

PROPOSED BILSDALE TRANSMISSION STATION, BILSDALE WEST MOOR, NORTH YORKSHIRE

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

NYMNP

13/12/2021



LS DALE

carefully



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This Landscape and Visual Assessment is designed to be viewed as A3 double-sided.

01 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment has been prepared by Pegasus Group on behalf of Arqiva. It concerns an application for planning permission for a replacement transmission mast to replace the fire damaged Bilsdale Transmission Station mast on Bilsdale West Moor, North Yorkshire.
- 1.2 This LVIA considers possible effects of the proposed development upon landscape features, landscape character and visual amenity.
- 1.3 The findings have been arrived at through both desk-top study and on site assessment work.

02 METHODOLOGY

Published LVIA Guidance

- 2.1 This LVIA has been undertaken in accordance with the principles of best practice, as outlined in published guidance documents listed in the reference section of this report, notably the third edition of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Assessment (GLVIA3), (Landscape Institute and the Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013).
- 2.2 The methodology and assessment criteria for the assessment have been developed in accordance with the principles established in this best practice document. It should be acknowledged that GLVIA3 establishes guidelines, not a specific methodology. The preface to GLVIA3 states:
- 2.3 *'This edition concentrates on principles and processes. It does not provide a detailed or formulaic 'recipe' that can be followed in every situation – it remains the responsibility of the professional to ensure that the approach and methodology adopted are appropriate to the task in hand.'*
- 2.4 The approach set out below and in detail in Appendix A has therefore been developed specifically for this assessment to ensure that the methodology is fit for purpose.

Distinction between Landscape and Visual Effects

- 2.5 In accordance with GLVIA3, landscape and visual effects are assessed separately, although the procedure for assessing each of these is closely linked. A clear distinction has been drawn between landscape and visual effects as described below:
 - Landscape effects relate to the effects of the indicative proposals on the physical and perceptual characteristics of the landscape and its resulting character and quality; and
 - Visual effects relate to the effects on specific views experienced by visual receptors and on visual amenity more generally.

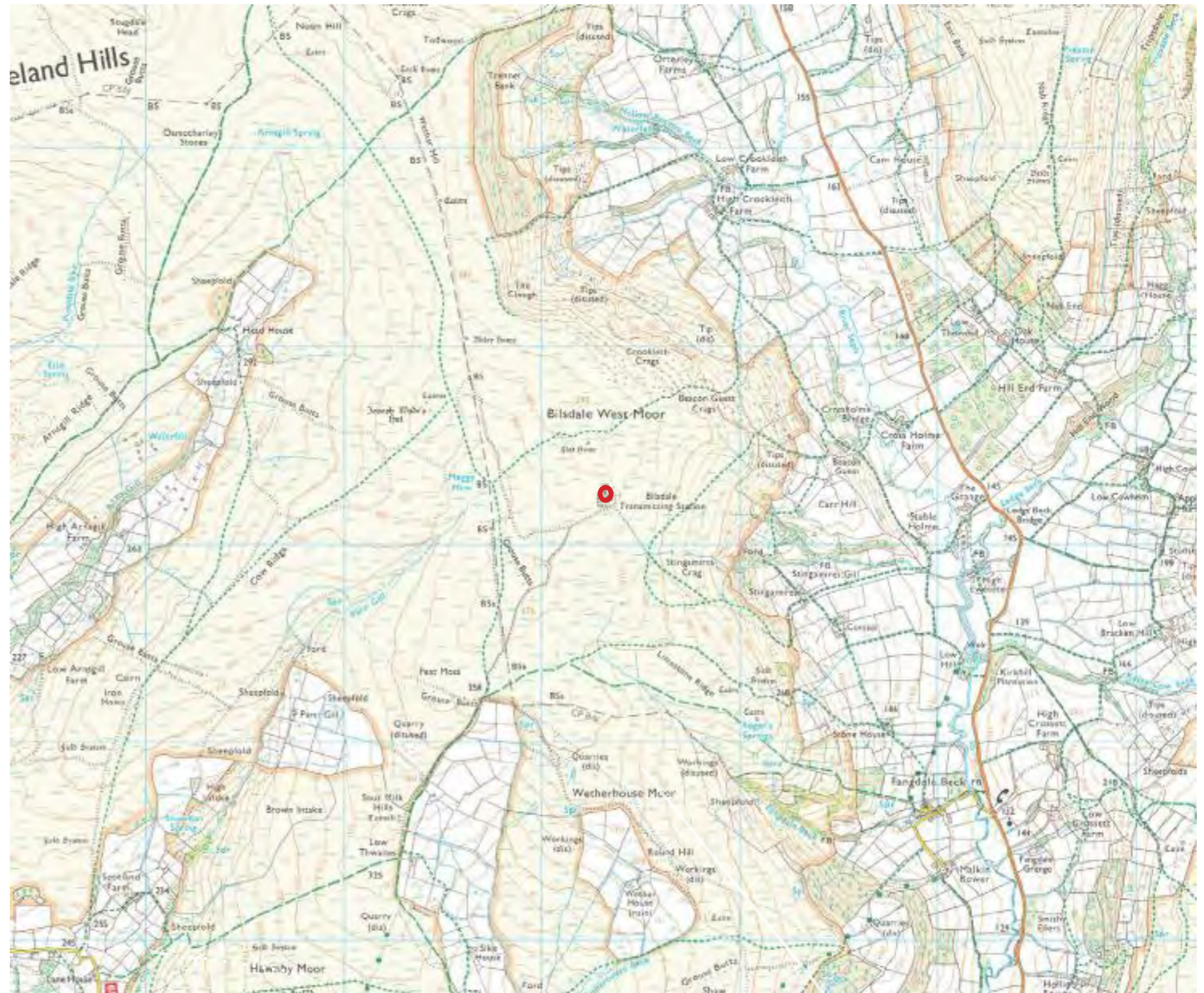


Figure 1: Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map locating the approximate site area in red

Landscape and Visual Assessment Process

2.6 The assessment of landscape effects follows a recognised process set out below:

- Identify the baseline landscape resource (i.e. Individual landscape elements and a thorough understanding of landscape character both at a local scale and a wider scale) and its value;
- Evaluate the sensitivity of the landscape resource to the type of development proposed;
- Develop mitigation proposals / measures iteratively throughout the development process in order to avoid, reduce and ameliorate potential adverse landscape impacts and to maximise the beneficial landscape impacts of the development;
- Identify predicted landscape impacts of the development;
- Evaluate the magnitude of change to the baseline landscape resource; and
- Assess the level of residual effect of the development on the landscape.

2.7 The assessment of visual effects follows a similar process as set out below:

- Identify the geographical area within which views of the development are possible through field work;
- Identify potential visual receptors for the development (i.e. Groups of people who would have views of the development);

2.8 Describe the nature of the baseline views towards the development for each receptor group, usually illustrated by a photograph;

- Evaluate the sensitivity of the visual receptor groups;
- Develop mitigation proposals / measures iteratively throughout the development process in order to avoid, reduce and ameliorate potential adverse visual impacts and to maximise the beneficial visual impacts of the development;
- Identify predicted visual impacts of the development on receptor groups;
- Evaluate the magnitude of change in the view of representative visual receptor groups; and
- Assess the level of residual effects on the views from representative receptor groups and on overall visual amenity.

Types of Landscape and Visual Impacts Considered and Duration

2.9 The LVIA assesses both the permanent effects of the development and the temporary effects associated with its construction.

2.10 Consideration has been given to seasonal variations in the visibility of the development and these are described where necessary.

2.11 Both beneficial and adverse effects are identified in the assessment and reported as appropriate. Where effects are described as 'neutral' this is where beneficial effects are deemed to balance the adverse effects. The adverse and beneficial effects are communicated in each case so that the judgement is clear.

Assessment Criteria

2.12 The criteria used as guidance in assessing the effects of the development is outlined in Appendix A.

Assumptions and Limitations of the Assessment

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSALS

2.13 Figure 1 shows the site location and context. More detail on the development proposals can be found within the Planning Statement accompanying the application.

2.14 The proposed transmission mast ("Proposed Mast") is a proposed mast which is located in the exact location of the fire damaged transmission mast. This shall be referred to in the assessment as the "Former Mast". It has been agreed with the North York Moor National Park Authority that the Former Mast forms part of the baseline situation when considering the effects of the Proposed Mast on landscape and visual receptors.

2.15 The replacement transmission station mast is proposed to be 306.2m high, which is lower in height than the Former Mast, which was 314m high. The Proposed Mast is a lattice type structure and would have a 50cm wider base within the existing compound area than the Former Mast. There is proposed to be a reduction in the extent of ancillary buildings present within the existing compound which surrounds the mast. There are proposed to be three additional anchor blocks and the creation of temporary gravel access tracks along the line of the original and proposed anchors.

2.16 Given the height of the Proposed Mast, as with the Former Mast, lighting will be required to satisfy Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) requirements. Lighting of the Proposed Mast includes six levels of lighting at no more than 52m vertical centres, with two lights at each level. The upper-most level of lights will be at 294m. As with that which was on the Former Mast, the proposed lights will be of medium intensity steady red 'type C' lights, with an effective luminous intensity of 2000 Candela. The difference between the lighting proposals on the Proposed Mast and that of the Former Mast, is that there is one additional layer of lighting proposed (six, instead of five) and the upper-most lights would be 3.5m higher than those which were on the Former Mast.

2.17 Before the demolition of the Former Mast, a temporary 80m tall mast was erected, under permitted development rights, to the south west of the compound, the "Quarry Tower" mast, to reinstate part of the function that had been lost. It is Pegasus' understanding that the Quarry Tower mast will be removed once a further temporary mast

"Station Tower" to the east of the site, is erected. Pegasus do not include the Quarry Tower mast in this assessment baseline, as it is understood that Quarry Tower will be removed prior to the completion of the Proposed Mast. Planning permission has been approved for the "Station Tower" temporary mast, (LPA ref. NYM/2021/0754/FL). The Station Tower is proposed to be located to the east of the proposed replacement tower, at a proposed height of 80m, and is proposed to be of a lattice construction. The Station Tower mast will remain operational during the construction period of the Proposed Mast, and will be dismantled once the Proposed Mast is operational. Therefore, the Station Tower mast is included within the baseline for this assessment.

2.18 Site access for construction of the Proposed Mast is proposed to be from the east via the track which is accessed off the B1257 and the south west along tracks which connect from Moor Gate to the north of Hawnby Hill. During the construction phase the temporary works area situated outside of the compound to the east, which formed part of the approved area of the 'Station tower', will be utilised.

Consultation

2.19 North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNP) planners have been consulted in advance of the production of this LVIA. This included to agree the baseline position and the viewpoint locations and Pegasus have incorporated their suggested viewpoint locations, which are included at Figure 6. Following site work, the viewpoint locations have been refined based upon site conditions and visibility and an updated ZTV with viewpoint locations is provided later within this LVIA.

2.20 It has been agreed that photographic information to accompany the application would be in the form of annotated photography. Pegasus had obtained some photography of the Former Mast prior to its recent demolition and these are included at Appendix D.

2.21 The night-time effects created by the lighting on the Proposed Mast will be reported in this assessment.

Study Area

2.22 The site is situated on Bilsdale West Moor where the existing Bilsdale Transmission Station mast and associated ancillary buildings are taken to be in the baseline. The site is located on open moorland which is situated within the North York Moors National Park. The B1257 is located to the east of the site, from where the site can be accessed off a private track which also serves some nearby individual properties. There is a secondary access track to the site from the south west.

2.23 The immediate landscape within which the site is located is of open, elevated moorland (the site is located at circa 390m AOD). Beyond this on less elevated ground individual properties and small hamlets are found in the lower valleys which run between the upland moorland areas. The nearest of these hamlets is The Grange to the east of site, Chop Gate to the north east and Hawnby to the south. Larger settlements include Helmsley to the south east of the site and Northallerton to the west of the site. There are a number of walking

routes within the area and upland areas within the National Park.

- 2.24 In order to assist in defining the study area, a digital Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) model was created as a starting point to illustrate the geographical area within which views of the Proposed Mast on the site are theoretically possible. The ZTV has been produced using Digital Terrain Modelling (DTM) data with the Proposed Mast height of 306.2m. The ZTV is contained at Figure 12. The ZTV also shows the additional locations from where the taller (314m) Former Mast, could be theoretically visible.
- 2.25 The ZTV is a useful tool used to provide focus on the area and receptors that are most likely to be affected but the proposed development should always be subject to verification in the field.
- 2.26 Following a review of the ZTV, it was proposed that an appropriate study area for the assessment would be 20km. In locations beyond 20km, where the Site and any development on it would be visible, it is considered unlikely to result in any visual effects due to the height of the mast there may be certain places outside of the study area that may have incidental views but these would be at distance and would not alter the existing view against a baseline of the Former Mast. The view would also be heavily influenced by other intervening features within it. Furthermore, when considering the Proposed Mast height against a baseline of the Former Mast height, the effects are on the whole, anticipated to be reduced. This approach has been agreed with the NYMNP.
- 2.27 For the purposes of this LVIA the landscape study area which includes landscape designations, features, landscape character will look at a 10km radius of the site. The landscape study area beyond 10km will have likely similar effects to that of the Former Mast which would have No effect or Neutral effects. The visual study area will look at a 20km study area from the site.
- 2.28 The topography of the site is on high ground of Bilsdale West Moor, with the land falling steeply away to east into Bilsdale Valley and then rising again towards Bilsdale East Moor. This is both similar to the north, south and west. The extent of the visibility is in parts restricted by land form but it is acknowledged that the open moorland within the study area creates a vast open landscape, open skies and within which the Former Mast formed part of such views, as seen within a number of photographs at Appendix D.
- 2.29 Considering the above, in particular the baseline against which effects are to be assessed, the reporting within this LVIA is undertaken to an extent that is appropriate and proportionate to the proposals, and their likely effects, focussing upon where these are considered to be adverse. Each section of the report sets out the approach taken accordingly.

Baseline Information

- 2.30 The baseline landscape resource and visual receptors were identified in part through a desk-based study of Ordnance Survey mapping, published landscape character studies, relevant planning policies, interrogation of aerial photography, as well as photographs taken and observations made during site visits conducted during September and

November 2021.

- 2.31 Access during site visits was restricted to publicly accessible locations or land within the ownership of the site landowners. No access was possible to private properties and therefore, assumptions have been made regarding the view from private properties. These assumptions have been based on an understanding of the properties and features present within the wider landscape gained during the site visit from publicly accessible locations. Assumptions are guided by professional experience and judgement.
- 2.32 Site visits were conducted during optimal visibility conditions allowing a good understanding of the landscape and the general visual character of the surrounding landscape.
- 2.33 For the purposes of this assessment, it has been agreed with the NYMNP that the Former Mast forms part of the baseline situation, having received full planning consent in the past. The Proposed Mast has a proposed height of 306.2m, which is a 7.8m reduction on the Former Mast height of 314m. The Former Mast (which has been demolished due to fire damage) was originally built in the 1960s and comprised a solid structure, as seen in the image of the mast prior to demolition at Figure 6. Drawings showing the Former Mast and Proposed Masts are illustrated in Figures 3, 4 and 5.
- 2.34 The Proposed Mast will be located in the same place as the Former Mast. For the purposes of this assessment the Quarry Mast, which was erected to the south west of the proposed tower to ensure some services can still operate, will be removed once another temporary mast is erected to the east of the site. The Quarry Mast is not considered as part of the baseline, although it provides a useful point of reference when looking towards the site from some locations. The Station Tower temporary mast to the east will form part of the baseline as it will remain operational until the Proposed Mast is commissioned and fully operational, following which the Station Tower mast can be dismantled.



Figure 2: Image of the existing (now demolished) solid mast construction

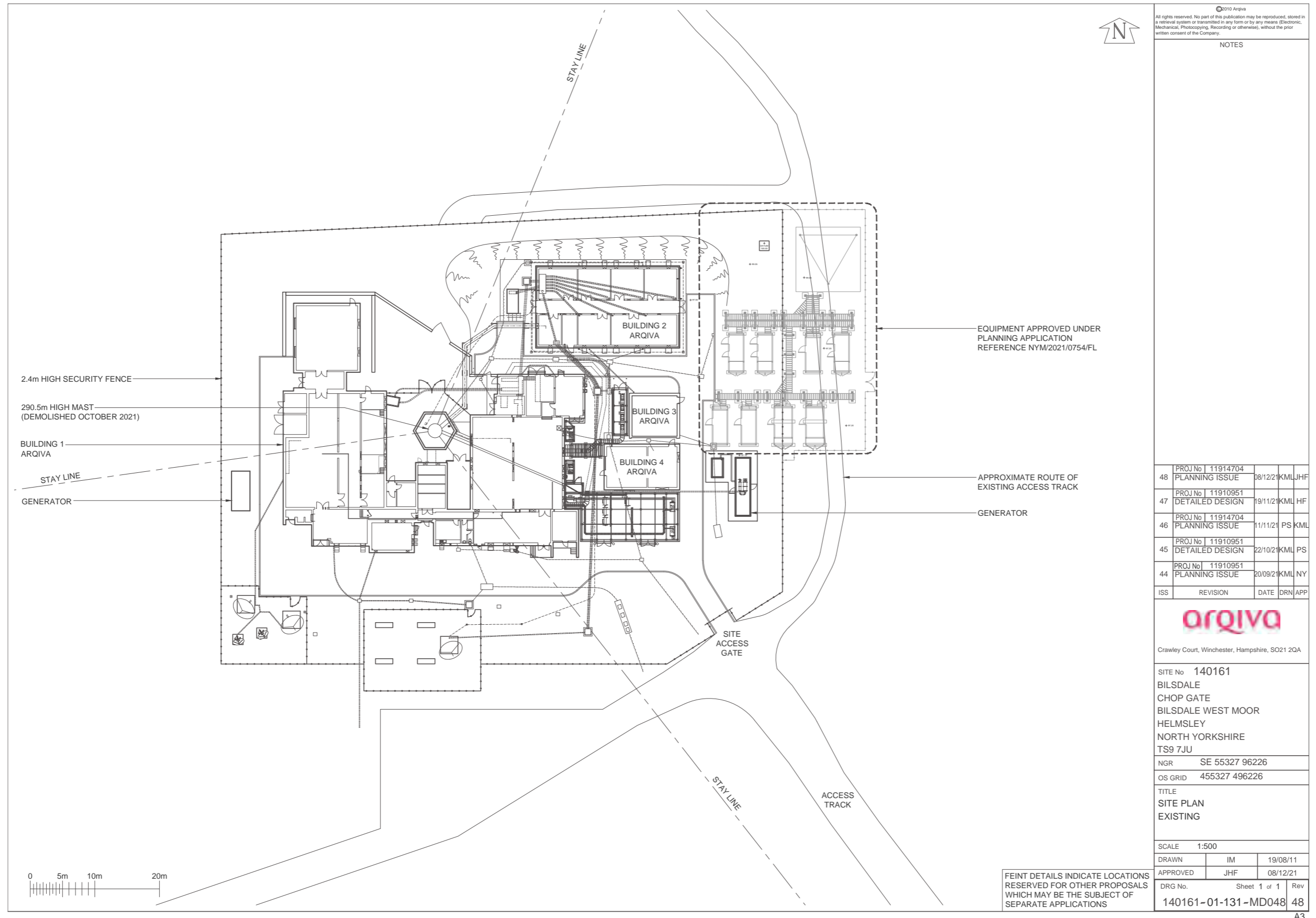


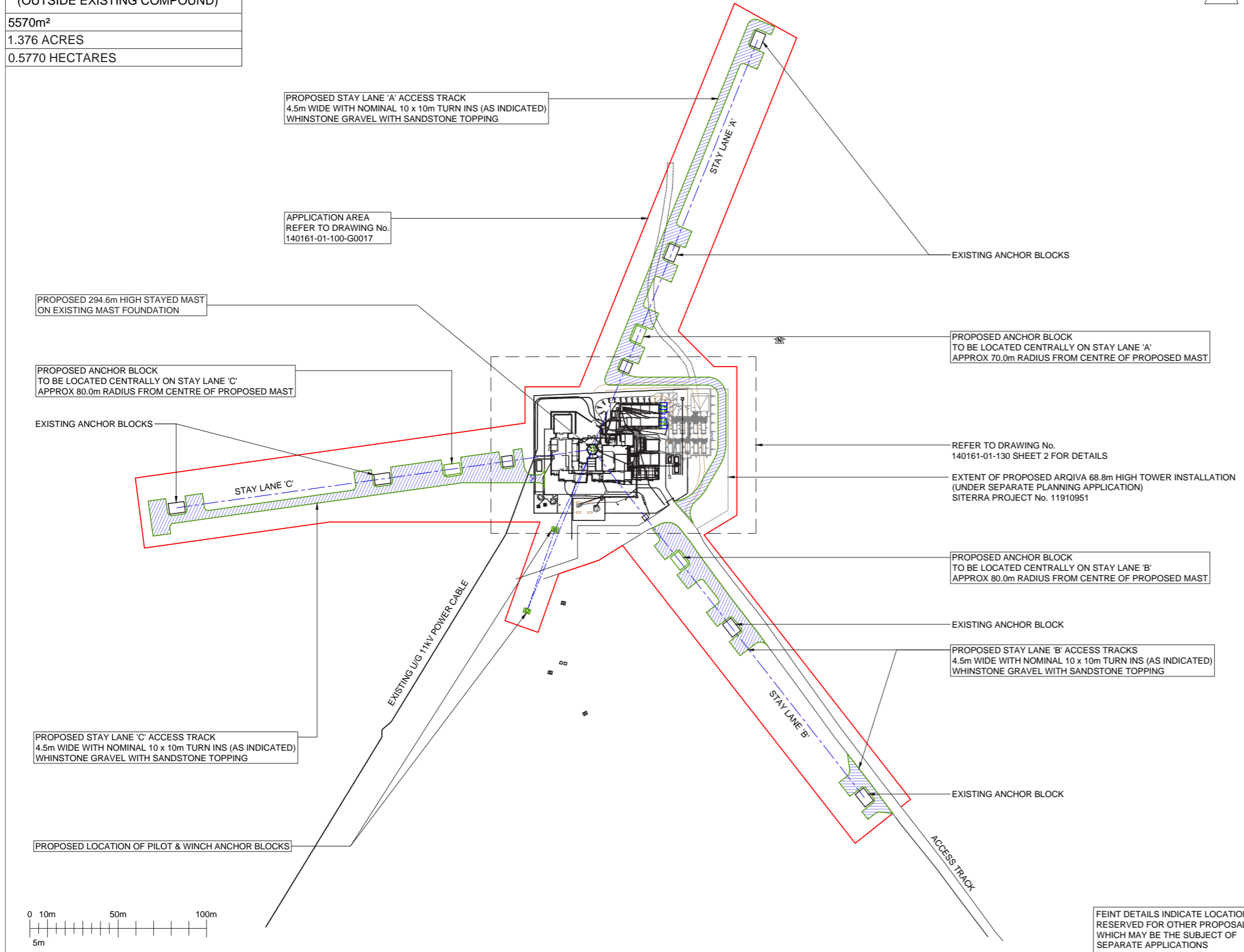
Figure 3: Former Transmission Station Mast (Drawing from Arqiva)

TOTAL AREA OF STAY LANE ACCESS TRACKS (OUTSIDE EXISTING COMPOUND)

5570m ²
1.376 ACRES
0.5770 HECTARES

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NOTES



ISS	REVISION	DATE	DRN	APP
46	PLANNING ISSUE	11/11/21	PS	KML
45	DETAILED DESIGN	22/10/21	KML	PS
44	PLANNING ISSUE	20/09/21	KML	NY
43	PLANNING ISSUE	17/09/21	KML	NY
42	PLANNING ISSUE	13/09/21	KML	KML

PROJ No 11914704				
PLANNING ISSUE	11/11/21	PS	KML	
PROJ No 11910951				
DETAILED DESIGN	22/10/21	KML	PS	
PROJ No 11910951				
PLANNING ISSUE	20/09/21	KML	NY	
PROJ No 11910951				
PLANNING ISSUE	17/09/21	KML	NY	
PROJ No 11910951				
PLANNING ISSUE	13/09/21	KML	KML	



SITE No 140161
 BILSDALE
 CHOP GATE
 BILSDALE WEST MOOR
 HELMSLEY
 NORTH YORKSHIRE
 TS9 7JU

NGR SE 55327 96226
 OS GRID 455327 496226

TITLE
 SITE PLAN
 PROPOSED
 294.8m HIGH STAYED MAST

SCALE 1:2000

DRAWN IM 19/08/11
 APPROVED KML 11/11/21

DRG No. 140161-01-130-MD046
 Sheet 1 of 2
 Rev 46

A3

Figure 4: Proposed Transmission Station Mast (Drawing from Arqiva)

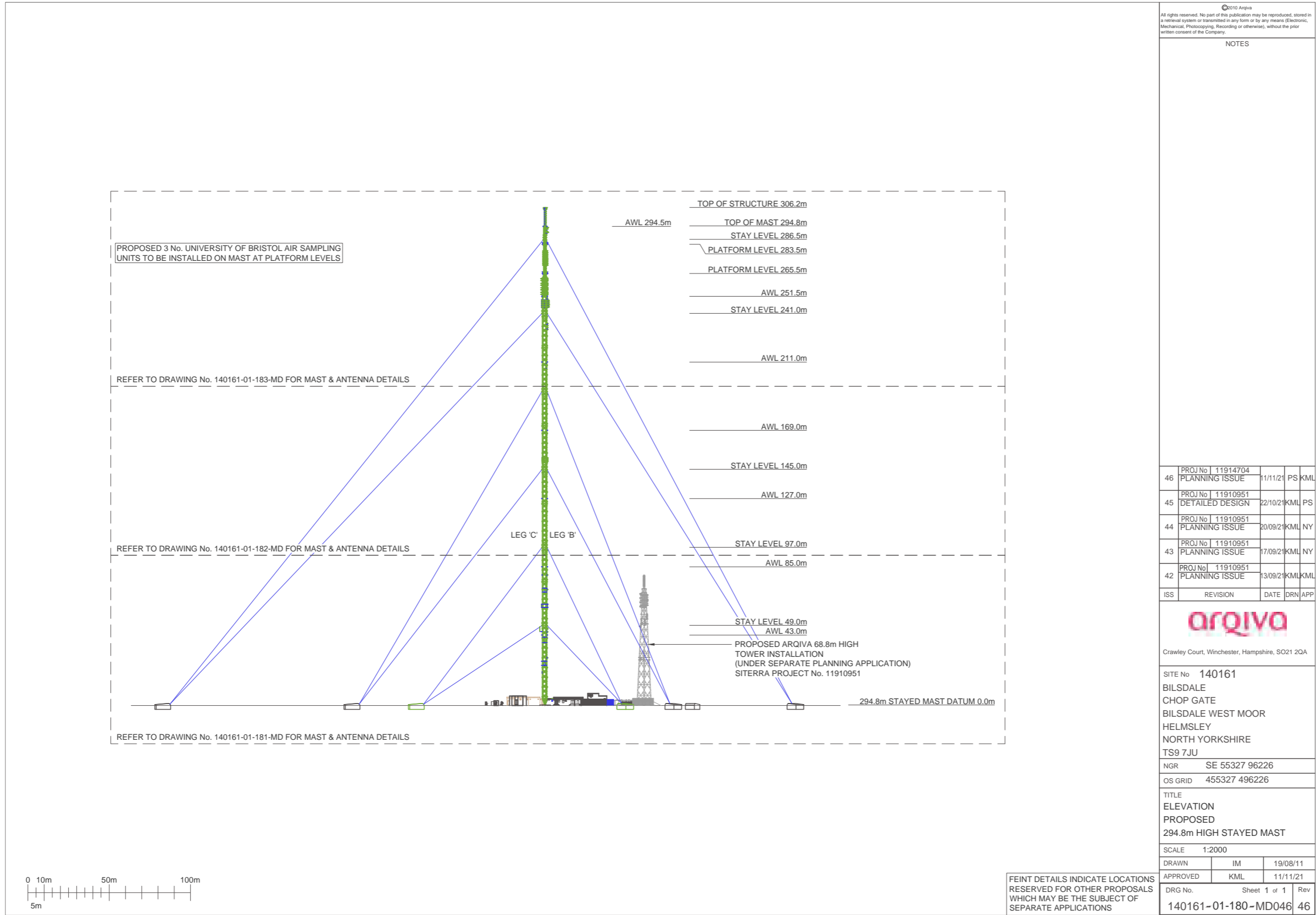
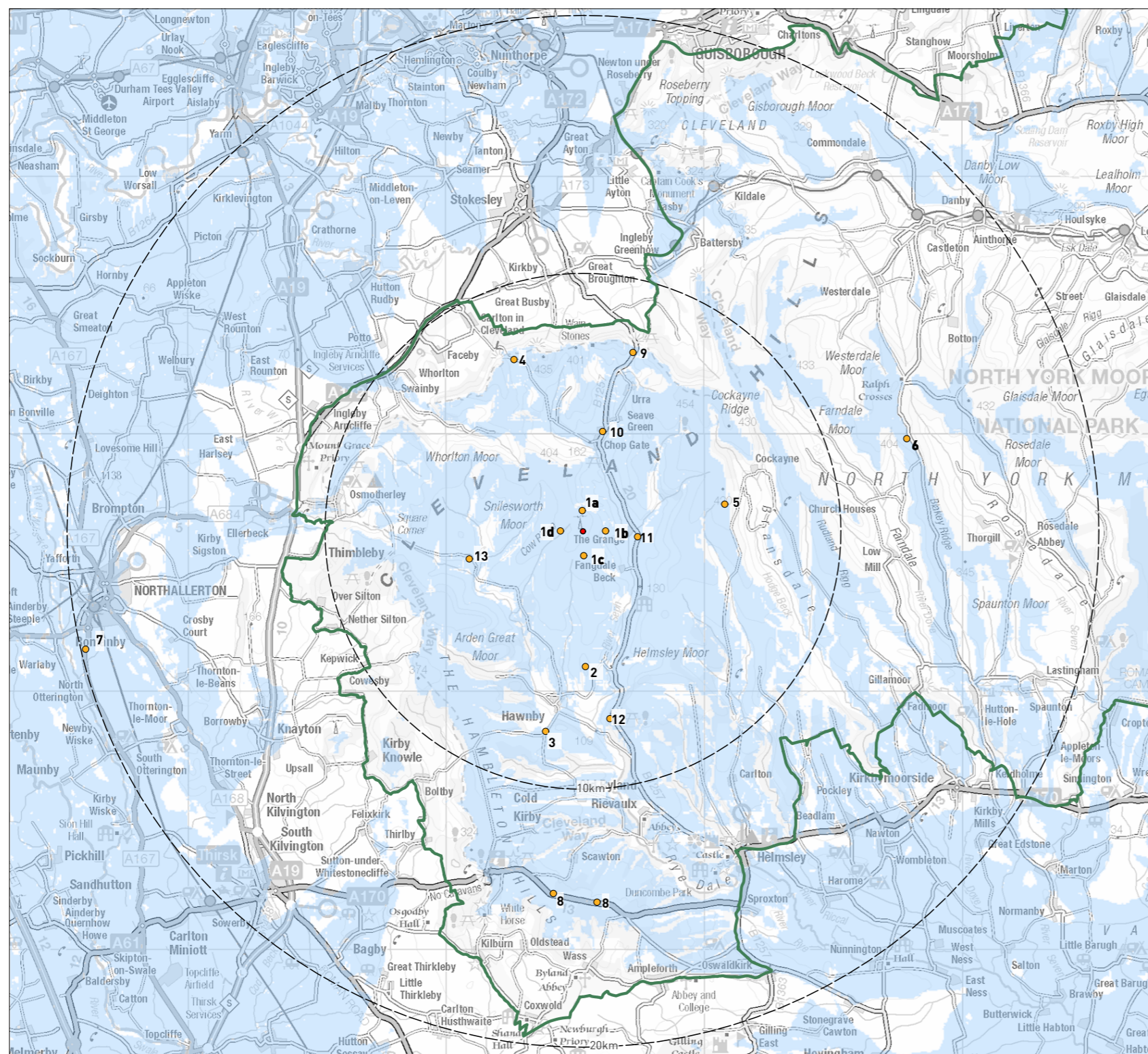


Figure 5: Proposed Transmission Station Mast (Drawing from Arqiva)



- KEY**
- Existing Mast
 - Radius Rings
 - Bare Earth Zone of Theoretical Visibility
 - ▭ National Park Boundary: North York Moors
 - Proposed viewpoint locations

NYMNP Suggested viewpoint locations
 (Note VP8 has two locations which require micrositing on site. VP1 requires views from all directions approximately 500m from the mast. VP4 and VP5 are on rights of way and will be micrositied to the best available views).

ZTV Production Information

DTM data used is OS Terrain 50.

Viewer height set at 1.7m
 (in accordance with para 6.11 of GLVIA Third Edition)

Calculations include earth curvature and light refraction
 N.B. This Bare Earth Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) image illustrates the theoretical extent of where the development may be visible from, assuming 100% atmospheric visibility.

FOR CONSULTATION WITH NYMNP

BARE EARTH ZONE OF THEORETICAL VISIBILITY (ZTV) WITH VIEWPOINTS

Bilsdale Transmitting Station

Client: Arqiva
 DRWG No: BRS1526.001
 Drawn by: EK
 Date: 23/09/2021
 Scale: 1:160,000 @ A3

REV: A
 Approved by: HL





Figure 6: ZTV with Suggested Viewpoint Locations (Issued for consultation with North York Moors National Park Authority)

03 DESIGNATIONS AND POLICY CONTEXT

3.1 The site is located within the administrative boundary of NYMNP. This section highlights the national and local policies, and designations of relevance to landscape.

3.2 For the purposes of this assessment a 10km study area has been considered appropriate for landscape designations and policy.

Designations

North York Moors National Park

3.3 The site lies within the NYMNP which extends across the 10km study area and beyond into the wider 20km study area. The NYMNP is considered to have a high value and susceptibility. This results in high sensitivity.

3.4 The assessment of effects upon the Special Qualities of the of the NYMNP during construction and operation, are set out in Section 7.

Open Access Land and Recreational Routes

3.5 The site lies within an area of Open Access Land (OAL). The area extends to the north, east, south and west of the site on the upland moorland which surrounds it. There are other areas of OAL that fall within the 10km study area.

3.6 The OAL gives access for recreation, which, given its location within the National Park, is considered to have a very high sensitivity.

3.7 There are a number of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) within 2km of the site in all directions. The Bilsdale Circuit Long Distance Footpath lies at its nearest point of 583m to the west of the site.

3.8 Between 2 and 5km there are a network of footpaths and bridleways. Sustrans National Cycle Route 656 lies approximately 3.5km to the west of the site at its closest point. These will be considered further in the assessment.

3.9 Between 5 and 10km there are a number of footpaths and bridleways within the open moorland uplands and the valleys which lie between the upland areas. In particular, the Cleveland Way National Trail which also forms part of the Wild Yorkshire Way, White Rose Challenge and Shepherds Round which is located 7km to the west of the site. The Hambleton Hobble Long Distance Footpath is located just over 7km to the west of the site. The Rosedale Circuit Long Distance Footpath is located 5.5km to the east of the site. PRoW within the immediate site context are indicated on Figure 1.

3.10 Sustrans National Cycle Route 65 lies 7.3km to the west of the site at its closet point. These will be considered further in the assessment.

3.11 Within the 10km to the 20km study area there are a number of public rights of way. There is potential for visibility of the mast where there is limited screening or vegetation due to the height of the Proposed

Mast, however when set against a baseline of the slightly taller Former Mast, any such changes would be indeterminable, and effects are not considered for these receptors beyond 10km.

3.12 The effects upon views from OAL and PRoW are considered in the assessment in Section 6.

Cultural Heritage

3.13 There are number of Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings (Grade I, II and II*) which are situated in all directions of the site from the site and are scattered throughout the 10km study area. The Cultural Heritage Report covers all the heritage designations in more detail and does not form part of this LVIA.

Landscape Planning Policy

National Planning Policy

3.14 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was last updated by the former Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (now Department of Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)) in July 2021 setting out the Government's planning policies for England and providing a framework within which the appropriate local council can produce local and neighbourhood plans; the NPPF is a material consideration in planning decisions.

3.15 The NPPF sets out three dimensions to achieving sustainable development that include economic, social and environmental considerations. It places an onus on the planning system to "contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment..." going on to note that sustainable solutions should take account of local circumstances and reflect the character of each area. This underpins the strategic guidance set out in the NPPF in relation to landscape and visual matters.

3.16 In relation to landscape and visual matters, achieving well-designed places (Section 12) aims to ensure that developments are 'visually attractive', are sympathetic to local character (including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting) and to establish and maintain a strong sense of place.

3.17 Section 15 of the NPPF addresses 'conserving and enhancing the natural environment' stating that policies and decisions should contribute to this by "(a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes (noting that this should commensurate with a statutory status or identified quality identified in a development plan)" and also "(b) recognising the 'intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside'".

3.18 When considering applications for development within National Parks, permission should be refused for major development, other than in exceptional circumstances, and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest (Section 15).

3.19 The NPPF notes the importance that designs 'evolve' in response to local issues and to the views of the community.



Remote Areas (Policy ENV 3)

Figure 7: Extract from the North York Moors National Park Authority Local Plan July 2020 accessed October 2021 (approximate site located by blue pin)

Local Planning Policy

3.20 The site lies within the administrative boundary of NYMNP. The current adopted Local Plan is the North York Moors National Park Authority Local Plan July 2020.

Strategic Policy G -Landscape

3.21 This policy sets out that:

The high quality, diverse and distinctive landscapes of the North York Moors will be conserved and enhanced.

Great weight will be given to landscape considerations in planning decisions and development will be supported where the location, scale and detailed design of the scheme respects and enhances the local landscape character type as defined in the North York Moors Landscape Assessment.

Development which would have an unacceptable impact on the natural beauty, character and special qualities of the areas of moorland, woodland, coast and foreshore as defined by the Section 3 Conservation Map or on the setting of the Howardian Hills AONB or local seascape will not be permitted.

Policy ENV3 Remote Areas

3.22 The site lies within Policy ENV3 Remote Areas, as shown on the extract at Figure 7. The policy states that *'Development will only be permitted in Remote Areas where it can be demonstrated that:*

a) it is essential for environmental conservation, agricultural or forestry management purposes; and

b) No alternative locations outside Remote Areas are suitable'.

3.23 Matters of alternative sites/locations for a Proposed Mast are dealt with in the Planning Report.

Policy ENV4 Dark Night Skies

3.24 This policy sets out that:

The darkness of the night skies above the National Park will be maintained and where possible enhanced. All development will be expected to minimise light spillage through good design and lighting management and the following lighting principles will be applied:

1. No external lighting will be permitted in Remote Areas;

2. In Open Countryside proposals that involve external lighting will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the lighting is essential for safety or security reasons and the lighting details meet or exceed those set out in any lighting guidelines adopted by the Authority;

3. Within settlements listed in the Authority's settlement hierarchy, proposals that involve external lighting will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the lighting is essential for safety, security or community reasons and the lighting details meet or exceed those set out in any lighting guidelines adopted by the Authority.

3.25 Considerations of the effects of the proposed development at night are set out within Section 8.

3.26 We also note that to the south east of the site, over 11km away, is an Area of High Landscape Value (AHLV). This falls within Ryedale District. This is not considered further in this LVIA, given the distance from the site and the similarities in the design to that of the Former Mast the effects would remain the same as the baseline situation.

04 LANDSCAPE FEATURES

- 4.1 This section provides an overview of the landscape features and character of the landscape, an indication of their sensitivity to development of the type proposed and an assessment of the predicted level of effect.
- 4.2 In Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment sensitivity is assessed through consideration of both the susceptibility to development of the type proposed and the value attached to the landscape. In the case of the potential for effects on landscape character, susceptibility means the ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences for the existing characteristics of the site. An assessment is then made as to the magnitude of the change, in terms of its scale or size.
- 4.3 The assessments of sensitivity of the receptor and magnitude of change are then combined with the duration of the effect and the reversibility of the effect, to assist in determining the relative level of effect on each landscape feature or character area.
- 4.4 For the purposes of the assessment of landscape effects the magnitude of change is considered to be long-term and permanent.
- 4.5 The study area for landscape features, broadly discusses the immediate site and its surroundings in more detail within the 10km study area as set out in Section 2 of the LVIA. The text briefly talks about the broader landscape as whole within the broader 20km study area.

Landscape Features

Land form and Topography

- 4.6 The site is at an elevation of approximately 380m AOD, located to the eastern side of Bilsdale West Moor. To the north of the site the land rises slightly to levels of 390m to 400m AOD. The land to the east of the site falls away sharply towards the valley bottom of Bilsdale at around levels of 140m and 150m AOD. The land beyond this rises steeply again towards Bilsdale East Moor, to the east of the site, where Bilsdale West Moor is at similar elevation to that of the site. Topography to the south and west of the site fall gradually away to levels around 230m AOD.
- 4.7 The surrounding landscape within the 20km study area is a mixture of upland moorland which contrasts with the valleys of Bilsdale, Bransdale and Farndale. The valley sides rise up steeply open moorland. There are lower lying areas beyond 15 to 20km study area with localised undulations and distinctive landforms which have moorland characteristics.
- 4.8 It is considered that the landform and topography of the site is of very high value and high susceptibility. The landform and topography within the National Park overall has very high sensitivity to the development due to the open upland moorland characteristics. There is a reduction in the number of ancillary buildings within the existing compound but there are no alterations made to the landform as part of the Proposed Mast. There would be no change during both the construction and

operational phases of the development, resulting in **No Effect, Neutral effect** upon landform and topography, which are long-term and permanent.

Land Use, Buildings and Infrastructure

- 4.9 The Proposed Mast would be in the compound of the Former Mast on Bilsdale West Moor. Within the compound there are a number of single storey, flat roofed buildings which surround the location of the Former Mast. There are a number of satellite dishes on hard standing within the fenced compound. The compound is enclosed by metal fencing. The Former Mast was stabilised by stays affixed to anchor blocks which are set beyond the extent of the compound. These are protected with green metal fencing. There is a single lane access track up to the site which is accessed off the B1257 to the east of the site which provides access to nearby residential properties and farmsteads.
- 4.10 Beyond the site compound, the land within the site is comprised of moorland.
- 4.11 The landscape value of the site itself is of national value, as the site is situated within the NYMNP. The site is considered to have a low susceptibility to the Proposed Mast as the Proposed Mast would be situated on the existing location within the existing compound. In terms of land use, buildings and infrastructure as a whole these elements are considered to be of very high sensitivity by virtue of their location within the National Park, rather than their inherent properties of themselves.
- 4.12 The change is brought about by the Proposed Mast which utilises the existing location of the Former Mast which is situated within the existing compound. There would be a reduction in overall height with the Proposed Mast of 7.8m from that of the Former Mast and a reduction in the number of existing ancillary buildings within the existing compound, which provides a potential betterment. It is noted that new, temporary, tracks would be laid along the ground between the stay anchor points which extend in three directions in the moorland landscape beyond the compound. This would be a minor adverse change to the land use of these localised parts of the moorland.
- 4.13 Balancing the improvements which are proposed by the development with the limited adverse effect of the new tracks, it is considered that there would be a very low magnitude of change. The effect at both construction and operation would be, on balance, either **neutral or very low Minor adverse**. The landscape effects are considered long term and permanent.

Vegetation

- 4.14 There is no vegetation present with the existing compound. The wider landscape of Bilsdale West Moor is comprised of heathland and moorland vegetation and the Red Line Boundary includes some of this land.
- 4.15 As part of the proposals there are to be new, temporary, gravel tracks located along the line of the existing anchor points and to the east of the compound and these would replace existing heathland vegetation

in these locations, along with three new anchor points. The vegetation has a very high value and is of high susceptibility, resulting in a very high sensitivity and the effects in ecology terms are referred to elsewhere. In landscape terms, the magnitude of change is considered to be moderate and this is anticipated to be permanent, though localised. The losses represent a very small part of a much wider expanse of this vegetation type. Therefore, overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be Low, with **Minor/Moderate localised adverse** effects both at construction and operational phases of the project. The effects are long term and permanent.

Water Features and Drainage

- 4.16 There are no water features or drainage channels within the site. The nearest lies 139m to the south east of the site and would remain unaffected by the Proposed Mast.
- 4.17 As there are no water courses within the site itself and the Proposed Mast does not affect any of these watercourses during both the construction and operation phases of the project they are not considered further in the assessment.

05 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

5.1 A baseline study has been undertaken to record the character of the landscape and the elements, features and aesthetic and perceptual factors which contribute to it and to highlight any particular sensitivities that should be addressed in the layout.

5.2 For the purposes of this LVIA it is considered to be proportionate to include all landscape character types and areas (LCT's and LCA's) within 10km of the site. It is considered that the LCT's and LCA's beyond 10km would experience no greater than No Effect, Neutral effects. The effects would be little different at these distances from that already experienced by the Former Mast.

National Landscape Character Assessment

5.3 The site falls within National Character Area 25, North York Moors and Cleveland Hills (NCA 25). This national level assessment gives a broad impression of a region and provides a useful contextual overview of the character of the wider landscape. The site in relation to NCA 25 is shown in Figure 8.

5.4 The following summary of the North York Moors and Cleveland Hills is provided below. Those characteristics which are considered to be most apparent to within the study area are shown in bold:

- **Upland plateaux, generally below 400 m, dissected by a series of dales – some broad and sweeping but others narrow, steep sided and wooded – creating strong contrasts between open moors and enclosed valleys;**
- **Extensive areas of heather moorland on plateaux and hills, largely under sporting ownership, including large expanses of upland heathland and blanket bog habitats, creating a sense of space, expansiveness and openness;**
- Upland plateau landscape underlain mainly by sandstone and mudstone of Middle Jurassic age and calcareous sandstone and limestone of Upper Jurassic age;
- **Some areas of extensive conifer and mixed plantations, especially in the south-east, and broadleaved woodland on steep valley sides;**
- Valley landscapes characterised by pastoral farming, with a clear and strong visual contrast between the enclosed fields with some species-rich grasslands and wetlands, farms and settlements, and the bracken-fringed moorlands above;
- Drystone walls and hedgerows enclosing the small pastures and meadows in dales and fringing farmland, often replaced by fences in arable areas;
- Large-scale arable landscapes to the south and east;
- Sparsely settled, with scattered farmsteads and small villages, and traditional buildings constructed of local sandstone or limestone and with red pantile roofs, creating a strong visual unity;
- A rich archaeological heritage from many different periods,



Figure 8: Extract from National Character Area Profile, NCA 25 North York Moors and Cleveland Hills

especially on the moorland plateaux;

- Panoramic views over moorland plateaux, ridges and dales and out over surrounding lowland landscapes and the North Sea.

5.5 Reference is made to the large structure of Bilsdale Transmission mast within North York Moors and Cleveland Hills.

5.6 The National Character Assessment does not set out landscape value, susceptibility or sensitivity. Consideration has therefore been made during site work, to the nature of the landscape surrounding, and including the site. The NCA 25 includes the entire National Park and due to the height of Proposed Mast which is comparable to the Former Mast, as depicted on the ZTV at Figure 12, does include much of the NCA. The landscape is of high quality and intact with a number of positive attributes. There are a number of public rights of way which run close the site. These considerations conclude the following:

- Landscape susceptibility to the proposed development: High
- Value of Landscape: High
- Landscape Sensitivity: **Very High**

5.7 During the construction phase of the project there would be some vegetation removal of the heathland where gravel tracks are proposed to provide access to the anchor points and to the east of the compound. It is also acknowledged that there will temporarily be two masts in the landscape. There will be no changes to topography and landform or other landscape features. Therefore overall there would be a very

low magnitude of change during both the construction and operational phases of the development and these changes represent a very small extent of the NCA. Overall this would result in **Minor adverse** effects on a very limited part (within the site and up to between 300 - 500m from the site) of NCA 25. Beyond these distances, given the extent of the NCA, the change is anticipated to be Very Low or No Change, with a resulting effect of **No Effect, Neutral**. The effects would be long term and permanent.

Local Landscape Character Assessment

5.8 North York Moors National Park has published a landscape character assessment, which is titled 'North York Moors National Park, Landscape Character Assessment, December 2003 (revised December 2004) (LCA).

5.9 The site is located within 'Landscape Character Type 1 - Moorland, which is then further subdivided into Landscape Character Area 1a- Western Moors (LCA 1a)'. The approximate location of the LCA 1a in relation to the site is shown in Figure 9. The key features are set out in Appendix B for LCA 1a of the North York Moors National Park, Landscape Character Assessment.

5.10 The following summary of the Landscape Character Area 1a- Western Moors (LCA 1a) is provided below. Those characteristics which are considered to be most apparent within the study area are shown in bold:

- **Elevated open expansive upland, part of the Cleveland and Hambleton Hills, forming a gently undulating plateau sloping gradually towards Ryedale and the western edge of the moors and more steeply towards the north and into Bilsdale to the east;**
- Generally underlain by Middle Jurassic Ravenscar sandstone, mudstone and thin coals deposited as a deltaic series, which have given rise to acidic, peaty soils drained by a dispersed pattern of wet flushes, springs and minor gills mainly flowing into Ryedale and towards the western fringes of the moors;
- The contrasting landform of the flat topped, steep sided plateau of Arden Great Moor (400m on Black Hambleton), underlain by Corallian limestones and sandstones, rises as a steep escarpment above the general level of Osmotherley Moor;
- Outcropping rocks, weathered into strange shapes, create a surreal moorland landmark (the Wain Stones) on Hasty Moor. Occasional sandstone outcrops mark the moorland edges and scattered boulder fields are present on the moor tops;
- **Panoramic long distance views are available across the strong horizons of the moors, across the lower lying areas to the west and into the central dales. The open skies create a dramatic and ever changing backdrop to the landscape. At night, the darkness of the skies is a key feature;**
- **Landcover comprises extensive tracts of heather moorland (forming part of the largest continuous area of heather moorland in England, almost all of which is designated as SSSI, SPA and**

Candidate SAC), changing in colour from purple in summer to almost black in winter and managed for grouse shooting, resulting in a distinctive mosaic pattern of different aged plants mixed with burnt areas and lines of grouse butts;

- **Bracken predominates on the steeper slopes of the moorland edges. Smaller areas of heather exist in mosaic with grassland/blanket peat grassland. The white flowers of areas of cotton grass punctuate the landscape in summer. Broughton Bank is locally important for its Jurassic flora;**
- *Tree cover is limited to isolated pockets of deciduous woodland in dale head areas and very occasional windswept specimens on the moor tops. A small area of ancient woodland is present at Locker Wood. Occasional small coniferous plantations are associated with the moorland fringes;*
- *The moorland, grazed by sheep, is generally unenclosed although wire fences are present in some locations;*
- **Settlement is almost entirely absent; occasional isolated farms occur in moorland valleys surrounded by walled fields and sheepfolds;**
- *Lines of small round barrows follow the ridge lines of the Hambleton and Cleveland Hills and are visible as skyline features; dykes (ancient boundary earthworks) are also present on the western edge of Arden Great Moor. The remains of an ancient cross are visible below Hambleton End;*
- *Extensive alum quarries and their associated spoil tips are visible on the northern side of Carlton Bank; further alum quarries occur at Thimbleby;*
- *Drifts of jet are present on the northern sides of the moors visible as V-shaped gashes in moorland slopes, with small shale tips uncolonised by grass or bracken, some a distinctive red colour as a result of firing;*
- **Crossed by few roads, the moors are relatively inaccessible; the tops of Arden Great Moor are only accessible on foot, creating a strong sense of remoteness and isolation. Lines of grouse butts cross the landscape in places. The Cleveland Way runs along the western edge of the character area;**
- **The noise of the wind and the call of moorland birds are often the only sounds present in the area;**
- **Detractors include the mast on Bilsdale West Moor and the scars created by the shooting tracks and quarries of the moorland edges.**

5.11 The LCA looks at the pressures for change and degrees and significance of pressure to landscape character in relation to a number different type of pressures. It is noted that there are medium to high pressures from infrastructure features such as masts.

5.12 The LCA does not set out landscape value, susceptibility or sensitivity. Consideration has therefore been made during site work, to the nature of the landscape surrounding, and including the site. The land to the

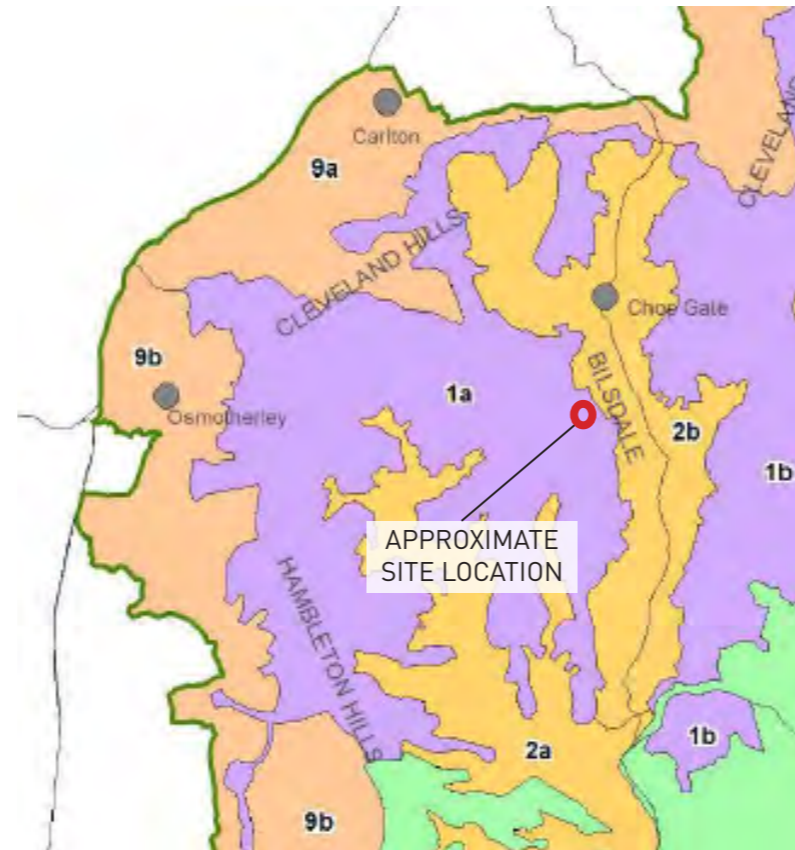


Figure 9: Extract from North York Moors National Park Landscape Character Assessment

north, east, south and west is open moorland, with an open character. There are no roads other than access tracks leading to and from the site. The moorland is open access land situated within the North York Moors National Park. The landscape is of high quality and intact, excepting the existing influence of the Former Mast and associated compound and low-level buildings within it. Notwithstanding this, the landscape also has a number of positive attributes. There are a number of public rights of way which run close the site. These considerations conclude the following:

- Landscape susceptibility to the proposed development: High
- Value of Landscape: High
- Landscape Sensitivity: **Very High**

5.13 It is acknowledged that the mast is a Proposed Mast to the one that was originally built in the 1960s. The Proposed Mast would give rise to some direct effects due to heathland vegetation removal from the creation of gravel access tracks to service the proposed anchor points (as set out in Section 4). Whilst there is a direct effect, this is limited in extent, as the degree to which the proposal will affect the perceived character of LCA 1a, is limited to locations in immediate proximity to this part of the works. The proposal is for whinstone gravel with a sandstone topping, and which is considered to be a composition which is sensitive to the character and appearance of this LCA. Furthermore, the proposed works would be set within the context of the existing

compound and infrastructure already present.

5.14 There is a proposed reduction in the number of ancillary buildings within the existing compound area and the Proposed Mast is 7.8m shorter in height than the Former Mast. The both masts were / will be visible from locations across the LCA, as illustrated by the ZTV at Figure 12. The ZTV shows that there is a small reduction in the extent of the areas from where the Proposed Mast could be visible. However, given the distances across which potential visibility exists, the reduction in height is likely to be imperceptible.

5.15 During the construction phase, with its associated activity at the site and vehicle movements along the access tracks, the influence of the proposed development will be at its greatest, extending within the site, and across the landscape of and close to the access tracks and areas from where these can be seen. It is also acknowledged that there will temporarily be two masts in the landscape. During construction, a combination of a very high sensitivity and a Low magnitude of change, during construction the effects are considered to be **Moderate adverse** in areas of the LCA within the site area itself and up to approximately 300-500m of the Red Line Boundary. Beyond these distances, the effects are considered to be localised **Minor adverse/No Effect, Neutral**. These effects are temporary and short term.

5.16 During the operational phase the proposed magnitude of change of the new access tracks is Very Low. The effect upon character from this part of the works, is Minor adverse, extending to very localised areas surrounding the compound and stay lanes.

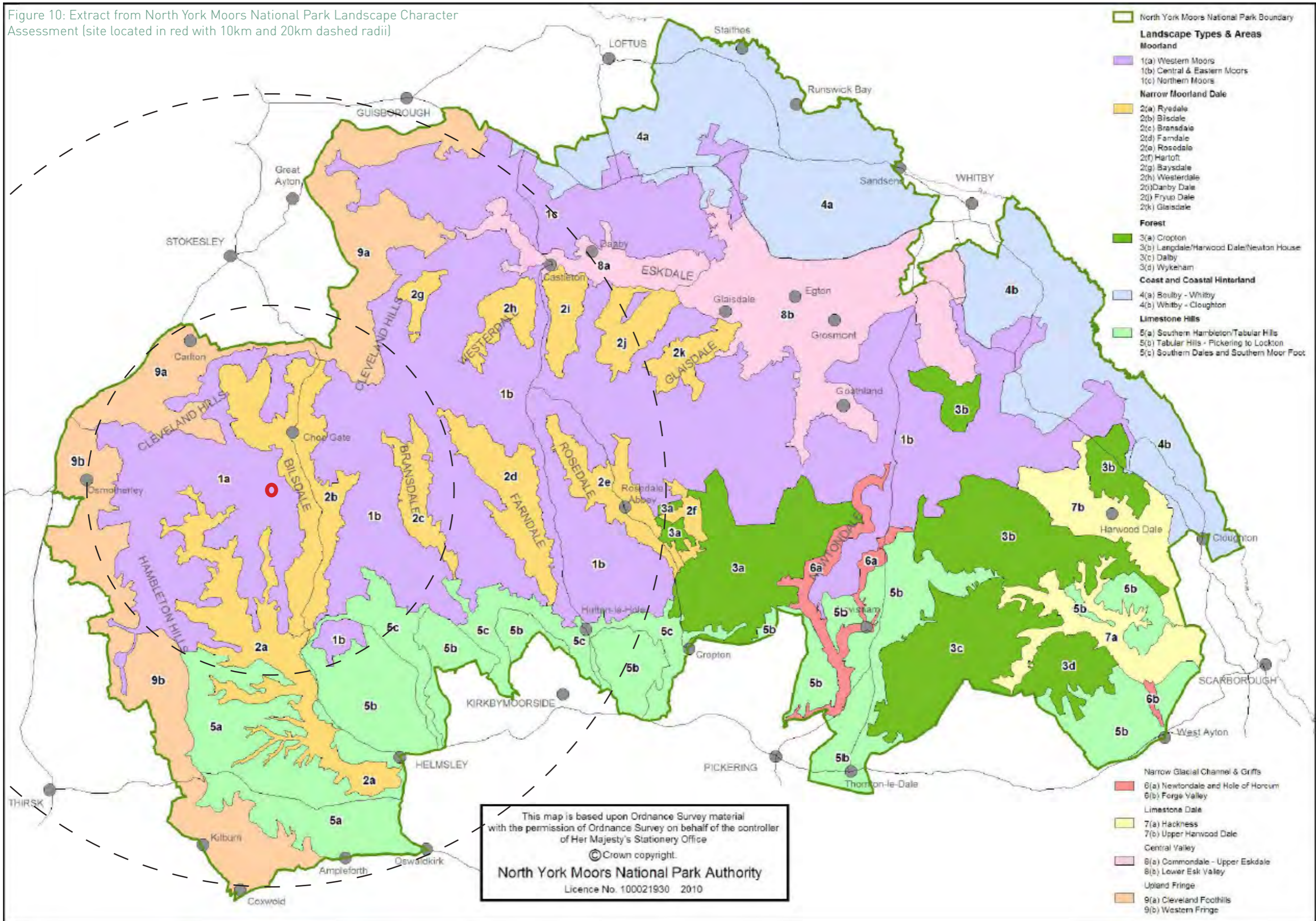
5.17 For the Proposed Mast itself and change to ancillary buildings within the compound, the magnitude of change is considered to reduce to Very Low as construction vehicles and activities would have ceased. The site and its components will largely exert the same influences upon the LCA as that which is considered to be the baseline. Notwithstanding this, there are some minor design differences which are deemed to be beneficial, namely the reduction in height of the Proposed Mast, and its construction comprising a lattice structure which offers some visual permeability, helping to assimilate it within the skyline against which it would be seen. The overall effect upon LCA 1a at operation is **No Effect, Neutral**. These effects are long term and permanent.

Other Landscape Character Areas within 10km of the Site

5.18 Landscape Character Types (LCT) and Areas (LCA) that fall within 10km of the site are listed below:

- Moorland LCT which is then subdivided into Central and Eastern Moors 1b LCA;
- Narrow Moorland Dale LCT which are then subdivided into LCA's. These include Ryedale 2A LCA, Bilsdale 2b LCA, and Bransdale 2c LCA;
- Limestone Hills LCT which is then subdivided into LCA's. These include Southern Hambleton/Tabular Hills 5a LCA, Tabular Hills-Pickering to Lockton 5b LCA and Southern Dales and Southern Moor Foot 5c LCA; and

Figure 10: Extract from North York Moors National Park Landscape Character Assessment (site located in red with 10km and 20km dashed radii)



- Upland Fringe LCT which is then subdivided into LCA's. These include Cleveland Foothills 9a LCA and Western Fringe 9b LCA.

5.19 Each of these LCT and LCA characteristics documented within the North York Moors National Park Landscape Character Assessment can be found in Appendix B and are shown in Figure 10.

5.20 LCA 1b Central and Eastern Moors is situated in the upland area to the east of the site and east of Bilsdale Valley. The land within LCA 1b shares common characteristics with that of LCA 1a in that it is moorland, with an open character and few roads. The moorland is Open Access Land, is of high quality and intact with a number of positive attributes. There are a number of public rights of way.

5.21 LCA 2a Rydedale is situated with the south of the site. LCA 2b Bilsdale lies to the east of the site and neighbours LCA 1a in the LCA in which the site is situated. LCA 2c Bransdale lies east of the site beyond LCA 1b. These LCAs contains a number of minor roads with small dispersed settlements and isolated properties and farms. There are a number of recreational routes. There are blocks of woodland which limit the extent of views towards the site and Former Mast, which in areas 2b and 2c are more dispersed and screening is more sporadic.

5.22 LCA 5a Southern Hambleton/Tabular Hills, 5b Tabular Hills-Pickering to Lockton and 5c Southern Dales and Southern Moor Foot are located to the south and south east of the site, on the very edge of the 10km extent, only part of these LCAs are located within the 10km of the site compound. These LCAs contains a number of roads with small dispersed small hamlets, isolated properties and farms. There are a number of recreational routes. There are dispersed blocks of woodland on the valley sides.

5.23 LCA 9a Cleveland Foothills and LCA 9b Western Fringe are located to the north west and south west of the site respectively, on the edge of the 10km study area. Only part of the LCA falls within this study area. These LCAs contains a number of roads with small, dispersed settlements, isolated properties and farms. There are a number of recreational routes. There are dispersed blocks of woodland on the valley sides.

5.24 Although there are some differences in prevalent characteristics of each of the above LCAs, their inclusion within the NYMNP and quality of their respective landscape leads to the following conclusions:

- Landscape susceptibility to the proposed development: High
- Value of Landscape: High
- Landscape Sensitivity: **Very High**

5.25 It is clear from travelling within and around these landscapes, that whilst there are views available towards the site and where the Former Mast would have been visible, even at the more localised LCAs to the site, the differences in height and design of the Proposed Mast are unlikely to be particularly appreciable, though there is some design benefit in the new structure as the Proposed Mast is likely to be more recessive than its predecessor.

5.26 There may be some locations, predominantly those LCAs to the east

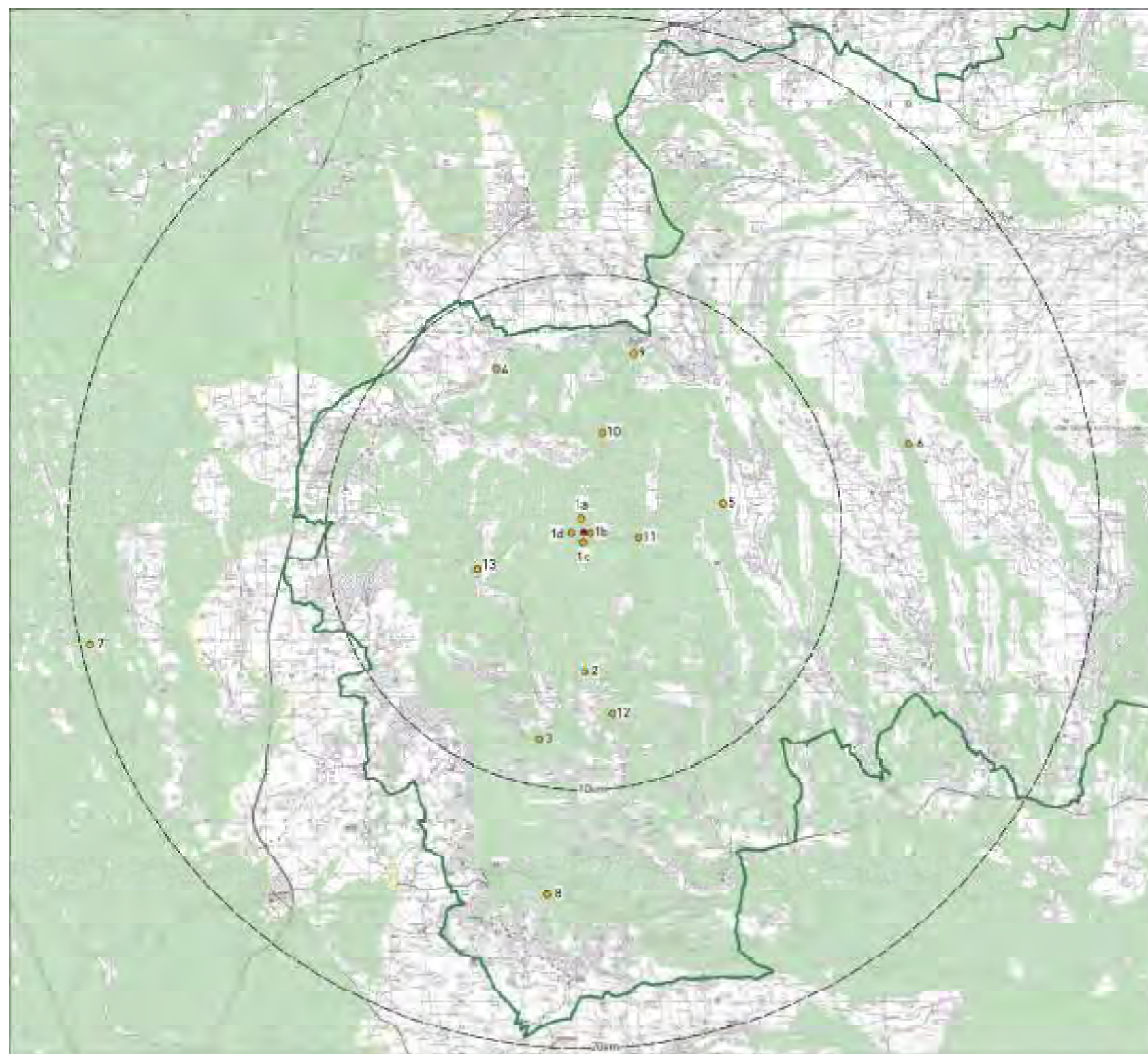
(LCA 2b and 1b), from where construction traffic and activity are discernible. It is also acknowledged that there will temporarily be two masts in the landscape.

5.27 At operation, the composition of the Proposed Mast, with its lattice construction, is anticipated to reduce its appearance on the skyline. However, despite these benefits, the overall proposal, set against the baseline of the Former Mast, is one which is considered to be **No Effect, Neutral** from the surrounding landscapes, on account of there being no perceptible change.

5.28 Detailed consideration of potential effects upon character beyond these areas is not considered necessary. Overall, however, at greater distances from the site, the more visually permeable lattice construction of the Proposed Mast, is likely to be more recessive than its predecessor, which is considered to be an improvement.

Receptor	Sensitivity	Development Phase	Magnitude of change	Level of Effect
Landscape Designations				
North York Moors National Park Within and up to 300-500m from the site	Very High	Construction	Very Low	Minor adverse
		Operation	Very Low	No Effect, Neutral
Landscape Features within the Site				
Landform and topography	Very High	Construction	No change	No Effect, Neutral
		Operation	No change	No Effect, Neutral
Land use, Buildings and Infrastructure	Very High	Construction	Very Low	Minor adverse
		Operation	Very Low	Minor adverse
Vegetation	Very High	Construction	Low	Minor/Moderate adverse
		Operation	Low	Minor/Moderate adverse
Landscape Character				
NCA 25 North York Moors and Cleveland Hills Within and up to 300-500m from the site	Very High	Construction	Very Low	Minor adverse
		Operation	Very Low	Minor adverse
LCA 1a Western Moors Within and up to 300-500m from the site	Very High	Construction	Low	Moderate adverse
	Very High	Operation	Very Low	No Effect, Neutral
LCA 1a Western Moors Beyond 300-500m	Very High	Construction	Very Low/ No change	Minor adverse/ No Effect, Neutral
	Very High	Operation	Very Low	Minor adverse
LCA 1a Western Moors Within the compound and stay lanes	Very High	Operation	Very Low	Minor adverse
LCA 1a Western Moors Overall	Very High	Operation	Very Low	No Effect, Neutral
Other LCAs within 10km	Very High	Construction	No change	No Effect, Neutral
		Operation	No change	No Effect, Neutral

Figure 11: Summary Table of Landscape Effects



- KEY**
- Mast (position of former and proposed mast)
 - Radius Rings
 - Areas from where only the existing (now demolished) mast (314m high) could theoretically be seen
 - Zone of Theoretical Visibility for proposed mast (306.2m high)
 - National Park Boundary: North York Moors
 - Viewpoints

ZTV Production Information

DTM data used is OS Terrain 50.

Viewer height set at 1.7m
(in accordance with para 6.11 of GLVIA Third Edition)

Calculations include earth curvature and light refraction
N.B. This Bare Earth Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) image illustrates the theoretical extent of where the development may be visible from, assuming 100% atmospheric visibility.

BARE EARTH ZONE OF THEORETICAL VISIBILITY (ZTV) WITH VIEWPOINTS

Bilcliffe Transmitting Station

Client: Arcoxa	REV: B
DRWC No: BRS1526.001	Approved by: HJ/PH
Drawn by: EJ	
Date: 25/09/2021	
Scale: 1:150,000 @ A3	

PLANNING | CONSULTATION | ENVIRONMENTAL | LANDSCAPE | VISUALITY
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Figure 12: ZTV with Viewpoint Locations

06 VISUAL AMENITY

- 6.1 Site visits during September and November 2021 demonstrated that views towards the site within the local and surrounding area were available from all directions due to the height of the Former Mast and its position on elevated land of Bilsdale West Moor. There are places in which the Former Mast is not visible due to a combination of features including landform and intervening vegetation mainly woodland block planting.
- 6.2 Photographs from viewpoints located on Figure 12 are contained at Appendix C. They illustrate the views towards the site as of November 2021, after the Former Mast was demolished. They are not a true representation of the baseline against which the landscape or visual effects are assessed, however they illustrate the nature of views from publicly accessible locations such as roads, PRoW, open access areas within the study area. Appendix D contains a number of photographs from viewpoints 9 - 13 which were taken prior to the demolition of the Former Mast and provide a record of the scale and visibility of that mast from locations within the study area.
- 6.3 Considering the scale of the Proposed Mast and the extent of the study area within which views are available towards it, for the purpose of this visual amenity section the assessment has been split in to concentric rings from the study area. These are up to 2km, 2-5km, 5-10km and 10-20km. Each receptor group, residential, recreational routes and cycle routes and roads all are considered and assessed using this approach.

Views from residential receptors

Properties within 2km of the site

- 6.4 Within 2km of the Proposed Mast location, which is situated in exactly the same location to that of the Former Mast there are a number of individual properties and farmsteads. These are predominantly concentrated to the east of the site in the Bilsdale Valley. The nearest of these properties to the site is Stingmires at 1km to the east and cluster of unnamed properties and named property of Coniser 1.2km to the east of the site. Stable Holme 1.6km and a cluster of unnamed properties, including The Grange at 1.8km to the east of the site. High Ewecote lies 1.8km to the east of the site. An unnamed property lies 1.2km to the east near to Cross Holme Farm which lies 1.5km to the east of the site.
- 6.5 Low Thornhill and Oak House lies 2km to the east of the site and the B1257. Stone House lies 1.8km and Low Mill lies 1.9km to the south east of the site. Crookleith Farms lies 1.5km to the north of the site.
- 6.6 Many of these properties have limited vegetation surrounding the properties or farms. There is the occasional tree and groups of trees which run close to the properties and depending on the properties orientation from site interrupt the direct view towards the site. The properties closer to the mast at the foot of Bilsdale West Moor would have limited views of the mast due to the topography screening created by the rising landform. These properties include Stingmires, that lies

1km to the east of the site and the unnamed properties and property of Coniser which lies 1.2km to the east of the site. The properties beyond this experience the greatest views towards the site. However, the Proposed Mast offers some betterment due to the height reduction of 7.8m to that of the Former Mast. It is noted that the Proposed Mast is wider at the base of the mast but even from relatively close distances this is unlikely to be discernible.

- 6.7 Residential receptors are considered to be of high sensitivity. At construction there would be Medium Low magnitude of change which gives rise to localised **Moderate adverse** effects as there would be an increase in vehicles accessing the site and machinery needed to erect the Proposed Mast that have the potential to be visible from a number of residential receptors. The baseline view will include the temporary Station Tower mast to the east of the compound and the Proposed Mast will be seen alongside this during its construction. These effects are temporary.
- 6.8 During the operational phase of the project the magnitude of change would reduce to No change, as the construction vehicles will no longer be present and the temporary mast 'Station Tower' will have been removed. This would result in a **No Effect, Neutral** effect, as although there are differences in the detail of the design of the Proposed Mast from that existing, the effects brought about by the Proposed Mast are comparable to the Former Mast in scale and location. These effects are long term and permanent.

Settlements and Properties within 2km and 5km of the site

- 6.9 Fangdale Beck is a small village that lies just over 2km to the south east of the site. Chop Gate, a small village lies just over 3km to the north east of the site. Both villages would experience open views towards the Proposed Mast depending on the orientation of the property. These residential receptors will experience very little change brought about by the Proposed Mast than that of the Former Mast as the characteristics are comparable in height. The lattice structure of the Proposed Mast makes the mast more visually permeable within the landscape.
- 6.10 Between 2km and 5km there are a number of individual properties and farmsteads which are scattered throughout the landscape but concentrated in the Bilsdale Valley which lies between the upland areas of Bilsdale West Moor and Bilsdale East Moor. Some of the properties are situated on sloping ground giving them an elevated position where the Proposed Mast would be visible, noting that these properties would have already experienced the same visibility from the Former Mast. Some properties are situated around vegetation such as trees and woodland planting which will assist with partially restricting views towards the site. Where there is limited vegetation screening from either vegetation or topography then there would be clear open views towards the Proposed Mast, over the views would be the same as that already experienced by the properties and farms from that of the original mast. Viewpoints 10 and 11 in Appendix C represent views from these receptors.

- 6.11 Residential receptors are considered to be of high sensitivity. At

construction there would be Low magnitude of change which gives rise to localised **Moderate/Minor** effects as there would be an increase in vehicles accessing the site and machinery needed to erect the Proposed Mast that have the potential to be visible from a number of residential receptors. The temporary mast 'Station Tower' will remain until the proposed replacement tower is erected. These effects are temporary and short term.

- 6.12 During the operational phase of the project the magnitude of change would reduce to No change, which results in **No Effect, Neutral** effects, as the effects brought about by the Proposed Mast are comparable to the Former Mast that these residential receptors experience in their view. The temporary 'Station Tower' will be removed once the Proposed Mast is operational. These effects are long term and permanent.

Settlements and Properties between 5km and 10km of the site

- 6.13 There are a number of small hamlets and villages which include Urra and Kirkby to the north of the site. Laskill and Hawby to the south of the site. Osmotherley lies to the west of the site and Swainby is situated to the north west of the site.
- 6.14 There are individual properties and farmsteads which are scattered throughout the study area between 5 and 10km from the site. They are principally concentrated within the valley bottoms which lie between the upland moorland areas and the lower lying areas towards the western part of the study area.
- 6.15 Some settlements and individual properties and farmsteads are screened by topography and or tree and woodland block planting particularly those that are western and northern part of the 10km study area where the topography restricts views of the site. There are areas in the southern and eastern part of the study area, mainly in the valleys that would have no visibility of the site. These areas are not considered further in the assessment.
- 6.16 For the settlements, properties and farmsteads that have the potential for visibility as illustrated by the ZTV, as shown in Figure 12. There would be no change in the overall view of the Proposed Mast from that already experienced by the Former Mast. The further away you are from the mast the features on the mast would not be discernible. Viewpoints 3 and 10 in Appendix C represent views from these receptors
- 6.17 Residential receptors are considered to be of high sensitivity. At construction there would be Very Low/no change magnitude of change. The temporary mast 'Station Tower' would be present during this stage of the project until the proposed replacement tower was fully operational. From this distance the activity associated within the compound would not be visible but as the Proposed Mast is erected there is potential for construction activity when the mast is being erected. This could potentially give rise to **Minor/No Effect, Neutral** effects, although at such distances, activity at the site is unlikely to be appreciated. These effects are temporary and short term.
- 6.18 During the operational phase of the project the magnitude of change would reduce to No change, which results in **No Effect, Neutral** effects, as the effects brought about by the Proposed Mast are comparable to

the Former Mast that these residential receptors experience in their view, there would be a slight betterment brought about by the reduction in height of the proposed replacement situation to that of the existing baseline situation. These effects are long term and permanent.

Settlements and Properties between 10km and 20km of the site

- 6.19 There are a number of larger settlements including Guisborough to the north and Northallerton to the west of the site. Helmsley and Kirkbymoorside lie to the south of the site. There are a number of smaller settlements which are scattered throughout the 10-20km study area. The majority of these are concentrated to the north, south and west of the site in the lower lying areas. The ZTV, as shown on Figure 12 illustrates that there are areas in all directions of the site within a 10-20km radius where there would be no visibility of the Proposed Mast. These are mainly located within the lower lying areas and within the valleys between the moorland where topography limits the extent of the visibility.
- 6.20 Within the 10-20km radius of the Proposed Mast there are a number of groups and individual properties and farmsteads that are concentrated throughout this area that have potential for visibility of the Proposed Mast but its important to state that these properties, farmsteads and settlements will have experienced the same views and effects to that of the Former Mast and in part the Proposed Mast is a betterment to the existing situation due to a small reduction in height and design of the structure of the Proposed Mast. Viewpoint 7 in Appendix C represent views from these receptors.
- 6.21 Residential receptors are considered to be of high sensitivity. At construction there is potential for visibility from certain locations, therefore the magnitude of change is considered to be so diminutive that there would be no perceptible change, which would give rise to **No Effect, Neutral** effect. These effects are temporary and short term. The further away from the site the magnitude of change and effects would continue to reduce.
- 6.22 During the operational phase of the project the magnitude of change would reduce to No change, which would result in **No Effect, Neutral** effects, as the effects brought about by the Proposed Mast are comparable to the Former Mast that these residential receptors experience in their view, there would be a slight betterment brought about by the reduction in height of the proposed replacement situation to that of the existing baseline situation. These effects are long term and permanent.

Views from Public Rights of Way (PRoW), Open Access Land (OAL) and Cycle Routes

Public Rights of Way and Cycle Routes within 2km of the site

- 6.23 Within 2km of the Proposed Mast location, which is situated in exactly the same location to that of the Former Mast there are a number of PRoW in all directions of the site, with many positioned on the elevated ground of Bilsdale West Moor and Snileworth Moor and the lower lying ground of Bilsdale valley which lies to the east of Bilsdale West Moor. The nearest PRoW lies 317m and 328m to the south east of the

site and there is one 362m to the north of the site. The Bilsdale Circuit Long Distance Footpath lies 583m at its nearest point to the west of the site (on which Viewpoint 1d is located). Some of the PRoW are situated on slightly higher ground and would have full visibility of the replacement tower, where as some of the PRoW on lower elevations as the topography slopes away will still see the Proposed Mast but the base of the mast and ancillary buildings would not be visible. The majority of the Bilsdale West Moor and Snileworth Moor is open access land which allows people to access the land for recreation on foot. Viewpoints 1a, 1b, 1c and 1d in Appendix C represent views from these receptors.

- 6.24 There would be a reduction of the number of ancillary buildings from the existing situation from PRoW and Open Access Land on Bilsdale West Moor and Snileworth Moor. The difference in design and construction of the Proposed Mast would be more apparent from PRoW and Open Access land the closer you are to the base of the mast, however the slightly lower height and slightly wider base are considered to be so diminutive that these are aspects of the proposed design which will be barely appreciable to receptors travelling along routes in these areas. The further away the viewer is from the mast the less apparent this will be.
- 6.25 The PRoW on the eastern slopes of Bilsdale West Moor would likely only see part of the Proposed Mast due to the landform screening. The base of mast and existing ancillary buildings would not be visible. This would be the same view experienced by the Former Mast from these PRoW. There would be no visibility of the compound area as the topography slopes away from Bilsdale West Moor and into Bilsdale Valley, which is consistent with the existing baseline situation. The Proposed Mast will be visible from users of the PRoW but are substantially the same as that already experienced by the Former Mast due to its similar design characteristics. The Proposed Mast offers a slight betterment due to the reduction in height and reduction, greater permeability of its structure.
- 6.26 PRoW and OAL are considered to be of High sensitivity, with occasional Very High Sensitivity where routes may have an advertised viewpoint or information board which places focus upon a specific view.
- 6.27 At construction the PRoW and Open Access Land on Bilsdale West Moor and Snileworth Moor would have a High magnitude of change for receptors in locations within approximately 300-500m from the site Red Line Boundary which would give rise to localised **Major** effects as there would be an increase in construction activities from vehicles accessing the site and machinery required to erect the Proposed Mast, some of which utilise routes along which PRoW are located. The temporary mast 'Station Tower' would be visible as it would be present whilst the Proposed Mast is erected. These effects are temporary.
- 6.28 During construction the PRoW and Open Access Areas beyond areas local to the site (approximately 300-500m away), up to approximately 2km on the slopes of Bilsdale West Moor and into Bilsdale Valley, the magnitude of change is considered to reduce to medium/low, giving rise to **Moderate/Minor** effects during the construction phase of the project. The reduction in magnitude and effects from these locations

is that the construction activity to the compound won't be visible and in this scale of landscape, construction vehicles quickly become very small elements within it. These effects are temporary and short term.

- 6.29 During the operational phase of the project the magnitude of change would reduce to Very Low, resulting in localised **Minor** effects from PRoW within up to 300-500m of the site, the temporary mast will have been removed from view and construction activity has ceased. From PRoW and Open Access Areas between 300-500m and 2km, the magnitude of change would be no change, resulting in **No Effect, Neutral** effects, as there would be no change in the view brought about by the Proposed Mast to that experienced by the recreational users from the Former Mast. These effects are long term and permanent.
- #### Public Rights of Way and Cycle Routes within 2km to 5km of the site
- 6.30 Between 2 and 5km of the Proposed Mast location, there are a number of PRoW in all directions of the site. Many of the PRoW are situated on the elevated moorlands of Bilsdale East Moor, East Moors, Helmsley Moor, Hawnby Moor, Snileworth Moor, Arden Great Moor and Whorlton Moor. North west of the site there is limited PRoW.
- 6.31 Much of the moorland is classified as Open Access Land which provides areas for walking and recreation. There are a number of PRoW within the Bilsdale and Bransdale Valleys, which lie to the east of the site. However there is limited visibility from the Bransdale Valley as illustrated by the ZTV as shown in Figure 12.
- 6.32 Sustrans National Cycle Route 656 (NCR 656) lies approximately 3.5km to the west of the site at its closest point. There would be visibility of the Proposed Mast but this would be the same as those experienced of the Former Mast. The extent of the mast that is visible depends on topography screening at each point of the route.
- 6.33 From these distances the existing compound at the base of the Proposed Mast would not be discernible in the view. The Proposed Mast would be fully visible from the elevated locations on the moorland. The users of the PRoW and Open Access Land will experience views of the existing (although now demolished) mast. There is a slight betterment in the Proposed Mast due to the reduction in the overall mast height, although this is unlikely to be particularly appreciable. The change in the detailed design of the Proposed Mast is considered to be beneficial in that it will be more visually permeable and assimilate more with the sky against which it is seen.
- 6.34 At construction the PRoW, Open Access Land and cyclists on the NCR 656 between 2 and 5km of the site would have a Low magnitude of change which would give rise to **Moderate/Minor** effects as the temporary mast 'Station Tower' would be visible alongside the constructed Proposed Mast which would be visible from all directions of the site. These effects are temporary and short term.
- 6.35 During the operational phase of the project the magnitude of change would reduce to No Change, resulting in **No Effect, Neutral** effects from PRoW and Open Access Areas on PRoW within 2 to 5km of the site as there would be no change in the view brought about by the Proposed Mast to that experienced by the recreational users from

the Former Mast. The 'Station Tower' would be removed once the Proposed Mast is fully operational. These effects are long term and permanent.

Public Rights of Way and Cycle Routes within 5km to 10km of the site

- 6.36 Between 5 and 10km there a number of PRoW and areas of Open Access Land concentrated on moorland areas in all directions of the site and within the valleys which lie between these upland areas. In addition to this the Cleveland Way National Trail, which also forms part of the Wild Yorkshire Way, White Rose Challenge and Shepherds Round which is located 7km to the west of the Bilsdale Transmission Tower. Hambleton Hobble Long distance footpath is just over 7km to the west of the site. The Rosedale Circuit Long Distance Footpath is located 5.5km to the east of the site.
- 6.37 Sustrans National Cycle Route 65 (NCR 65) lies 7.3km to the west of the site at its closet point.
- 6.38 Not all of the PRoW and Cycle routes mentioned are covered by the ZTV as shown in Figure 12 due to screening offered by topography as the routes cross the varied landscape.
- 6.39 From these distances the existing compound and reduction of ancillary buildings will not be visible from these locations. The Proposed Mast will be visible in the view but there would be no additional change in the view from that already experienced by the Former Mast. The detail on the mast will not be discernible at these distances. Views from elevated positions, particularly on the moorland are likely to see more of the tower than lower lying areas as the views will be more open and panoramic in nature. Viewpoints 2, 4 and 5 in Appendix C represent views from these receptors.
- 6.40 PRoW, NCR 65 and Open Access Areas are considered to be of High sensitivity. At construction the PRoW and Open Access Land within 5 and 10km of the site would have a Very Low/No change magnitude of change which would give rise to **Minor adverse/No Effect, Neutral** effects, as the temporary mast 'Station Tower' would be visible alongside the constructed Proposed Mast which would be visible from all directions of the site. These effects are temporary and short term.
- 6.41 During the operational phase of the project the magnitude of change would reduce to No Change, resulting in **No Effect, Neutral** effects from PRoW and Open Access Areas within 5 to 10km of the site. There would be no change in the view brought about by the Proposed Mast to that experienced by the recreational users from the Former Mast. The 'Station Tower' would be removed. These effects are long term and permanent.

Public Rights of Way and Cycle Routes within 10km to 20km of the site

- 6.42 Within a radius of 10 to 20km of the site there are a number of PRoW and Open Access Land, which is located to the north, east and south. Sustrans National Cycle Route 165 and 65 lie to the north of the site and National Cycle Route 71, 657 and 65 with the 10-20km radius of site. There are areas within the 10-20km radius of site that do not have visibility of the Proposed Mast, these include areas to the north east and east of the site and to areas between 10-15km radius of site

to the north, south and west. This is illustrated in the ZTV as shown in Figure 12. These areas are screened by topography of higher ground within the NYMNP.

- 6.43 From these distances the existing compound and the reduction of ancillary buildings will not be visible from these locations. The Proposed Mast will be visible in the view from a number of these footpaths, cycle routes and open access land, but not necessarily for the routes entire length, as there may be other intervening features including vegetation and built form. However, there would be no additional change in the view from that already experienced by the Former Mast due to the scale being similar. The detail on the mast will not be discernible at these distances.
- 6.44 At construction at a distance between 10-20km there would be No change, which would give rise to **No Effect, Neutral** effects, as the temporary mast 'Station Tower' would be visible alongside the constructed Proposed Mast which would be visible from all directions of the site. These effects are temporary and short term.
- 6.45 During the operational phase of the project the magnitude of change would reduce to No Change, resulting in **No Effect, Neutral** effects from PRoW Open Access Areas, Sustrans National Cycle Route within 10 and 20km of the site. There would be no change in the view brought about by the Proposed Mast to that experienced by the recreational users from the Former Mast. The 'Station Tower' will also have been removed. These effects are long term and permanent.

Views from the local road network

Local Road Network within 2km of the site

- 6.46 Parts of the B1257 are approximately 1.8km to the east of the site, running through the Bilsdale Valley. The road runs in a north to south direction through the study area. Viewpoint 11 in Appendix C represent views from receptors along this road (although the viewpoint is from a location off the road itself).
- 6.47 There are some locations where there are open views from the road in the direction of the site, but some views are also interrupted by woodland blocks and the way the road meanders through the valley means that views are intermittent for these transient receptors. The views experienced of the replacement tower would be comparable with that of the existing. The Proposed Mast offers slight betterment due to a decrease in the overall mast height and it is considered that the construction detail in the form of a visually permeable lattice structure, will be less apparent in views than the Former Mast. The existing compound area and reduction in ancillary buildings will not be discernible in the view.
- 6.48 The users of the B1257 is considered to be of high sensitivity due to this being considered to be a principal tourist route within the North York Moors National Park, along which there are viewpoints (such as Viewpoint 12). Although it is noted that receptors along the route are transient. During the construction phase of the project the views the magnitude of change is considered to be Low, as there is potential for some change in the view from construction activity for the erection

of the mast and the temporary mast 'Station Tower' would still be present whilst the Proposed Mast is erected. The overall effect would be **Moderate/Minor**. These effects are temporary and short term.

- 6.49 During the operational phase of the project the magnitude of change would reduce to No change, resulting in **No Effect, Neutral** effects from the B1257. The temporary mast 'Station Tower' will have been removed and the Proposed Mast and original mast are similar in height so users of the B1257 would experience much the same view as before. These effects are long term and permanent, albeit that the lattice construction of the Proposed Mast would mean that the structure is better assimilated with its skyline.

Local Road Network within 2km to 5km of the site

- 6.50 The B1257 continues to run through the study area between the distances of 2 and 5km. There is part of an unnamed road which runs to the south west of the site that connects Snilesworth to the west and Hawnby to the south of the site.
- 6.51 There are a further three unnamed roads, one that runs to the north of the site and connects Chop Gate to A172 to the north west of the site. The second unnamed road connects Fangdale Beck to the B1257 within the Bilsdale Valley. The third unnamed road connects Urra to the B1257 to the north of the site. Viewpoints 10 and 11 in Appendix C represent views from these receptors.
- 6.52 There are a number of private drives off the B1257 and minor roads which lead to properties and farmsteads which are scattered throughout the 2 to 5km study area from site. These are not considered as part of the assessment as they are privately accessed.
- 6.53 From all of these roads there are occasional open views towards the site, with some views partly obscured by topography, vegetation or other intervening features such as dwellings and farm buildings. The views experienced from the replacement tower would be the same as the original mast due to the height being similar. The Proposed Mast offers slight betterment due to a decrease in the overall mast height and more visually permeable construction. The existing compound area and reduction in ancillary buildings will not be visible in the view.
- 6.54 The B1257 and minor roads would have a high sensitivity due to the nature of the views experienced whilst travelling through the NYMNP. During the construction phase of the project the magnitude of change is considered to be Low, as there would be some change in the view from construction activity for the erection of the mast and the temporary mast 'Station Tower' would still be present whilst the Proposed Mast is erected. The overall effect would be **Minor**. These effects are temporary and short term.
- 6.55 During the operational phase of the project the magnitude of change would reduce to No change, resulting in **No Effect, Neutral** effects from the B1257 and minor roads. The temporary mast 'Station Tower' will have been removed and the Proposed Mast and original mast are similar in height so users of the B1257 and minor roads would experience the same view as before. These effects are long term and permanent.

Local Road Network within 5km to 10km of the site

- 6.56 The A172 runs on the most north westerly edge of the 10km radius of site. From this section of road there would be no visibility of the Proposed Mast, as shown in the ZTV on Figure 12 and is therefore not considered further in the assessment.
- 6.57 The B1257 continues to runs through the study area between the distances of 5 and 10km. There is part of an unnamed road which runs to the north of the site and connects Chop Gate to A172 to the north west of the site.
- 6.58 There is part of a unnamed road which runs in the south west of the site that connects Snilesworth to the west and Osmotherley to the north west of the site and Hawnby in the south. There is also a network of minor unnamed roads within the Bransdale Valley which connect Cockayne to the north east of the site which eventually connect to Helmsley and Kirkbymoorside which lie outside of the 10km radius of the site. There are sections of these roads that do not have visibility of the Proposed Mast due to the intervening topography of the moorland areas. Viewpoints 3, 9, 10, 12 and 13 in Appendix C represent views from receptors ion these routes.
- 6.59 From all the roads considered in the assessment within the 5 to10km radius of the site there would be views of the Proposed Mast, however these views would be the same as those already experienced by the Former Mast. The detail on the Proposed Mast will not be discernible at these distances. The Proposed Mast offers slight betterment due to a decrease in the overall mast height. The existing compound area and reduction in ancillary buildings will not be visible in the view.
- 6.60 The B1257 and minor roads would have a high sensitivity due to the nature of the views experienced whilst travelling through the North York Moors National Park. During the construction phase of the project the views the magnitude of change is considered to be Very Low/No change, as there would some change in the view from construction activity for the erection of the mast and the temporary mast 'Station Tower' would still be present whilst the Proposed Mast is erected. The overall effect would be **Minor adverse, No effect, Neutral**. These effects are temporary and short term.
- 6.61 During the operational phase of the project the magnitude of change would reduce to No change, resulting in **No Effect, Neutral** effects from the B1257 and minor roads, as the temporary mast 'Station Tower' will have been removed and the Proposed Mast and original mast are similar in height so users of the B1257 and minor roads would experience the same view as before. These effects are long term and permanent.

Local Road Network within 10km and 20km of the site

- 6.62 The A19 runs to the west, running in a north to south direction, the A172 runs to the north, A173 and the A171 and A174 lies on the northern edge of the 20km radius from site. The A170 lies to the south of the site within the 10-20km radius of site. The road runs in a west to east direction, passing through Helmsley and Kirkbymoorside.
- 6.63 The A168, A167 and A684 lie to the west, north west and south west of

the site within the 10- 20km radius of the site. There are sections of the A19 and part of the A170, and A172 where there is no visibility of the Proposed Mast, as illustrated in the ZTV on Figure 12. The B1365, B1292, B1257 and B1267 which lie in the northern part f the 10-20km radius of site and the B1363 to the south of the site within the 10-20km radius of site. Viewpoints 6, 7 and 8 in Appendix C represent views from these receptors.

- 6.64 There are a network of minor unnamed roads which connect between these 'A' and 'B' roads to access settlements and individual properties and farmsteads which lie within the 10-20km radius of site. Some of the minor roads within the parts of the northern, eastern, south western and western part of the 10-20km radius of site would have no visibility of the Proposed Mast as illustrated in the ZTV on Figure 12.
- 6.65 There would be views of the mast but noting these are at such distance that when travelling, it may not be particularly apparent. The features on the mast would not be discernible at this distance. Due to the transient nature of the views and other intervening features such as vegetation, built form and other intervening features whilst travelling along these roads the Proposed Mast will not be a readily apparent element in the view. The views of the Proposed Mast are comparable to those already experienced from Former Mast due to the similar height.
- 6.66 Some of the roads at these distances are beyond the National Park boundary and whereby the sensitivity of users would be as denoted in the methodology at Appendix A. However, given that some parts may fall within the National Park, as a worst-case, users on these routes are considered to be of Medium/High sensitivity.
- 6.67 During the construction phase of the project the views the magnitude of change is considered to be Very Low, as there would some change in the view from construction activity for the erection of the mast and the temporary mast 'Station Tower' would still be present whilst the Proposed Mast is erected. The overall effect would be **Minor/No change** on users of the 'A' roads. The overall effect would be **Minor** for 'B' roads and minor roads. These effects are temporary and short term.
- 6.68 During the operational phase of the project the magnitude of change would reduce to No change, resulting in **No Effect, Neutral** effects on both 'A', 'B' and minor roads, as the temporary mast 'Station Tower' will have been removed and the Proposed Mast and original mast are similar in height so users of these roads would experience the same view as before. These effects are long term and permanent.
- 6.69 The assessment tables below summarise the visual effects.

Receptor	Sensitivity	Development Phase	Magnitude of change*	Level of Effect*
Residential receptors				
Properties with 2km of the site	High	Construction	Medium/Low	Moderate adverse
		Operation	Very Low /No change	No Effect, Neutral
Settlements and Properties within 2-5km of the site	High	Construction	Low	Moderate/Minor adverse
		Operation	No change	No Effect, Neutral
Settlements and Properties within 5-10km of the site	High	Construction	Very Low/No change	Minor adverse/No Effect, Neutral
		Operation	No Change	No Effect, Neutral
Settlements and Properties within 10-20km of the site	High	Construction	No change	No Effect, Neutral
		Operation	No Change	No Effect, Neutral
Recreational receptors				
Footpaths, Open Access Land and Cycle Routes upto 300-500m	High	Construction	High	Major adverse
		Operation	Very Low	Minor adverse
Footpaths, Open Access Land and Cycle Routes between within 300-500m to 2km	High	Construction	Medium/Low	Moderate/Minor adverse
		Operation	No Change	No Effect, Neutral
Footpaths, Open Access Land and Cycle Routes within 2-5km of the site	High	Construction	Low	Moderate/Minor adverse
		Operation	No Change	No Effect, Neutral
Footpaths, Open Access Land and Cycle Routes within 5-10km of the site	High	Construction	Very Low/No change	Minor adverse/No Effect, Neutral
		Operation	No Change	No Effect, Neutral
Footpaths, Open Access land and Cycle Routes within 10-20km of the site	High	Construction	No change	No Effect, Neutral
		Operation	No Change	No Effect, Neutral
Road users				
Local Road Network within 2km of the site	High	Construction	Low	Moderate/Minor adverse
		Operation	No Change	No Effect, Neutral
Local Road Network within 2-5km of the site	High	Construction	Very Low	Minor adverse
		Operation	No Change	No Effect, Neutral
Local Road Network within 5-10km of the site	High	Construction	Very Low/No change	Minor adverse/No Effect, Neutral
		Operation	No Change	No Effect, Neutral
Local Road Network within 10-20km of the site (A roads)	Medium/ High	Construction	No change	No Effect, Neutral
		Operation	No Change	No Effect, Neutral
Local Road Network within 10-20km of the site (B roads)	Medium/ High	Construction	Very Low	Minor adverse
		Operation	No Change	No Effect, Neutral

Figure 13: Summary of Visual Effects

07 NORTH YORK MOORS NATIONAL PARK SPECIAL QUALITIES

7.1 The NYMNP have set their vision with the North York Moors National Park Management Plan, A Wider View, adopted November 2012 and reviewed December 2016. The vision is set out below:

- A place managed with care and concern for future generations;
- A place where the diversity and distinctiveness of the landscape, villages and buildings is cherished;
- A place where biological and cultural diversity, and other special qualities are conserved and enhanced;
- A place where the environment and way of life is respected and understood;
- A place where communities are more self sustaining and economic activity engenders environmental and recreational benefits;
- A place that is special to people and that provides pleasure, inspiration and spiritual well being; where calm and quality of life are celebrated;
- A place where visitors are welcome and cultural and recreational opportunities and experiences are accessible;
- A place that continues to adapt to change whilst National Park purposes continue to be furthered and pursued; and
- A place where natural resources are managed sustainably and environmental limits are recognised.

7.2 The second National Park purpose refers to the promotion of opportunities for the 'understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities'. The special qualities have been defined in the extract below, taken from the North York Moors National Park Management Plan, (Page 8) as shown in Figure 13.

7.3 The key consideration on the impacts upon the NYMNP on its Special Qualities. The management plan sets out how it will conserve and enhance through a number of topics, the ones relevant to this LVIA are landscape and tranquillity.

7.4 The landscapes aim is to 'The landscape character and quality will be maintained and reinforced, in particular distinctiveness of the landscape character areas will be conserved'.

7.5 It sets out a number of policies to maintain, enhance and conserve which are set out on Page 24 of the NYMNP Management Plan. Policies E1 and E3 are both relevant to the development in conserving and enhancing landscape character and that new development will not have a detrimental impact on the landscape of the National Park.

7.6 Within the NYMNP Management Plan there is a section of tranquillity. The aim is 'The north York Moors will continue to be a place of tranquillity, remoteness and dark night skies, providing opportunities for spiritual refreshment'.

Great diversity of landscape	Long imprint of human activity
Sudden dramatic contrasts associated with this	A wealth of archaeology from prehistory to the 20th Century
Wide sweeps of open heather moorland	A rich and diverse countryside for recreation
Distinctive dales, valley and inland headlands	An extensive network of public paths and tracks
An abundance of forest and woodland	Strong religious past and present
Ancient trees and woodland rich in wildlife	Ruined abbeys and ancient churches
Special landforms from the Ice Age	Strong feeling of remoteness
Exceptional coastal geology	A place for spiritual refreshment
Majestic coastal cliffs and sheltered harbours	Tranquillity
Distinctive coastal headlands	Dark skies at night and clear unpolluted air
A special mix of upland, lowland and coastal habitats	Distinctive skills, dialects, songs and customs
A wide variety of wildlife dependent on these	Strong sense of community and friendly people
Settlements which reflect their agricultural, fishing or mining past	A place of artistic, scientific and literary inspiration
Locally distinctive buildings and building materials	A heritage of authors, artists, scientists and explorers

Figure 14: Extract of Special Qualities from North York Moors National Park Management Plan, 2012

7.7 It sets out a number of policies set out on Page 40 of the NYMNP Management Plan. Policies E19, Existing tranquil areas will be protected and expended where possible and Policy E20, Dark skies will be protected and improved. New development in the National Park will not cause unacceptable light or noise pollution.

Construction Effects

7.8 During the construction phase of the development there will be the presence of construction vehicles and activity on the site. There will also be a reduction in the number of ancillary buildings on site. The Station Tower temporary mast to the east will be in the baseline. The Station Tower mast will remain during the construction phase of the project until the Proposed Mast is operational and during the construction phase, the Proposed Mast will introduce a second, taller visual element into the NYMNP, however this is temporary in nature.

7.9 The magnitude of change is considered to be Low/Moderate, resulting in **Moderate** adverse effects at construction, though mainly localised. These effects are temporary and short term.

7.10 To facilitate the installation of three new anchor points and utilisation of existing anchor points, new areas of whinstone gravel with sandstone topping are proposed. These can be seen on Figure 4. These will remove localised areas of moorland. The magnitude of change is considered to be Low/Moderate, resulting in **Moderate** adverse effects at construction, though localised. These effects are assumed to be

permanent and long term.

7.11 During the operational phase of the development the Station Mast would be removed and all construction activity will have ceased. This reduces the magnitude to Very Low, this would result in **Minor** effects during the operational phase of the development. The Proposed Mast offers some betterment due to a 7.8m reduction in height from that of the Former Mast and a reduction in the amount of ancillary buildings within the site compound at the base of the tower. The lattice structure of the Proposed Mast is visually permeable in the landscape compared to the solid structure of the Former Mast.

Operational Effects

7.12 The Proposed Mast would not give rise to any additional effects or impact on the vision and management set out within the NYMNP Management Plan as the replacement tower is slightly lower than that of the Former Mast. The Proposed Mast offers slight betterment in terms of a 7.8m height reduction on the mast itself and the number of ancillary buildings at the base of the mast within the existing compound are to be reduced.

7.13 The proposed lighting on the mast would have one extra level of lighting and a very slight increase in the overall height of the lights on the Proposed Mast of 4m. The intensity of the lighting remains the same as the Former Mast. There will be a low magnitude of change. With a very high sensitivity this would result in a **Minor** adverse effect on the NYMNP, which achieved International Dark Sky Reserve status in 2020.

08 NIGHT TIME EFFECTS

- 8.1 The Proposed Mast would have one additional layer of lighting and there would be a slight increase (4m) in the height of the lights compared to that of the Former Mast. The intensity of the lighting would remain the same as the existing lighting in operational phase, with a short term benefit in the construction phase whilst no lights (from the Former Mast) are visible.
- 8.2 Overall, at operation, where views incorporate the mast, there would be six levels of lighting, rather than the previous five, for safety reasons incorporated into the design. The very small increase to the height of the upper-most lights is not considered to be appreciable.
- 8.3 The magnitude of change upon both landscape character and visual amenity between construction and operation is considered to range between be Medium and Low and, combined with a high sensitivity, would give rise to effects which range between **Moderate beneficial** (where there are no lights), to **Minor adverse** (where all lighting is operational). The operational effects are long term and permanent.

09 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1 The Proposed Mast is to be constructed in the same location as the Former Mast within the existing compound area on Bilsdale West Moor. The Proposed Mast offers a visual betterment in terms of a 7.8m reduction in height compared to the Former Mast and there is also a reduction to the number of the existing ancillary buildings at the compound. There are some areas of new, temporary, access track along the stay routes and three new permanent anchor points proposed.
- 9.2 There would be Moderate/Minor temporary construction phase effects on Open Access Land and vegetation. During the operational phases all of these reduce to Minor or No Effect, Neutral with the exception of vegetation where the effects remain the same as construction. There would be No Effect/Neutral effects during both the construction and operational phases on some landscape features and Landscape Character Areas that fall within 10km of the site.
- 9.3 During construction, there are assessed to be moderate effects on the NYMNP Landscape Character Area 1a (within which the site is located). However, these effects are highly localised to within the site itself, and up to between 300-500m of the site (including access tracks) where the vehicle movements and construction activity would be most apparent and exert an influence upon some of the characteristics of the landscape.
- 9.4 The visual effects during the construction phase of the project are considered to be between Moderate, Moderate/Minor and Minor with the exception being PRoW and Open Access Areas within 300-500m of the site where there are some localised Major effects as a result of some of the access routes also being PRoW. There would be some visibility of the construction activity associated with the Proposed Mast and removal of some of the ancillary buildings. The temporary mast 'Station Tower' would also sit alongside the Proposed Mast whilst it was erected, from which many of the effects are derived.
- 9.5 During construction, a temporary localised major effect is identified for users of PRoW within approximately 300-500m of the site where site access is proposed to utilise routes which are also PRoW.
- 9.6 However, at the operational stage of the project the temporary mast 'Station Tower' would be removed and all construction activity will have finished, such that all visual receptors would experience Minor or No Effect, Neutral effects. There would be no fundamental change in views from that already experienced by the Former Mast. The Proposed Mast offers a slight betterment to the Former Mast in the fact that there is a 7.8m reduction in the overall height, more transparency in the lattice design and reduction in the existing ancillary buildings within the compound.
- 9.7 The lighting effects during the early stages of construction would be non-existent and is a moderate beneficial effect upon the landscape character and dark skies within the NYMNP, and visual amenity. As the construction progresses this benefit would reduce to a point where all lights are operational and whereby a minor adverse effect is concluded as a result of the additional layer of lights, for safety reasons, on the Proposed Mast, meaning the top layer of lights are 4m higher than previously compared to the Former Mast. This is a relatively minor effect overall and balanced against the other benefits of the design of the Proposed Mast.
- 9.8 As the proposed replacement tower is situated within the same location and is of similar (albeit slightly lower) scale and of a more visually permeable construction, the operational effects are considered to be No Effect, Neutral at worst. During construction, the vehicle movements along the access routes and within the Red Line Boundary would be appreciable by those who are in close proximity to them (within approximately 300-500m), beyond which the nature of construction operations (principally the movements of vehicles), or the potential visibility of the Proposed Mast in combination with the Station Tower Mast, would be discernible.
- 9.9 Overall, in landscape and visual impact terms, the proposed development, when set against the baseline of the Former Mast, is one which brings about limited effects. These are overall comparable with its predecessor which it replaces, however it is noted that there are some benefits of improved design which will offer some visual improvement. The effects of which we do not consider sufficient to warrant refusal on landscape or visual grounds.

APPENDIX A LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT CRITERIA (NON- EIA SCHEME)

INTRODUCTION

- A.1 This appendix presents the assessment criteria adopted for the assessment of landscape and visual effects arising from the proposed development.
- A.2 The primary source of best practice for LVIA in the UK is 'The Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment', 3rd Edition (GLVIA3) (Landscape Institute and the Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013). The assessment criteria adopted to inform the assessment of effects has been developed in accordance with the principles established in this best practice document. It should however be acknowledged that GLVIA3 establishes guidelines not a specific methodology. The preface to GLVIA3 states:
- 'This edition concentrates on principles and processes. It does not provide a detailed or formulaic 'recipe' that can be followed in every situation – it remains the responsibility of the professional to ensure that the approach and methodology adopted are appropriate to the task in hand.'*
- A.3 The criteria set out below have therefore been developed specifically for this assessment to ensure that the methodology is appropriate and fit for purpose.
- A.4 The purpose of an LVIA when undertaken outside of the context of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is to identify and describe the relative level of any landscape and visual effects arising as a result of the proposals. As confirmed in GLVIA3 Statement of Clarification 1/13 (Landscape institute, 10th June 2013) an LVIA for development which has been screened as not requiring EIA should avoid concluding whether the effects are significant or not and this is the approach adopted in this assessment.
- A.5 An LVIA must consider both:
- effects on the landscape as a resource in its own right (the landscape effects); and
 - effects on specific views and visual amenity more generally (the visual effects).
- A.6 Therefore, separate criteria are set out below for the assessment of landscape and visual effects.

NATURE (SENSITIVITY) OF LANDSCAPE FEATURES

- A.7 The nature or sensitivity of an individual landscape feature or element reflects its susceptibility to change and the value associated with it. Sensitivity is therefore a function of factors such as the feature's quality, rarity, contribution to landscape character, degree to which the particular element can be replaced and cultural associations or designations that apply. A particular feature may be more 'sensitive' in one location than in another often as a result of local value associated with the feature. Therefore, it is not possible to simply place different types of landscape feature into sensitivity bands. Where individual landscape features are affected, professional judgement is used as far as possible to give an objective evaluation of its sensitivity. Justification is given for this evaluation where necessary.
- A.8 The nature or sensitivity of individual landscape features has been described as **very high, high, medium, low or very low**.

NATURE (SENSITIVITY) OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

- A.9 The nature or sensitivity of landscape character reflects its susceptibility to change and the value associated with it. It is essentially an expression of a landscape's ability to accommodate a particular type of change. It varies depending on the physical and perceptual attributes of the landscape including but not necessarily limited to: scale; degree of openness; landform; existing land cover; landscape pattern and complexity; the extent of human influence in the landscape; the degree of remoteness/wildness; perception of change in the landscape; the importance of landmarks or skylines in the landscape; inter-visibility with and influence on surrounding areas; condition; rarity and scenic quality of the landscape, and the value placed on the landscape including any designations that may apply.
- A.10 In this assessment, the nature or sensitivity of landscape character is considered with reference to a number of local character areas as defined in this LVIA for the purposes of this study. Information regarding the key characteristics of these character areas has been extrapolated from relevant published studies where possible but also informed by project specific field assessment. An assessment of landscape sensitivity to the development proposed has been undertaken employing professional judgement for relevant local landscape character areas.
- A.11 The nature or sensitivity of landscape character has been described as **very high, high, medium, low or very low**.

NATURE (SENSITIVITY) OF VISUAL RECEPTORS

- A.12 The nature or sensitivity of visual receptor groups reflects their susceptibility to change and the value associated with the specific view in question. Sensitivity varies depending on a number of factors such as the occupation of the viewer, their viewing expectations, duration of view and the angle or direction in which they would see the site. Whilst most views are valued by someone, certain viewpoints are particularly highly valued for either their cultural or historical associations and this can increase the sensitivity of the view. The following criteria are provided for guidance only and are not exclusive:
- **Very Low Sensitivity** – People engaged in industrial and commercial activities or military activities.
 - **Low Sensitivity** - People at their place of work (e.g. Offices); shoppers; users of trunk/major roads and passengers on commercial railway lines (except where these form part of a recognised and promoted scenic route).
 - **Medium Sensitivity** - Users of public rights of way and minor roads which do not appear to be used primarily for recreational activities or the specific enjoyment of the landscape; recreational activities not specifically focused on the landscape (e.g. Football); motel users.
 - **High Sensitivity** – Residents at home; users of long distance or recreational trails and other sign posted walks; users of public rights of way and minor roads which appear to be used for recreational activities or the specific enjoyment of the landscape; users of caravan parks, camp sites and 'destination' hotels; tourist attractions with opportunities for views of the landscape (but not specifically focused on a particular vista); slow paced recreational activities which derive part of their pleasure from an appreciation of setting (e.g. Bowling, golf); allotments.
 - **Very High Sensitivity** - People at recognised vantage points (often with interpretation boards), people at tourist attractions with a focus on a specific view, visitors to historic features/ estates where the setting is important to an appreciation and understanding of cultural value.
- A.13 It is important to appreciate that it is the visual receptor (i.e. The person) that has a sensitivity and not a property, public right of way or road. Also, the sensitivity of a receptor group is not influenced by the number of receptors. As an example, although many people may use a motorway, this does not increase the sensitivity of each

APPENDIX A LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT CRITERIA (NON- EIA SCHEME)

- A.1 receptor using it. Likewise, a residential property may only have one person living in it but this does not reduce the sensitivity of that one receptor. Whilst the number of receptors affected at any given location may be a planning consideration, for the purposes of this assessment it does not alter the sensitivity of the receptor group.
- A.2 Where judgements are made about the sensitivity of assessment viewpoints, the sensitivity rating provided is an evaluation of the sensitivity of the receptor group represented by the viewpoint and not a reflection of the number of people who may experience the view.
- A.3 For some developments (e.g. Wind energy developments) it important not to confuse the concept of visual sensitivity with the perception of the development. For example, it is recognised that some people consider wind turbines to be unattractive, but others enjoy the sight of them.

NATURE (MAGNITUDE) OF EFFECTS – GENERAL NOTE

- A.4 The following discussion sets out the approach adopted in this LVIA in relation to a specific issue arising in GLVIA3 which requires a brief explanation.
- A.5 Prior to the publication of GLVIA3, LVIA practice had evolved over time in tandem with most other environmental disciplines to consider the level of effect (relative significance) principally as a function of two factors, namely: sensitivity of the receptor and magnitude of the effect (the term 'magnitude' being a word most commonly used in LVIA and most other environmental disciplines to describe the size or scale of an effect).
- A.6 Box 3.1 on page 37 of GLVIA3 references a 2011 publication by IEMA entitled 'The State of EIA Practice in the UK' which reiterates the importance of considering not just the scale or size of effect but other factors which combine to define the 'nature of the effect' including factors such as the probability of an effect occurring and the duration, reversibility and spatial extent of the effect.
- A.7 The flow diagram on page 39 of GLVIA3 suggests that the magnitude of effect is a function of three factors (the size/scale of the effect, the duration of the effect and the reversibility of the effect).
- A.8 For certain types of development (e.g. Residential) the proposed development is permanent and nonreversible. For other types of development (e.g. Wind and solar energy) the proposed development is for a time-limited period and would be largely reversible at the

end of the scheme's operational period. Reversibility of a proposed development is a material consideration in the planning balance but does not reduce the scale of the effect (i.e. The 'magnitude' in the traditional and commonly understood sense of the word) during the period in which the scheme is operational. In this regard, it would be incorrect to report a lesser magnitude of change to a landscape or view as a result of a time-limited effect or the relative reversibility of the effect.

- A.9 For clarification, the approach taken in this LVIA has been to consider magnitude of effect solely as the scale or size of the effect in the traditional sense of the term 'magnitude'. Having identified the magnitude of effect as defined above, the LVIA also describes the duration and reversibility of the identified effect, taking these factors into account as appropriate in the consideration of the relative level of effect.
- A.10 In the context of the above discussion the following criteria have been adopted to describe the magnitude of effects.

NATURE (MAGNITUDE) OF EFFECTS ON LANDSCAPE FEATURES

- A.11 Professional judgement has been used as appropriate to determine the magnitude of direct physical effects on individual existing landscape features using the following criteria as guidance only:
- **Very Low Magnitude of Change** - Negligible loss or alteration to existing landscape features;
 - **Low Magnitude of Change** - Minor loss or alteration to part of an existing landscape feature;
 - **Medium Magnitude of Change** - Some loss or alteration to part of an existing landscape feature; and
 - **High Magnitude of Change** - Major loss or major alteration to an existing landscape feature.
 - **Very High Magnitude of Change** - Total loss or alteration to an existing landscape feature.

NATURE (MAGNITUDE) OF EFFECTS ON LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

- A.12 The magnitude of effect on landscape character is influenced by a number of factors including: the extent to which existing landscape features are lost or altered, the introduction of new features and the resulting alteration to the physical and perceptual characteristics of the landscape. Professional judgement has been used as appropriate to determine the magnitude using the following criteria as guidance only. In doing so, it is recognised that usually the landscape components in the immediate surroundings have a much stronger influence on the sense of landscape character than distant features whilst acknowledging the fact that more distant features can have an influence on landscape character as well.

- **Very Low Magnitude of Change** - Negligible loss or alteration to existing landscape features; no notable introduction of new features into the landscape; and negligible change to the key physical and/or perceptual attributes of the landscape.
- **Low Magnitude of Change** - Minor loss or alteration to existing landscape features; introduction of minor new features into the landscape; or minor alteration to the key physical and/or perceptual attributes of the landscape.
- **Medium Magnitude of Change** - Some notable loss or alteration to existing landscape features; introduction of some notable new features into the landscape; or some notable change to the key physical and/or perceptual attributes of the landscape.
- **High Magnitude of Change** - A major loss or alteration to existing landscape features; introduction of major new features into the landscape; or a major change to the key physical and/or perceptual attributes of the landscape.
- **Very High Magnitude of Change** - Total loss or alteration to existing landscape features; introduction of dominant new features into the landscape; a very major change to the key physical and/or perceptual attributes of the landscape.

APPENDIX A LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT CRITERIA (NON- EIA SCHEME)

NATURE (MAGNITUDE) OF EFFECTS ON VIEWS AND VISUAL AMENITY

- A.13 Visual effects are caused by the introduction of new elements into the views of a landscape or the removal of elements from the existing view.
- A.14 Professional judgement has been used to determine the magnitude of impacts using the following criteria as guidance only:
- Very Low Magnitude of Change - Negligible change in views;
 - Low Magnitude of Change - Some change in the view that is not prominent but visible to some visual receptors;
 - Medium Magnitude of Change - Some change in the view that is clearly notable in the view and forms an easily identifiable component in the view;
 - High Magnitude of Change - A major change in the view that is highly prominent and has a strong influence on the overall view.
 - Very High Magnitude of Change – A change in the view that has a dominating or overbearing influence on the overall view.
- A.15 Using this set of criteria, determining levels of magnitude is primarily dependent on how prominent the development would be in the landscape, and what may be judged to flow from that prominence or otherwise.
- A.16 For clarification, the use of the term 'prominent' relates to how noticeable the features of the development would be. This is affected by how close the viewpoint is to the development but not entirely dependent on this factor. Other modifying factors include: the focus of the view, visual screening and the nature and scale of other landscape features within the view. Rather than specifying general bands of distance at which the proposed development would be dominant, prominent or incidental to the view etc. The prominence of the proposed development in each view is described in detail for each viewpoint taking all the relevant variables into consideration.

TYPE OF EFFECT

- A.17 The assessment identifies effects which may be beneficial, adverse or neutral. Where effects are described as neutral this is where the beneficial effects are deemed to balance the adverse effects.
- A.18 For some developments (e.g. Wind energy developments) it is recognised that some people consider the development to be

unattractive but others enjoy the sight of it. A landscape and visual assessment for these developments therefore assumes that all identified landscape and visual effects are 'adverse' unless stated otherwise. This allows decision makers to assess a worst-case scenario.

DURATION OF EFFECT

- A.19 For the purposes of this assessment, the temporal nature of each effect is described as follows:
- Long-term – over 5 years
 - Medium Term – between 1 and 5 years
 - Short Term – under 1 year

REVERSIBILITY OF EFFECT

- A.20 The LVIA also describes the reversibility of each identified effect using the following terms:
- **Permanent** – effect is nonreversible
 - **Non permanent** – effect is reversible

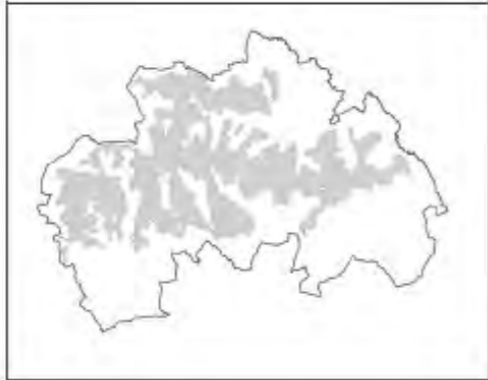
LEVEL OF EFFECT

- A.21 The purpose of an LVIA when produced outside of the context of an EIA is to identify and describe the relative level of effects on landscape and visual amenity arising from the proposed development. The judgements provided within the assessment may then inform the planning balance to be carried out by the determining authority.
- A.22 The level (relative significance) of landscape and visual effects is determined by combining judgements regarding the sensitivity of the landscape or view, magnitude of change, duration of effect and the reversibility of the effect. In determining the level of residual effects, all mitigation measures are taken into account.
- A.23 The relative level of effect is described as **major, major/moderate, moderate, moderate/minor, minor or minor/no effect**. No effect may also be recorded as appropriate where the effect is so negligible it is not even noteworthy.

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1. Moorland



■ Key Characteristics: Landscape Type

- Elevated open expansive upland, forming a gently undulating plateau with local variations in topographic form, generally underlain by Middle Jurassic Ravenscar sandstone, mudstone and thin coals deposited as a deltaic series, which have given rise to acidic, peaty soils drained by a dispersed pattern of wet flushes, springs and minor gills.
- The moors drop off steeply into a series of well defined moorland dales whose intimate character is in stark contrast to the simplicity of the moorland landscape. In places glacial meltwater channels have cut deep narrow gorges across the moors.
- Occasional sandstone outcrops mark the moorland edges and scattered boulder fields are present on the moor tops.
- Panoramic long distance views are available across the strong horizons of the moors, across lower lying areas and into the dales. The open skies create a dramatic and ever changing backdrop to the landscape. At night, the darkness of the skies is a key feature.
- Landcover comprises extensive tracts of heather moorland changing in colour from purple in summer to almost black in winter, much of it managed for grouse shooting, which results in a distinctive mosaic pattern of different aged plants mixed with burnt areas and lines of grouse butts. Some moorland is managed for sheep grazing and small areas are unmanaged. Other habitats on the moor tops include small areas of upland heath/grass mosaic, heather/blanket peat grassland mosaic, rough grassland and peat bog.
- Moorland valleys, often steeply incised, provide relief and variety from the expanses of heather moorland with occasional bog and flush communities. The predominant vegetation cover within the valleys is bracken or bracken/upland heath mosaics. Scattered tree cover or small woodlands creates a localised enclosure.
- Bracken predominates on the steeper slopes of the moorland edges intermixed with upland heath and bracken mosaics and small areas of scrub, rough grassland and upland heath/grassland mosaics.

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- Tree cover is limited to isolated pockets of deciduous woodland in dale head areas and within moorland valleys and very occasional windswept specimens on the moor tops. Occasional small coniferous plantations are associated with the moorland fringes.
- The moorland, mostly grazed by sheep, is generally unenclosed although wire fences are present in some locations.
- Settlement is almost entirely absent; occasional isolated farms occur in moorland valleys surrounded by walled fields and sheepfolds.
- The moors are rich in historic features, including ancient crosses, guide stones and boundary markers that form characteristic landmarks. Lines of small round barrows follow the ridgelines of the moors and are visible as skyline features. Pannier tracks cross the moors in places.
- The remains of small scale quarries, historic collieries and jet and alum workings and their associated spoil tips are visible on moorland edges, on the dale sides and in the dale head areas.
- Crossed by few roads, the moors are relatively inaccessible, creating a strong sense of remoteness and isolation. Lines of grouse butts cross the landscape in places.
- The noise of the wind and the call of moorland birds are often the only sounds present.

■ Pressures for Change

Table 1A: Negative Pressures for Change

Pressures for Change	Predicted Consequence of Change to Landscape Feature	Degree of Pressure	Significance of Pressure to Landscape Character
Land Use Changes			
Agricultural change including economic pressures on farming, farms going out of business, changes in stocking rates and abandonment of grazing	Decline of woodland/ individual trees/small groups of trees on upland fringes and in gills (due to neglect, changes in management, absence of new planting)	High	Medium
	Damage to geological/geomorphological features e.g. outcrops, clifflines, boulder fields etc (from agricultural operations, tree planting, recreation etc)	Low	Low
	Damage to historic/archaeological features (agricultural operations, recreational pressures etc)	Medium	Medium
	Subdivision of open moor tops by wire fencing	High	Medium/high
	Scrub encroachment in areas where no moorland management taking place	Medium	Medium
	Potential for marginal moorland farms to go out of business.	High	High
Recreational Pressures			
Growth in visitor numbers	Increased traffic, parking problems, bridge and verge damage, off road vehicle/motorcycle/mountain bike damage, damage associated with other outdoor pursuits, disturbance to wildlife	High	High
	Surfacing of moorland tracks and creation of new tracks	Medium	Medium
	Footpath and bridleway erosion, large scale sponsored events, increased access to open upland areas	Medium	Medium
Development Pressures			
Infrastructure pressures:	Telecom and mobile phone masts	Med	High
	Single wind turbines, overhead power and telephone lines	Low	High
	Highway related changes, including road and bridge improvement, kerbing, parking controls, signage and lighting	High	High
	Increasing traffic	High	High
Development outside National Park boundary	Large scale developments occurring beyond the National Park boundary which can exert a visual influence e.g. major roads, telecoms masts, wind farms, transmission lines, etc	Medium	Low
Development pressures	Reduction in tranquility, solitude and wilderness	Low	High
	Loss of unspoilt character and sense of historic continuity	Low	High

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APPENDIX B: EXTRACTS FROM NORTH YORK MOORS NATIONAL PARK LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT, REVISED 2004

generally	Loss of dark skies	Low	High
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Table 1B: Positive Pressures and Opportunities

Pressures for Change	Predicted Consequence of Change	Significance of Pressure to Landscape Character
Positive economic pressures inc. increasing emphasis away from subsidies for production towards subsidies to support the rural economy and the environment e.g. agri environment schemes)	More money available to support landscape and environmental initiatives and traditional agricultural practices, resulting in halting or reversal of decline of traditional practices, loss of habitat and landscape features.	High
Moves towards increase in native woodland cover, the reversal of fragmentation of existing woods through replanting, the creation of new woodlands and improved management of existing woodlands. Also increase in tree cover in non-wooded areas. (BAP, NYMMP, Peterken Report, England Forestry Strategy)	Increased tree and woodland cover in the appropriate locations would be a significant benefit to landscape character, restoring declines, providing design and siting of woodlands and species are sympathetic to landscape character. Indiscriminate planting could threaten landscape character	Medium
Move towards multi purpose forestry and more sensitive management of forested areas (BAP, NYMMP, Peterken Report, England Forestry Strategy)	Improvement in appearance of, or replacement of, smaller scale coniferous plantations. Cropping offers opportunity for replacement with broadleaves or return to other habitats	Medium
Move towards general habitat improvement and reinstatement (BAP, English Nature, DEFRA etc)	Established plantations are not being increased in size and new plantations unlikely. Cropping offers opportunity for replacement with broadleaves or return to other habitats	High
	Habitat improvement, diversification and reinstatement, providing adequate funding and incentives are available, leading to improved wildlife diversity.	High

■ Landscape Character Areas

(1a) Western Moors

- Elevated open expansive upland, part of the Cleveland and Hambleton Hills, forming a gently undulating plateau sloping gradually towards Ryedale and the western edge of the moors and more steeply towards the north and into Bilsdale to the east.
- Generally underlain by Middle Jurassic Ravenscar sandstone, mudstone and thin coals deposited as a deltaic series, which have given rise to acidic, peaty soils drained by a dispersed pattern of wet flushes, springs and minor gills mainly flowing into Ryedale and towards the western fringes of the moors.
- The contrasting landform of the flat topped, steep sided plateau of Arden Great Moor (400m on Black Hambleton), underlain by Corallian limestones and sandstones, rises as a steep escarpment above the general level of Osmotherley Moor.
- Outcropping rocks, weathered into strange shapes, create a surreal moorland landmark (the Wain Stones) on Hasty Moor. Occasional sandstone outcrops mark the moorland edges and scattered boulder fields are present on the moor tops.
- Panoramic long distance views are available across the strong horizons of the moors, across the lower lying areas to the west and into the central dales. The open skies create a dramatic and ever changing backdrop to the landscape. At night, the darkness of the skies is a key feature.
- Landcover comprises extensive tracts of heather moorland (forming part of the largest continuous area of heather moorland in England, almost all of which is designated as SSSI, SPA and Candidate SAC), changing in colour from purple in summer to almost black in winter and managed for grouse shooting, resulting in a distinctive mosaic pattern of different aged plants mixed with burnt areas and lines of grouse butts.

- Bracken predominates on the steeper slopes of the moorland edges. Smaller areas of heather exist in mosaic with grassland/blanket peat grassland. The white flowers of areas of cotton grass punctuate the landscape in summer. Broughton Bank is locally important for its Jurassic flora.
- Tree cover is limited to isolated pockets of deciduous woodland in dale head areas and very occasional windswept specimens on the moor tops. A small area of ancient woodland is present at Locker Wood. Occasional small coniferous plantations are associated with the moorland fringes.
- The moorland, grazed by sheep, is generally unenclosed although wire fences are present in some locations.
- Settlement is almost entirely absent; occasional isolated farms occur in moorland valleys surrounded by walled fields and sheepfolds.
- Lines of small round barrows follow the ridge lines of the Hambleton and Cleveland Hills and are visible as skyline features; dykes (ancient boundary earthworks) are also present on the western edge of Arden Great Moor. The remains of an ancient cross are visible below Hambleton End.
- Extensive alum quarries and their associated spoil tips are visible on the northern side of Carlton Bank; further alum quarries occur at Thimbleby.
- Drifts of jet are present on the northern sides of the moors visible as V-shaped gashes in moorland slopes, with small shale tips uncolonised by grass or bracken, some a distinctive red colour as a result of firing.
- Crossed by few roads, the moors are relatively inaccessible; the tops of Arden Great Moor are only accessible on foot, creating a strong sense of remoteness and isolation. Lines of grouse butts cross the landscape in places. The Cleveland Way runs along the western edge of the character area.
- The noise of the wind and the call of moorland birds are often the only sounds present in the area.
- Detractors include the mast on Bilsdale West Moor and the scars created by the shooting tracks and quarries of the moorland edges.

(1b) Central & Eastern Moors

- Open moorland, the central moors forming part of the Cleveland Hills, rising to a high point of 433m at Stony Ridge on Stockdale Moor and 402m at Cock Heads on Glaisdale Moor, and gradually falling in height towards the east. The moors drop off steeply into a series of well defined moorland dales to the north and south whose intimate character is in stark contrast to the simplicity of the moorland landscape.
- The overall appearance is one of an undulating plateau, although locally there are marked variations in topographic form, particularly in the north where the closely spaced parallel dales have resulted in the development of pronounced steep side moorland riggs. Towards the east glacial meltwater channels such as at Newtondale have cut deep narrow gorges across the moors.
- The moors are underlain by Middle Jurassic Ravenscar sandstone, mudstone and thin coals deposited as a deltaic series, which have given rise to acidic, peaty soils drained by a dispersed pattern of wet flushes, springs and minor gills draining radially into the surrounding dales.
- The Cleveland Dyke or Whinstone Ridge, formed from the only igneous rock to occur within the Park extends north west from Fylingdales Moor across Sleights Moor and has been quarried and

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mined for roadstone at several locations. At Sil Howe, the now partly filled quarries can be seen extending down towards the Esk Valley.

- Moorland gripping is a feature of Bilsdale East Moor, Badger Gill and Greenhow Moor. Grid iron pattern of drainage occurs on Commondale Moor.
- The eastern moors are bounded by the large coniferous plantations of Cropton and Langdale forests to the south and by the plantation at Newton House to the north, which intrude upon the openness of the moors.
- Occasional sandstone outcrops mark the moorland edges and scattered boulder fields are present on the moor tops.
- Expansive long distance views are available across the strong horizons of the moors, towards the dramatic form of the limestone escarpment of the Tabular Hills to the south, into the central dales and towards the sea at the eastern end. The open skies create a dramatic and ever changing backdrop to the landscape. At night, the darkness of the skies is a key feature.
- Extensive tracts of heather moorland (forming part of the largest continuous area of heather moorland in England, almost all of which is designated as SPA, SSSI and Candidate SAC), changing in colour from purple in summer to almost black in winter and mostly managed for grouse shooting, result in a distinctive mosaic pattern of different aged plants mixed with burnt areas and lines of grouse butts. Towards the east, moorland management has a less marked influence on the landscape. Other habitats on the moor tops include small areas of upland heath/grass mosaic, heather/blanket peat grassland mosaic, rough grassland and peat bog.
- Moorland valleys, often steeply incised, provide relief and variety from the expanses of heather moorland with occasional bog and flush communities. The predominant vegetation cover within the valleys is bracken or bracken/upland heath mosaics. Scattered tree cover or small woodlands creates a localised enclosure.
- Bracken predominates on the steeper slopes of the moorland edges intermixed with upland heath and bracken mosaics and very small areas of scrub, rough grassland and upland heath/grassland mosaics.
- Tree cover is limited to isolated pockets of deciduous woodland (a number of which are semi natural or replanted ancient woodlands) in dale head areas and within moorland valleys and very occasional windswept specimens on the moor tops.
- Wheeldale Plantation, which appears to envelop this moorland dale and is very regular in shape, is an incongruous element in the landscape and intrudes on the moorland scene. Other small coniferous plantations are associated with the moorland fringes.
- The moorland, mostly grazed by sheep, is generally unenclosed although wire fences are present in some locations.
- Settlement is almost entirely absent; occasional isolated farms occur in moorland valleys surrounded by walled fields and sheepfolds and marked by groups of trees.
- The moors are rich in historic features, including ancient crosses, guide stones and boundary markers that form characteristic landmarks. Lines of round barrows follow the ridgelines of the moors and are visible as skyline features. Important collections of carved rocks occur on Howdale and Stoup Brow Moors.
- A length of possible Roman road, Wades Causeway, is exposed and visible as a line of large stones crossing the moorland, protected by a fence.

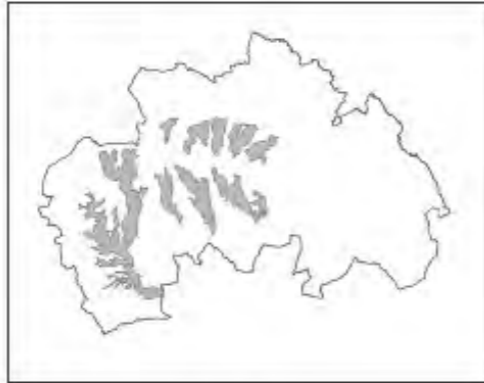
WHITE YOUNG GREEN ENVIRONMENTAL

- The remains of small scale quarries, historic collieries and jet workings and their associated spoil tips are visible on moorland edges, on the dale sides and in the dale head areas.
- The moors are crossed by few roads, although the A169 and A171 and the road between Hutton-le-Hole and Castleton have a local impact. Elsewhere minor roads access the moors and many areas are relatively inaccessible.
- Recreational features include the Lyke Wake Walk, the Crosses Walk and Bilsdale Circuit and the Newtondale Horse Trail. Prominent erosion scars occur in some locations along the Lyke Wake Walk. The North Yorkshire Moors Steam Railway crosses the moors to the north of Newtondale, the steam trains visible by their plume of smoke. Grouse shooting parties and vehicles are a regular feature of the moors during the shooting season. Car parks situated within the open moorland are highly visible.
- Away from the roads and the railway, the noise of the wind and the call of moorland birds are often the only sounds present in the area.
- Detractors include the defence site at Fylingdales, the overhead electricity line to Whitby, Wheeldale Plantation, car parks, the A169 and A171 and its associated traffic and the scars created by the footpaths, shooting tracks and quarries of the moorland edges. The impact of Fylingdales on the night sky is significant.

(1c) Northern Moors

- Elevated open expansive upland, part of the Cleveland Hills, forming a gently undulating plateau sloping gradually towards the western and northern edges of the moors and more steeply towards Eskdale to the south.
- Generally underlain by Middle Jurassic Ravenscar sandstone, mudstone and thin coals deposited as a deltaic series, overlain by Oxford Clay and Kelloways Rock on the more elevated areas to the north of Eskdale, which have given rise to acidic, peaty soils drained by a dispersed pattern of wet flushes, springs and minor gills mainly flowing into Eskdale and towards the northern fringes of the moors.
- Roseberry Topping is a prominent and well known landmark on the far western edge of the moors, its bent pinnacle shape derived from a rockfall caused by quarrying for building stone.
- Panoramic long distance views are available across the strong horizons of the moors, across the lower lying areas to the west and north, across Eskdale towards the central moors and towards the coast in the east. The open skies create a dramatic and ever changing backdrop to the landscape. At night, the darkness of the skies is a key feature, although to the north of the area this has become eroded by the glow from the Cleveland conurbation.
- Landcover comprises extensive tracts of heather moorland (forming part of the largest continuous area of heather moorland in England, almost all of which is designated as SSSI and Candidate SAC), changing in colour from purple in summer to almost black in winter and managed for grouse shooting, resulting in a distinctive mosaic pattern of different aged plants mixed with burnt areas and lines of grouse butts.
- Bracken predominates on the steeper slopes of the moorland edges, particularly in the south, and occurs in mosaic with upland heath in moorland valleys. Smaller areas of heather exist in mosaic with grassland. Scattered boulder fields are present on the moor tops.
- Tree cover is very sparse, limited to very small pockets of deciduous woodland in dale head areas and very occasional windswept specimens on the moor tops. Two small coniferous plantations are located on the moorland fringes above Commondale.
- The moorland, grazed by sheep, is generally unenclosed although wire fences are present in some locations.

2. Narrow Moorland Dale



■ Key Characteristics: Landscape Type

- Dales deeply incised into open moorland, with smoothly sloping lower valley sides and steep upper valley sides, underlain by soft Lias mudstones and Cleveland ironstone with thin limestone beds.
- Of varying form, some of the dales narrow in their lower reaches and become enclosed by surrounding moorland, others broaden allowing views out of the dale; the majority of dales are u-shaped with a narrow valley floor although many become v shaped in part where they narrow in their upper or lower reaches; some dales have a winding form and others are straighter.
- The shallow rivers or becks that drain the dale are generally marked by a line of native broadleaved trees; the becks themselves are seldom visible in the wider landscape. Trees often follow the line of gills down the valley side.
- Density of natural woodland cover varies although is generally sparse within the dales; it tends to be confined to small areas on the steeper slopes or in narrow belts fringing watercourses. Areas of wood pasture occur.
- The density of ancient woodland, both semi-natural and replanted, is generally low.
- Field trees tend to be concentrated in the lower lying areas close to the rivers, reinforcing valley bottom tree cover; on the upper slopes field boundary trees are infrequent. Valley bottom trees are almost always broadleaved.
- Coniferous plantations, of generally small to medium size, are frequent in the majority of dales and tend to be concentrated on the upper slopes of the valley sides or in the dale head areas. Many are poorly designed and with regularly shaped edges and detract from the character of the dales.
- The surrounding moorland vegetation cover, particularly bracken and bracken/upland heath mosaic spills over the upper valley side, particularly towards the dale heads. Occasional clifflines and frequent quarries occur on the moorland edge.

- In some of the dales strong landscape patterns are created by the lines of trees that follow the watercourses or the pattern of dry stone walls and hedges, in other dales these patterns are more diluted and less obvious.
- The valley bottom and mid to lower valley sides are mostly given over to pasture for sheep and cattle, or occasional arable crops. Small to medium sized fields are divided by a mixture of stone walls, closely trimmed or mature hedges and occasional fences. Boundary trees are present but not frequent.
- The dales are settled by small traditional farms and houses of stone with red pantile roofs situated along the springline at the mid valley side. Some of the dales contain villages or hamlets.
- The dales are generally accessed by minor roads running up the dale or which descend into the dale from adjacent moorland.
- Many dales have been subject to historic and generally small scale exploitation for their mineral resources particularly jet, coal and ironstone, the scars of which are often visible on the upper valley side.

■ Pressures for Change

Table 2A: Negative Pressures for Change

Pressures for Change	Predicted Consequence of Change to Landscape Feature	Degree of Pressure	Significance of Pressure to Landscape Character	
Land Use Changes				
Agricultural change including economic pressures on farming, farms going out of business, modernisation/intensification, changes to land tenure, farm diversification, changes in stocking rates	Decline of woodland and wood pasture (due to neglect, changes in management, grazing pressure)	High	High	
	Decline of boundary trees/hedgerow trees/individual trees/small groups of trees (due to neglect, changes in management, absence of new planting)	High	High	
	Damage to geological/geomorphological features (from agricultural operations, tree planting, recreation etc)	Low	Medium	
	Decline in historic agricultural/settlement features (e.g. ridge and furrow, earthworks) due to agricultural intensification, tree planting, recreational pressures etc	Medium	Medium	
	Damage to archaeological features (agricultural operations, recreational pressures etc)	Medium	Medium	
	Introduction of modern farm buildings, slurry tanks, grain towers etc	Medium	High	
	Continued intensification of agricultural management especially in arable areas, leading to:			
	Decline in rough pasture/species rich and wet grasslands in favour of improved pasture	High	High	
	Degradation/loss of dry stone walls	High	High	
	Replacement of walls and hedges with fencing	High	High	
Decline in neglect/loss of hedgerows	High	High		
Decline in wildlife and plant species variety which contribute significantly to landscape character	High	High		
Potential for marginal farmland to revert to unmanaged state, leading to invasion of coarse grasses, bracken and scrub.	Medium	High		
Recreational Pressures				
Growth in visitor numbers	Increased traffic, parking problems, bridge and verge damage, footpath and bridleway erosion, off road vehicle/motorcycle/mountain bike damage, damage associated with other outdoor pursuits, disturbance to wildlife	High	High	
	Increasing commercialism within villages, tourist related development, holiday homes, pressures to increase extent/number of camping/caravanning sites, potential pressure for large scale development	Medium	High	
Development Pressures				
Demand for residential and holiday homes in the National Park	Pressure for small scale settlement expansion inc. infill	Medium	Medium	
	Cumulative effect of changes in the physical fabric of settlements, inc. conversion of redundant buildings, closure of shops and schools, introduction of tourism facilities, creeping suburbanisation and gentrification of settlements, inappropriate planting and loss of specimen trees within settlements	High	High	

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Infrastructure pressures	Telecom and mobile phone masts	Low	High
	Highway related changes, including road and bridge improvement, kerbing, parking controls, signage and lighting	High	High
Development pressures generally	Increasing traffic	High	High
	Reduction in tranquility, solitude and wilderness	Medium	Medium
	Loss of unspoilt character and sense of historic continuity	Medium	Medium
	Loss of dark skies	Medium	Medium

Table 2B: Positive Pressures and Opportunities

Pressures for Change	Predicted Consequence of Change	Significance of Pressure to Landscape Character
Positive economic pressures inc. increasing emphasis away from subsidies for production towards subsidies to support the rural economy and the environment e.g. agri environment schemes) and consumer pressure for local production of food, organic food etc.	More money available to support landscape and environmental initiatives and traditional agricultural practices, resulting in halting or reversal of decline of traditional practices, loss of habitat and landscape features.	Medium
Moves towards increase in native woodland cover, the reversal of fragmentation of existing woods through replanting, the creation of new woodlands and improved management of existing woodlands. Also increase in tree cover in non-wooded areas. (BAP, NYMMP, Peterken Report, England Forestry Strategy)	Increased tree and woodland cover of scale envisaged would be a significant benefit to landscape character, restoring decline, providing design and siting of woodlands and species are sympathetic to landscape character. Indiscriminate planting could threaten landscape character	High
Move towards multi purpose forestry and more sensitive management of forested areas (BAP, NYMMP, Peterken Report, England Forestry Strategy)	Improvement in appearance of, or replacement of, smaller scale coniferous plantations. Cropping offers opportunity for replacement with broadleaves or return to other habitats	High
Move towards general habitat improvement and reinstatement (BAP, English Nature, DEFRA etc)	Established plantations are not being increased in size and new plantations unlikely. Cropping offers opportunity for replacement with broadleaves or return to other habitats	High
Move towards general habitat improvement and reinstatement (BAP, English Nature, DEFRA etc)	Habitat improvement, diversification and reinstatement, providing adequate funding and incentives are available, leading to improved wildlife diversity.	High
Involvement of community in production of village design appraisals and statements.	This may help reverse cumulative changes to settlements.	Medium
Development and tourism related pressures	Offers opportunities for the restoration of farm buildings, houses and other structures of historic significance (e.g. mining remains) that might have otherwise fallen into disrepair	Low

■ Landscape Character Areas

(2a) Ryedale

- A steep sided long and narrow winding v-shaped valley, becoming u-shaped in its central reaches around Hawby, the u-shape becoming more pronounced in the lower dale. Steep wooded valley side slopes define the valley and create a strong sense of enclosure along much of its length.
- The dale overlies deltaic sandstones and mudstones. The upper dale lies between the imposing flat topped steep sided limestone escarpment of Arden Great Moor to the west and the more gently graded landform of the moors to the east. South of Hawby the valley is incised between the flat topped plateau of the limestone Hambleton Hills to the west and the Tabular Hills to the east.
- Conical hills on the moorland edge (including Hawby Hill and Easterside Hill) and within the dale (Combe Hill) contribute to the very distinctive character of the upper dale.
- The dale opens out around Hawby where it is joined by the significant tributary valley Bilsdale (a separate character area with its own distinct identity). Ryedale is joined by a number of tributary valleys along its length, mostly from the west where they are steeply incised into limestone and

- are narrow, winding and densely wooded. The tributaries to the east are fewer in number and incised into the moorland, where they are of a more open character.
- Areas of pasture are confined to the flat valley floor in the lower dale and on the lower valley sides /valley floor in the upper dale. Fields are generally divided by overgrown hedges with hedgerow trees with walls being more prevalent towards the dale head. Toward the dale head, moorland vegetation begins to encroach on the valley sides.
- Blocks of dense woodland cover significant areas of the dale. In the north sporadic blocks of deciduous and mixed woodland follow the course of the river along the valley floor. Regular monotonous blocks of coniferous planting are dominant throughout the central reaches, in particular at Blueberry Wood and Comb Hill. Further south, linear deciduous woodland (much of which is replanted ancient woodland) and coniferous plantations are concentrated on the valley sides and along the length of the adjoining tributaries. Famed areas are well treed contributing to the wooded character of the dale.
- Both Hawby and Rievaulx are traditional nucleated settlements, the former prominently located on the side of Hawby Hill, the latter on the valley floor adjacent to the river. Farms and houses are located on the valley sides in the upper dale but are less frequent in the lower dale where the historic influence of Rievaulx Abbey has been strong. The buildings are generally of sandstone with red pantile roofs, although some thatched cottages are found in Rievaulx village.
- Rievaulx Abbey, a grade 1 listed building and a Scheduled Ancient Monument, is a key feature of the lower dale and an important tourist attraction. Archaeological features include a large medieval and later iron industry around Hawby and Rievaulx.
- The curving forms of the terraces, ha-ha, paths and woodlands of the extensive 18th century designed landscape of Duncombe Park, registered as a grade 1 site by English Heritage, encompasses the most southerly part of the dale and adjoining areas. Features of the monastic landscape are visible at Rievaulx.
- Bilsdale Transmitting Station Mast can be seen on the horizon particularly from the upper reaches of the dale.

(2b) Bilsdale

- Deeply incised steep sided u-shaped valley with an open flat valley floor in its upper reaches underlain by soft Lias mudstones and Cleveland ironstone with thin limestone beds. The dale forms a major tributary of Ryedale. The steep sides of the valley display a creased and folded landform.
- The dale has a pronounced twin dale head separated by the narrow ridge of upland, Cold Moor, drained by two watercourses, Raisdale Beck and Bilsdale Beck that meet below the settlement of Chop Gate to form the River Seph. The dale heads are situated close to the north facing slopes of the Cleveland Hills and have breached the narrow strip of moorland surrounding the dale head in two locations to allow very limited views from these points across the lower lying areas to the north.
- Wath Hill is a prominent feature within Raisdale at the head of the dale, its distinctive form partly clothed with coniferous plantations.
- Cliff edges are often visible on the upper slopes of the dale sides, generally within the adjacent moorland character area.
- The valley floor narrows slightly in the lower reaches the dale and the steep valley sides extend down to the river, which, together with the increased tree cover in the lower reaches, creates more enclosure. The distinctive steep sided and flat-topped form of Easterside Hill dominates the lower dale.

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WHITE YOUNG GREEN ENVIRONMENTAL

- The River Sefp is relatively straight in its upper reaches, tightly meandering in central reaches and becomes broader to south. The major tributary, Ledge Beck joins the river at Grange in central dale and a dense pattern of relatively straight minor tributary gills line the valley.
- A prominent feature of the dale is the regularly shaped and unsympathetically sited conifer plantations situated on the upper valley sides, frequently in skyline locations or forming a straight upper edge just below the moorland edge. Areas of bracken and bracken/upland heath mosaic occur on the upper valley sides. Elsewhere, landcover comprises mainly of pasture grazed by sheep. The fields are of medium size and irregular in shape, divided by both hedges and walls. Towards the south of the area the fields become smaller. Some wetland vegetation communities are present in the valley bottom and areas of rough pasture occur throughout the dale.
- Linear areas of deciduous woodland occur throughout the dale, concentrated along the river and its tributaries. A few areas of semi natural or replanted ancient woodland occur with the lower dale and a large area occurs at Tripsdale within the centre of the dale.
- The busy main road (B1257), one of the major north-south routes within the National Park, runs through the centre of the dale, following a similar alignment to the River Sefp. Occasional minor roads extend from the B road to access farms and hamlets. A minor road through the centre of the dale provides access to Raisdale and areas to the north.
- The dale is settled by a number of hamlets concentrated in the upper reaches of the dale, including Chop Gate, Seave Green, Town Green, Urn and Fangdale Beck. Farms are generally situated on the mid valley sides, reached by long tracks running off the B1257 at right angles. Buildings are generally constructed in stone with red pantile roofs, although in the lower reaches of the dale a few buildings are thatched.
- Lines of jet mines mark the valley sides of Bilsdale and have been exploited through small scale workings, identifiable by v-shaped gashes in the valley side each with its own unvegetated spoil tip, some a red colour where they have been fired, which have affected the valley sides throughout the dale. The remains of former small scale colliery workings are visible in the valley side at Carr Cote and Wethercote in the lower dale and small quarries are visible throughout the dale. The remains of medieval and later iron working sites are also present on the valley side.
- Recreational features include a museum at Spout House in the lower dale, a car park, toilets and picnic site at Chop Gate.
- Main detractors to the area are the B1257 and its associated traffic, the coniferous plantations and the mast at the Bilsdale Transmitting station on Bilsdale West Moor, which is visible from many parts of the dale.

(2c) Bransdale

- Broad v-shaped valley, narrowing in its lower reaches, with smoothly sloping lower valley sides and steep upper valley sides, underlain by soft Lias mudstones and Cleveland ironstone with thin limestone beds.
- Unspoilt, quiet valley, the narrow entrance to the dale contributing to a sense of enclosure and isolation within surrounding open moorland.
- Double dale head formed by Bloworth Slack and Badger Gill which join to form Hodge Beck in the upper dale.
- Landcover comprises mainly sheep grazed pasture and coniferous plantation with moorland spilling over onto the valley sides, particularly in the lower dale. The upper reaches of the valley sides merge into the adjacent moorland character area.

WHITE YOUNG GREEN ENVIRONMENTAL

- The fields are of a small size and divided by neat dry stone walls, which create a strong patchwork pattern. Fences have replaced walls in some areas.
- Deciduous woodland follows the course of Hodge Beck and lines its tributaries. An area of ancient woodland exists at Low Wood and an area of wood pasture at Church Bank.
- Coniferous plantations clothe the dale head areas. Other blocks of coniferous planting are present on the valley slopes, forming dominant patterns in the landscape.
- The small hamlet Cockayne, at the head of the dale, consists of only a handful of buildings. Other houses and farms are dotted throughout the area. The buildings are of local stone with pantile roofs, each settlement or farmstead marked by small groups of deciduous trees. The church of St Nicholas sits on a hillock overlooking the valley.
- The upper dale is accessed by a circular minor road that descends into the valley from adjacent moorland; it is unenclosed in places and gated at its juncture with the moorland, there is no road through the narrow lower reaches of the dale, contributing to its sense of separation.

(2d) Farndale

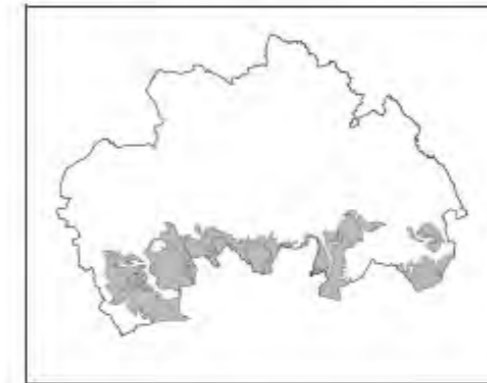
- Broad, deep u-shaped valley, with narrow valley floor, smoothly sloping lower valley sides and steep upper valley sides, underlain by soft Lias mudstones and Cleveland ironstone with thin limestone beds. Valley narrows in its lower reaches, where it becomes more v-shaped and enclosed by surrounding moorland.
- The valley is joined by two major tributary valleys in its central reaches, giving a more open feel to this part of the dale. A dense pattern of relatively straight minor tributaries join the river from the springline, situated at the foot of the steeper upper valley side slopes. In the upper dale these gills give an incised and folded appearance to the moorland edge.
- The surrounding high and steep moorland edge, clothed in heather and bracken and with frequent clifflines and quarries, encloses and dominates the dale, particularly in its upper reaches and at the dale head. Horn Ridge is a prominent feature on the western valley side. Glimpsed views are possible towards the limestone escarpment through the narrow dale entrance.
- The dale blooms with a profusion of wild daffodils in spring, which have flourished in the dale for centuries.
- A line of broadleaved trees marks the course of the River Dove and broadleaved trees are frequent within field boundaries on the valley floor giving a well treed appearance to the valley floor. Trees also follow the line of gills down the valley side, creating strong patterns. Small blocks of deciduous woodland (some ancient) and occasional coniferous plantations of Scots pine and larch are a feature of the valley side. A large mixed plantation at Birch Hagg marks the entrance to the dale.
- Land is mostly given over to pasture for sheep and cattle, or silage crops. Small to medium sized fields, often of narrow rectangular shape, cross the line of the slope, creating strong patterns particularly in the upper dale where stone walls are more prevalent. In places the wall pattern has become broken. Hedges, which are more prevalent in the lower dale, are generally mature and contain mature trees.
- The dale is settled by small traditional farms and houses of stone with red pantile roofs evenly spaced along the spring line at the mid valley side. The clustered hamlet of Low Mill is the largest settlement in the dale situated at a river crossing point. Occasional new farm buildings with reflective roof materials intrude upon the dale.

- The dale is accessed by minor roads running along both valley sides, which descend into the dale from adjacent moorland. In the upper dale the minor dead end lanes run through a succession of farmyards.
- Of high nature conservation interest, much of the river course is protected as an SSSI and a large part of the dale forms a local nature reserve.

(2e) Rosedale

- Deep u-shaped valley, with narrow valley floor, smoothly sloping lower valley sides and steep upper valley sides, underlain by soft Lias mudstones and Cleveland ironstone with thin limestone beds. Valley narrows in its lower reaches, where it becomes more v-shaped and completely enclosed by surrounding moorland to the west and Cropton Forest to the east.
- The surrounding high and steep moorland edge, clothed in heather and bracken and with a strongly folded appearance, encloses the dale and spills down the dale side. The dale head is encircled by high moors.
- The valley is joined by two major tributary valleys from the east, Northdale and Hartoft. A dense pattern of relatively straight minor tributaries join the river from the springline, situated at the foot of the steeper upper valley side slopes.
- The round knoll to the north of Rosedale Abbey, topped by Scots pine, and the oval shaped hill to the north, at Bell Top, are prominent topographic features within the dale.
- A line of trees marks the course of the River Seven and trees are spotted across the valley floor. Small blocks of deciduous woodland and frequent small and often regularly shaped coniferous plantations are a feature of the valley side. The very extensive coniferous plantations of Cropton Forest and on Hartoft Rigg dominate the entrance to the dale.
- Land is mostly given over to pasture for sheep and cattle, or silage crops.
- Small to medium sized fields, often of narrow rectangular shape, cross the line of the slope, creating strong patterns particularly in the mid and upper dale where stone walls are prevalent. Hedges, which are more prevalent in the lower dale, are often mature and contain mature trees. The dale head area is relatively open although trees line the gills and the River Severn.
- The dale is settled by small traditional farms, with occasional modern outbuildings, marked by groups of trees, and houses of stone with red pantile or frequently slate roofs evenly spaced along the spring line at the mid valley side. Small distinctive hamlets of nineteenth century terraced miners cottages are a feature of the dale. Chapels are a roadside feature.
- Rosedale Abbey is the main village in the dale and a tourist centre, with teashops and pubs. It is a planned village of nineteenth century buildings, much of which is gently gothic in style, situated at a river crossing point.
- The dale is accessed by a single main road, lined by trees south of Rosedale Abbey, which runs through the dale and onto Rosedale Moor; a number of minor roads which branch off the main road.
- Ironstone mining has left Rosedale with a legacy of industrial features, including the line of the ironstone railway, visible as a scar on the upper eastern valley side and the massive calcining kilns visible as a series of tall masonry arches in the same area. The workings have left a despoiled appearance in many areas, which is reduced where they are starting to green over.
- Detractors include coniferous plantations and the caravan parks south of Rosedale village.

5. Limestone Hills



■ Key Characteristics: Landscape Type

- Smoothly contoured plateau landscape underlain by Corallian limestones and sandstones rising at a shallow angle to prominent and impressive escarpments with conspicuous flat tops, deeply dissected and divided by a series of densely wooded dales, a number of which are thought to have their origins as glacial overflow channels.
- Surface drainage is almost entirely absent from the plateau top. The dip slopes are drained by distinctive, narrow, linear and slightly winding densely wooded shallow valleys, that are distinct from the deeper valleys that dissect the plateau, generally planted with mixed or coniferous woodland. Some of the valleys contain surface watercourses and some are dry.
- The area supports a mixture of arable and pasture farming for sheep and cattle; the presence of grasslands increasing nearer to settlement. Fields of medium to large size and regular shape are intermixed with areas of medium sized fields in a strip pattern and smaller strip fields close to settlements. Fields are bounded by wire fences or closely trimmed or overgrown hedges with very occasional hedgerow trees or are unbounded. Occasionally, walls are present.
- The largely open elevated landscape allows extensive long distance views, sometimes broken by often regularly shaped plantations (mainly coniferous), concentrated on the higher land; shelterbelts are common but deciduous woodland is scarce on the plateau top. Small pockets of semi natural ancient woodland occur amongst the plantations within shallow dip slope valleys.
- The plateau is dissected and divided by a series of deeply incised valleys (distinct from the shallower valleys of the dip slope in that they each contain a beck or river), narrowing in their lower reaches to the south and widening in their upper reaches to include an unusual narrow strip of low lying land overlying Oxford Clays and Kellaways Rocks where the north facing scarp slope meets the foot or lower lying slopes of the moors. This is a small scale, intimate and secluded landscape, enclosed by the elevated moorland to the north, the wooded scarp slope and the densely wooded valley sides. The contrast between this enclosed landscape and the openness of the surrounding plateau and moorland is marked.
- The valleys are very narrow and twisting with meandering rivers and steep indented side slopes, sometimes with minor cliffs. Landcover serves to emphasise the landform, the steep slopes wooded with a mixture of broadleaved woodland and coniferous and mixed plantations; linear

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ancient woodland clothes a high proportion of the valley sides. The valleys have significant geological and nature conservation interest.

- Traditional settlements constructed in mostly in limestone with pantile or sometimes slate roofs are located on the scarp top, or occasionally at the scarp foot, often grouped about a green. Springline settlements sited on the lower dip slope are generally linear in form. Large farmsteads constructed in stone with pantile roofs and numerous outbuildings including modern farm sheds, marked by groups of trees.

■ Pressures for Change

Table 5A: Negative Pressures for Change

Pressures for Change	Predicted Consequence of Change to Landscape Feature	Degree of Pressure	Significance of Pressure to Landscape Character
Land Use Changes			
Agricultural change including economic pressures on farming, farms going out of business, modernisation/intensification, changes to land tenure, farm diversification, changes in stocking rates	Decline of woodland and wood pasture (due to neglect, changes in management, grazing pressure)	High	High
	Decline of boundary trees/hedgerow trees/individual trees/small groups of trees (due to neglect, changes in management, absence of new planting)	High	High
	Damage to geological/geomorphological features (from agricultural operations, tree planting, recreation etc)	Low	Medium
	Decline in historic agricultural/settlement features (e.g. ridge and furrow, earthworks) due to agricultural intensification, tree planting, recreational pressures etc	Medium	Medium
	Damage to archaeological features (agricultural operations, recreational pressures etc)	Medium	Medium
	Introduction of modern farm buildings, silage tanks, grain towers etc.	Medium	High
	Continued intensification of agricultural management especially in arable areas, leading to:	High	Low
	Decline in rough pasture/species rich and wet grasslands in favour of improved pasture	High	Low
	Disrepair/loss of dry stone walls	High	Low
	Replacement of walls and hedges with fencing	High	Low
	Further erosion of characteristic strip field patterns	High	High
	Decline in neglect/loss of hedgerows	High	High
	Decline in wildlife and plant species variety which contribute significantly to landscape character	High	High
Recreational Pressures			
Growth in visitor numbers	Increased traffic, parking problems, bridge and verge damage, footpath and bridleway erosion, off road vehicle/motorcycle/mountain bike damage, damage associated with other outdoor pursuits, disturbance to wildlife	High	High
	Increasing commercialism within villages, tourist related development, holiday homes, pressures to increase extent/number of camping/caravanning sites, potential pressure for large scale development	Medium	High
Development Pressures			
Demand for residential and holiday homes in the National Park	Pressure for small scale settlement expansion inc. infill	Medium	Medium
	Cumulative effect of changes in the physical fabric of settlements, inc. conversion of redundant buildings, closure of shops and schools, introduction of tourism facilities, creeping suburbanisation and gentrification of settlements, inappropriate planting and loss of specimen trees within settlements	High	High
Infrastructure pressures:	Telecom and mobile phone masts	Medium	High
	Single wind turbines, overhead power and telephone lines	Low	High
	Highway related changes, including road and bridge improvement, kerbing, parking controls, signage and lighting	High	High
	Increasing traffic	High	High
Development outside National Park boundary	Large scale developments occurring beyond the National Park boundary which can exert a visual influence e.g. major roads, telecoms masts, wind farms, transmission lines, etc	Medium	Low
Development pressures generally	Reduction in tranquility, solitude and wilderness	Medium	Low
	Loss of unspoilt character and sense of historic continuity	Medium	Low
	Loss of dark skies	Medium	Medium

Table 5B: Positive Pressures and Opportunities

Pressures for Change	Predicted Consequence of Change	Significance of Pressure to Landscape Character
Positive economic pressures inc. increasing emphasis away from subsidies for production towards subsidies to support the rural economy and the environment (e.g. agri environment schemes) and consumer pressure for local production of food, organic food etc	More money available to support landscape and environmental initiatives and traditional agricultural practices, resulting in halting or reversal of decline of traditional practices, loss of habitat and landscape features.	Medium
Moves towards increase in native woodland cover, the reversal of fragmentation of existing woods through replanting, the creation of new woodlands and improved management of existing woodlands. Also increase in tree cover in non-wooded areas. (BAP, NYMMP, Peterken Report, England Forestry Strategy)	Increased tree and woodland cover of scale envisaged would be a significant benefit to landscape character, restoring decline, providing design and siting of woodlands and species are sympathetic to landscape character. Indiscriminate planting could threaten landscape character	High
Move towards multi purpose forestry and more sensitive management of forested areas (BAP, NYMMP, Peterken Report, England Forestry Strategy)	Improvement in appearance of, or replacement of, smaller scale coniferous plantations. Cropping offers opportunity for replacement with broadleaves or return to other habitats	High
Move towards general habitat improvement and reinstatement (BAP, English Nature, DEFRA etc)	Established plantations are not being increased in size and new plantations unlikely. Cropping offers opportunity for replacement with broadleaves or return to other habitats	High
Involvement of community in production of village design appraisals and statements.	Habitat improvement, diversification and reinstatement, providing adequate funding and incentives are available, leading to improved wildlife diversity.	Medium
Development and tourism related pressures	This may help reverse cumulative changes to settlements.	Medium
	Offers opportunities for the restoration of farm buildings, houses and other structures of historic significance (e.g. mining remains) that might have otherwise fallen into disrepair	Low

■ Landscape Character Areas

(5a) Southern Hambleton Hills/Tabular Hills

- The Southern Hambleton Hills rise at a very shallow angle from Ryedale to form a western facing escarpment 300m in height in the west of the National Park. Smoothly contoured with a conspicuous flat top, a key feature of the plateau is the extensive elevated long distance views across the moors and the densely wooded dales to the north and north west, and intermittent views between gaps in forestry plantations from the escarpment top to the west and south across the Vale of York and to the south across the Vale of Pickering.
- The hills are underlain by Corallian Limestones and sandstones; surface drainage is almost entirely absent.
- A large scale landscape, very large regularly shaped fields of predominantly arable farmland are bounded by wire fences or closely trimmed or overgrown hedges with very occasional hedgerow trees or are unbounded. Limestone walls are often present. Small strip fields of pasture occur close to settlements.
- In the southern part of the area, views are broken by large coniferous plantations, plus occasional smaller mixed plantations, often with fringing birch and occasional areas of bracken. Areas of upland heath/grass mosaic are present to the west and areas of scrub on the plateau edge to the south.
- Deciduous woodland is almost absent from the plateau top; very small areas occur at the edges of the character area, including an area of ancient replanted woodland at Mason Gill.
- Traditional settlements include Cold Kirby, with houses set back from a wide grassy tree lined road verge, Old Byland, set about a small green, and the clustered settlement of Scawton.

APPENDIX B: EXTRACTS FROM NORTH YORK MOORS NATIONAL PARK LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT, REVISED 2004

Ampleforth, situated on the springline on the southern edge of the character and of the National park, is the only linear settlement.

- Large farmsteads constructed in stone with pantile roofs and numerous outbuildings including modern farm sheds, marked by groups of trees.
- The area is crossed by the busy A170 between Thirsk and Scarborough. Minor roads are generally straight and often bounded by wide grass verges.
- Recreational features include the gliding club at the top of Sutton Bank, the Cleveland Way, which runs along the edge of the character area and crosses it to the south, the National Park Visitors Centre and associated car park and picnic site at the top of Sutton Bank and a campsite near Ampleforth.
- The Cleave Dyke and associated features including round barrows and a hill fort sited at the top of the scarp slope are features of national archaeological importance.
- Detractors include overhead electric lines, the mast to the west of Cold Kirby, the blocky form of the coniferous plantations, the A170 and modern farm buildings. The mast at the head of Bilsdale also exerts an influence over the northern part of the area.

(5b) Tabular Hills

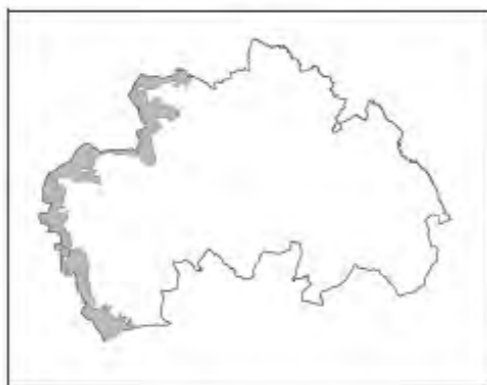
- The Tabular Hills rise at a shallow angle from a low point of about 30m AOD in the Vale of Pickering to a prominent and impressive north-facing escarpment (at a maximum of 300m AOD) with a conspicuous flat top a series of distinctive nabs or promontories overlooking the central moorland.
- The escarpment is dissected and divided by a series of deep densely wooded dales that fall from north to south through the hills, including Riccal Dale, Kirkdale, Douthwaite Dale, Lower Rosedale, Newtondale, Lower Derwent and Forge Valley, a number of which are thought to have their origins as glacial overflow channels.
- The character area is geographically complex, fragmented by the dales and as a result of the extensive afforestation in the east of the National Park which has subsumed much of the plateau, leaving small areas of open plateau as isolated remnants. Moorland occasionally extends onto the plateau top and in these areas the plateau top and scarp form part of the adjacent character area.
- The more elevated and open parts of the character area allow expansive views to the south across the Vale of Pickering and, particularly from the scarp top, across the moors to the north.
- The dip slope is underlain by limestones and calcareous grits and slopes gently south to the Vale of Pickering. The slopes are shallow at higher elevations becoming slightly steeper towards the foot of the slope near the A170. Only certain parts of the dip slope are included within the National Park.
- The dip slope is drained by a number of distinctive, narrow and slightly winding densely wooded valleys, some of which have surface watercourses and some of which are dry. Surface drainage is virtually absent from the plateau top. These features are similar in character but smaller in scale than the valleys that subdivide the plateau (described at 5c).
- Key features of the area include sizable areas of medium sized fields in a strip pattern and smaller strip fields close to settlements. The historic field patterns are intermixed with areas of medium to large sized regularly shaped fields. Fields are bounded by wire fences or closely trimmed or overgrown hedges with very occasional hedgerow trees or are unbounded. Occasionally, walls are present.

- The area supports a mixture of arable and pasture farming for sheep and cattle although the presence of grasslands increases nearer to settlements.
- Small areas of bracken and rough grassland, an area of upland heath/grassland mosaic, an area of rough grazing near Spaunton Quarry, and bracken, scrub and upland/ heath bracken mosaics at Bristones provide limited habitat variety.
- Views are broken by large often regularly shaped plantations (mainly coniferous), concentrated on the elevated parts of the western hills; in the east plantations are smaller or are absent. The linear wooded valleys that drain the plateau are generally planted with mixed or coniferous woodland (often replanted ancient woodland). Shelterbelts are common but deciduous woodland is scarce on the plateau top, although small pockets of semi-natural ancient woodland occur within the valleys.
- Towards the east of the Tabular Hills, character is influenced by the extensive forested areas at Cropton, Dalby and Wykeham which abut the area and partly enclose it in areas where the forests extend onto the hills.
- Settlements are numerous, including plateau top settlements e.g. Carlton, Fadmoor, Gillamoore, Appleton-le-Moors, Spaunton, Newton-on-Rawcliffe, Levisham, Lockton, Silpho and Sawdon, and dip slope foot settlements such as Helmsley, Thornton le Dale, Hutton Buscal and West Ayton, many of which have a linear form. The settlements display a mix of building types including sandstone, limestone and occasionally brick with pantile or slate used for the roofs.
- Medium to large farmsteads constructed in stone with pantile roofs and numerous outbuildings including modern farm sheds are marked by groups of trees.
- The busy A170 between Thirsk and Scarborough runs along the southern edge of the dip slope, generally coinciding with the National Park boundary. The A169 Pickering to Whitby road and the B1257 also cross part of the area. Elsewhere the plateau is crossed by relatively straight, minor roads mostly orientated in a north – south direction, a number of which stop at the edge of the escarpment.
- Historic features include the dykes in the Lockton area, round barrow and cairns and the medieval grange of Griff.
- Detractors include Spaunton Quarry (although only visible at close range), the A170 and A169 roads, overhead electric lines (supported on pylons and poles) and modern farm buildings.

(5c) Southern Dales and Southern Moor Foot

- A series of very distinctive river valleys deeply incised through the limestones and calcareous grits of the Tabular Hills plateau, narrowing in their lower reaches to the south and widening in the north to include an unusual narrow strip of low lying land overlying Oxford Clays and Kellaways Rocks where the north facing scarp slope meets the foot or lower lying slopes of the moors.
- A small scale, intimate and secluded landscape, enclosed by the elevated moorland to the north, the wooded scarp slope and the densely wooded valley sides, allowing no views beyond the character area boundary. The contrast between this landscape and the openness of the surrounding plateau and moorland is marked.
- The projecting promontories of the scarp slope overlook and dominate the northern part of the character area. The grits on the scarp edge support forestry or scrubland except where the land has been improved. The profile of the scarp shows clearly the rock character, the lower slopes brown sandstone (Kellaways rock), the concave slope Oxford clay, the crest lower Corallian series (alternate limestone and sandstone).

9. Upland Fringe



Key Characteristics: Landscape Type

- A distinctive, steeply graded escarpment landscape forming an outward facing transition area between the moorland or the intensively farmed and forested limestone plateau and lowlands to the west and north west, underlain by soft Lias mudstones and Cleveland ironstone with thin limestone beds.
- The edge follows a strongly indented shape with pronounced generally flat topped promontories, the form of the escarpment broken in places by dales that cut through it. Natural rock outcrops are an infrequent feature but occasionally prominent feature.
- Long views across the lowlands are a key feature, the detractors within these areas having an influence on the character of the upland fringe.
- Outlying conical hills are a distinctive feature of the landscape, occurring along the length of the character type but with particular frequency in the south west. The form of the hills is often given emphasis by plantations partly clothing their sides.
- Very well treed with often extensive and sometimes blocky coniferous or mixed plantations clothing the steeper slopes with the top edge of the escarpment almost continuously wooded for considerable stretches. In other areas smaller blocks of woodland or plantation are interspersed with steeply graded pasture, or moorland vegetation of heather or bracken spills over the scarp top, resulting in an open top to the escarpment.
- Medium to large blocks of mainly replanted ancient woodland are associated with moorland slopes or follow the line of becks.
- Improved pasture fields, with occasional arable confined to more gently graded lower slopes of the escarpment or the scarp foot areas, enclosed by well developed hedgerows with hedgerow trees, fences or infrequent dry stone walls. Fields are generally medium in size within the gently undulating areas at the base of the escarpment becoming large in the flat land at the edge of the lowland.
- Where scarp foot areas are included within the Park boundary, linear scarp foot settlements set at right angles to the slope generally along the line of a beck are a frequent feature of the

area. Buildings are constructed in sandstone or limestone with a mixture of pantile and slate roofs. A number of these settlements have been extended with modern brick built housing on outskirts Medium to large farms are scattered throughout the gently undulating landscape at the scarp foot.

- Sense of prosperity with halls, parklands, large houses and large farms, the parklands having a strong influence on the landscape of their immediate locality.
- Over parts of the type busy main roads or the railway intrude. Elsewhere the area is generally quiet and tends to be bypassed by visitors, although a few settlements act as local honeypots.
- Disused quarries and mineral workings (for alum and jet) are frequent and occasionally prominent where tree cover is reduced.

Pressures for Change

Table 9A: Negative Pressures for Change

Pressures for Change	Predicted Consequence of Change to Landscape Feature	Degree of Pressure	Significance of Pressure to Landscape Character	
Land Use Changes				
Agricultural change including economic pressures on farming, farms going out of business, modernisation/intensification, changes to land tenure, farm diversification, changes in stocking rates	Decline of woodland and wood pasture (due to neglect, changes in management, grazing pressure)	High	High	
	Decline of boundary trees/hedgerow trees/individual trees/small groups of trees (due to neglect, changes in management, absence of new planting)	High	High	
	Damage to geological/geomorphological features (from agricultural operations, tree planting, recreation etc)	Low	Medium	
	Decline in historic agricultural settlement features (e.g. ridge and furrow, earthworks) due to agricultural intensification, tree planting, recreational pressures etc	Medium	Medium	
	Damage to archaeological features (agricultural operations, recreational pressures etc)	Medium	Medium	
	Introduction of modern farm buildings, slurry tanks, grain towers etc	Medium	Medium	
	Continued intensification of agricultural management especially in arable areas, leading to:			
	Decline in rough pasture/species rich and wet grasslands in favour of improved pasture	High	Medium	
	Disrepair/loss of dry stone walls	High	High	
	Replacement of walls and hedges with fencing	High	High	
Decline in neglect/loss of hedgerows	High	High		
Decline in wildlife and plant species variety which contribute significantly to landscape character	High	High		
Potential for marginal farmland to revert to unmanaged state, leading to invasion of coarse grasses, bracken and scrub.	Medium	High		
Recreational Pressures				
Growth in visitor numbers	Increased traffic, parking problems, bridge and verge damage, footpath and bridleway erosion, off road vehicle/motorcycle/mountain bike damage, damage associated with other outdoor pursuits, disturbance to wildlife	High	High	
	Increasing commercialism within villages, tourist related development, holiday homes, pressures to increase extent/number of camping/caravanning sites, potential pressure for large scale development	Medium	High	
Development Pressures				
Demand for residential and holiday homes in the National Park	Pressure for small scale settlement expansion inc. infill	Medium	High	
	Cumulative effect of changes in the physical fabric of settlements, inc. conversion of redundant buildings, closure of shops and schools, introduction of tourism facilities, creeping suburbanisation and gentrification of settlements, inappropriate planting and loss of specimen trees within settlements	High	High	
Infrastructure pressures:	Telecom and mobile phone masts	Medium	Medium	
	Single wind turbines, overhead power and telephone lines	Low	Medium	
	Highway related changes, including road and bridge improvement, kerbing, parking controls, signage and lighting	High	High	
	Increasing traffic	High	High	

APPENDIX B: EXTRACTS FROM NORTH YORK MOORS NATIONAL PARK LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT, REVISED 2004

Development outside National Park boundary	Large scale developments occurring beyond the National Park boundary which can exert a visual influence e.g. major roads, telecoms masts, wind farms, transmission lines, etc	Medium	High
Development pressures generally	Reduction in tranquility, solitude and wilderness	High	Medium
	Loss of unspoilt character and sense of historic continuity	Medium	Medium
	Loss of dark skies	High	Medium

Table 9B: Positive Pressures and Opportunities

Pressures for Change	Predicted Consequence of Change	Significance of Pressure to Landscape Character
Positive economic pressures inc. increasing emphasis away from subsidies for production towards subsidies to support the rural economy and the environment e.g. agri environment schemes) and consumer pressure for local production of food, organic food etc.	More money available to support landscape and environmental initiatives and traditional agricultural practices, resulting in halting or reversal of decline of traditional practices, loss of habitat and landscape features.	High
Moves towards increase in native woodland cover, the reversal of fragmentation of existing woods through replanting, the creation of new woodlands and improved management of existing woodlands. Also increase in tree cover in non-wooded areas. (BAP, NYMMP, Peterken Report, England Forestry Strategy)	Increased tree and woodland cover of scale envisaged would be a significant benefit to landscape character, restoring decline, providing design and siting of woodlands and species are sympathetic to landscape character. Indiscriminate planting could threaten landscape character	High
Move towards multi purpose forestry and more sensitive management of forested areas (BAP, NYMMP, Peterken Report, England Forestry Strategy)	Improvement in appearance of, or replacement of, smaller scale coniferous plantations. Cropping offers opportunity for replacement with broadleaves or return to other habitats	High
Move towards multi purpose forestry and more sensitive management of forested areas (BAP, NYMMP, Peterken Report, England Forestry Strategy)	Established plantations are not being increased in size and new plantations unlikely. Cropping offers opportunity for replacement with broadleaves or return to other habitats	High
Move towards general habitat improvement and reinstatement (BAP, English Nature, DEFRA etc)	Habitat improvement, diversification and reinstatement, providing adequate funding and incentives are available, leading to improved wildlife diversity.	High
Involvement of community in production of village design appraisals and statements, Development and tourism related pressures	This may help reverse cumulative changes to settlements. Offers opportunities for the restoration of farm buildings, houses and other structures of historic significance (e.g. mining remains) that might have otherwise fallen into disrepair	Medium
		Low

■ Landscape Character Areas

(9a) Cleveland Foothills

- A distinctive, steeply graded escarpment landscape forming an outward facing transition area between moorland of the Cleveland Hills and lowlands of the Vale of York/Cleveland Plain to the west and north west underlain by soft Lias mudstones and Cleveland ironstone with thin limestone beds. The character area includes the gently rolling farmland at the scarp foot, where this is included within the National Park boundary.
- The edge follows a strongly indented shape with pronounced generally flat topped promontories, the form of the escarpment broken in places by dales that cut through it, including Scugdale and Kildale. Natural rock outcrops are an infrequent feature and are generally masked by tree cover.
- Long views across the Vale of York and Cleveland Plain are a key feature, the detractors within these areas (including main roads, overhead transmission lines and the industrial areas of Teesside) having an influence on the character of the upland fringe.
- Roseberry Topping, isolated from the main face of the escarpment by the natural processes of erosion, overlooks the character area in the north and with its bent pinnacle shape is a key

landmark of the western fringes of the National Park. A further prominent outlying conical hill (Whorl Hill at Faceby) contributes to the distinctive character of this fringe landscape.

- The River Leven and Scugdale Beck drain the area and a series of minor streams flow from the north and west facing slopes of the moors.
- The scarp slope is breached by Kildale, the steep upper slopes wooded and the gentler lower valley slopes a mixture of arable and pasture farmland divided by closely trimmed hedges and fences. The Whitby to Middlesbrough Railway passes through the dale, with a station at the hamlet of Kildale. Captain Cook's Monument overlooks the dale from Easby Moor.
- Very well treed with often extensive and sometimes blocky coniferous or mixed plantations clothing the steeper slopes with the top edge of the escarpment almost continuously wooded for considerable stretches. In other areas smaller blocks of woodland or plantation are interspersed with steeply graded pasture, or moorland vegetation of heather or bracken spills over the scarp top, resulting in an open top to the escarpment.
- Medium to large blocks of mainly replanted ancient woodland are associated with moorland slopes or follow the line of becks.
- Improved pasture fields, with occasional arable confined to more gently graded lower slopes of the escarpment or the scarp foot areas, enclosed by well developed hedgerows with hedgerow trees or fences. Fields are generally medium in size within the gently undulating areas at the base of the escarpment becoming large in the flat land at the edge of the Vale of York and Cleveland Plain.
- Where scarp foot areas are included within the Park boundary, linear scarp foot settlements set at right angles to the slope generally along the line of a beck are a frequent feature of the area. Buildings are constructed in sandstone with a mixture of pantile and slate roofs. A number of these settlements have been extended with modern brick built housing on outskirts e.g. at Swainby and Ingleby Greenhow. Occasional halls and associated parklands are present on the outskirts of settlements. Medium to large farms are scattered throughout the gently undulating landscape at the scarp foot.
- Over much of the area busy main roads (the A171, A172 or A173) or the railway follow the character area boundary, intruding upon the area. Elsewhere the area is generally quiet and tends to be bypassed by visitors. The Cleveland Way footpath crosses parts of the character area, alternately following the escarpment side and the moorland edge.
- Disused quarries and mineral workings (for alum and jet) are frequent and occasionally prominent where tree cover is reduced. Old alum quarries in the escarpment side at Carlton Bank marked by heaps of pink coloured burnt shale are visible as a prominent scar from many miles away. A line of small depressions about 2/3 of the way up the slope marks a series of old jet workings. An extensive linear Whinstone Quarry is situated to the east of Great Ayton, visible as a v-shaped gash within the wooded Whinstone Ridge.

(9b) Western Fringe

- A steeply graded escarpment forming an outward looking transition landscape between limestone uplands of the Hambleton Hills and lowlands of the Vale of York/Vale of Pickering to the west and south west underlain by soft Lias mudstones and Cleveland ironstone with thin limestone beds. Long views across the lowland areas a key feature.
- The edge follows a strongly indented form being incised by numerous becks and gills and is strongly influenced by the form of its underlying geology. To the north, the land falls away steeply off the edge of Arden Great Moor, the moorland appearing to spill over the top of the slope when viewed from the lowland to the west. To the south it falls from the intensively farmed and forested limestone plateau.

APPENDIX B: EXTRACTS FROM NORTH YORK MOORS NATIONAL PARK LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT, REVISED 2004

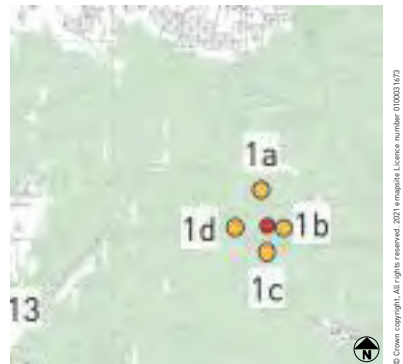
WHITE YOUNG GREEN ENVIRONMENTAL

- Outlying conical hills are a distinctive feature of the landscape, occurring along the length of the character area but with particular frequency in the south west. The form of the hills is often given emphasis by plantations partly clothing their sides.
- High clifflines are an infrequent feature but particularly prominent in the Sutton Bank area. Disused quarries are frequent and occasionally prominent where tree cover is reduced.
- Lake Gormire, the only natural lake in the park, lies in a hollow at the foot of Sutton Bank, surrounded by trees. The area is drained by a number of minor becks which descend the escarpment including Gurtof Beck and Lunshaw Beck which flow into Sutton Beck on the edge of the central part of the character area.
- Sense of prosperity with halls, parklands, large houses and large farms, the parklands having a strong influence on the landscape of their immediate locality.
- Frequent picturesque small villages and hamlets constructed in either sandstone or limestone with mainly pantile roofs line the slope foot between Osmotherley in the north and Byland Abbey and Wass in the south connected by minor roads. The A170 famously climbs the slope at Sutton Bank via a steep zigzag route
- Very well treed with coniferous or mixed plantations clothing the steeper slopes almost continuously. Two very sizeable plantations which extend over on to moor tops occur at Boltby Moor and Crabtree bank, to a large extent masking the varied underlying terrain where they occur. In some areas smaller blocks of woodland are interspersed with steeply graded pasture.
- Medium to large blocks of mainly replanted ancient woodland associated with moorland slopes becoming less frequent to the south.
- A strong pattern of well developed hedgerows with hedgerow trees are a particular feature of the character area, such that it is often difficult to obtain views from the minor lanes. Improved pasture fields with very occasional arable confined to more gently graded lower slopes of the escarpment or the scarp foot areas, enclosed by hedgerows or infrequent dry stone walls and fences.
- Generally a quiet area that tends to be bypassed by visitors, except where the A19(T) forms the character area boundary. Local honeypots occur at Osmotherley, Byland Abbey, Sutton Bank and Kilburn. The Cleveland Way runs along the escarpment top in the western part of the character area.
- The White Horse of Kilburn is a prominent feature of the character area, exposing the buff-grey gritstones of the Middle Oolites, and spread with chalk chippings to maintain its unnatural white colour, in defiance of local geology.
- Byland Abbey, managed by English Heritage, is a key feature within flat open land at the foot of the escarpment in the south of the character area.

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APPENDIX C: VIEWPOINT PHOTOGRAPHY

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VIEWPOINT 1a
Bilsdale West Moor (North of Site)

APPENDIX C: VIEWPOINT PHOTOGRAPHS



Camera make & model - Canon E055D
 Lens make & focal length - Canon EF 50mm, f/1.4 USM
 Date & time of photograph - 18/11/21, 10:27
 OS grid reference - 455218, 496769

Approx. distance from site - 548m
 Projection - Cylindrical
 Sheet Size - A1

Visualisation Type - Type 1
 Horizontal Field of View - 90°
 Height of camera AGL - 1.5m
 Page size / Image size (mm) - 841 x 297 / 820 x 260



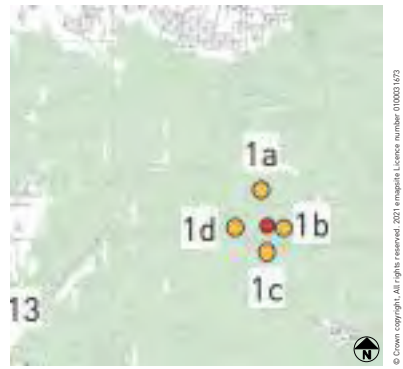
APPENDIX C: VIEWPOINT PHOTOGRAPHS



Camera make & model - Canon E055D
 Lens make & focal length - Canon EF 50mm, f/1.4 USM
 Date & time of photograph - 18/11/21, 11:53
 OS grid reference - 455565, 496195

Approx. distance from site - 255m
 Projection - Cylindrical
 Sheet Size - A1

Visualisation Type - Type 1
 Horizontal Field of View - 90°
 Height of camera AGL - 1.5m
 Page size / Image size (mm) - 841 x 297 / 820 x 260



VIEWPOINT 1b
 Bilsdale West Moor (East of Site)



Existing Compound and approximate location of Proposed Mast

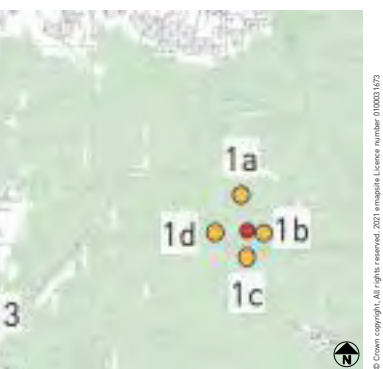
APPENDIX C: VIEWPOINT PHOTOGRAPHS



Camera make & model - Canon E055D
 Lens make & focal length - Canon EF 50mm, f/1.4 USM
 Date & time of photograph - 18/11/21, 11:35
 OS grid reference - 455301, 495832

Approx. distance from site - 397m
 Projection - Cylindrical
 Sheet Size - A1

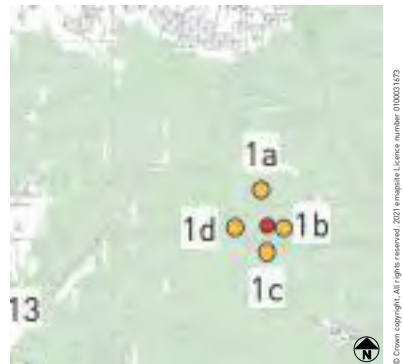
Visualisation Type - Type 1
 Horizontal Field of View - 90°
 Height of camera AGL - 1.5m
 Page size / Image size (mm) - 841 x 297 / 820 x 260



VIEWPOINT 1c
 Bilsdale West Moor (South of Site)



Existing Compound and approximate location of Proposed Mast



VIEWPOINT 1d
Bilsdale West Moor (West of Site)

APPENDIX C: VIEWPOINT PHOTOGRAPHS



Camera make & model - Canon E055D
 Lens make & focal length - Canon EF 50mm, f/1.4 USM
 Date & time of photograph - 18/11/21, 10:57
 OS grid reference - 454833, 496198

Approx. distance from site - 480m
 Projection - Cylindrical
 Sheet Size - A1

Visualisation Type - Type 1
 Horizontal Field of View - 90°
 Height of camera AGL - 1.5m
 Page size / Image size (mm) - 841 x 297 / 820 x 260



VIEWPOINT 2
Summit of Easterside Hill

APPENDIX C: VIEWPOINT PHOTOGRAPHS



Camera make & model - Canon E055D
 Lens make & focal length - Canon EF 50mm, f/1.4 USM
 Date & time of photograph - 18/11/21, 14:53
 OS grid reference - 455346, 490827

Approx. distance from site - 5.4km
 Projection - Cylindrical
 Sheet Size - A1

Visualisation Type - Type 1
 Horizontal Field of View - 90°
 Height of camera AGL - 1.5m
 Page size / Image size (mm) - 841 x 297 / 820 x 260



VIEWPOINT 3
North of Murton Grange

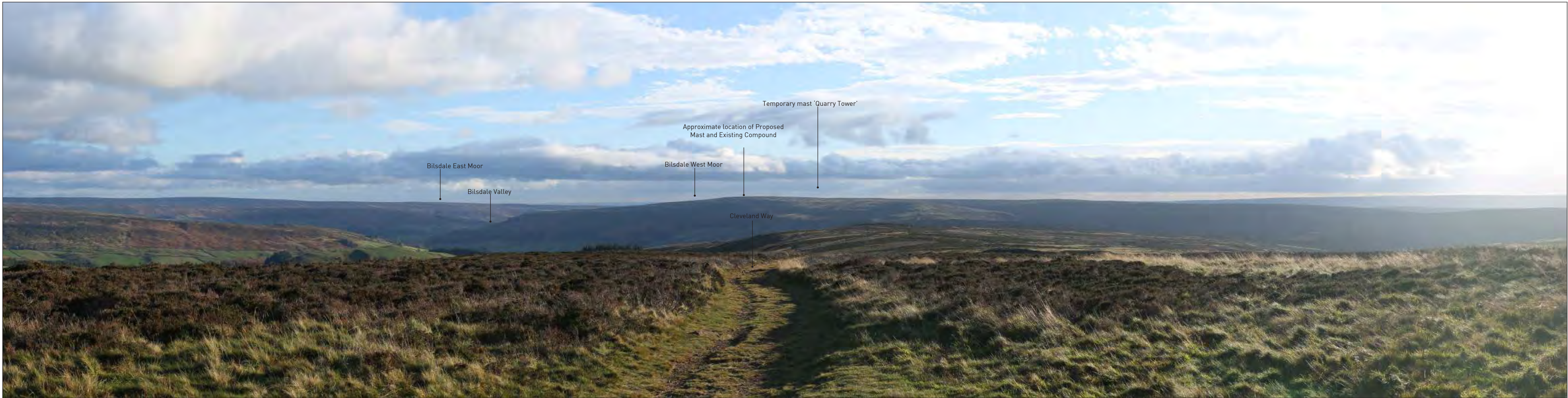
APPENDIX C: VIEWPOINT PHOTOGRAPHS



Camera make & model - Canon E055D
 Lens make & focal length - Canon EF 50mm, f/1.4 USM
 Date & time of photograph - 18/11/21, 13:37
 OS grid reference - 453567, 488199

Approx. distance from site - 8.2km
 Projection - Cylindrical
 Sheet Size - A1

Visualisation Type - Type 1
 Horizontal Field of View - 90°
 Height of camera AGL - 1.5m
 Page size / Image size (mm) - 841 x 297 / 820 x 260



VIEWPOINT 4
Cairn on Carlton Moor – Cleveland Way

BRS1526.003 | BILSDALE TRANSMITTING STATION

APPENDIX C: VIEWPOINT PHOTOGRAPHS



DESIGN | ENVIRONMENT | PLANNING | ECONOMICS | HERITAGE

Camera make & model - Canon E055D
 Lens make & focal length - Canon EF 50mm, f/1.4 USM
 Date & time of photograph - 19/11/21, 13:47
 OS grid reference - 451933, 502585

Approx. distance from site - 7.2km
 Projection - Cylindrical
 Sheet Size - A1

Visualisation Type - Type 1
 Horizontal Field of View - 90°
 Height of camera AGL - 1.5m
 Page size / Image size (mm) - 841 x 297 / 820 x 260



VIEWPOINT 5
Bilsdale East Moor

APPENDIX C: VIEWPOINT PHOTOGRAPHS



Camera make & model - Canon E055D
 Lens make & focal length - Canon EF 50mm, f/1.4 USM
 Date & time of photograph - 19/11/21, 10:58
 OS grid reference - 460712, 497334

Approx. distance from site - 5.5km
 Projection - Cylindrical
 Sheet Size - A1

Visualisation Type - Type 1
 Horizontal Field of View - 90°
 Height of camera AGL - 1.5m
 Page size / Image size (mm) - 841 x 297 / 820 x 260



VIEWPOINT 6
The Lion Inn at Blakey Howe – Esk Valley Walk

APPENDIX C: VIEWPOINT PHOTOGRAPHS



Camera make & model - Canon E055D
 Lens make & focal length - Canon EF 50mm, f/1.4 USM
 Date & time of photograph - 19/11/21, 8:58
 OS grid reference - 467912, 499657

Approx. distance from site - 13km
 Projection - Cylindrical
 Sheet Size - A1

Visualisation Type - Type 1
 Horizontal Field of View - 90°
 Height of camera AGL - 1.5m
 Page size / Image size (mm) - 841 x 297 / 820 x 260



APPENDIX C: VIEWPOINT PHOTOGRAPHS



Camera make & model - Canon EOS5D
 Lens make & focal length - Canon EF 50mm, f/1.4 USM
 Date & time of photograph - 19/11/21, 15:50
 OS grid reference - 436165, 491866

Approx. distance from site - 19.6km
 Projection - Cylindrical
 Sheet Size - A1

Visualisation Type - Type 1
 Horizontal Field of View - 90°
 Height of camera AGL - 1.5m
 Page size / Image size (mm) - 841 x 297 / 820 x 260



VIEWPOINT 7
 Boroughbridge Road (A167) South of Northallerton



APPENDIX C: VIEWPOINT PHOTOGRAPHS



Camera make & model - Canon E055D
 Lens make & focal length - Canon EF 50mm, f/1.4 USM
 Date & time of photograph - 19/11/21, 8:04
 OS grid reference - 453892, 482193

Approx. distance from site - 14.1km
 Projection - Cylindrical
 Sheet Size - A1

Visualisation Type - Type 1
 Horizontal Field of View - 90°
 Height of camera AGL - 1.5m
 Page size / Image size (mm) - 841 x 297 / 820 x 260



VIEWPOINT 8
 A170 East of Hambleton



VIEWPOINT 9
B1257, north-north east of the site

APPENDIX C: VIEWPOINT PHOTOGRAPHS



Camera make & model - Canon E055D
 Lens make & focal length - Canon EF 50mm, f/1.4 USM
 Date & time of photograph - 19/11/21, 12:46
 OS grid reference - 457253, 503163

Approx. distance from site - 7.2km
 Projection - Cylindrical
 Sheet Size - A1

Visualisation Type - Type 1
 Horizontal Field of View - 90°
 Height of camera AGL - 1.5m
 Page size / Image size (mm) - 841 x 297 / 820 x 260



VIEWPOINT 10
B1257, north-north east of the site

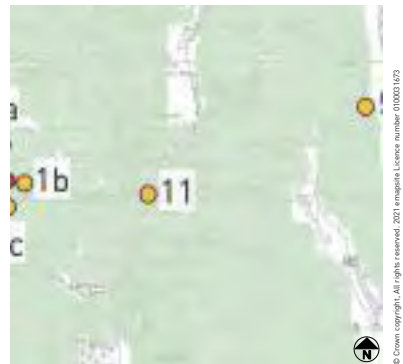
APPENDIX C: VIEWPOINT PHOTOGRAPHS



Camera make & model - Canon EOS5D
 Lens make & focal length - Canon EF 50mm, f/1.4 USM
 Date & time of photograph - 19/11/21, 13:00
 OS grid reference - 456059, 500099

Approx. distance from site - 3.9km
 Projection - Cylindrical
 Sheet Size - A1

Visualisation Type - Type 1
 Horizontal Field of View - 90°
 Height of camera AGL - 1.5m
 Page size / Image size (mm) - 841 x 297 / 820 x 260



VIEWPOINT 11
B1257, east of the site

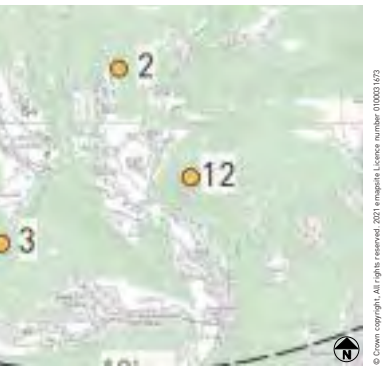
APPENDIX C: VIEWPOINT PHOTOGRAPHS



Camera make & model - Canon E055D
 Lens make & focal length - Canon EF 50mm, f/1.4 USM
 Date & time of photograph - 18/11/21, 12:37
 OS grid reference - 457431, 496024

Approx. distance from site - 2.1km
 Projection - Cylindrical
 Sheet Size - A1

Visualisation Type - Type 1
 Horizontal Field of View - 90°
 Height of camera AGL - 1.5m
 Page size / Image size (mm) - 841 x 297 / 820 x 260



VIEWPOINT 12

Vantage Point Close to B1257, south of the site

APPENDIX C: VIEWPOINT PHOTOGRAPHS



Camera make & model - Canon EOS5D
 Lens make & focal length - Canon EF 50mm, f/1.4 USM
 Date & time of photograph - 18/11/21, 13:07
 OS grid reference - 456422, 489198

Approx. distance from site - 7.1km
 Projection - Cylindrical
 Sheet Size - A1

Visualisation Type - Type 1
 Horizontal Field of View - 90°
 Height of camera AGL - 1.5m
 Page size / Image size (mm) - 841 x 297 / 820 x 260



VIEWPOINT 13

Unnamed Road, west of Snilesworth, south west of the site

APPENDIX C: VIEWPOINT PHOTOGRAPHS



Camera make & model - Canon E055D
 Lens make & focal length - Canon EF 50mm, f/1.4 USM
 Date & time of photograph - 19/11/21, 15:07
 OS grid reference - 451182, 494788

Approx. distance from site - 4.4km
 Projection - Cylindrical
 Sheet Size - A1

Visualisation Type - Type 1
 Horizontal Field of View - 90°
 Height of camera AGL - 1.5m
 Page size / Image size (mm) - 841 x 297 / 820 x 260

APPENDIX D: PHOTOGRAPHY OF FORMER MAST



VIEWPOINT 9

B1257, north -north east of the site

Camera make & model	- Canon EOS 5D Mark III	Viewpoint height (AOD)	- 250m
Lens make & focal length	- Canon EF 50mm, f/1.4 USM	Distance from site	- 7.2km
Date of photograph	- 24.09.2021	Enlargement / Sheet Size	- 100% @ A3
OS grid reference	- E 457249, N 503164		



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APPENDIX D: PHOTOGRAPHY OF EXISTING MAST

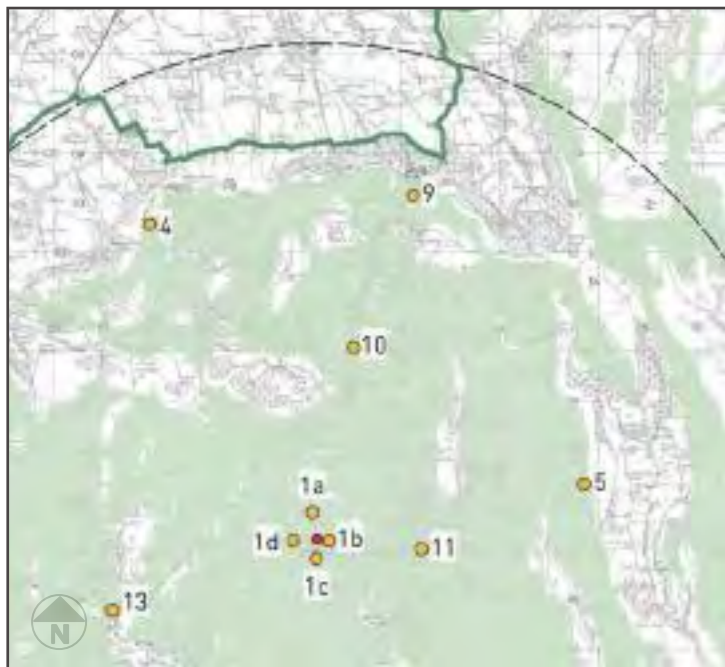




VIEWPOINT 10

B1257, north- north east of the site

Camera make & model	- Canon EOS 5D Mark III	Viewpoint height (AOD)	- 250m
Lens make & focal length	- Canon EF 50mm, f/1.4 USM	Distance from site	- 3.9km
Date of photograph	- 24.09.2021	Enlargement / Sheet Size	- 100% @ A3
OS grid reference	- E 456074, N 500101		



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APPENDIX D: PHOTOGRAPHY OF EXISTING MAST

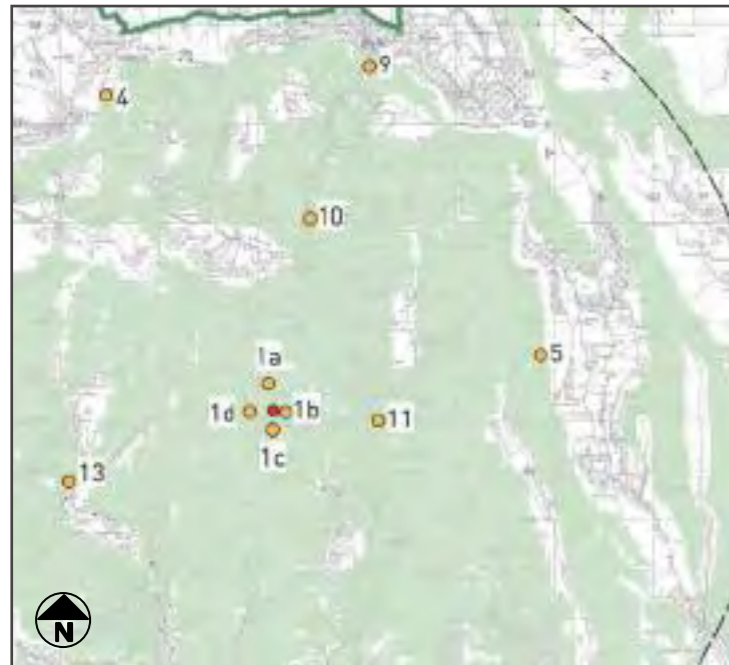




VIEWPOINT 11

B1257, east of the site

Camera make & model	- Canon EOS 5D Mark III	Viewpoint height (AOD)	- 145m
Lens make & focal length	- Canon EF 50mm, f/1.4 USM	Distance from site	- 2km
Date of photograph	- 24.09.2021	Enlargement / Sheet Size	- 100% @ A3
OS grid reference	- E 457430, N 496018		



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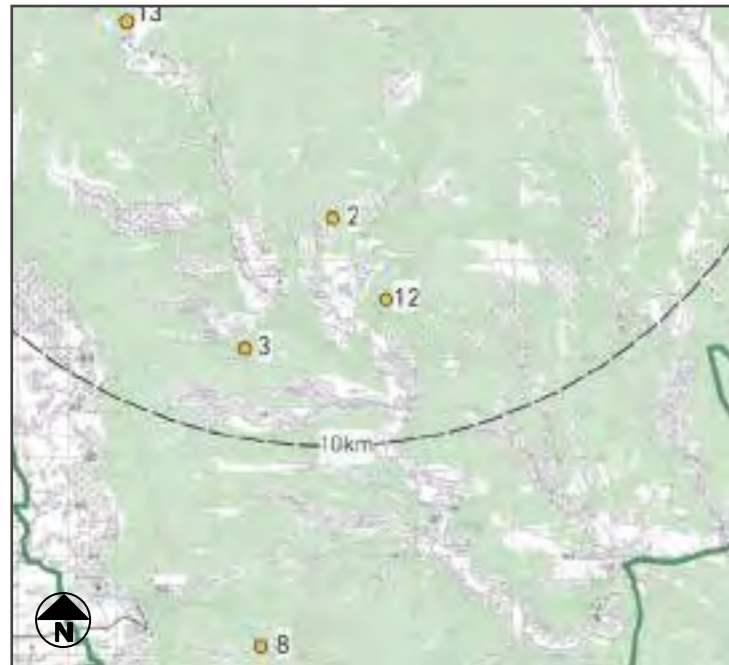
APPENDIX D: PHOTOGRAPHY OF EXISTING MAST



VIEWPOINT 12

Viewpoint on the B1257, south of the site

Camera make & model	- Canon EOS 5D Mark III	Viewpoint height (AOD)	- 244m
Lens make & focal length	- Canon EF 50mm, f/1.4 USM	Distance from site	- 7.3km
Date of photograph	- 24.09.2021	Enlargement / Sheet Size	- 100% @ A3
OS grid reference	- E 456357, N 488966		



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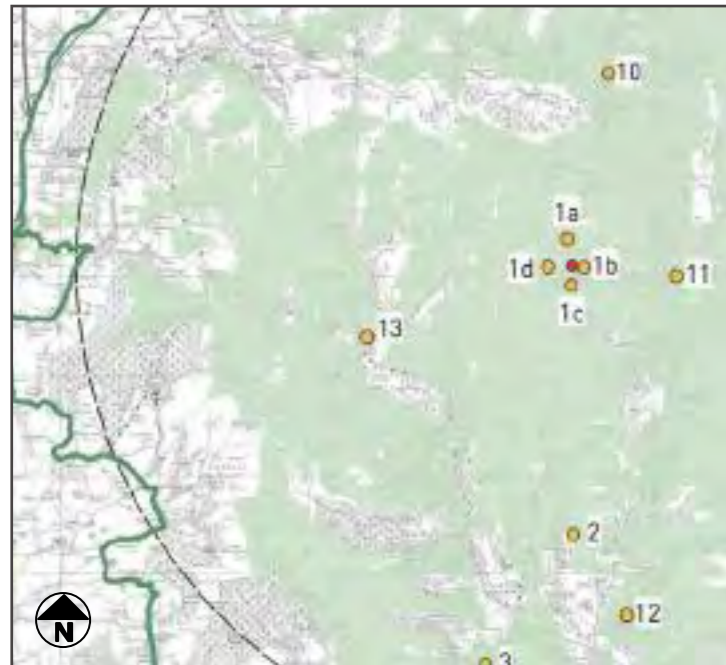
APPENDIX D: PHOTOGRAPHY OF EXISTING MAST



VIEWPOINT 13

Unnamed road, west of Snilesworth, south west of the site

Camera make & model	- Canon EOS 5D Mark III	Viewpoint height (AOD)	- 262m
Lens make & focal length	- Canon EF 50mm, f/1.4 USM	Distance from site	- 4.5km
Date of photograph	- 24.09.2021	Enlargement / Sheet Size	- 100% @ A3
OS grid reference	- E 450906, N 495159		



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APPENDIX D: PHOTOGRAPHY OF EXISTING MAST

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