Open Space, Tree Preservation Orders (TPO)	Sites, features or areas of district importance.	District (Medium or Low)	None
Probably no designation, local public right of way	General countryside area valued at the local level.	Local (Medium/ or Low)	Public rights of way



1.7.6 Other factors which may influence landscape value are set out in Table 7.5, below:

Table 1.2: Factors Which Influence Landscape Value

Attribute	Criteria
Landscape Quality	Intactness or physical condition of the landscape or of the individual elements which contribute to landscape character.
Sense of Place	Aesthetic and perceptual qualities which create distinctiveness.
Scenic Quality	General appeal of the landscape to the senses.
Rarity	Rarity of landscape character areas, types or features.
Representativenes s	Particular characteristic/feature/element considered an important example.
Cultural Interest	The presence of wildlife or cultural heritage interest which contributes positively to the landscape.
Recreation Value	Evidence that the landscape experience forms an important part of recreational activity, e.g. as established in guidebooks.
Associations	Relevant associations with notable figures, such as writers or artists, or events in history that contribute to landscape value.

- 1.7.7 Where appropriate, key individual components of the landscape, including particular features, notable aesthetic and perceptual qualities, were considered in terms of importance in their own right, including whether or not they can realistically be replaced. They were also judged on their contribution to the overall character and value of the wider landscape. For example, an intact landscape in good condition, where scenic quality, tranquillity, and/or cultural heritage features make a particular contribution to the landscape, or where there are important historical associations, is likely to be highly valued. Conversely, a degraded landscape in poor condition, with no particular scenic qualities or cultural interest is likely to be considered as low landscape value.
- 1.7.8 Susceptibility of landscape receptors to change arising from the proposed development was based upon the following criteria:

Table 1.3: Landscape Receptor Susceptibility to Change

Susceptibility	Criteria
High	Little ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline landscape and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies.
Medium	Some ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline landscape and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies.
Low	Substantial ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline landscape and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies.



Table 1.4: Landscape Sensitivity

Landscape Sensitivity	Description
High	An area possessing a particularly distinctive sense of place and character, and / or attributes which make a particular contribution to the landscape or landscape character, for example:
	in good condition;
	highly valued for its scenic quality;
	highly valued for its landscape character;
	an area with a low tolerance to change of the type proposed;
	cultural heritage features or walks with cultural associations;
	valued for contribution to recreational activity;
	important cultural or historic associations;
	irreplaceable landscape features or character;
	part of a long distance footpath.
Medium	An area with a clearly defined sense of place and character, and / or attributes which contribute to the landscape or landscape character, such as: • in moderate condition;
	some scenic quality valued at a local or regional level;
	 landscape character intact and valued at a local or regional level;
	an area with partial tolerance to change of the type proposed;
	 may be undesignated landscape.
Low	An area with a weak sense of place or poorly defined character, and / or attributes which make a contribution to the landscape or landscape character, such as:
	in poor condition;
	no particular scenic qualities;
	disjointed or weak landscape character;
	contains a high level of discordant or detracting features;
	no cultural interest;
	 an area that is tolerant of substantial change of the type proposed;
	undesignated landscape;
	a degraded landscape;
	strongly influenced by detracting land uses and buildings.



- 1.7.10 Development proposals can create either beneficial or adverse effects upon the landscape. However, the evaluation of the architectural design and appearance of buildings is a subjective issue, and one which does not form part of the LVIA. The assessment of landscape and visual effects is based on the scale and massing of proposed development and the consequential effects upon landscape, landscape character and people's views and visual amenity.
- 1.7.11 The magnitude of a landscape effect was assessed in terms of its size or scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced and its duration and degree of reversibility.
- 1.7.12 The size or scale of change in the landscape relates to the loss or addition of features in the landscape which are likely to result from the proposed development, and takes into account:
 - a. The extent/proportion of landscape elements that are lost or added;
 - b. The contribution of those elements to landscape character and the degree to which aesthetic/perceptual aspects are altered; and
 - c. Whether the effect is likely to change the key characteristics of the landscape, which are critical to its distinctive character.
- 1.7.13 The following criteria were used to assess the size and scale of landscape effects, based on the degree of change that will occur as a result of the proposed development:

Table 1.5: Landscape Effects: Size/Scale of Change

Category	Criteria
Major adverse landscape effect	The proposals will result in a total change in the key characteristics of landscape character; will introduce elements totally uncharacteristic to the attributes of the receiving landscape such as its massing, scale, pattern and features; and/or will destroy or permanently degrade the integrity of landscape character; or is in total conflict with established planning objectives for landscape and visual elements of enhancement of the landscape; and/or result in a substantial or total loss, or alteration of key elements/features/characteristics.
Moderate adverse landscape effect	The proposals will result in a partial change in the key characteristics of landscape character; will introduce elements uncharacteristic to, out of scale or at odds with the attributes of the receiving landscape, such as its massing, scale, pattern and features; and/or will result in partial loss, or alteration of key elements/features/characteristics; or is in conflict with established planning objectives for landscape and visual elements of enhancement of the landscape.
Slight adverse landscape effect	The proposals will result in little change in the key characteristics of landscape character and will introduce elements that do not quite fit with the attributes of the receiving landscape such as its massing, scale, pattern and features; and/or will result in a minor loss or alteration of elements/features/characteristics; and/or contribute to degrading the landscape character.
Negligible adverse landscape effect	The proposals will result in a just discernible change to landscape character/elements/features/characteristics, which is not quite in keeping with the existing landscape and landscape character.

Category	Criteria
No change	The proposals will not cause any change to the landscape character/elements/features/characteristics.
Neutral effect	As a result of the proposals, there will be a change to the landscape elements/features/characteristics, but the change will be in keeping with, and complement, the existing landscape character such that the existing character is maintained and does not cause degradation or enhancement of the character.
Negligible landscape benefit	The proposals will result in a just discernible improvement to the landscape character/elements/characteristics, such as massing, scale, pattern or features.
Slight landscape benefit	The proposals will achieve a degree of fit with the landscape character/elements/features/characteristics and provides some enhancement to the condition or character of the landscape.
Moderate landscape benefit	The proposals will achieve a good fit with the landscape character/elements/features/characteristics, such as massing, scale, and pattern; or would noticeably improve the condition or character of the landscape and enhance characteristic features through the use of local materials; and/or support established planning objectives for landscape and visual elements of enhancement of the landscape.
Major landscape benefit	The proposals will totally accord with the landscape character/elements/features/characteristics, including scale, pattern, massing; or would restore, recreate or permanently enhance the condition or character of the landscape and enhance characteristic features through the use of local materials or planting; and/or delivers established planning objectives for landscape and visual elements of enhancement of the landscape.

1.8 ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS ON VIEWS AND VISUAL AMENITY

- 1.8.1 This assesses how the proposed development will affect the views available to people and their visual amenity. A methodical consideration of each visual effect upon each identified visual receptor was undertaken, in order to determine the significance of effects, in terms of:
 - a. Value and susceptibility to change (sensitivity of the visual receptor, or viewer); and
 - b. Size / scale, extent, composition, duration and reversibility (magnitude of the visual effect).
- 1.8.2 Visual receptors generally comprise users of public rights of way, public open spaces, public realm or other outdoor recreational facilities, and also travellers in vehicles who may be visiting, living or working within the study area, and their views at particular places.
- 1.8.3 The following terminology was used to describe the approximate distance between the representative viewpoint and the proposed development:

a. Local: under 0.5km;

b. Medium distance: 0.5km - 2km;

c. Long distance: beyond 2km.



- 1.8.4 The type of view, and the number of viewers likely to experience the view, will be described in the following terms:
 - a. Glimpsed (i.e. in passing) / Filtered / Oblique / Framed / Open Views; and
 - b. Few / Moderate / Many Viewers.
- 1.8.5 No private viewpoints were assessed.

SENSITIVITY OF VISUAL RECEPTORS

- 1.8.6 The assessment of visual receptor sensitivity combined judgements on the value attributed to the visual receptor and the 'susceptibility to change' of the receptor to the specific type of development proposed.
- 1.8.7 The value assigned to views had regard to a number of factors, including:
 - a. Recognition through planning or heritage assets; and
 - b. The popularity of the viewpoint, its appearance in guidebooks, literature or art, on tourist maps, and the facilities provided to enable enjoyment of the view.
- 1.8.8 The criteria for the assessment of the value of views is summarised in the table below; note that these are provided for guidance and are not intended to be absolute.

Table 1.6: Value of Views

Value	Criteria
High	Views from landscapes/viewpoints of national importance, or highly popular visitor attractions where the view forms an important part of the experience, or with important cultural associations.
Medium	Views from landscapes/viewpoints of regional/district importance or moderately popular visitor attractions where the view forms part of the experience, or with local cultural associations.
Low	Views from landscapes/viewpoints with no designations, not particularly popular as a viewpoint and with minimal or no cultural associations.

- 1.8.9 The susceptibility of people to changes in views is a function of:
 - a. The occupation or activity of the viewer at a given location; and
 - b. The extent, therefore, to which a person's attention or interest may be focussed on a particular view and the visual amenity experienced.
- 1.8.10 For the purposes of the visual impact assessment, visual receptors' susceptibility to change was based upon the following table:



Table 1.7: Visual Receptor Susceptibility to Change

Susceptibility	Type of Receptor
High	 Residents; People engaged in outdoor recreation, including users of public rights of way, whose attention is likely to be focussed on the visual environment of the landscape and on particular views; Visitors to heritage assets, landmarks or other attractions where views of the surroundings are an important part of the experience; Communities where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents; and Travellers on scenic routes.
Medium	 Travellers on road, rail or other transport routes, where the view is moderately important to the quality of the journey (e.g. on a scenic route); People using local parks, open spaces, public realm, or walking on streets or local public rights of way, with moderate interest in their visual environment.
Low	 People engaged in outdoor sport or recreation, which does not involve appreciation of, or focus upon, views; People at their place of work, where the landscape setting is not important to the quality of working life; and Travellers, where the view is fleeting and incidental to the journey.

MAGNITUDE OF VISUAL EFFECTS

- 1.8.11 The magnitude of a visual effect was assessed in terms of its size or scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced and its duration and degree of reversibility.
- 1.8.12 The size or scale of change in the view relates to the degree of contrast to, or integration with, the visual composition, which is likely to result from the proposed development; and is influenced by the relative time over which a view is experienced and whether it is a full, partial or glimpsed view.
- 1.8.13 The following criteria were used to assess the size and scale of visual effects, based on the degree of change to the view or composition:

Table 1.8: Visual Effects: Size/Scale of Change

Category	Criteria
Major adverse or beneficial visual effect	The proposals will cause a dominant or complete change or contrast to the view, resulting from the loss or addition of features in the view and will substantially alter (degrade or enhance) the appreciation or composition of the view.
Moderate adverse or beneficial visual effect	The proposals will cause a clearly noticeable change or contrast to the view, which would have some effect on the composition, resulting from the loss or addition of features in the view and will noticeably alter (degrade or enhance) the appreciation of the view.



Category	Criteria
Slight adverse or beneficial visual effect	The proposals will cause a perceptible change or contrast to the view, but which would not materially affect the composition or the appreciation of the view.
Negligible adverse or beneficial visual effect	The proposals will cause a barely perceptible change or contrast to the view, which would not affect the composition or the appreciation of the view.
No change	The proposals will maintain the existing view and cause no change to the view.
Neutral	There will be a change to the composition of the view, but the change will be entirely in keeping with the existing elements of the view and maintain the composition of the existing view.

1.9 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL MITIGATION MEASURES.

1.9.1 Measures proposed for preventing/avoiding, reducing or, where possible, offsetting or compensating for significant adverse landscape or visual effects were described. However, they were not taken into account in the assessment of effects.

1.10 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL EFFECTS

- 1.10.1 Significance of landscape and visual effects vary with the location, landscape context and type of proposed development.
- 1.10.2 The significance of landscape and visual effects was determined from a combination of the receptor sensitivity and the magnitude of effects, as set out in the following table:

Table 1.9: Assessment of Significance of Landscape and Visual Effects

Sensitivity of Receptor	Major Effect	Moderate Effect	Slight Effect	Negligible Effect	Neutral Effect
High	Severe Significance	Major Significance	Moderate Significance	Minor Significance	Not Significant
Medium	Major Significance	Moderate Significance	Minor Significance	Not Significant	Not Significant
Low	Moderate Significance	Minor Significance	Minor Significance	Not Significant	Not Significant

- 1.10.3 The above table has regard to guidance in the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, (3rd Edition, 2013), at paragraph 5.56, page 92 (significance of landscape effects) and paragraph 6.44, page 116 (significance of visual effects).
- 1.10.4 For the purposes of the LVIA, 'Moderately Significant' effects are also considered as significant, but to a lesser degree than (wholly) 'Significant' effects.





BASELINE AND SENSIT	TIVITY		CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE					
Landscape Character Area / Type, Designation or Features	Baseline Description: (Key Defining Characteristics)	Value of Landscape Character or Features, Susceptibility to Change; OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change	Mitigation	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility; OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Nature of Effect	SIGNIFICANCE	
Landscape Character Area	as (Published Sources) and Landscape Planning	Designations						
Natural England National Landscape Character Area No.107: Cotswolds	On the deeper soils and river valleys, hedgerows form the main field boundaries; oak/ash woodlands are characteristic of the river valleys; The majority of the principal rivers flow south-eastwards forming the headwaters of the Thames;	Value of LCA: Medium Susceptibility to Change: Low OVERALL SENSITIVITY: MEDIUM	Loss of c 50% of field to development and minor loss of trees at access. Field pattern remains intact.	New tree and shrub planting. Open space will be managed and existing hedges reinforced with new planting and managed.	Size/Scale: Negligible given size of CA Geographical Extent: very little effect beyond site boundaries Duration: Long term Reversibility: No OVERALL MAGNITUDE: NEGLIGIBLE	Adverse, Direct	Not Significant NOT SIGNIFICANT	
Local Authority: Oxfordshire County Council: Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study 2004: Landscape Type 16: Upstanding Village Farmlands	 A steep-sided, undulating landform; A well-defined geometric pattern of medium-sized fields enclosed by prominent hedgerows; and A strong settlement pattern of compact, nucleated villages of varying sizes with little dispersal in wider countryside. 	Value of LCA: Medium Susceptibility to Change: Medium OVERALL SENSITIVITY: MEDIUM	Loss of c 50% of field to development and minor loss of trees at access. Field pattern remains intact. Will extend development along northern side of Berry Hill Road. However, this part of Adderbury does not have a nucleated pattern.	New tree and shrub planting. Open space will be managed and existing hedges reinforced with new planting and managed.	Size/Scale: Slight Geographical Extent: Very little effect beyond site boundaries Duration: Long term Reversibility: No OVERALL MAGNITUDE: SLIGHT	Adverse, Direct	Minor Significance NOT SIGNIFICANT	
Local Authority: Oxfordshire County Council: Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study 2004: Local Character Area D: Bloxham (NU/9):	 Regularly-shaped, small-sized grass fields and larger arable fields; Fields are enclosed by a prominent network of intact hawthorn and elm hedges which, in places, are overgrown and gappy; Mature ash, oak and sycamore trees are scattered throughout the area, denser where there is more grassland, along roadsides, country lanes and the disused railway line. 	Value of LCA: Medium Susceptibility to Change: Medium OVERALL SENSITIVITY: MEDIUM	Loss of c 50% of field to development and minor loss of trees at access. Field pattern remains intact.	New tree and shrub planting. Open space will be managed and existing hedges reinforced with new planting and managed.	Size/Scale: Slight Geographical Extent: Very little effect beyond site boundaries Duration: Long term Reversibility: No OVERALL MAGNITUDE: SLIGHT	Adverse, Direct	Minor Significance NOT SIGNIFICANT	

Terminology for Landscape Effect:

Landscape Value: High, Medium, Low Susceptibility to Change: High, Medium, Low High, Medium, Low Overall Sensitivity of Receptor:

Size/Scale of Effect: Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change

Geographical Extent of Effect: (Descriptive) Duration: Reversibility:

Yes, within (timescale)/No Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change

Long-term, Medium-term, Short-term

Overall Magnitude of Effect: Nature of Effect: Adverse, Benefit, Neutral, Not Applicable, Direct, Indirect,

Secondary

Significance: Significant, Moderately Significant, Not Significant

BASELINE AND SENSI	TIVITY		CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE					
Landscape Character Area / Type, Designation or Features	Baseline Description: (Key Defining Characteristics)	Value of Landscape Character or Features, Susceptibility to Change; OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change	Mitigation	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility; OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Nature of Effect	SIGNIFICANCE	
Local Authority: Cherwell District Council: Cherwell District Landscape Assessment LCA: Cherwell Valley (Cherwell DC 1995)	 The valley in the northerly part of the area is less sharply defined, as the river is joined from the west by two major tributaries, the Sor Brook and the River Swere Close to settlements and on the steepest slopes, a network of small fields and mixed farming has survived. Lines of trees resulting from outgrown hedges and small clumps of trees in field corners give parts of the valley a locally well-treed character. 	Value of LCA: Medium Susceptibility to Change: Medium OVERALL SENSITIVITY: MEDIUM	Loss of c 50% of field to development and minor loss of trees at access. Field pattern remains intact. Much of a valley landform on the site remains free of development, although the feature is a sub valley to the Sor and not the Sor valley itself.	New tree and shrub planting. Open space will be managed and existing hedges reinforced with new planting and managed.	Size/Scale: Slight Geographical Extent: Very little effect beyond site boundaries Duration: Long term Reversibility: No OVERALL MAGNITUDE: SLIGHT	Adverse, Direct	Minor Significance NOT SIGNIFICANT	
Local Landscape: Character of Site and Surrounding Area	Generally enclosed character as a result of substantial hedgerows and tree belts along all boundaries except the western boundary To the west, the pattern of field boundaries in the wider context of the site limit the visibility Largely consists of paddocks subdivided by fencing including timber post and rail and electric tape with wooden posts, with associated stables and yards Views of church and its wooded landscape setting only publicly accessible from Berry Hill Road.	Value of Landscape Features: Medium Susceptibility to Change: Medium OVERALL SENSITIVITY: MEDIUM	Field pattern remains intact, loss of c 50% of field to development and minor loss of trees at access; removal of electric fencing, paddocks and stables and replacement with new housing, gardens, roads and paths behind existing tree lines and hedges along Berry Hill Road and footpath. Much of valley landform remains free of development. View to church from Berry Hill Road at existing entrance will be retained, although context across the site will be changed to one of development. New view opened up from new pedestrian entrance at south western corner of site. Views of church from open space on northern half of site and within proposed development will be publicly accessible with development.	New tree and shrub planting. Open space will be managed and existing hedges reinforced with new planting and managed.	Size/Scale: Moderate Geographical Extent: very little effect beyond site boundaries Duration: Long term Reversibility: No OVERALL MAGNITUDE: MODERATE	Adverse, Direct	Moderate Significance SIGNIFICANT	
Public Rights of Way	Public footpath (101/6) runs within the northern edge of the site	Value of Landscape Features: Medium Susceptibility to Change: Low OVERALL SENSITIVITY: MEDIUM	Route of footpath retained across site within open space. No temporary diversion needed during construction.	None required.	Size/Scale: No change Geographical Extent: Local to line of path Duration: Long term Reversibility: No OVERALL MAGNITUDE: NO CHANGE	No effect	Not Significant NOT SIGNIFICANT	

Terminology for Landscape Effect:

Landscape Value: High, Medium, Low Susceptibility to Change: High, Medium, Low High, Medium, Low Overall Sensitivity of Receptor:

Size/Scale of Effect: Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change

Geographical Extent of Effect: (Descriptive)

Long-term, Medium-term, Short-term Duration: Yes, within (timescale)/No

Reversibility:

Overall Magnitude of Effect: Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change Nature of Effect: Adverse, Benefit, Neutral, Not Applicable, Direct, Indirect,

Secondary

Significance: Significant, Moderately Significant, Not Significant



APPENDIX C: VISUAL EFFECTS TABLE

BASELINE AND SENSITIVITY			CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE					
The site has limited visibility from the wider landscape due to the mature hedgerows at the boundaries of the site;			General Comment on the Development Proposals and Visual Effects: The assessment of effects is based on an updated site survey with photographs taken in January 2018 representing the worst case, with dwellings up to 8m high to the ridge and based on the illustrative layout shown on drawing no 1697 /0001/B. The assessment has been undertaken to take account of the effects at completion stage without the mitigating effects of new planting. Photographs 1A to 6A are winter photographs similar taken from similar locations to photographs 1 to 6 of Peter Brett Associates Landscape and Visual Appraisal dated October 2017.					
Viewpoint No. and Location	Designation, Landscape Character Area and Approx. Distance to Site Boundary	Description of Baseline View, Type of View and Number of Users	Value of View, Susceptibility to Change; OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change to the View	Mitigation	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility; OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Nature of Effect	SIGNIFICANCE
1A: Berry Hill Road from verge opposite existing site entrance	Designation: None. LCA: LCT 16: Upstanding Village Farmlands Local Character Area NU/16 Bodicote (Oxfordshire CC 2004) LCA: Cherwell Valley (Cherwell DC 1995) Distance: 10m	Baseline Description, Type of View, Viewer and Number of Users: Glimpsed view from Berry Hill Road, opposite the existing site entrance. There is no pavement along the road at this location, although there is a narrow grass verge and so receptors are limited to moderate number of motorist and few pedestrians. A hedgerow containing a number of mature and semi-mature trees runs along the southern site boundary. A wooden post and rail fence also runs along the boundary, behind and partially glimpsed through, the hedgerow. Looking through the metal farm gate across the access track, there is a view of part of the paddock area within the site and the buildings associated with the stable yard. The spire of the Church of St Mary the Virgin is barely discernible through the trees.	Value of Views: Low Susceptibility to Change: Low OVERALL SENSITIVITY: LOW	Existing entrance will become vehicular access to development, with associated surfacing, kerbs and lighting and potential minor tree loss, as well as new footpath eastwards along northern side of Berry Hill Road as far as entrance. Existing land use including gates, fences and stables will be replaced with new houses approximately 8m to the ridge approximately 35m from current road edge to the left (west), partly behind existing tree belt. Hedge along eastern boundary will be visible for approximately 100m along boundary, and will then be partly obscured by new houses, although mature trees are likely to be visible above buildings. More of the church spire will be visible.	Existing tree belts, hedges and hedgerows will be managed and reinforced with new planting. New houses will be set back beyond tree belt along Berry Hill Road. New tree and shrub planting in gardens and public areas and new woodland planting between site boundary and new houses on right (east) side of access road.	Size/Scale: Slight Geographical Extent: A small and glimpsed element of the wider view which is concentrated along Berry Hill Road Duration: Long term Reversibility: No OVERALL MAGNITUDE: SLIGHT	Adverse	Minor Significance NOT SIGNIFICANT

Type of View: Glimpsed, Open, Oblique, Framed, Filtered

Number of Viewers: Few, Moderate, Many Value of Views: High, Medium, Low Susceptibility to Change: High, Medium, Low Overall Sensitivity of Receptor: High, Medium, Low

Size/Scale of Effect: Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change

Geographical Extent of Effect: Duration:

Reversibility:
Overall Magnitude of Effect:

Nature of Effect: Significance: (Descriptive)

Long-term, Medium-term, Short-term, Direct, Indirect Yes, within (timescale)/No

Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change Adverse, Benefit, Neutral, Not Applicable, Direct, Indirect, Secondary

Significant, Moderately Significant, Not Significant

Abbreviations:

LCA: County/District Landscape Character Area
HLCA: Historic Landscape Character Area
AONB: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AGLV: Area of Great Landscape Value

BASELINE AN	BASELINE AND SENSITIVITY			CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE				
Viewpoint No. and Location	Designation, Landscape Character Area and Approx. Distance to Site Boundary	Description of Baseline View, Type of View and Number of Users	Value of View, Susceptibility to Change; OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change to the View	Mitigation	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility; OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Nature of Effect	SIGNIFICANCE
2A: From gateway on Berry Hill Road looking north along access track on site	Designation: None LCA: LCT 16: Upstanding Village Farmlands Local Character Area NU/16 Bodicote (Oxfordshire CC 2004) LCA: Cherwell Valley (Cherwell DC 1995) Distance: 0m	Baseline Description, Type of View, Viewer and Number of Users: Open view from the access track at the entrance to the site. Few viewers limited to those accessing the private land or stopping at the gateway. The paddocks, subdivided by post and rail fences are seen, with stables and an arena seen in the middle distance. The hedgerow containing a number of mature trees is seen along the eastern site boundary. The tower and spire of the Church of St Mary the Virgin in the historic centre of Adderbury stands out against the ridge beyond and the sky.	Value of Views: Low Susceptibility to Change: Low OVERALL SENSITIVITY: LOW	Existing entrance will become vehicular access to development, with associated surfacing, kerbs and lighting and potential minor tree loss. Existing land use including gates, fences and stables will be replaced with new houses approximately 8m high approximately 40m from viewpoint to left (west) of road. The view of the church spire will remain but will change in character as it will be framed by new development on the west side. It will however be available to the wider public accessing the site and to the residents of the site.	Existing tree belts, hedges and hedgerows will be managed and reinforced with new planting. New houses will be set back beyond tree belt. New tree and shrub planting in gardens and public areas and new woodland planting between site boundary and new houses on right (east) side of access road.	Size/Scale: Slight Geographical Extent: Although the whole view shown will be affected, it is a small element of the wider view which is concentrated along Berry Hill Road. Duration: Long term Reversibility: No OVERALL MAGNITUDE: SLIGHT	Adverse	Minor Significance NOT SIGNIFICANT

Type of View: Glimpsed, Open, Oblique, Framed, Filtered

Number of Viewers: Few, Moderate, Many Value of Views: High, Medium, Low Susceptibility to Change: High, Medium, Low Overall Sensitivity of Receptor: High, Medium, Low

Size/Scale of Effect: Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change Geographical Extent of Effect: Duration:

Reversibility: Overall Magnitude of Effect: Nature of Effect:

Significance:

(Descriptive) Long-term, Medium-term, Short-term, Direct, Indirect

Yes, within (timescale)/No

Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change Adverse, Benefit, Neutral, Not Applicable, Direct, Indirect, Secondary

Significant, Moderately Significant, Not Significant

Abbreviations:

County/District Landscape Character Area LCA: HLCA: Historic Landscape Character Area AONB: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Area of Great Landscape Value AGLV:

BASELINE A	ND SENSITIVITY			CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICA	CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE				
Viewpoint No. and Location	Designation, Landscape Character Area and Approx. Distance to Site Boundary	Description of Baseline View, Type of View and Number of Users	Value of View, Susceptibility to Change; OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change to the View	Mitigation	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility; OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Nature of Effect	SIGNIFICANCE	
3A: Berry Hill Road opposite entrance to public right of way, looking north	LCA LCT 16: Upstanding Village Farmlands Local Character Area NU/16 Bodicote (Oxfordshire CC 2004) LCA: Cherwell Valley (Cherwell DC 1995) Distance: 20m	Baseline Description, Type of View, Viewer and Number of Users: Filtered view from Berry Hill Road, opposite the south-east corner of the site. There is no pavement along the road, however there is a narrow grass verge and so receptors are limited to moderate number of motorist and few pedestrians. Substantial hedgerows containing a number of mature trees are seen along the southern and eastern site boundaries. There are some glimpsed views into the site through gaps in this vegetation. Looking north, the public right of way, which runs adjacent to the eastern site boundary, is seen. This is enclosed on either side by mature and semi-mature hedgerows.	Value of Views: Low Susceptibility to Change: Low OVERALL SENSITIVITY: LOW	New footpath and site access will result in minor cutting back of roadside vegetation but, apart from minor tree loss at access, tree belt will remain. Filtered views of new houses about 8m high about 85m from viewpoint will be available beyond open space, replacing existing paddocks and stables, and views of houses further onto site will be obscured by those houses and existing tree belt. New woodland planting will eventually screen view.	Existing tree belts, hedges and hedgerows will be managed and reinforced with new planting. New woodland planting will block gap in trees.	Size/Scale: Slight Geographical Extent: Only effects will be filtered and limited view through trees and minor changes to entrance 60m away Duration: Long term Reversibility: No OVERALL MAGNITUDE: SLIGHT	Adverse	Minor Significance NOT SIGNIFICANT	

Type of View: Glimpsed, Open, Oblique, Framed, Filtered

Number of Viewers: Few, Moderate, Many Value of Views: High, Medium, Low Susceptibility to Change: High, Medium, Low Overall Sensitivity of Receptor: High, Medium, Low

Size/Scale of Effect: Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change

Geographical Extent of Effect: Duration:

Reversibility:
Overall Magnitude of Effect:

Nature of Effect: Significance: (Descriptive)

Long-term, Medium-term, Short-term, Direct, Indirect Yes, within (timescale)/No

Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change Adverse, Benefit, Neutral, Not Applicable, Direct, Indirect, Secondary

Significant, Moderately Significant, Not Significant

Abbreviations:

LCA: County/District Landscape Character Area
HLCA: Historic Landscape Character Area
AONB: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AGLV: Area of Great Landscape Value

BASELINE AN	ND SENSITIVITY			CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFIC	ANCE			
Viewpoint No. and Location	Designation, Landscape Character Area and Approx. Distance to Site Boundary	Description of Baseline View, Type of View and Number of Users	Value of View, Susceptibility to Change; OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change to the View	Mitigation	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility; OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Nature of Effect	SIGNIFICANCE
4A: Public right of way to east of site, looking west	Designation: Public right of way LCA LCT 16: Upstanding Village Farmlands Local Character Area NU/16 Bodicote (Oxfordshire CC 2004) LCA: Cherwell Valley (Cherwell DC 1995) Distance: 0m	Baseline Description, Type of View, Viewer and Number of Users: A framed and glimpsed view from the public footpath (101/13) adjacent to the eastern site boundary. For a moderate number of walkers looking through a gap in the hedgerow, there is a view across the southern part of the site. The paddocks are seen, sub-divided by post and rail fencing, with the substantial hedgerow and mature trees seen along the southern site boundary. Looking across the site to the middle distance there are glimpsed views of properties along Berry Hill Road and within Adderbury, filtered by intervening trees and hedgerows.	Value of Views: Low Susceptibility to Change: Medium OVERALL SENSITIVITY: MEDIUM	Foreground beyond hedgerow will be open space up to access road, approximately in position of existing access 45m away. Beyond, houses will be set back 15 to 20m from the belt of trees fronting onto Berry Hill Road. Views further across site will be obscured by new houses. New woodland planting will eventually screen view.	Existing tree belts, hedges and hedgerows will be managed and reinforced with new planting. New woodland planting on open space will block gap in trees.	Size/Scale: Moderate Geographical Extent: Although the whole view shown will be affected, it is a small element of the wider view which is concentrated to the north along the footpath and includes the church Duration: Long term Reversibility: No OVERALL MAGNITUDE: MODERATE	Adverse	Moderate significance SIGNIFICANT

Type of View: Glimpsed, Open, Oblique, Framed, Filtered

Number of Viewers: Few, Moderate, Many Value of Views: High, Medium, Low Susceptibility to Change: High, Medium, Low Overall Sensitivity of Receptor: High, Medium, Low

Size/Scale of Effect: Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change

Geographical Extent of Effect: Duration:

Reversibility:

Overall Magnitude of Effect: Nature of Effect: Significance: (Descriptive)

Long-term, Medium-term, Short-term, Direct, Indirect Yes, within (timescale)/No

Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change Adverse, Benefit, Neutral, Not Applicable, Direct, Indirect, Secondary

Significant, Moderately Significant, Not Significant

Abbreviations:

LCA: County/District Landscape Character Area
HLCA: Historic Landscape Character Area
AONB: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AGLV: Area of Great Landscape Value

BASELINE AN	ND SENSITIVITY			CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE				
Viewpoint No. and Location	Designation, Landscape Character Area and Approx. Distance to Site Boundary	Description of Baseline View, Type of View and Number of Users	Value of View, Susceptibility to Change; OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change to the View	Mitigation	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility; OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Nature of Effect	SIGNIFICANCE
5A: Public right of way along northern boundary of site, looking south	Designation: Public right of way LCA LCT 16: Upstanding Village Farmlands Local Character Area NU/16 Bodicote (Oxfordshire CC 2004) LCA: Cherwell Valley (Cherwell DC 1995) Distance: 0m	Baseline Description, Type of View, Viewer and Number of Users: Open view from public footpath (101/6) running within the northern edge of the site. Moderate number of walkers. The footpath runs to the south of the boundary hedgerow and is separated from the rest of the site by an intermittent post and electric-line fence. There are open views across the paddocks at the north of the site. The site rises to a local crest in the centre, which limits views of its southern section. A shallow valley feature becomes more pronounced towards the north of the site. The substantial boundary hedgerows are seen to the east and north of the site, and partially seen at the south of the site. Looking west, a hedge with intermittent mature trees is seen, beyond which there are glimpsed views of properties along Berry Hill Road.	Value of Views: Low Susceptibility to Change: Medium OVERALL SENSITIVITY: MEDIUM	Foreground will remain undeveloped as open space. Irregular edge of residential development will appear along horizon as clustered groups of buildings beyond closest edge of stables, with lower part on left hand (eastern) side concealed by landform, and full height visible on right hand (western) side. There will be no new houses along the eastern (left) edge adjacent to the hedge.	Existing tree belts, hedges, hedgerows and new open space will be managed and reinforced with new planting. New tree planting on open space.	Geographical Extent: affects skyline as view tends to be concentrated along line of footpath, although extensive vegetation on north side of path deflects wider views southwards Duration: Long term Reversibility: No OVERALL MAGNITUDE: MODERATE	Adverse	Moderate significance SIGNIFICANT

Type of View: Glimpsed, Open, Oblique, Framed, Filtered

Number of Viewers: Few, Moderate, Many Value of Views: High, Medium, Low Susceptibility to Change: High, Medium, Low Overall Sensitivity of Receptor: High, Medium, Low

Size/Scale of Effect: Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change

Geographical Extent of Effect: Duration:

Reversibility:
Overall Magnitude of Effect:

Nature of Effect: Significance: (Descriptive)

Long-term, Medium-term, Short-term, Direct, Indirect

Yes, within (timescale)/No Major Moderate Slight Negl

Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change Adverse, Benefit, Neutral, Not Applicable, Direct, Indirect, Secondary

Significant, Moderately Significant, Not Significant

Abbreviations:

LCA: County/District Landscape Character Area
HLCA: Historic Landscape Character Area
AONB: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AGLV: Area of Great Landscape Value

BASELINE AN	ND SENSITIVITY			CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE				
Viewpoint No. and Location	Designation, Landscape Character Area and Approx. Distance to Site Boundary	Description of Baseline View, Type of View and Number of Users	Value of View, Susceptibility to Change; OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change to the View	Mitigation	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility; OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Nature of Effect	SIGNIFICANCE
6A: Berry Hill Road to west of site, looking north east	LCA LCT 16: Upstanding Village Farmlands Local Character Area NU/16 Bodicote (Oxfordshire CC 2004) LCA: Cherwell Valley (Cherwell DC 1995) Distance: 40m	Baseline Description, Type of View, Viewer and Number of Users: A filtered and oblique view from Berry Hill Road to the south-western corner of the site. There is no pavement along this length of the road, however there is a narrow grass verge and so receptors are limited to moderate number of motorists and few pedestrians. Looking north, existing properties along Berry Hill Road are seen. The site occupies land to the east of these. The substantial hedgerow, containing mature trees, which forms the southern site boundary is seen along Berry Hill Road.	Value of Views: Low Susceptibility to Change: Low OVERALL SENSITIVITY: LOW	Upper parts of new houses visible in south-west corner of site, approximately same height as adjacent house, through few gaps in hedge or filtered by trees, set back from existing building line. Houses beyond screened by nearest houses, and along Berry Hill Road largely screened by trees.	Existing tree belts, hedges and hedgerows will be managed and reinforced with new planting. New houses will be set back beyond tree belt.	Size/Scale: Slight Geographical Extent: limited to a very small area of view, which tends to be focussed along Berry Hill Road Duration: Long term Reversibility: No OVERALL MAGNITUDE: SLIGHT	Adverse	Minor significance NOT SIGNIFICANT

Type of View: Glimpsed, Open, Oblique, Framed, Filtered

Number of Viewers: Few, Moderate, Many Value of Views: High, Medium, Low Susceptibility to Change: High, Medium, Low Overall Sensitivity of Receptor: High, Medium, Low

Size/Scale of Effect: Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change

Geographical Extent of Effect: Duration:

Reversibility: Overall Magnitude of Effect: Nature of Effect:

Significance:

Long-term, Medium-term, Short-term, Direct, Indirect Yes, within (timescale)/No Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change Adverse, Benefit, Neutral, Not Applicable, Direct, Indirect, Secondary

(Descriptive)

Significant, Moderately Significant, Not Significant

Abbreviations:

LCA: County/District Landscape Character Area
HLCA: Historic Landscape Character Area
AONB: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AGLV: Area of Great Landscape Value

BASELINE AI	ND SENSITIVITY			CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE					
Viewpoint No. and Location	Designation, Landscape Character Area and Approx. Distance to Site Boundary	Description of Baseline View, Type of View and Number of Users	Value of View, Susceptibility to Change; OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change to the View	Mitigation	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility; OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Nature of Effect	SIGNIFICANCE	
7: From footpath 101/24 looking south east	Designation: Public right of way LCA: LCT 16: Upstanding Village Farmlands Local Character Area NU/16 Bodicote (Oxfordshire CC 2004) LCA: Cherwell Valley (Cherwell DC 1995) Distance: 120m	Baseline Description, Type of View, Viewer and Number of Users: An open view across grassland on rising ground with intermittent trees on the skyline. Moderate number of walkers. Trees and a transmission pole in the north-western part of the site can be seen, but the boundary hedges and the site itself are hidden by the rising landform. To the right of the view, a close boarded fence prevents views from the footpath as it heads south to run adjacent to and between dwellings and gardens. The spire of the church of St Mary the Virgin can be seen to the left of the view.	Value of Views: Low Susceptibility to Change: Medium OVERALL SENSITIVITY: MEDIUM	Potentially upper parts of two or three new houses on western part of site may be seen to the right (south) of large tree in north western corner of site. Other houses hidden by landform and close boarded fence along footpath. Remainder of site is open space to left (north) of houses and will be unaffected.	Existing tree belts, hedges and hedgerows will be managed and reinforced with new planting.	Size/Scale: Negligible Geographical Extent: New houses visible in very small area of view Duration: Long term Reversibility: No OVERALL MAGNITUDE: NEGLIGIBLE	Adverse	Not significant NOT SIGNIFICANT	

Type of View: Glimpsed, Open, Oblique, Framed, Filtered

Number of Viewers: Few, Moderate, Many Value of Views: High, Medium, Low Susceptibility to Change: High, Medium, Low Overall Sensitivity of Receptor: High, Medium, Low

Size/Scale of Effect: Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change

Geographical Extent of Effect: Duration:

Reversibility:
Overall Magnitude of Effect:
Nature of Effect:

Significance:

t: Major, M Adverse,

(Descriptive) Long-term, Medium-term, Short-term, Direct, Indirect

Yes, within (timescale)/No

Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change Adverse, Benefit, Neutral, Not Applicable, Direct, Indirect, Secondary

Significant, Moderately Significant, Not Significant

Abbreviations:

LCA: County/District Landscape Character Area
HLCA: Historic Landscape Character Area
AONB: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
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BASELINE AN	ID SENSITIVITY			CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICA	ANCE			
Viewpoint No. and Location	Designation, Landscape Character Area and Approx. Distance to Site Boundary	Description of Baseline View, Type of View and Number of Users	Value of View, Susceptibility to Change; OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change to the View	Mitigation	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility; OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Nature of Effect	SIGNIFICANCE
8: From footpath 101/13 looking west across site.	Designation: Public right of way LCA: LCT 16: Upstanding Village Farmlands Local Character Area NU/16 Bodicote (Oxfordshire CC 2004) LCA: Cherwell Valley (Cherwell DC 1995) Distance: 0m	Baseline Description, Type of View, Viewer and Number of Users: A filtered view from the public footpath (101/13) adjacent to the eastern site boundary. Moderate number of walkers Looking through a small gap in the hedgerow across the northern part of the site. Paddocks are seen, sub-divided by electric fencing, with the substantial hedgerow and mature trees seen along the northern site boundary. Looking across the site to the middle distance there are glimpsed views of properties along Berry Hill Road and within Adderbury, filtered by intervening trees and hedgerows. Users tend to focus on views north along path which includes spire of church.	Value of Views: Low Susceptibility to Change: Medium OVERALL SENSITIVITY: MEDIUM	Filtered views of edge of new housing on far side of site to left (south) of tree in north-west corner of site as nearest properties are to left (south) of stables. Site to right (north) will be open space and largely unchanged. Development set back by about 30m to left.	Existing tree belts, hedges, hedgerows and new open space will be managed and reinforced with new planting. New tree planting on open space.	Size/Scale: Slight Geographical Extent: New houses visible in very small area of view Duration: Long term Reversibility: No OVERALL MAGNITUDE: SLIGHT	Adverse	Minor Significance NOT SIGNIFICANT

Type of View: Glimpsed, Open, Oblique, Framed, Filtered

Number of Viewers: Few, Moderate, Many Value of Views: High, Medium, Low Susceptibility to Change: High, Medium, Low Overall Sensitivity of Receptor: High, Medium, Low

Size/Scale of Effect: Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change Geographical Extent of Effect: Duration:

Reversibility: Overall Magnitude of Effect: Nature of Effect:

Significance:

Yes, within (timescale)/No

(Descriptive)

Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change Adverse, Benefit, Neutral, Not Applicable, Direct, Indirect, Secondary Significant, Moderately Significant, Not Significant

Long-term, Medium-term, Short-term, Direct, Indirect

Abbreviations:

County/District Landscape Character Area LCA: HLCA: Historic Landscape Character Area AONB: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Area of Great Landscape Value AGLV:

BASELINE A	ND SENSITIVITY			CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE					
Viewpoint No. and Location	Designation, Landscape Character Area and Approx. Distance to Site Boundary	Description of Baseline View, Type of View and Number of Users	Value of View, Susceptibility to Change; OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change to the View	Mitigation	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility; OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Nature of Effect	SIGNIFICANCE	
9: From Berry Hill Road, looking north-east	Designation: None LCA: LCT 16: Upstanding Village Farmlands Local Character Area NU/16 Bodicote (Oxfordshire CC 2004) LCA: Cherwell Valley (Cherwell DC 1995) Distance: 10m	Baseline Description, Type of View, Viewer and Number of Users: A filtered view from Berry Hill Road towards the south-western corner of the site; the surface of the site can be seen through the network of stems and branches. There is no pavement along this length of the road, however there is a narrow grass verge and so receptors are limited to moderate number of motorists and few pedestrians. It is unlikely that many receptors would experience this view as it is at right angles to the road and most receptors would see the view obliquely, as they pass along the road at speed. Looking north-west, existing properties along Berry Hill Road are seen. The substantial hedgerow, containing mature trees, which forms the southern site boundary is seen along Berry Hill Road. Heavily filtered views of the spire of the Church of St Mary the Virgin are possible in the winter.	Value of Views: Low Susceptibility to Change: Low OVERALL SENSITIVITY: LOW	Gap made in tree line to allow pedestrian access and views to church through development, with houses either side, filtered views of houses visible through line of trees.	Existing tree belts, hedges and hedgerows will be managed and reinforced with new planting. New houses will be set back beyond tree belt.	Size/Scale: Moderate Geographical Extent: Largely filtered view of housing across most of view, but most viewers will be looking along road rather than at right angles Duration: Long term Reversibility: No OVERALL MAGNITUDE: MODERATE	Adverse	Minor Significance NOT SIGNIFICANT	

Type of View: Glimpsed, Open, Oblique, Framed, Filtered

Number of Viewers: Few, Moderate, Many Value of Views: High, Medium, Low Susceptibility to Change: High, Medium, Low Overall Sensitivity of Receptor: High, Medium, Low

Size/Scale of Effect: Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change

Geographical Extent of Effect: Duration:

Reversibility:
Overall Magnitude of Effect:

Nature of Effect:
Significance:

(Descriptive)
Long-term, Medium-term, Short-term, Direct, Indirect

Yes, within (timescale)/No

Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change Adverse, Benefit, Neutral, Not Applicable, Direct, Indirect, Secondary

Significant, Moderately Significant, Not Significant

Abbreviations:

LCA: County/District Landscape Character Area
HLCA: Historic Landscape Character Area
AONB: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AGLV: Area of Great Landscape Value

BASELINE AN	ND SENSITIVITY			CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE					
Viewpoint No. and Location	Designation, Landscape Character Area and Approx. Distance to Site Boundary	Description of Baseline View, Type of View and Number of Users	Value of View, Susceptibility to Change; OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change to the View	Mitigation	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility; OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Nature of Effect	SIGNIFICANCE	
10: From site looking north-east	Designation: None LCA: LCT 16: Upstanding Village Farmlands Local Character Area NU/16 Bodicote (Oxfordshire CC 2004) LCA: Cherwell Valley (Cherwell DC 1995) Distance: 0m	Baseline Description, Type of View, Viewer and Number of Users: Open view across northern part of site, looking towards the village on the ridge beyond the wooded former railway line. This is not a publicly accessible viewpoint and viewers are limited to the few people using the site for equestrian purposes. Part of the tower and the whole of the spire of the Church of St Mary the Virgin is a striking and prominent landmark above the wooded horizon, providing the focus of the view. The village and the nave of the church are entirely screened by the wooded valley floor and embankment.	Value of Views: Low Susceptibility to Change: Low OVERALL SENSITIVITY: LOW	Fencing removed and management for horses will be replaced with management for landscape and nature conservation; informal edge to new housing behind viewpoint. Public access to site provides opportunity for views that are not currently available.	Valley landform in northern part of site left undeveloped. Existing tree belts, hedges, hedgerows and new open space will be managed and reinforced with new planting. New tree planting on open space.	Size/Scale: Moderate Geographical Extent: Allows public access to view not currently accessible Duration: Long term Reversibility: No OVERALL MAGNITUDE: MODERATE	Beneficial	Minor Significance NOT SIGNIFICANT	

Type of View: Glimpsed, Open, Oblique, Framed, Filtered

Number of Viewers: Few, Moderate, Many Value of Views: High, Medium, Low Susceptibility to Change: High, Medium, Low Overall Sensitivity of Receptor: High, Medium, Low

Size/Scale of Effect: Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change

Geographical Extent of Effect: Duration:

Reversibility: Overall Magnitude of Effect: Nature of Effect:

Significance:

(Descriptive)
Long-term, Medium-term, Short-term, Direct, Indirect

Yes, within (timescale)/No

Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change Adverse, Benefit, Neutral, Not Applicable, Direct, Indirect, Secondary

Significant, Moderately Significant, Not Significant

Abbreviations:

LCA: County/District Landscape Character Area
HLCA: Historic Landscape Character Area
AONB: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AGLV: Area of Great Landscape Value

BASELINE AN	ND SENSITIVITY			CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE					
Viewpoint No. and Location	Designation, Landscape Character Area and Approx. Distance to Site Boundary	Description of Baseline View, Type of View and Number of Users	Value of View, Susceptibility to Change; OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change to the View	Mitigation	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility; OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Nature of Effect	SIGNIFICANCE	
11: From junction of bridleway 101/9 with A4260 Oxford Road looking north-west	Designation: Public bridleway LCA: LCT 16: Upstanding Village Farmlands Local Character Area NU/16 Bodicote (Oxfordshire CC 2004) LCA: Cherwell Valley (Cherwell DC 1995) Distance: 85m	Baseline Description, Type of View, Viewer and Number of Users: Open view across carriageway to junction of Oxford Road and Berry Hill Road, dominated by carriageways, signage and traffic. From point at which bridleway changes from being lined with hedgerows, limiting visibility, to being open where it joins Oxford Road. Moderate number of bridleway users and many road users, all of whom are focussed on negotiating road rather than the amenity of the view. South-east corner of site can be identified where footpath 101/13 emerges onto Berry Hill Road, and by adjacent large tree. Site not discernible owing to roadside vegetation, hedgerows and mature trees either side of 101/13.	Value of Views: Low Susceptibility to Change: Medium OVERALL SENSITIVITY: MEDIUM	Minor changes to tree cover along Berry Hill Road to allow access. Potential heavily filtered views of upper parts of houses along eastern side of site seen through trees along Oxford Road and along footpath 101/13.	Existing tree belts, hedges and hedgerows will be managed and reinforced with new planting.	Size/Scale: Negligible Geographical Extent: Over very limited part of view Duration: Long term Reversibility: No OVERALL MAGNITUDE: NEGLIGIBLE	Adverse	Not significant NOT SIGNIFICANT	

Type of View: Glimpsed, Open, Oblique, Framed, Filtered

Number of Viewers: Few, Moderate, Many Value of Views: High, Medium, Low Susceptibility to Change: High, Medium, Low Overall Sensitivity of Receptor: High, Medium, Low

Size/Scale of Effect: Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change

Geographical Extent of Effect: Duration:

Reversibility: Overall Magnitude of Effect: Nature of Effect:

Significance:

Long-term, Medium-term, Short-term, Direct, Indirect Yes, within (timescale)/No Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change Adverse, Benefit, Neutral, Not Applicable, Direct, Indirect, Secondary

Significant, Moderately Significant, Not Significant

(Descriptive)

Abbreviations:

LCA: County/District Landscape Character Area
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AONB: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
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BASELINE AN	ND SENSITIVITY			CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE					
Viewpoint No. and Location	Designation, Landscape Character Area and Approx. Distance to Site Boundary	Description of Baseline View, Type of View and Number of Users	Value of View, Susceptibility to Change; OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change to the View	Mitigation	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility; OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Nature of Effect	SIGNIFICANCE	
12: From footpath 101/13, north of the site, looking south	Designation: Public footpath LCA: LCT 16: Upstanding Village Farmlands Local Character Area NU/16 Bodicote (Oxfordshire CC 2004) LCA: Cherwell Valley (Cherwell DC 1995) Distance: 125m	Baseline Description, Type of View, Viewer and Number of Users: Filtered view from footpath across meadow, moderate number of walkers. In winter, very few parts of the surface of the northern part of the site and the upper parts of trees on the southern edge are just discernible in an oblique view across the paddock and through the hedges and trees.	Value of Views: Low Susceptibility to Change: Medium OVERALL SENSITIVITY: MEDIUM	Heavily filtered views of small parts of northern edge of development with open space below on rising ground.	Existing tree belts, hedges, hedgerows and new open space will be managed and reinforced with new planting. New tree planting on open space.	Size/Scale: Negligible Geographical Extent: Covers a very small and heavily filtered part of the view Duration: Long term Reversibility: No OVERALL MAGNITUDE: NEGLIGIBLE	Adverse.	Not significant NOT SIGNIFICANT	

Type of View: Glimpsed, Open, Oblique, Framed, Filtered

Number of Viewers: Few, Moderate, Many Value of Views: High, Medium, Low Susceptibility to Change: High, Medium, Low Overall Sensitivity of Receptor: High, Medium, Low

Size/Scale of Effect: Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change

Geographical Extent of Effect: Duration:

Reversibility: Overall Magnitude of Effect: Nature of Effect:

Significance:

Long-term, Medium-term, Short-term, Direct, Indirect Yes, within (timescale)/No

(Descriptive)

Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change Adverse, Benefit, Neutral, Not Applicable, Direct, Indirect, Secondary

Significant, Moderately Significant, Not Significant

Abbreviations:

LCA: County/District Landscape Character Area
HLCA: Historic Landscape Character Area
AONB: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AGLV: Area of Great Landscape Value

BASELINE AN	ND SENSITIVITY			CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE					
Viewpoint No. and Location	Designation, Landscape Character Area and Approx. Distance to Site Boundary	Description of Baseline View, Type of View and Number of Users	Value of View, Susceptibility to Change; OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change to the View	Mitigation	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility; OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Nature of Effect	SIGNIFICANCE	
13: From junction of footpath 101/11 and 101/14 north of Adderbury, looking south	Designation: Public footpaths LCA: LCT 7: Farmland slopes and valley sides (Oxfordshire CC 2004) Local Character NU/15 Adderbury LCA: Ironstone Hills and Valleys (Cherwell DC 1995) Distance: 1km	Baseline Description, Type of View, Viewer and Number of Users: Filtered views of Adderbury through winter trees. Many walkers on network of footpaths north of the village. There are no views of the site, and therefore this view is not considered further.	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	

Type of View: Glimpsed, Open, Oblique, Framed, Filtered

Number of Viewers: Few, Moderate, Many Value of Views: High, Medium, Low Susceptibility to Change: High, Medium, Low Overall Sensitivity of Receptor: High, Medium, Low

Size/Scale of Effect: Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change

Geographical Extent of Effect: Duration:

Reversibility:
Overall Magnitude of Effect:
Nature of Effect:

Significance:

(Descriptive)
Long-term, Medium-term, Short-term, Direct, Indirect

Yes, within (timescale)/No

Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change Adverse, Benefit, Neutral, Not Applicable, Direct, Indirect, Secondary

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BASELINE AN	ND SENSITIVITY			CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE					
Viewpoint No. and Location	Designation, Landscape Character Area and Approx. Distance to Site Boundary	Description of Baseline View, Type of View and Number of Users	Value of View, Susceptibility to Change; OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change to the View	Mitigation	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility; OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Nature of Effect	SIGNIFICANCE	
14: From Oxford Road A4260 looking west towards site.	Designation: None LCA: LCT 16: Upstanding Village Farmlands Local Character Area NU/16 Bodicote (Oxfordshire CC 2004) LCA: Cherwell Valley (Cherwell DC 1995) Distance: 310 m	Baseline Description, Type of View, Viewer and Number of Users: Framed view from roadside footpath experienced by many road users and few pedestrians, whose attention is unlikely to be focussed on the view but on the road ahead, although incidental views of fields and woods form part of the experience of travelling along the road. Roadside vegetation limits visibility, as well as hedgerows along footpath 101/13; however, surface of site and lower part of hedgerows are hidden by rolling landform.	Value of Views: Low Susceptibility to Change: Low OVERALL SENSITIVITY: LOW	Heavily filtered views of small parts of eastern edge of development may be possible.	Existing tree belts, hedges, hedgerows and new open space will be managed and reinforced with new planting.	Size/Scale: Negligible Geographical Extent: covers a very small and heavily filtered part of the view Duration: Long term Reversibility: No OVERALL MAGNITUDE: NEGLIGIBLE	Adverse	Not significant NOT SIGNIFICANT	

Type of View: Glimpsed, Open, Oblique, Framed, Filtered

Number of Viewers: Few, Moderate, Many Value of Views: High, Medium, Low Susceptibility to Change: High, Medium, Low Overall Sensitivity of Receptor: High, Medium, Low

Size/Scale of Effect: Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change

Geographical Extent of Effect: Duration:

Reversibility:
Overall Magnitude of Effect:
Nature of Effect:

Significance:

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(Descriptive)

Long-term, Medium-term, Short-term, Direct, Indirect Yes, within (timescale)/No

Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change Adverse, Benefit, Neutral, Not Applicable, Direct, Indirect, Secondary

Significant, Moderately Significant, Not Significant

Abbreviations:

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AONB: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AGLV: Area of Great Landscape Value

BASELINE A	ND SENSITIVITY			CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE					
Viewpoint No. and Location	Designation, Landscape Character Area and Approx. Distance to Site Boundary	Description of Baseline View, Type of View and Number of Users	Value of View, Susceptibility to Change; OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change to the View	Mitigation	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility; OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Nature of Effect	SIGNIFICANCE	
15: From footpath 101/26, south of Adderbury, looking north-east.	Designation: Public footpath LCA: LCT 16: Upstanding Village Farmlands Local Character Area NU/16 Bodicote (Oxfordshire CC 2004) LCA: Cherwell Valley (Cherwell DC 1995) Distance: 290m	Baseline Description, Type of View, Viewer and Number of Users: Filtered views of rear of properties off St Mary's Road. Views to site obscured by winter trees on field boundary and either side of Berry Hill Road. Moderate number of walkers on footpath. There are no views of the site, and therefore this view is not considered further.	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	

Type of View: Glimpsed, Open, Oblique, Framed, Filtered

Number of Viewers: Few, Moderate, Many Value of Views: High, Medium, Low Susceptibility to Change: High, Medium, Low Overall Sensitivity of Receptor: High, Medium, Low

Size/Scale of Effect: Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change

Geographical Extent of Effect: Duration:

Reversibility:
Overall Magnitude of Effect:
Nature of Effect:

Significance:

(Descriptive) Long-term, Medium-term, Short-term, Direct, Indirect

Yes, within (timescale)/No Major, Moderate, Slight, Neg

Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change Adverse, Benefit, Neutral, Not Applicable, Direct, Indirect, Secondary

Significant, Moderately Significant, Not Significant

Abbreviations:

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BASELINE AN	ND SENSITIVITY			CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE					
Viewpoint No. and Location	Designation, Landscape Character Area and Approx. Distance to Site Boundary	Description of Baseline View, Type of View and Number of Users	Value of View, Susceptibility to Change; OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change to the View	Mitigation	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility; OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Nature of Effect	SIGNIFICANCE	
16: From footpath 300/5, west of Adderbury, looking east.	Designation: Public footpath. LCA: LCT 16: Upstanding Village Farmlands Local Character Area NU/16 Bodicote (Oxfordshire CC 2004) LCA: Ironstone Hills and Valleys (Cherwell DC 1995) Distance: 1.64km	Baseline Description, Type of View, Viewer and Number of Users: Partly framed view towards west side of Adderbury with horticultural premises in middle ground seen through trees, and the spire of the Church of St Mary the Virgin in Adderbury. Moderate number of walkers and moderate number of users of Milton Road to the south of the viewpoint. There are no views of the site, and therefore this view is not considered further.	Not applicable :	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	

Type of View: Glimpsed, Open, Oblique, Framed, Filtered

Number of Viewers: Few, Moderate, Many Value of Views: High, Medium, Low Susceptibility to Change: High, Medium, Low Overall Sensitivity of Receptor: High, Medium, Low

Size/Scale of Effect: Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change

Geographical Extent of Effect: Duration:

Reversibility:
Overall Magnitude of Effect:

Nature of Effect:
Significance:

(Descriptive)

Long-term, Medium-term, Short-term, Direct, Indirect Yes, within (timescale)/No

Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Neutral, No Change Adverse, Benefit, Neutral, Not Applicable, Direct, Indirect, Secondary

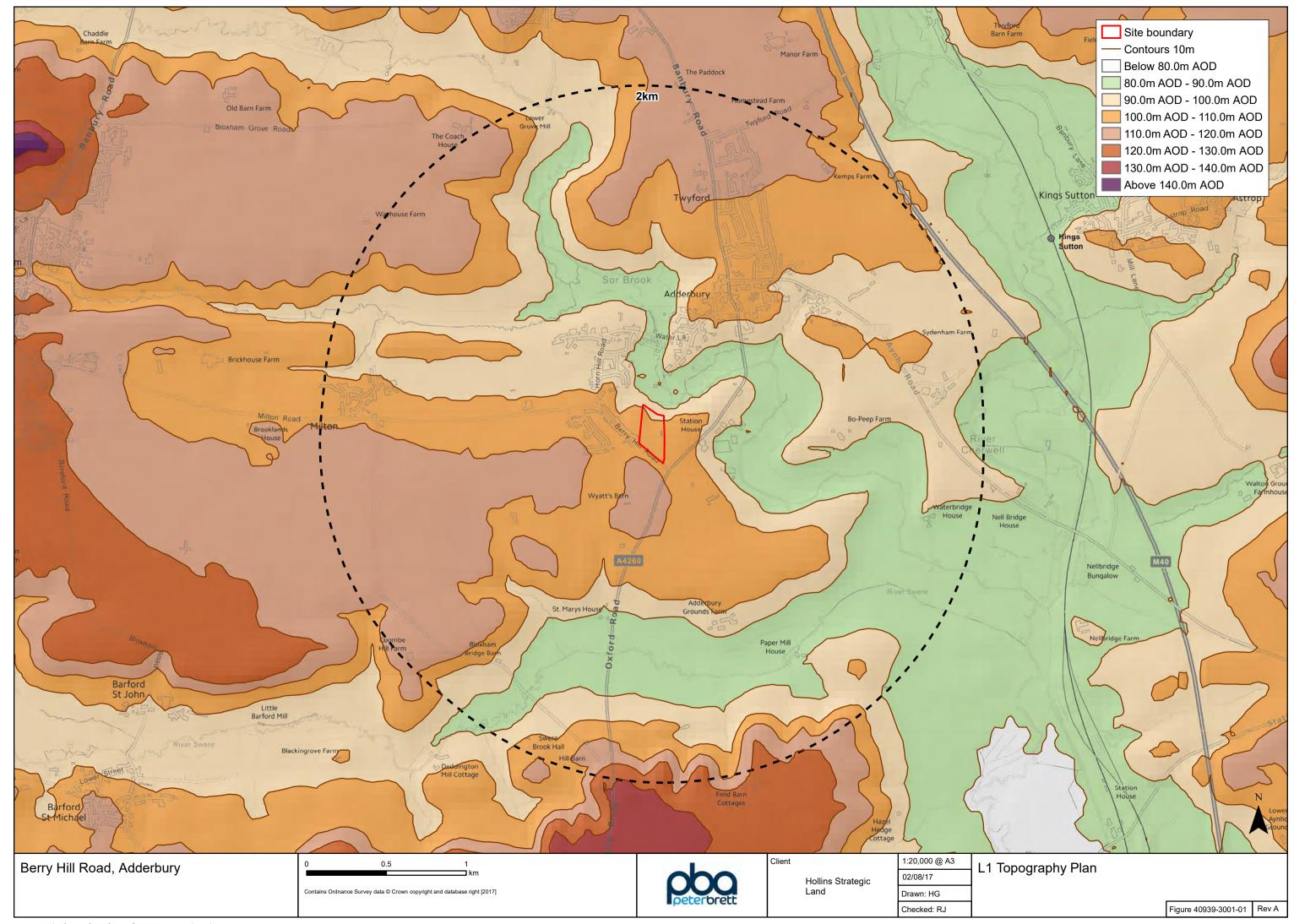
Significant, Moderately Significant, Not Significant

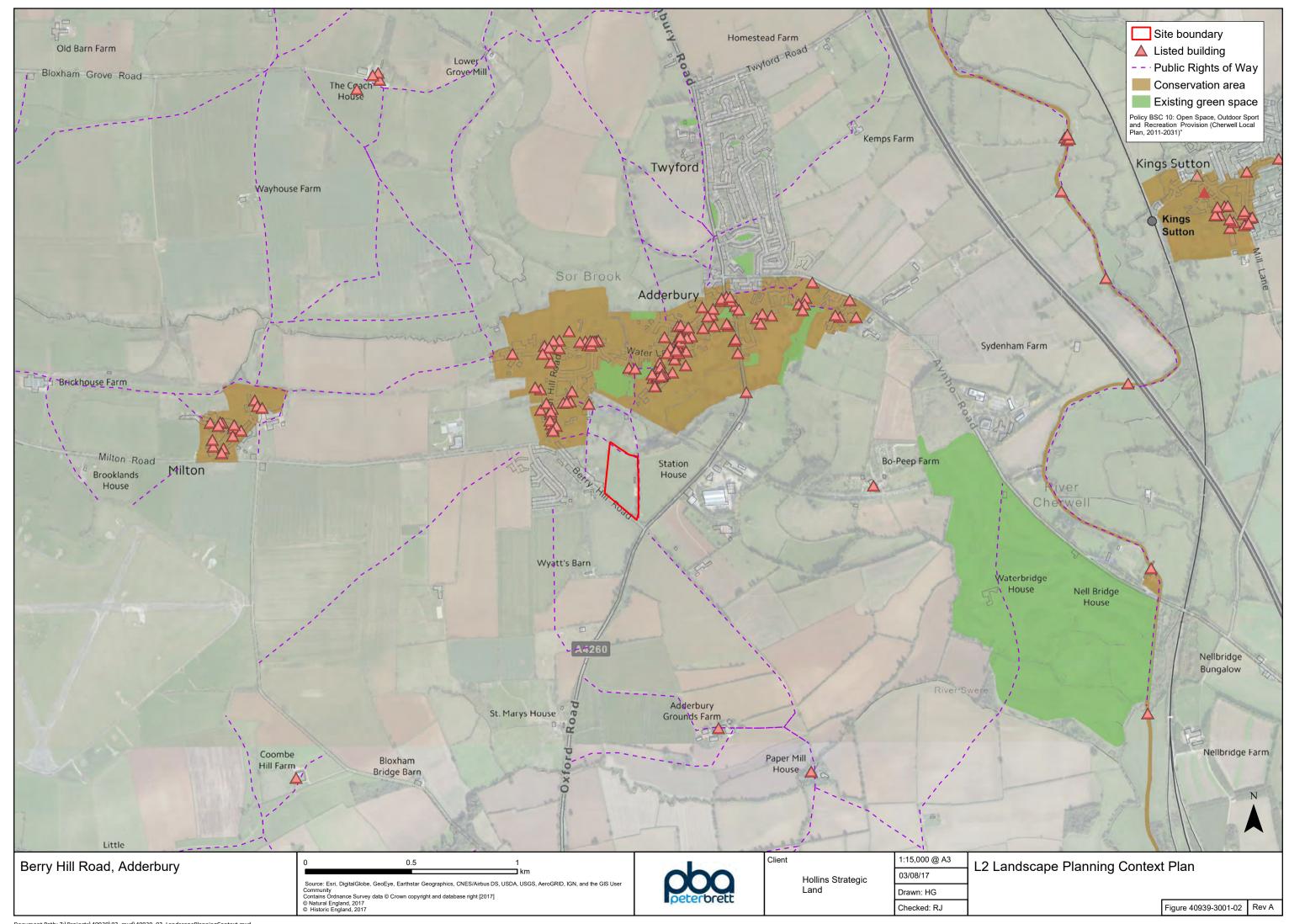
Abbreviations:

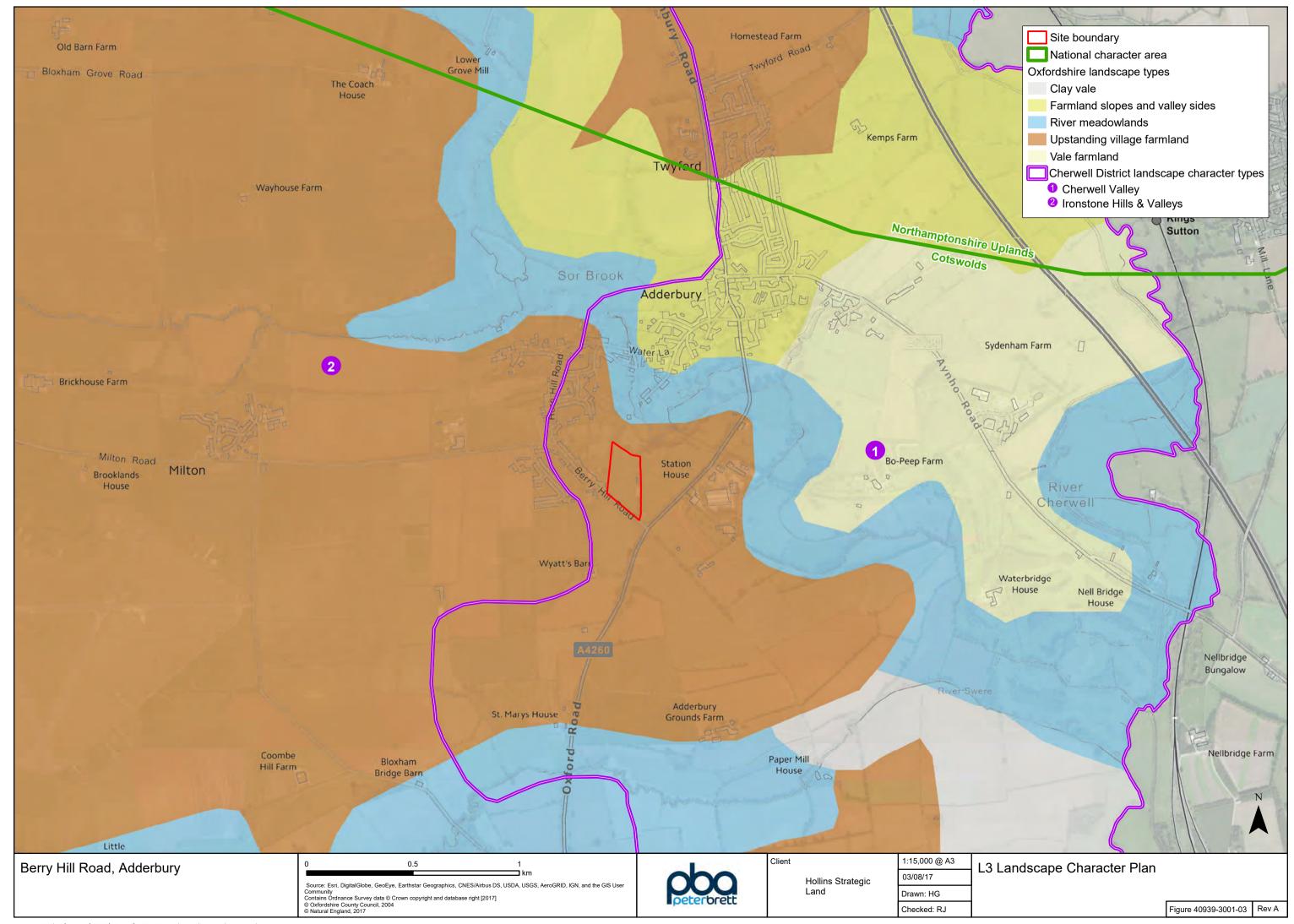
LCA: County/District Landscape Character Area
HLCA: Historic Landscape Character Area
AONB: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AGLV: Area of Great Landscape Value

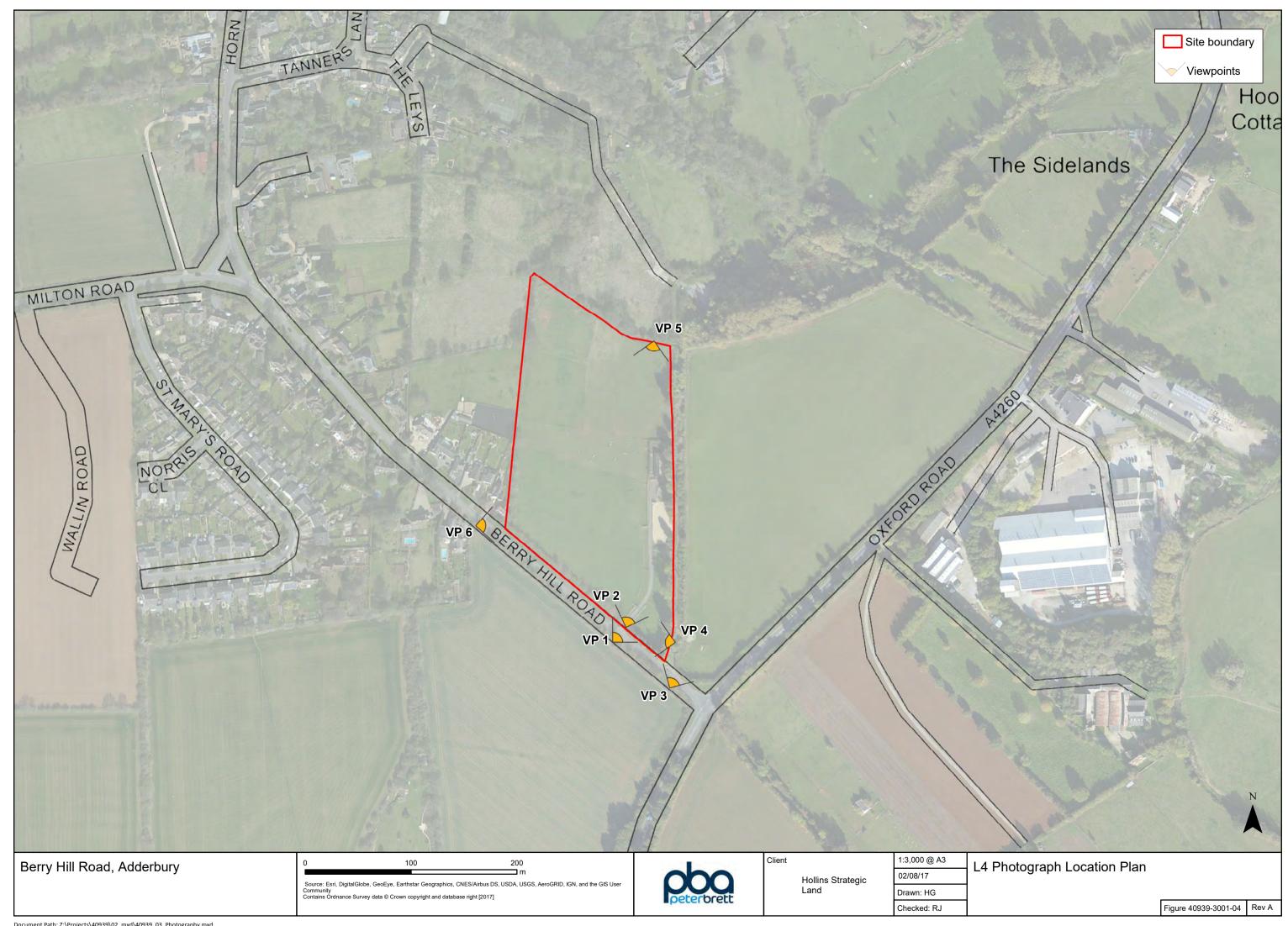














Notes

- 1 Strong tree belt along Berry Hill Road reflects character of vegetation on the other side of the road
- 2 Double hedgerow along Footpath (101/13)
- **3** Strong hedgerow along northern boundary
- **4** Weaker western boundary
- 5 Substantial tree belt along and adjacent to disused railway provides strong separation from historic core of village

Berry Hill Road, Adderbury

L5: Landscape and Visual Opportunities and Constraints Plan

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Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community 0 50 100 150 200 250m

Site boundary

Valley feature

Substantial hedgerows and tree belts

Stables and associated development

Public right of way

Direct view of site

Filtered view of site

Existing residential development







Viewpoint 1A: From Berry Hill Road, opposite site entrance, looking north-east

Berry Hill Road Adderbury, Oxfordshire

Appendix A: Viewpoint Photographs

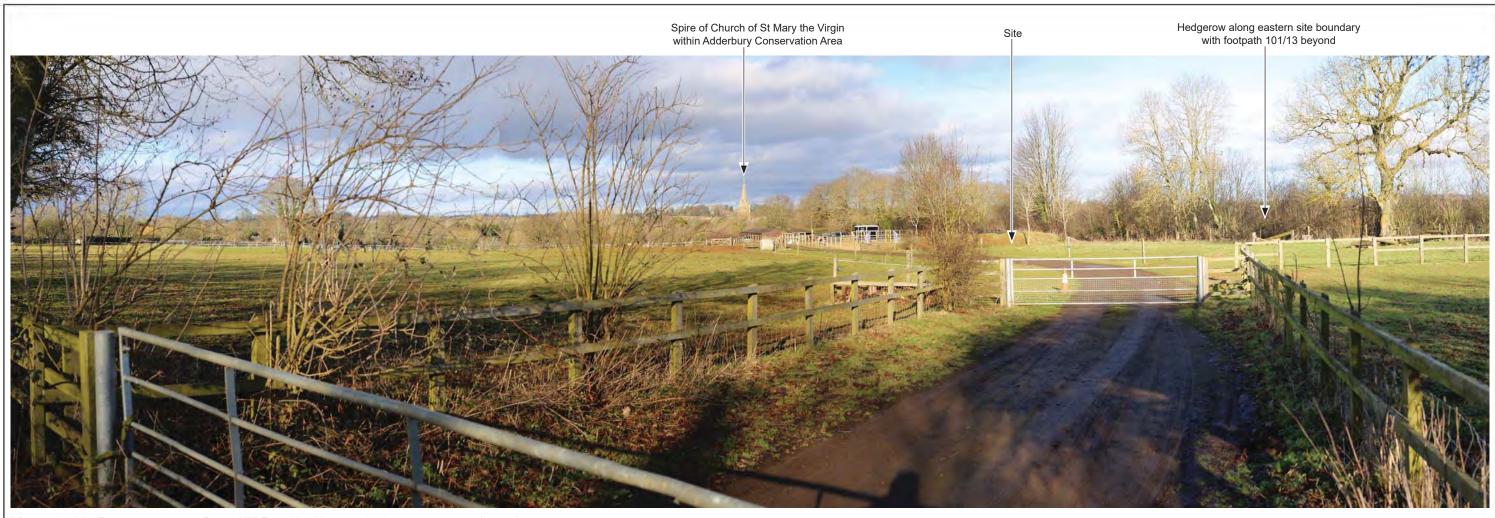
Viewpoint 1A

Date: 05/02/2018 Drawn: PS
Revision: A/1 Checked: LE

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Viewpoint 2A: From gateway on Berry Hill Road looking north along access track on site

Berry Hill Road Adderbury, Oxfordshire

Appendix A: Viewpoint Photographs

Viewpoint 2A

Date: 05/02/2018 Drawn: PS
Revision: A/2 Checked: LE

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Viewpoint 3A: From Berry Hill Road, opposite entrance to public right of way to the east of the site, looking north



Berry Hill Road Adderbury, Oxfordshire

Appendix A: Viewpoint Photographs

Viewpoint 3A

Date: 05/02/2018 Drawn: PS
Revision: A/3 Checked: LE

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Viewpoint 4A: From public footpath 101/13 to the east of the site, looking west

Berry Hill Road Adderbury, Oxfordshire

Appendix A: Viewpoint Photographs

Viewpoint 4A

Date: 05/02/2018 Drawn: PS
Revision: A/4 Checked: LE

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Viewpoint 5A: From public right of way 101/6 along northern boundary of the site, looking south



Berry Hill Road Adderbury, Oxfordshire

Appendix A: Viewpoint Photographs

Viewpoint 5A

Date: 05/02/2018 Drawn: PS
Revision: A/5 Checked: LE

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Viewpoint 6A: From Berry Hill Road, to west of the site, looking north-east

Berry Hill Road Adderbury, Oxfordshire

Appendix A: Viewpoint Photographs

Viewpoint 6A

Date: 05/02/2018 Drawn: PS
Revision: A/6 Checked: LE

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Viewpoint 7: From footpath 101/24 looking south-east

Berry Hill Road Adderbury, Oxfordshire

Appendix A: Viewpoint Photographs

Viewpoint 7

Date: 05/02/2018 Drawn: PS
Revision: A/7 Checked: LE

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Viewpoint 8: From footpath 101/13 looking west across site

Berry Hill Road Adderbury, Oxfordshire

Appendix A: Viewpoint Photographs

Viewpoint 8

Date: 05/02/2018 Drawn: PS
Revision: A/8 Checked: LE

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Viewpoint 9: From Berry Hill Road looking north-east

Berry Hill Road Adderbury, Oxfordshire

Appendix A: Viewpoint Photographs

Viewpoint 9

Date: 05/02/2018 Drawn: PS
Revision: A/9 Checked: LE

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Viewpoint 10: From site looking north-east

Berry Hill Road Adderbury, Oxfordshire

Appendix A: Viewpoint Photographs

Viewpoint 10

Date: 05/02/2018 Drawn: PS
Revision: A/10 Checked: LE

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Viewpoint 11: From junction of bridleway 101/9 with A4260 Oxford Road looking north-west

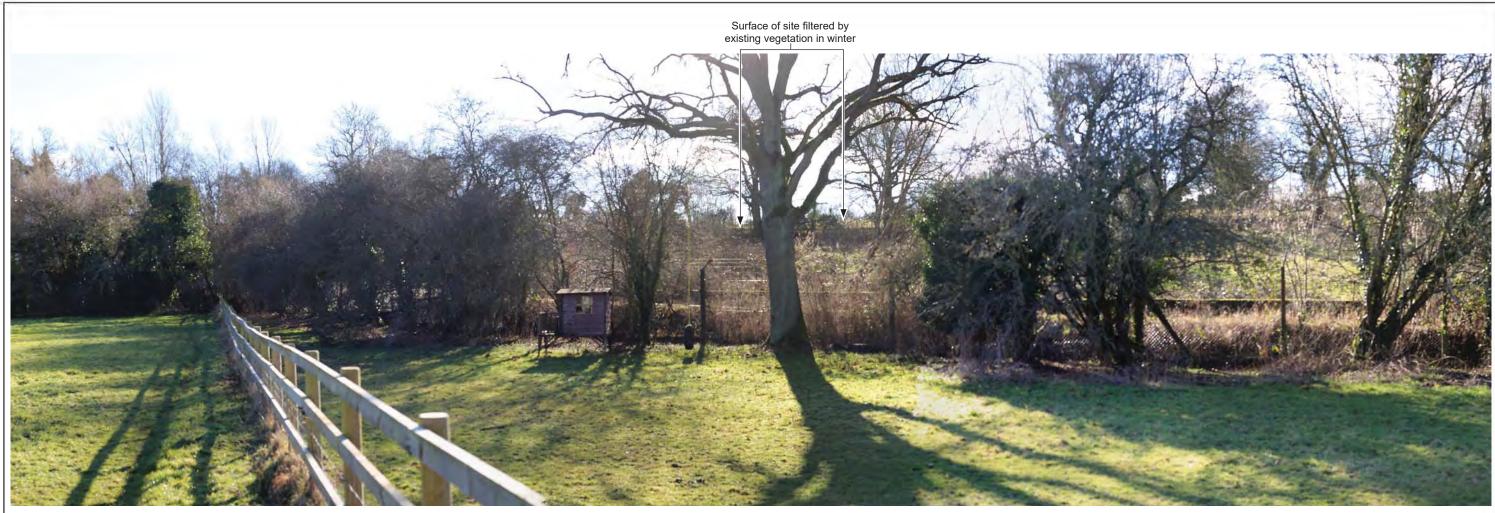
Berry Hill Road Adderbury, Oxfordshire

Appendix A: Viewpoint Photographs

Viewpoint 11

Date: 05/02/2018 Drawn: PS
Revision: A/11 Checked: LE

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Viewpoint 12: From footpath 101/13 looking south

Berry Hill Road Adderbury, Oxfordshire

Appendix A: Viewpoint Photographs

Viewpoint 12

Date: 05/02/2018 Drawn: PS
Revision: A/12 Checked: LE

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Viewpoint 13: From junction of footpath 101/11 and 101/14 north of Adderbury, looking south

Berry Hill Road Adderbury, Oxfordshire

Appendix A: Viewpoint Photographs

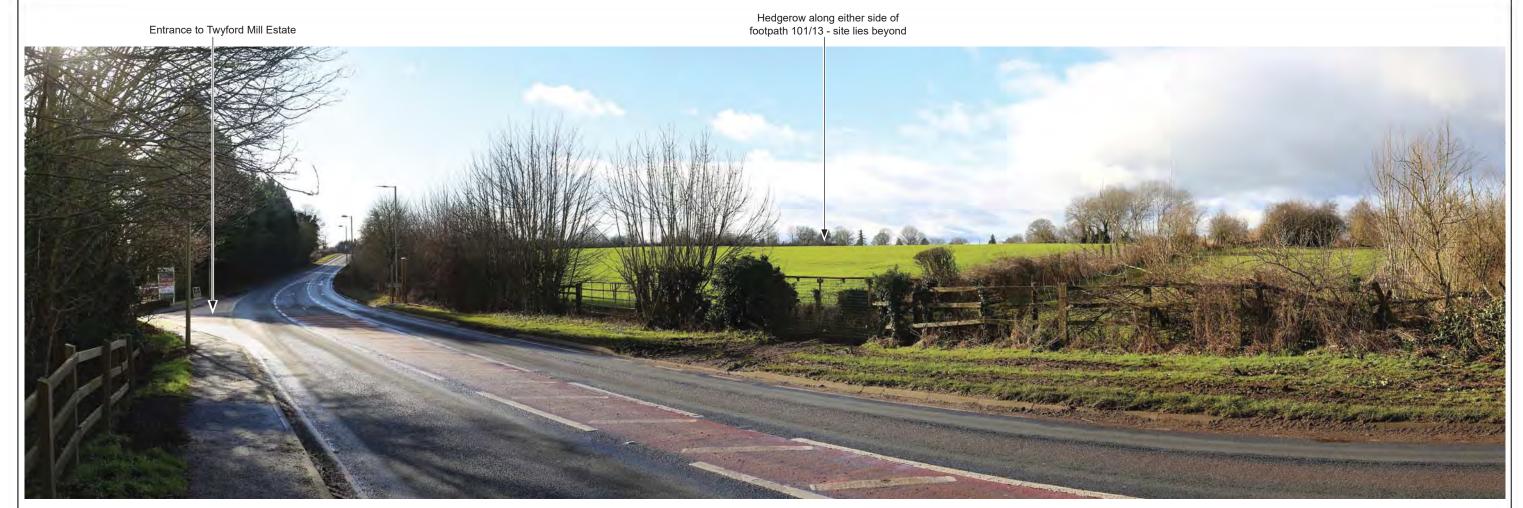
Viewpoint 13

Date: 05/02/2018 Drawn: PS
Revision: A/13 Checked: LE

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Viewpoint 14: From Oxford Road A4260 looking west towards site

Berry Hill Road Adderbury, Oxfordshire

Appendix A: Viewpoint Photographs

Viewpoint 14

Date: 05/02/2018 Drawn: PS
Revision: A/14 Checked: LE

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Viewpoint 15: From footpath 101/26, south of Adderbury, looking north-east

Photographs taken on 28th January 2018

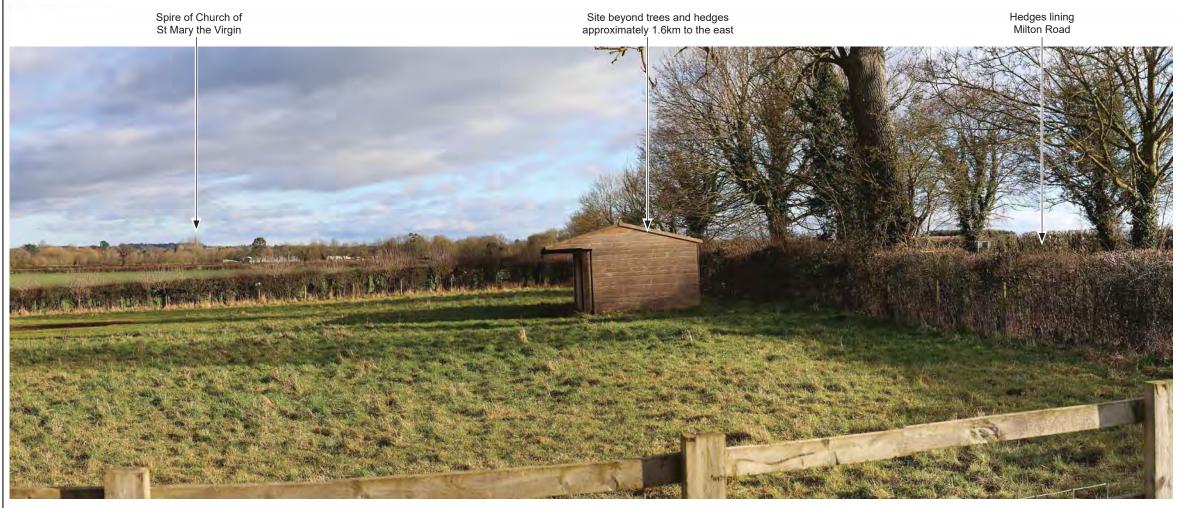
Berry Hill Road Adderbury, Oxfordshire

Appendix A: Viewpoint Photographs

Viewpoint 15

Date: 05/02/2018 Drawn: PS
Revision: A/15 Checked: LE

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Viewpoint 16: From footpath 300/5, west of Adderbury, looking east

Berry Hill Road Adderbury, Oxfordshire

Appendix A: Viewpoint Photographs

Viewpoint 16

Date: 05/02/2018 Drawn: PS
Revision: A/16 Checked: LE

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APPENDIX F: VALUED LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS



Land at Berry Hill Road, Adderbury, Oxfordshire

Valued Landscape Nigel Evers Viridian Landscape Planning

1.1 THE SITE AS A VALUED LANDSCAPE

- 1.1.1 The NPPF 2018 (CD 2.6) at paragraph 170 a) requires planning policies and decisions to contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by, amongst other factors:
 - protecting and enhancing valued landscapes...(in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);
- 1.1.2 For an area to be given the status of valued landscape should be considered through an objective exercise at the Local Plan stage. That exercise has not been undertaken for the Cherwell Local Plan and the local authority have agreed that the site is not part of a valued landscape.
- 1.1.3 NPPF 2018 does not define what is meant by valued landscapes. There have been past attempts to define the term, often considering that they are landscapes that are valued by local communities. However, in February 2015, Mr Justice Ouseley ruled in the High Court in the case of Stroud District Council vs Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, and confirmed the view of David Nicholson, the Inspector at the Bath Road, Leonard Stanley Inquiry (decision date July 2014), that to be valued a landscape has to 'show some demonstrable physical attribute rather than just popularity.'
- 1.1.4 In the Appeal Decision by the inspector, Jessica Graham, on Land at Beech Hill Road, Spencer's Wood (June 2015), she refers to the factors listed in GLVIA3 that are generally agreed to influence value. She goes on to list attributes needed for a site to be considered a 'valued landscape', including features of wildlife, earth science, archaeological, historical or cultural interest, being available for recreational activity, being valued for its perceptual aspects or having associations with particular people or events in history.
- 1.1.5 Subsequently, in July 2018, Mr Justice Ouseley in CEG Land Promotions II Limited vs Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (CD 4.1) stated at paragraph 59 that the:
 - site's definition by the red line on the application form took the form it did in order to incorporate landscape mitigation measures and footpath provision. It would be bizarre if the way in which the red line was drawn, defining the site on whatever basis was appropriate, and which need have nothing to do with landscape issues, crucially affected landscape evaluation. It would be equally bizarre to adopt a wholly artificial approach to landscape evaluation where, in most cases, a development site is but part of a wider landscape.
- 1.1.6 As a result of that ruling, consideration of what constitutes a valued landscape must normally extend beyond the boundaries of an application site. .

- 1.1.7 The site has no clear relationship with its wider landscape context, largely as a result of the adjacent development and strong containing hedgerows.
- 1.1.8 Box 5.1 in GLVIA3 is headed 'Range of factors that can help in the identification of valued landscapes' and is still a useful approach to potential valued landscapes. It sets out eight factors to consider which I have shown in the table below with my comments.

Factor	Comment	Assessment
Landscape quality/condition: A measure of the physical state of the landscape. It may include the extent to which typical character is represented in individual areas, the intactness of the landscape and the condition of individual elements.	The site consists of a single grazed paddock, subdivided by electric fences, with an access road, stables and manège. All trees and hedges are along the boundaries. There appears to be no active management of the hedges and trees except for some basic agricultural objectives. The landscape context incudes the residential development along Berry Hill Road and within West Adderbury with strong separation form the wider landscape to the east and south. There are no visual or character links to the countryside. The site is grass on a relatively small field whilst the rural landscape is large open arable fields.	The site is in a moderate condition although there is no evidence of management beyond that needed for agriculture. The buildings are poor quality. The trees and hedges are important features.
Scenic quality: The term used to describe landscapes that appeal primarily to the senses (primarily but not wholly the visual senses).	The site and context have little scenic quality – they are largely enclosed and unrelated to the adjacent landscape, owing to the enclosure, although it has a shallow valley feature sloping north , and is influenced along its western boundary by development, with Berry Hill Road to the south.	Visually, the area is of poor scenic quality and has little tranquility.
Rarity: The presence of rare elements or features in the landscape or the presence of a rare Landscape Character Type.	The site and the immediate area are typical urban edge semi- agricultural and residential land.	The site and immediate area display no rare elements or features and is not a rare landscape type

Factor	Comment	Assessment
Representativeness: Whether the landscape contains a particular character and/or features or elements which are considered particularly important examples.	The area is unremarkable urban edge semi- agricultural and residential land.	The area does not contain a particular character, features or elements which are particularly important examples.
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 existing trees and hedges are features of conservation interest that add to the value of the landscape, although are typical of the area.	The features of conservation interest do not significantly contribute to the value of the landscape of the area.
Recreation value: Evidence that the landscape is valued for recreational activity where experience of the landscape is important.	The recreational use on the site is limited to private equestrian use and footpath 101/6 along the northern boundary. Footpath 101/13 runs beyond the eastern boundary.	The area has limited recreational value.
Perceptual aspects: A landscape may be valued for its perceptual qualities, notably wildness and/or tranquillity.	The area is influenced by the urban edge of West Adderbury, and there is traffic noise and movement along Berry Hill Road and Oxford Road.	There is no perception of wildness or tranquillity in the area being considered.
Associations: Some landscapes are associated with particular people, such as artists or writers, or events in history that contribute to perceptions of the natural beauty of the area.	No associations contribute to the value of the landscape of the area.	No associations contribute to the value of the landscape of the area.

1.1.9 It is clear from my analysis that the site and the surrounding area does not constitute a 'Valued Landscape' for the purpose of paragraph 170a) of the NPPF, and as agreed with the planning authority in the Statement of Common Ground.

4





Landscape Strategy Drawing



APPENDIX H: NOTE FROM LANDSCAPE OFFICER

From: Judith Ward

Sent: 22 March 2018 14:19

To: Caroline Ford

Subject: 17/02394/OUT Land N of Berry Hill, Adderbury

Hi Caroline

I am disappointed that the D and A statement does not include principles that inform the detailed landscape design The Play area should be located within the development so that it is overlooked.

Landscape and Visual Assessment

No agreement was made regarding the provision of additional information. Due to time pressure I was not able to give an opinion

The photographs provided don't indicate the extent of the development on the site which is disappointing.

Visual effects

I have visited the viewpoints. My comments are as follows;

VP1a. Glimpsed view into site currently, the suggested construction of visibility splays show minor loss of vegetation, I am surprised by this and would expect to see more loss. This is only indicative and has not been subject to highways scrutiny. It is highly likely that the boundary hedgerow will be reduced in height as at both developments along Milton Road, therefore houses will be clearly visible above a hedge reduced in height. I feel that the assessment under- estimates the significance of the effect.

VP2a. Similar comments to above. Church spire visible only through narrow field of view as a glimpse if the development is built. Effects under-estimated.

VP3a.Hedge removal for visibility splays is likely to open up views into the site. Hedge cutting will open up views of upper storey of dwellings. The hedgerow is thin at the base and leggy so allowing glimpses through. Insufficient space for 'woodland planting' Visual effects underestimated.

VP4a. Site fully visible through gaps in hedgerow. New planting on corner may filter the open view of the site in time.

VP5a. Open views across the site. Hedgerow along Berry Hill Road will be obscured by housing which will fill the middle distance view. Very little mitigation planting shown

VP6a. This is the extent of the current village. There will be a pavement along this stretch of road increasing the number of receptors. New houses along Berry Hill Road will be visible through the leggy hedge and above if expected trimming takes place.

VP7. This viewpoint seems to have been chosen where the development would be minimally visible. I could clearly see The End House from further north from VP7 and would therefore be able to see the development

VP8.gaps in hedgerow permit views into site. This will be partly filled with development under the proposal. There is practically no new planting on the open space

VP9. This view shows the leggy hedge which is more a line of leggy trees which doesn't provide a very effective screen. The view to the church will be a very restricted glimpse through a narrow field of view.

VP10 A viewpoint facing away from the development is not very relevant

VP11. There may just be glimpses of houses from this Viewpoint.

VP12 The photo caption mentions the surface of the site. The propsed development should be assessed not the ground. The development would only be visible in glimpses from this viewpoint.

VP13. No view of site

VP14. Filtered views of site through hedgerows, glimpses of development in the distance may be possible

VP15. Site obscured by intervening hedgerows

VP16 Site not visible

In addition there are extensive views from PRoW101/6 to the north of the site towards the proposed development which would be difficult to mitigate.

Conclusion

Whilst the development has limited visibility in the wider landscape there are many other reasons why I believe that it is undesirable.

The site is surrounded by open countryside apart from one dwelling adjacent at one corner. End house and the dwelling opposite mark the end of the built up area of Adderbury. As you turn off Oxford road it is not clear where the village of Adderbury starts. The site is an important green open space on the edge of the settlement that makes a significant contribution to the character and appearance of Adderbury.

The proposed development is out on a limb visually and intrudes into open countryside.

The existing settlement pattern along Berry Hill Road is one of low density large detached houses with long drives and large gardens. This development does not follow that pattern and is out of character with it. The urban form proposed will not integrate into the existing settlement pattern.

The site allows an attractive view of the Church which would mostly be lost, it would only be available as a fleeting glimpse from Berry Hill Road.

The hedge along Berry Hill Road is a weak screen being thin at the base, gappy and leggy. It is more like a line of weak trees which would require works that would make it less effective as a screen. Reinforcing this would be difficult as planting in the shade of other trees is not effective. Sections will be removed for visibility splays and provision of a footpath link. The remainder is likely to be reduced in height, weakening the screen.

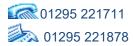
If permitted the development would result in Adderbury village starting as soon as you turned off Oxford road which would negatively affect the setting of the village.

For the above reasons I do not support this proposal.

Kind regards Judith

Judith Ward

Landscape Planning Officer
Cherwell District & South Northants Councils



mailto:Judith.ward@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

www.cherwell-dc.gov.uk www.southnorthants.gov.uk

www.facebook.com/cherwelldistrictcouncil www.facebook.com/southnorthantscouncil





Response to Landscape Officer's Comments on Viewpoints

Landscape Officer's Comments	Response
VP1a. Glimpsed view into site currently, the suggested construction of visibility splays show minor loss of vegetation, I am surprised by this and would expect to see more loss. This is only indicative and has not been subject to highways scrutiny. It is highly likely that the boundary hedgerow will be reduced in height as at both developments along Milton Road, therefore houses will be clearly visible above a hedge reduced in height. I feel that the assessment underestimates the significance of the effect.	I am not sure on what basis this assessment is made. The tree loss is within the control of the planning and highway authorities during the detailed planning process. The proposed entrance is more or less in the location of the existing entrance which will minimise tree loss. The trees and hedge would be subject to a management plan, again agreed with the local authority, and any works can be controlled. In his comments in the committee report, the Arboricultural Office did not express concern with those specific issues, even though he acknowledged the importance of the trees in providing a screen, and he required the consideration of root protection areas.
VP2a. Similar comments to above. Church spire visible only through narrow field of view as a glimpse if the development is built. Effects under-estimated.	The tree loss comment is not relevant as this viewpoint is beyond the line of trees. This is not a representative viewpoint as it requires crossing the verge and going beyond the trees on the boundary, but was included to demonstrate the rarity of clear views to the church. There would be a clearer view of the church from a different position if the development is built. No explanation of how visual effects are underestimated.
VP3a. Hedge removal for visibility splays is likely to open up views into the site. Hedge cutting will open up views of upper storey of dwellings. The hedgerow is thin at the base and leggy so allowing glimpses through. Insufficient space for 'woodland planting'. Visual effects underestimated.	From this distance and angle, loss of trees for the new entrance, in the location of the current entrance, will be difficult to perceive. Hedge cutting is in the control of the Council. No explanation of why insufficient space for planting or why effects are understated.
VP4a. Site fully visible through gaps in hedgerow. New planting on corner may filter the open view of the site in time.	This is one of the few gaps where views are clearly available on the footpath – most of the footpath is enclosed by hedgerow, as set out in the Visual Effects Table.
VP5a. Open views across the site. Hedgerow along Berry Hill Road will be obscured by housing which will fill the middle distance view.	Although the hedgerow on Berry Hill Road will be obscured by housing, that is not a significant change.

Landscape Officer's Comments	Response
Very little mitigation planting shown.	
VP6a. This is the extent of the current village. There will be a pavement along this stretch of road increasing the number of receptors. New houses along Berry Hill Road will be visible through the leggy hedge and above if expected trimming takes place.	See earlier comments regarding hedge trimming. There will be a change to the view from this roadside verge, but according to my systematic analysis, it will not be significant. Retention of much of roadside vegetation and all of vegetation on other boundaries reduces visual effects and integrates scheme into views.
VP7. This viewpoint seems to have been chosen where the development would be minimally visible. I could clearly see The End House from further north from VP7 and would therefore be able to see the development.	The viewpoint was chosen because it represents an open view from a footpath and showed the church. No information about the alternative view has been provided by the council.
VP8. Gaps in hedgerow permit views into site. This will be partly filled with development under the proposal. There is practically no new planting on the open space.	See 4A. Extensive tree planting is not necessary.
VP9. This view shows the leggy hedge which is more a line of leggy trees which doesn't provide a very effective screen. The view to the church will be a very restricted glimpse through a narrow field of view.	The view to the church is currently restricted.
VP10, A viewpoint facing away from the development is not very relevant.	It does not look away from the development, but looks over the proposed open space which is part of the development. It has been used to show the benefit brought about by allowing public access to a view of the church which is currently private. It therefore shows an effect of the scheme.
VP11. There may just be glimpses of houses from this Viewpoint.	I generally agree, but there is a more detailed description in the Visual Effects Tables.
VP12 The photo caption mentions the surface of the site. The proposed development should be assessed not the ground. The development would only be visible in glimpses from this viewpoint.	The caption describes the baseline view. The table also describes the change as a result of the proposals.

Landscape Officer's Comments	Response
VP13. No view of site.	Agree.
VP14. Filtered views of site through hedgerows, glimpses of development in the distance may be possible.	Agree.
VP15. Site obscured by intervening hedgerows.	Agree.
VP16 Site not visible.	Agree.





Viewpoint 17LS: From within site, looking west



Photographs taken on 26th January 2018

Berry Hill Road Adderbury, Oxfordshire

Appendix A: Viewpoint Photographs

Viewpoint 17LS

Date: 05/02/2018 Drawn: PS
Revision: A/17 Checked: LE

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Viewpoint 18LS: From footpath 101/13 looking north

Photographs taken on 28th January 2018

Berry Hill Road Adderbury, Oxfordshire

Appendix A: Viewpoint Photographs

Viewpoint 18LS

Date: 05/02/2018 Drawn: PS
Revision: A/18 Checked: LE

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Viewpoint 19LS: From Berry Hill Road, looking south-east

Photographs taken on 17th June 2020

Berry Hill Road Adderbury, Oxfordshire

Appendix A: Viewpoint Photographs

Viewpoint 19LS

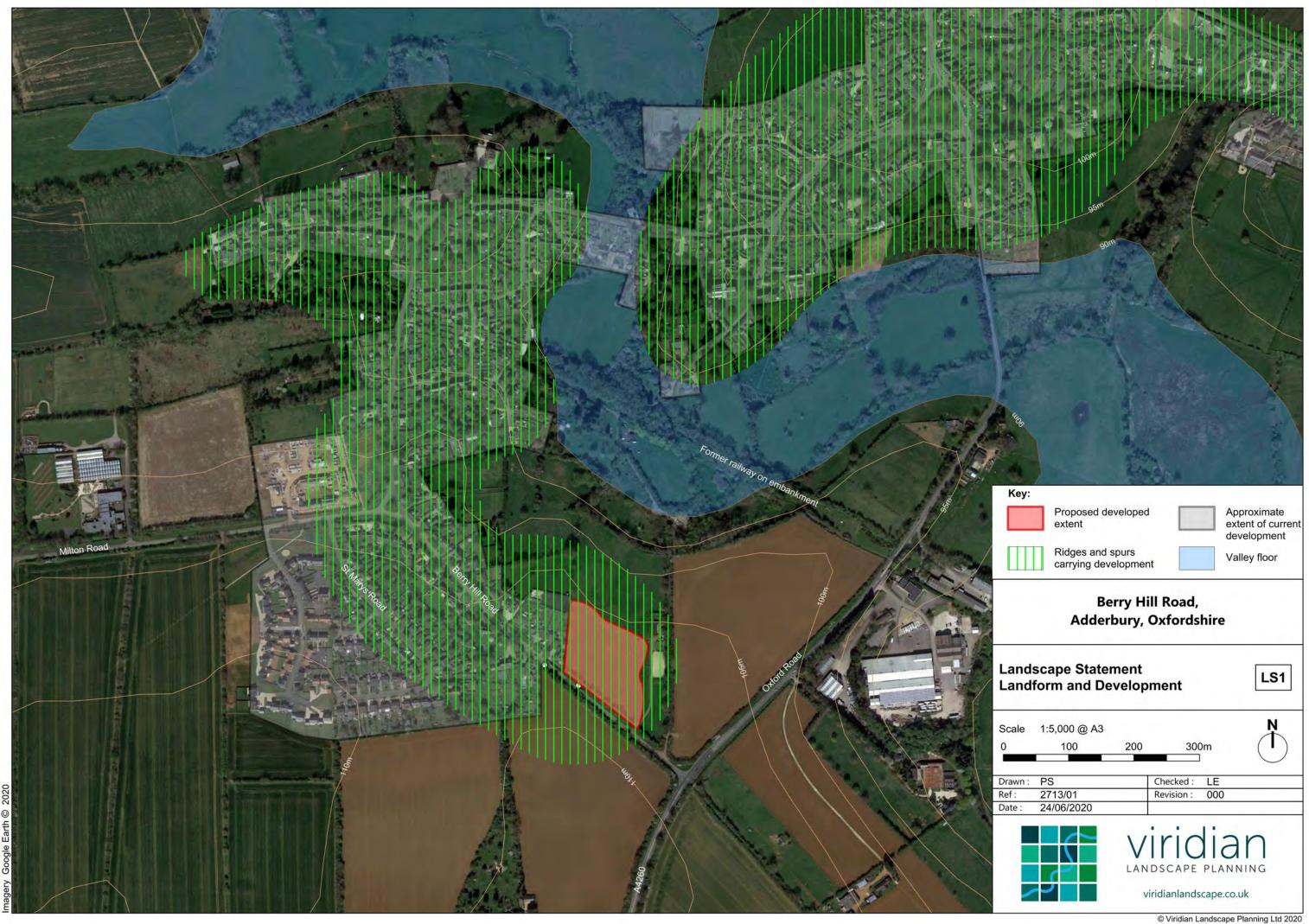
Date: 05/02/2018 Drawn: PS
Revision: A/19 Checked: LE

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APPENDIX K: FIGURES FOR LANDSCAPE STATEMENT





APPENDIX L: HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF ADDERBURY



Kathryn Sather & Associates Heritage Conservation Consultants

87 Oldfield Road Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 4BL

Tel: 0161-941-1414

Email: ksa@ksaconservation.co.uk

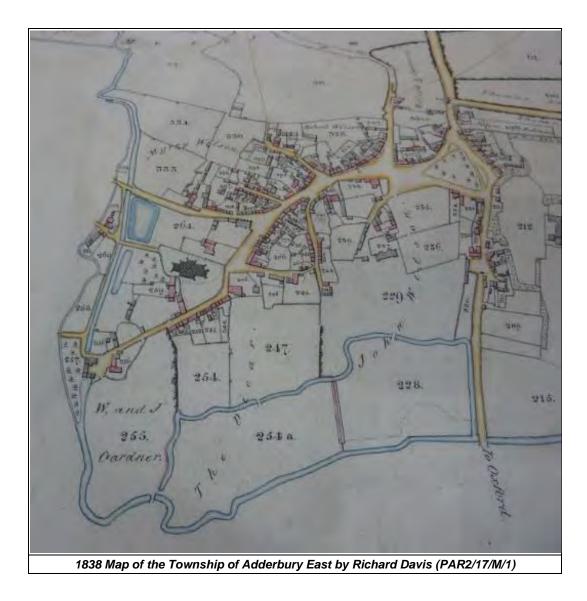
Land off Berry Hill Road, Adderbury: Historical Context Heritage Conservation Consultant's Comments on the Historical Growth of Adderbury

There is no archaeological evidence for the form of the settlement during the Anglo-Saxon period; the Domesday survey records the households in the village of 'Edburgberie' as 72 villagers, 16 small holdings and 27 slaves. There was also church at Adderbury during the late Anglo-Saxon period, and by the 11th century, the village was part of a large royal estate in the hands of the Earl of Mercia, part of the Hundred of Bloxham, a name with Anglo-Saxon origins.

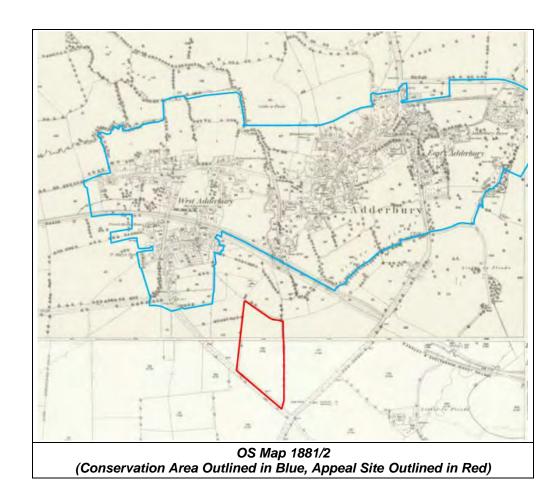
The development of the settlement's linear form is shaped by both topographical and historical factors. The Sor Brook running north-south bisects an area of upland, which was preferred for settlement. The watercourse divides the settlement into West and East Adderbury. From the medieval period Adderbury was also the junction of the historic route from the Midlands via Banbury south to Oxford and the route from Banbury to Buckingham in the east, linking West and East Addersbury. This, together with the 1218 Charter granting a weekly market, resulted in the growth of the medieval settlement during the 13th century. Its growing prosperity took physical form in the construction of the stone church around 1250 in East Addersbury (subsequently enlarged in the 14th and 15th centuries) and the 14th century Manor House of Le Hall Place in West Addersbury. Following the Reformation and the relative peace of the late 16th century, construction of stone houses became more common and the shape of the settlement emerged.

The Conservation Area Appraisal describes the historic core as on an east-west axis. In East Adderbury it always centred around the buildings on either side of High Street, running west from Oxford Road to St. Mary's. In West Adderbury the remaining 17th century buildings, identifiable from the use of local building stone and architectural style, are around what is now Tanners Lane and Round Close Road. This pattern of early linear development on an east-west axis predates the impact on the pattern of roads and settlement of the 18th century changes wrought by both enclosure and turnpiking. The Conservation Area Appraisal refers to a 1768 account of 'substantial changes in this area (north of Adderbury House) requiring the demolition of 90 cottages' and the rerouting of Buckingham Road.

The shape of the subsequent early 19th century settlement is depicted in Richard Davis' 1838 map of East Adderbury, with uninterrupted development on either side of High Street and also intensifying development to the north around Chapel Lane and to the south along Church Lane. It also shows three crossing points over the Sor Brook, including two in today's positions of Water Lane and Dog Close.



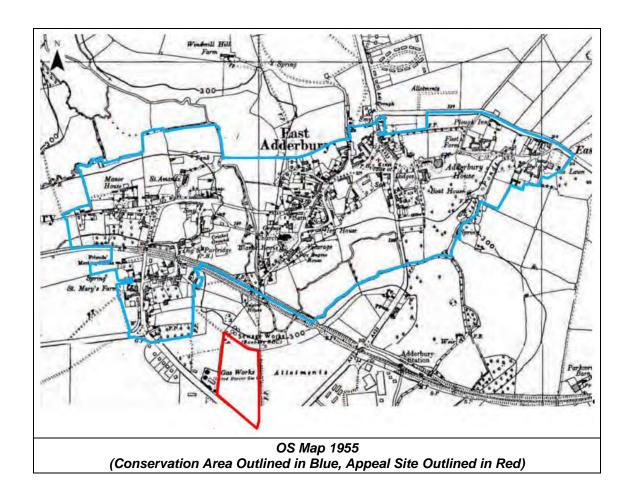
With regard to the continuation of the east-west axis through West Adderbury, the Conservation Area appraisal refers to the appearance in an early 20th century Bartholomew's Map of a road extending from Manor Road west to Milton. The construction of the railway running east-west on a line south of the village (and north of the proposal site), reduced some of the north-south connectivity due to the need for bridges. The bridge over the railway due south of West Adderbury was the main north-south connection to the west of the settlement and became the focus for development to the south of West Adderbury. This bridge connected into what became the main route to Milton to the west and the link road to Oxford Road to the southeast, the latter being Berry Hill Road. However, development was limited to the Horn Hill Road, north of the junction with Milton Road. There was no development south of this junction until after 1922.



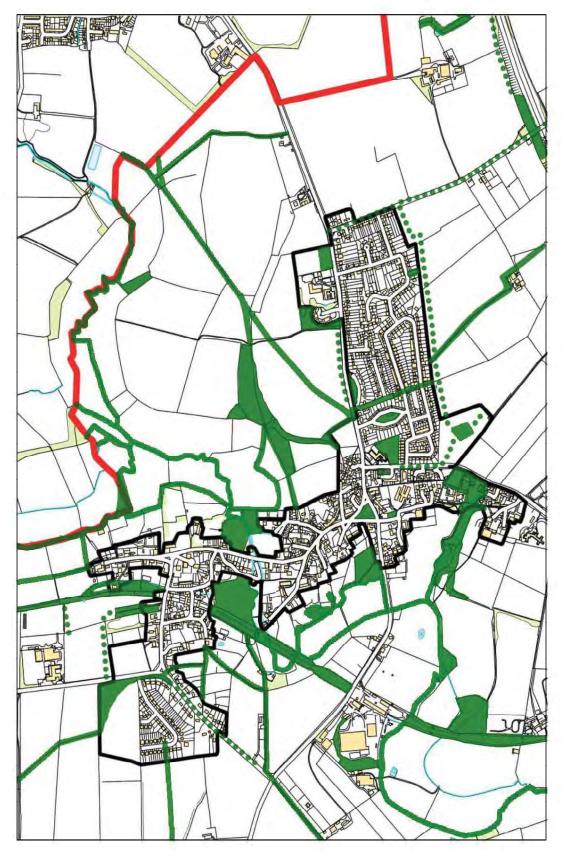
OS Map 1922
(Conservation Area Outlined in Blue, Appeal Site Outlined in Red)

By 1955 the site immediately to the north of the proposal site and south of the railway is shown as Sewage Works while to the immediate northwest of the site on Berry Hill Road are the Gas Works of United District Gas Company and, on the west side of the road, just south of the junction with Milton Road, a row of houses. Other development on Berry Hill Road postdates 1955.

The character and age of the development of Berry Hill Road in the vicinity of the proposal site shows that it does not form part of the historic linear development of the settlement. The historic linear development of Adderbury, seen within the Conservation Area, is a product of both the topography and the historic trade routes. There is a clear distinction between this and the more organic 20th C development south of the railway line along Berry Hill Road.



APPENDIX M: ADDERBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - POLICIES MAP INSET A



Adderbury Neighbourhood Plan:

Policies Map Inset A May 2018

Key





