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6.0 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL AMENITY

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 This chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) addresses the potential effects of the Proposed Development on landscape character (as a resource in its own right) and visual amenity.
- 6.1.2 This chapter is supported by Appendices 6A – 6D provided in ES Volume II and Figures 6.1 – 6.26, provided in ES Volume III.

6.2 Legislation and Planning Policy Context

Legislative Background

- 6.2.1 The landscape and visual impact assessment takes account of the legislation relevant to Landscape and visual issues, including the European Landscape Convention.

National Planning Policy

- 6.2.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), 2019) sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied..
- 6.2.3 Paragraph 203 states that it is essential that there is a sufficient supply of minerals to provide the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods that the country needs. Paragraph 205 goes on to state that when determining planning applications, great weight should be given to the benefits of mineral extraction, including to the economy. Furthermore, notwithstanding the economic benefits, that local planning authorities should ensure that there are no unacceptable adverse impacts on the natural and historic environment, human health or aviation safety, and take into account the cumulative effect of multiple impacts from individual sites and/ or from a number of sites in a locality. There is also a requirement to provide for high quality restoration and aftercare at the earliest opportunity.
- 6.2.4 Within Paragraph 127 of the NPPF a number of overriding core planning principles are relevant to landscape including:
- “a) will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development;*
 - b) are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping;*
 - c) are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change (such as increased densities);*
 - d) establish or maintain a strong sense of place, using the arrangement of streets, spaces, building types and materials to create attractive, welcoming and distinctive places to live, work and visit;*
 - e) optimise the potential of the site to accommodate and sustain an appropriate amount and mix of development (including green and other public space) and support local facilities and transport networks; and*
 - f) create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being, with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience”.*
- 6.2.5 It is notable that Paragraph 146 of the NPPF states that:
- “Certain other forms of development are also not inappropriate in Green Belt provided they preserve its openness and do not conflict with the purposes of including land within it. These are: Mineral extraction; Engineering operations.”*

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- 6.2.6 It is noted in Paragraph 204(a) of the NPPF that so far as practicable, planning policies should take account of the contribution that substitute or secondary and recycled materials and minerals waste would make to the supply of materials, before considering extraction of primary materials, whilst aiming to source minerals supplies indigenously.
- 6.2.7 On 6 March 2014, the MHCLG published its Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) (DCLG, 2014), which consolidated and revised a large number of practice guidance documents. Since its initial publication, the PPG has been the subject of a number of updates. Guidance outlined in the PPG has been considered in preparing the planning application for the Proposed Development.
- Local Planning Policy
- 6.2.8 The policies that are relevant to the Site are:
- the 'saved' policies of the North Yorkshire Waste Local Plan (adopted 2006);
 - the 'saved' policies of the North Yorkshire Minerals Local Plan (adopted 1997);
 - the 'saved' policies of the Selby District Local Plan – adopted February 2005 (Selby District Council, 2005); and
 - the Selby District Core Strategy Local Plan – adopted October 2013 (Selby District Council, 2013).
- 6.2.9 NYCC (as minerals and waste planning authority), along with the City of York Council and the North York Moors National Park Authority, is producing a 'Minerals and Waste Joint Plan' (MWJP). Once finalised, it will set out new planning policies for minerals and waste developments across all three council areas, which will guide decisions on planning applications up to 31 December 2030. The April 2018 'Modifications to the Publication Draft' document is the most recent and has been considered in this section.
- 6.2.1 The policies within the North Yorkshire Waste Local Plan (2006) considered to be of most relevance to the Proposed Development are as follows:
- 4/3 – Landscape Protection;
 - 4/22 – Site Restoration; and
 - 4/23 - Aftercare.
- 6.2.2 Policy 4/1 requires that the scheme will only be permitted if there would not be an unacceptable effect on landscape character and that proposals, where possible, should enhance landscape character.
- 6.2.3 Policy 4/22 requires that the restoration proposals will, where appropriate restore and enhance the character of the local environment.
- 6.2.4 Policy 4/23 requires that the restoration scheme is subject to an aftercare requirement to ensure the scheme reaches an approved standard for the aftercare use.
- 6.2.5 The policies within the North Yorkshire Minerals Plan (1997) considered to be of most relevance to the Proposed Development are as follows:
- 4/1 – Determination of Planning Applications;
 - 4/19 – Progressive Restoration; and
 - 4/20 – Aftercare.
- 6.2.6 Policy 4/1 requires that to determine the planning application the landscaping and screening has been designed to effectively mitigate the impact of the proposal and that the restoration proposals and programme are acceptable and to a high standard.
- 6.2.7 Policy 4/19 requires that wherever possible, progressive restoration will be undertaken to a high standard.

- 6.2.8 Policy 4/20 requires that the restoration scheme is subject to an aftercare policy to bring the after-use up to an approved standard. This will normally be a period of 5 years, although for amenity and nature conservation afteruses this period may be extended.
- 6.2.9 The policies within the Draft Minerals and Waste Joint Plan (2018) considered to be of most relevance to the Proposed Development are as follows:
- D05 – Minerals and waste development in the Green Belt;
 - D06 – Landscape;
 - D10 – Reclamation and afteruse;
 - D11 – Sustainable design, construction and operation of development;
- 6.2.10 Policy D05 requires that development in the Green Belt would not result in adverse impacts on its openness.
- 6.2.11 Policy D06 requires that the development would not have unacceptable impacts on the quality of character of the landscape.
- 6.2.12 Policy D10 requires that the scheme includes a restoration and afteruse that would be carried out to a high standard for a minimum of 5 years and that would enhance existing identified green infrastructure corridors.
- 6.2.13 Policy D11 requires that landscape planting that comprises of native species is able to successfully adapt to climate change.
- 6.2.14 The two Selby District documents contain a number of policies of relevance in landscape and visual terms to the Proposed Development, as follows:
- SP 3 (Selby Core Strategy) Green Belt;
 - SP 18 (Selby Core Strategy) Protecting and Enhancing the Environment;
 - SP 19 (Selby Core Strategy) Design Quality;
 - ENV 1 (Selby District Local Plan) Control of Development; and
 - ENV 15 Locally Important Landscape Area (Magnesian Limestone Ridge).
- 6.2.15 Policy SP3 states that within the defined Green Belt planning permission will not be granted for inappropriate development unless the applicant has demonstrated that very special circumstances exist to justify why permission should be granted.
- 6.2.16 Policy SP 18 requires the safeguarding and, where possible, enhancement of the landscape character of the area.
- 6.2.17 Policy SP 19 requires high quality design that has regard to local character and also the incorporation of new and/ or existing landscaping.
- 6.2.18 Policy ENV 1 sets out the considerations required in respect of new development including the impact on the character of the area, standard of layout and design including materials and landscaping scheme.
- 6.2.19 Policy ENV15 states that the Council will resist development that is harmful to the landscape character and scenic quality.
- 6.2.20 It is relevant to note that Selby District Council is preparing a 'Sites and Policies Local Plan', known as 'PLAN Selby' to deliver the strategic vision outlined within the Selby District Core Strategy (2013). The latest round of consultation comprised the 'Additional Site' consultation in spring 2018. The plan is not considered sufficiently advanced for further consideration here.

6.3 Assessment Method and Significance Criteria

- 6.3.1 The landscape and visual impact assessment has been based on the following best practice guidance:

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013); and
- An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (Natural England, 2014).

Impact Assessment and Significance Criteria

6.3.2 A detailed description of the assessment methodology is included in Appendix 6A (ES Volume II) and is summarised below.

6.3.3 For the purposes of comparison and in order to establish a 'control' scenario against which the effects of the Proposed Development may be assessed, the baseline conditions are projected forward to produce a future 'no development' (future baseline) scenario. The potential impacts of the Proposed Development upon the future baseline landscape and receptor views are then identified and any resulting effects are then assessed and classified. Potential landscape and visual impacts and the resulting effects (both adverse and beneficial) are considered for the following scenarios:

- Construction – the assessment will only consider the Whitefield Lane realignment from Viewpoint 14 as this is the only potentially significant construction effect identified;
- Operation (2020 - 2045) – no new screening or additional mitigation is assumed for the purposes of the main assessment, although any such mitigation through planting is subsequently considered in Section 16.9: Residual Effects and Conclusions; and
- Restoration (2044 - 2046) – the restoration is proposed to be phased as set out in Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, which includes the greening of the exposed slopes of Stage I as Stage II extraction progresses; and
- Post-Restoration (2060) – allows for suitable establishment and growth of the restoration planting scheme.

6.3.4 Effects may be temporary, permanent, short-term or long-term. Landscape and visual effects may be further categorised as being either direct, i.e. originating from the Site, or indirect within the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), e.g. off-site visual impact of construction traffic.

Landscape Impact Assessment Methodology

6.3.5 In assessing and classifying the predicted effects from any likely impacts to the landscape resulting from the Proposed Development, the following criteria are considered:

- landscape character;
- landscape sensitivity; and
- magnitude of likely impacts that may affect the landscape.

6.3.6 Landscape impacts are considered, including both the direct and indirect impacts of the Proposed Development upon landscape elements and features (or components), as well as the impact upon the general landscape character of the surrounding area.

6.3.7 The relationship between sensitivity and magnitude of impact allows an assessment of the relative significance of predicted landscape effects to be made. The sensitivity of the landscape to change is the degree to which a particular Landscape Character Area (LCA) or feature can accommodate changes or new features, without unacceptable detrimental effects to its essential characteristics.

6.3.8 The magnitude of a predicted landscape impact relates to the size, extent or degree of change likely to be experienced as a result of the Proposed Development. The magnitude takes into account whether there is a direct impact resulting in the loss of landscape components, or a change beyond the land-take of the Proposed Development that might have an effect on the character of the area, and whether the impact is permanent or temporary.

6.3.9 Plate 6.1 below presents a diagram to describe the relationship between sensitivity and magnitude of impacts on the landscape to determine the effect. The Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA 3) (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental

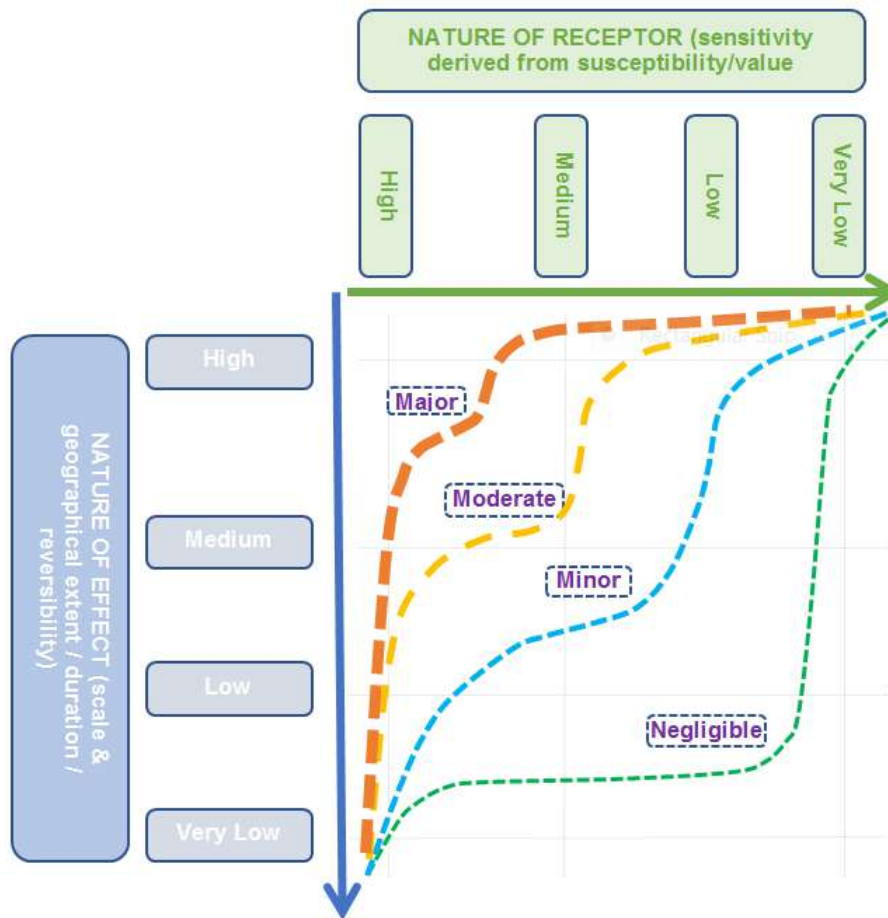
Management and Assessment, 2013) dictates that this is not a prescriptive process and is provided as a guide to how combinations of sensitivity and magnitude are typically combined. For the purposes of this assessment, moderate and major impacts will be deemed 'significant' in accordance with standard EIA practice; while minor and negligible are considered to be 'not significant'. Where significant environmental effects are identified, measures to mitigate these effects are proposed (where feasible) and remaining residual effects are identified.

- 6.3.10 A full explanation of the criteria used to assess sensitivity, magnitude of impact and classification of landscape effects is included in Appendix 6A (ES Volume II).

Visual Impact Assessment Methodology

- 6.3.11 The assessment of effects likely to result from visual impacts is structured by receptor groups (e.g. residents, users of recreational spaces, business users and motorists). Individual receptors are identified through the definition of the ZTV, within which views of the Proposed Development are likely to be possible. Individuals are subsequently categorised into receptor groups within different areas. The sensitivity of each receptor group is then evaluated as being high, medium or low through combination of the value of view and susceptibility of the receptor.
- 6.3.12 Views from each identified representative viewpoint are recorded, considering distance from the Site (as the crow flies), receptor type, value of view and a short description of the view. Other receptors are also identified including sequential views and settlements.
- 6.3.13 For the purposes of assessment, the sensitivity of a receptor and the magnitude of an impact on that receptor are combined to determine the effect that the Proposed Development is predicted to have on existing baseline visual conditions for that given receptor. As previously described for the landscape impact assessment, specific terminology is used to describe the magnitude of impact (see Appendix 6A (ES Volume II) for details).
- 6.3.14 Although some visual receptors may consider the Proposed Development to be visually appealing or interesting, the assessment follows standard best practice methods, and therefore assumes a 'worst case' scenario, whereby significant changes to views as a result of new tall/large structures or buildings in an existing relatively open area are generally considered to be adverse.
- 6.3.15 Viewpoint photography accompanying this assessment has been undertaken based upon the guidance given in Landscape Institute Advice Note 01/11 'Photography and photomontage in landscape and visual impact assessment' (Landscape Institute, 2011).
- 6.3.16 The relationship between the sensitivity of receptors and the magnitude of impacts allows the effects to be classified. Plate 6.1 below provides a diagram used to describe this relationship, and so allow a relative level of significance of any predicted effects on visual receptors to be categorised. This is broadly similar to the matrix at Table 2.1 in Chapter 2: Assessment Methodology, and follows best practice guidance for landscape and visual impact assessment (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013).

Plate 6.1 – Classification of Landscape and Visual Effects



Extent of Study Area

- 6.3.17 The extent of the study area is determined by the potential visibility of the Proposed Development in the surrounding landscape and is proportionate to its size and scale and the nature of the surrounding landscape. Current guidance (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013) states that the study area should include “the full extent of the wider landscape around it which the proposed development may influence in a significant manner”.
- 6.3.18 For the purposes of this assessment the study area has been defined by a combination of ZTV analysis and professional judgement. Based upon the existing landform within the Stage II Stage III ash disposal areas and Lagoons C and D and the key aspects of the Proposed Development, it is considered that it is highly unlikely that significant effects will be possible from further than 5 km from the edge of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site.

Sources of Information/Data

- 6.3.19 Baseline data has been gathered from a study of Ordnance Survey (OS) maps and aerial photographs, publicly available documents such as landscape character assessment documents from local authorities within the immediate area and national character mapping available from Natural England (National Area Profiles, 2013). A site visit has been undertaken by a Chartered Landscape Architect on 6th February 2019, to provide valuable background knowledge on the existing character and impact of the Proposed Development on the surrounding community, and to record views from representative viewpoints. The site visit was undertaken during the winter months when there was no leaf cover.

Consultation

6.3.20 A summary of the consultation responses specific to landscape and visual amenity that have been received is provided in Table 6.1 below.

Table 6.1 – Consultation Summary

CONSULTEE	DATE (METHOD OF CONSULTATION)	SUMMARY OF CONSULTEE COMMENTS	SUMMARY OF RESPONSE / HOW COMMENTS HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED
John Wainwright NYCC Landscape Officer	08.01.2019 (Scoping Response letter)	<u>Landscape and Visual Effects</u> Clarification required on the baseline condition.	The baseline and future baseline have been set out within Section 6.4, and a summary within paragraphs 6.4.29 to 6.4.31. The future baseline is set out in paragraphs 6.4.32 to 6.4.33.
		Consideration given to the overall former site design and how the Proposed Development will affect this.	The landscape assessment assesses the impact on the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site as a resource in itself. The future assessment stage is assessed against the former site design.
		Need to consider the effect of the Proposed Development on the Green Belt.	The types of development set out within the NPPF that are considered to be 'appropriate' to the Green Belt are broadly in line with those set out within Policy GB2 of the Selby District Local Plan (2005). It is notable that the NPPF confirms that mineral extraction can be appropriate to the Green Belt provided it preserves the openness of the Green Belt and does not conflict with the purposes of including land within it.

CONSULTEE	DATE (METHOD OF CONSULTATION)	SUMMARY OF CONSULTEE COMMENTS	SUMMARY OF RESPONSE / HOW COMMENTS HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED
		Review of the retention and protection of the trees on site.	A tree survey to BS5837:2005 has been undertaken. Refer to Arboricultural Survey Report (AECOM, 2019).
		Soil Management Plan is required.	A Soil Management Plan has been prepared (see Appendix 11B in ES Volume II).
		Assessment of viewpoints – the assessment needs to appropriately describe the overall effects of the development, not just on representative viewpoints.	The assessment of viewpoints includes description of the impact for identified receptors outside of the viewpoint.
		3D ground model and photomontages should be used to illustrate the work at key stages and the final restoration stage.	The photomontages demonstrate the appropriate phases of the Proposed Development. Refer to Figures 6.20 to 6.25 in ES Volume III.
		<u>Site Restoration and Afteruse</u> The restoration plan should consider the whole site (Phases I-III). A short and long term maintenance and management strategy for the site should be produced.	An Indicative Landscape and Biodiversity Restoration Plan that covers the whole Gale Common Ash Disposal Site has been produced (see Appendix 6C in ES Volume II).
John Wainwright NYCC Landscape Officer	31.01.19 (telephone discussion and email)	Broadly in agreement of the viewpoints proposed. Need to see an assessment of Cridling Stubbs and Womersley even if no viewpoints are located in these areas.	The anticipated impacts on receptors within Cridling Stubbs are assessed as part of Viewpoint 6. The anticipated impacts on receptors within Womersley are assessed as part of Viewpoint 5.
John Wainwright NYCC Landscape Officer	14.01.19 (meeting)	Set out and discussed the contents of the	See above.

CONSULTEE	DATE (METHOD OF CONSULTATION)	SUMMARY OF CONSULTEE COMMENTS	SUMMARY OF RESPONSE / HOW COMMENTS HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED
		Scoping Report.	
John Wainwright NYCC Landscape Officer	18.02.2019 (email)	Requirement to describe the people, and where possible, the number affected. Describe and illustrate on a plan where settlements or people will be affected.	The sensitive receptors affected by the Proposed Development are set out within the individual viewpoint assessments.
		Requirement to explain future baselines.	The future baseline is set out in paragraphs 6.4.32 to 6.4.33.

6.4 Baseline Conditions

Existing Landscape Baseline

Landscape Characterisation

- 6.4.1 At a national scale the study area includes the National Character Area (NCA) Profile: 39 Humberhead Levels (Natural England, 2013) which covers the majority of the Site and majority of the study area to the east. The NCA Profile: 30 Southern Magnesian Limestone (NE464) covers the rest of the Site and study area to the west as illustrated on Figure 6.1 (ES Volume III).
- 6.4.2 The North Yorkshire and York Landscape Characterisation Project (Chris Blandford Associates, 2011) covers part of NCA 39. The document identifies landscape character types at a county level. At a local level, the study area is divided by the Landscape Character Assessment of Wakefield District (Wakefield Metropolitan District Council, 2004) and the Landscape Assessment of Selby District (Woolerton Dodwell Associates, 1999).

National

- 6.4.3 NCA 39 (Natural England, 2013), which covers the eastern side of the Site and study area, is described as being characterised as a flat, low-lying and large scale agricultural landscape with big skies with long open views with vertical elements such as water towers and power stations including Eggborough and the iconic grouping of cooling towers at Drax. Wind turbines are also considered to be prominent within the NCA.
- 6.4.4 NCA 30 (Natural England, 2013), which covers the western side of the Site and study area, is characterised by fertile intensively farmed arable farmland with long views over lowland to the east, west and to the south. The NCA contains a large number of abbeys, country house and estates although the NCA is locally influenced by industry including power lines, settlements and transport routes.
- 6.4.5 The NCAs are large in scale and cover a considerable area. NCA 39 covers an area north of Selby to the north, Retford to the south, Knottingley to the west and the edge of Scunthorpe to the east. NCA 30 covers a strip of land between north of Ripon to north of Nottingham in the south. Due to the scale of the NCAs in relationship to the size and nature of the Proposed Development, it is considered that they are unlikely to be significantly affected; as such these NCAs are not considered further within the assessment.

Regional

- 6.4.6 The North Yorkshire Landscape Characterisation Project (Chris Blandford Associates, 2011) covers the Site and the majority of the study area. The Site lies within the Farmed Lowland and Valley Landscapes Primary Landscape Unit (PLU). This PLU covers a large amount of North

Yorkshire and is divided up into eleven Landscape Character Types (LCT) of which the Levels Farmland (23) LCT is relevant to the Site. The relevant characteristics of this LCT are contained in Table 6.2 below along with the key characteristics of other PLUs and LCTs that are relevant to the study area.

Table 6.2 – Landscape Character Summary

PRIMARY LANDSCAPE UNIT/ LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE/ LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA	KEY CHARACTERISTICS
North Yorkshire Landscape Characterisation Project Limestone Landscapes (PLU)	
Magnesian Limestone Ridge (6) LCT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“A low ridge of gently rolling landform which is covered by a pattern of fertile farmland and well wooded estates;</i> • <i>Landform is intersected by a series of relatively intricate dry valleys;</i> • <i>Wooded limestone gorges, caves and crags are key landscape features;</i> • <i>The prominent transport corridor of the A1(M) which runs through the southern section of this LCT;</i> • <i>Large-scale arable fields dominate the landscape, facilitating long distance views, extending as far as Kilburn White Horse on the edge of the North York Moors National Park;</i> • <i>Intimate scale and grain of the landscape derived from complex topography and land use patterns;</i> • <i>Several historic country houses and associated designed landscapes, often containing mature veteran trees;</i> • <i>Limestone quarries are a relatively common landscape feature; and</i> • <i>Use of limestone as a building material which creates a unified character”.</i>
Levels Farmland (23)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Predominantly flat, low-lying landscape which encompasses a patchwork of arable fields;</i> • <i>Large scale, open and rectilinear field pattern;</i> • <i>Dykes or ditches often form field boundaries, with a general absence of hedgerows;</i> • <i>Industrial scale farm buildings, large embankments and drains, and major energy and transport infrastructure contribute human elements; and</i> • <i>Historical features, such as windmills, recording past attempts to drain the landscape are key features”.</i>
River Floodplain (24)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“A series of flat, low lying, relatively narrow river corridors which flow through the different types of Vale Farmland LCT within the Study Area;</i> • <i>The ‘Ings’ - flood meadows maintained by traditional hay</i>

PRIMARY LANDSCAPE UNIT/ LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE/ LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA	KEY CHARACTERISTICS
	<p><i>making activities;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Landscape pattern comprises a mixture of flood meadows, neutral grasslands and floodplain mires;</i> • <i>Halls and manor houses are key landscape features;</i> • <i>River engineering features such as Levees assert a human influence over the landscape;</i> • <i>Power stations, pylons and former collieries; and</i> • <i>The A1 (M) introduces a source of noise and visual intrusion in several places”.</i>
Landscape Assessment of Selby District	
River Aire Corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Principal highway for trade and communication;</i> • <i>Strong influence of large scale industrial and infrastructure development, in particular power stations and the motorway on the river landscape;</i> • <i>Varied character combining flat open farmland and semi-enclosed arable farmland, and small areas of flat wooded farmland;</i> • <i>Open heavily drained arable farmland on valley floor, with high grassy flood embankments, and areas of smaller scale mixed farmland;</i> • <i>Strategically sited historic villages;</i> • <i>Historic parkland and country mansions; and</i> • <i>Important wetlands, diverse marshy grasslands and unimproved neutral grasslands.”</i>
Southern Farmlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Varied character, predominantly flat semi-enclosed arable farmland, with an area of estate-managed wooded farmland, and an area of larger scale more open farmland;</i> • <i>Distinctive area of more traditional mixed farmland to the south of Blane moor, with pastures and orchards;</i> • <i>Small wetlands, some of which are medieval moats;</i> • <i>Networks of minor roads and lanes linking scattered properties and settlements;</i> • <i>Traditional farmhouses typically constructed in red brick;</i> • <i>Distinctive landform of the ash disposal site Gale Common; and</i>

PRIMARY LANDSCAPE UNIT/ LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE/ LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA	KEY CHARACTERISTICS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Generally quiet and tranquil character largely unaffected by urban and industrial development.”</i>
West Selby Ridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Low ridge of Magnesian limestone;</i> • <i>Essentially rural character, simple and large in scale;</i> • <i>Large scale rolling arable farmland;</i> • <i>Large blocks of calcareous woodland, much of It replanted on Ancient sites;</i> • <i>Narrow winding limestone valleys;</i> • <i>Exceptional historic legacy;</i> • <i>Pockets of semi-natural calcareous grass land, woodlands, scrub, streamside wetlands are of considerable nature conservation interest;</i> • <i>Historic parklands associated with large country houses; and</i> • <i>Long tradition of limestone extraction.”</i>
Landscape Assessment of Wakefield District	
Limestone Escarpment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>‘Woodland generally scarce and confined to plantations on steep slopes</i> • <i>Significant areas of woodland are confined to areas east of Wentbridge which also includes calcareous scrub (which is unique to the district) to escarpment edges to the north.</i> • <i>The River Aire and Aire & Calder Navigation cut through the Limestone Escarpment at Knottingley to the west.</i> • <i>The valley bottom is flat with washlands, oxbows and reedbeds.</i> • <i>The escarpment is also cut by the River Went forming a narrow gorge at Wentbridge.</i> • <i>Extensive views from the top of the escarpment across the Went Basin to Knottingley and the M62 corridor.</i> • <i>Soils formed from the limestone provide fertile grade 2 agricultural land which is under intensive arable agriculture.</i> • <i>Many hedgerows have been removed offering an open landscape. Where they survive, they are maintained to a low level with frequent gaps and few associated trees.’</i>

Local

- 6.4.7 The majority of the study area is covered by the Landscape Assessment of Selby District (Woolerton Dodwell Associates, 1999). The Local Landscape Character Areas (LCA) which cover the Site and immediate surrounding area are the River Aire Corridor and the Southern Farmlands.
- 6.4.8 The River Aire Corridor LCA is described as flat, low lying arable farmland with the area to the south of the River Aire having been '*considerably modified and degraded by the urbanising, industrial influence of multiple features of infrastructure that are large in scale*'. These include the M62 motorway and (now closed) Eggborough coal-fired Power Station.
- 6.4.9 The Southern Farmlands LCA is described as low-lying, rural landscape that would have once formed part of an extensive area of uncultivated marshland. Woodlands are present within the LCA and at the time of the document being published, the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site formed a '*low steep-sided and pronounced hill within the low-lying farmed landscape*'. The relevant characteristics of both LCAs are contained in Table 6.2 above along with the key characteristics of other LCAs that are relevant to the study area.
- 6.4.10 The western portion of the study area around Knottingley is covered by the Wakefield Landscape Character Assessment (Wakefield Metropolitan District Council, 2004), specifically the Limestone Escarpment LCT. The north of this LCT is described as being urbanised whilst the area to the south east remains rural. Agricultural farmland is considered to be intensively farmed with few hedges and trees.
- 6.4.11 The southern limits of the study area are fringed by the Doncaster Landscape Character Assessment (ECUS Ltd, 2007), specifically the Settled Clay Farmlands LCT. This LCT is divided into two different LCAs of which the F2 Owston to Sykehouse LCA is relevant to the village of Norton in the study area. This LCA is characterised by a flat, low lying landform with small scale fields with thick boundary hedgerows and occasional small deciduous woodland.
- 6.4.12 The eastern limits of the study area are fringed by the East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment (Carl Bro, 2005), specifically the LCT 8 M62 Corridor Farmland. LCT 8 is divided into three LCAs of which 8C M62 Corridor Hook to Pollington relates to the study area. LCT 8 is characterised by low lying flat agricultural landscape with open views particularly from the M62 motorway. Communication infrastructure is considered a prominent feature with linear tree and woodland features associated with the motorway. Railway lines and pylons are prominent features. LCA 8C in relation to the study area is specifically characterised by intensively farmed land with very few trees or woods. The North Yorkshire Landscape Characterisation Projects (Chris Blandford Associates, 2011) Levels Farmland LCT overlaps the administrative boundary into the East Riding of Yorkshire as the M62 Corridor Farmland Hook to Pollington LCA.
- 6.4.13 Due to the scale of the M62 Corridor Hook to Pollington LCA within East Riding and the Owston to Sykehouse Settled Clay Farmland in relationship to the size and nature of the Proposed Development, it is considered that they are unlikely to be significantly affected; as such these LCAs are not considered further within the assessment.

Vegetation Cover

- 6.4.14 The study area is characterised by small woodland blocks with intermittent hedgerow boundaries along the majority of routes. Vegetation is often found along the main arterial routes. Larger areas of tree planting are found south of the Site and often associated with historic estates. Open farmland dominates the northern section of the study area.
- 6.4.15 Vegetation within the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site is relatively extensive with tree planting along the outer boundaries, the Stage I ash disposal area, woodlands and the area of farmland to the south. Hedgerows are present within the Stage I ash disposal area and the farmland to the south.

Topography and Drainage

- 6.4.16 The topography of the study area varies. The eastern section of the study area is relatively flat generally lying between 5 m and 17 m above ordnance datum (AOD). The west is dominated by

the limestone ridge where the ground rises around Wentbridge at Jacksons Hill to approximately 70 mAOD.

- 6.4.17 The River Aire and Aire & Calder Navigation flows through the northern section of the study area with the River Went flowing close to its southern extent. A series of dykes and ditches are prominent in the landscape.

Settlements

- 6.4.18 The study area is generally characterised by small to medium sized settlements and isolated residential properties and farmsteads. Settlements in close proximity to the Site include Eggborough (to the north-west); Kellington, Beal and Kellingley (to the north); Darrington and Cridling Stubbs (to the west); Womersley, Little Smeaton and Walden Stubbs (to the south) and Whitley and High Eggborough (to the east). The large urban area of Knottingley to the north-west is located within the study area.

Communications

- 6.4.19 The larger settlements are connected by a series of motorways and large A-roads. The A19 lies to the east of the Site and runs in a north/ south direction linking Selby with Doncaster further to the south. The A645 lies to the north of the Site and runs in an east/ west direction from Knottingley in the west to Snaith in the east. The A1 lies along the western fringe of the study area and runs in a north/ south direction. The M62 motorway lies at its closest point approximately 25 m to the north of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site and is the main arterial route within the study area running in an east/ west direction. A number of minor roads and tracks link smaller settlements and farmsteads within the study area.
- 6.4.20 A number of Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) are located within the study area associated with waterways or linking settlements, as illustrated on Figures 6.2 (ES Volume III).

The Site and Its Immediate Setting

- 6.4.21 The full extent of the Site is shown on Figure 1.1 (ES Volume III). The area required for each component of the Proposed Development is described separately, as shown on Figure 3.3 (ES Volume III) and described in Chapter 3: Description of the Site.
- 6.4.22 The Gale Common Ash Disposal Site is bounded to the north by Cobcroft Lane and the M62; woodland, arable farmland and the Gale Common motocross track to the east; farmland and Womersley Grange farm holding to the south; and farmland to the west.
- 6.4.23 The Gale Common Ash Disposal Site currently consists of the Stage I restored ash disposal area; the incomplete Stage II and Stage III ash disposal areas, Lagoons C and D, the Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) loading pad, a number of buildings used previously in the slurry dewatering process, and offices and parking facilities. Areas of woodland lie within the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site boundary including Southmoor Wood and Grant Spring Wood which are ancient woodland habitats. There are also areas of farmland within the Site. The farmland at the south of the Site includes Wood Hall, a mediaeval moated site. The original scheme for the Stage I ash disposal area was designed by Brenda Colvin in the 1960's. Additional areas of planting were added as other areas required restoration including areas of temporary soil storage.
- 6.4.24 The Gale Common Ash Disposal Site lies between approximately 5 to 69 m AOD (the highest point being at the top of the Stage I ash disposal area). The wider Site includes the realignment of the road at Whitefield Lane/ A19 Junction and areas of minor road widening along Cobcroft Lane/ Whitefield Lane.

Value of the Landscape Receptor

- 6.4.25 The study area has no national statutory designations relating to landscape value. One area at the western edge of the study area along the Magnesian Limestone Ridge has been designated locally as a Locally Important Landscape Area. The Site and majority of the study area is designated as Green Belt. Refer to Figure 6.3 (ES Volume III).
- 6.4.26 There are no Registered Parks and Gardens located within the study area.

- 6.4.27 The Site, with the exception of the Green Belt designation, has no local designations relating to landscape value, although the woodland groups and hedgerows on the Stage I ash disposal area are of Site value. The original planting scheme was designed by Brenda Colvin, consultant landscape architect with a reputation for transforming post-war landscapes around reservoirs, industrial sites, new towns, national parks, new universities, hospitals, factories and mineral workings. Colvin integrated the large industrial landform into the low lying farmland landscape. Her influence is evident in the landscaping in and around the Site and the long tree planting belts around Eggborough coal-fired Power Station to the north.
- 6.4.28 Table 6.3 below describes the factors relating to the value of the landscape at a Site and study area scale.

Table 6.3 – Non-Landscape Designated Areas/ Features

FACTOR	STUDY AREA	SITE
Landscape quality (condition)	The landscape of the study area is predominantly open, low lying agricultural land influenced by industry, power stations, pylons and transport routes.	The Gale Common Ash Disposal Site's land-use relates to power production and agriculture and is typical of the immediate area and the wider study area. The landform is not typical of the area surrounding the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site. The part of the Site along Cobcroft Lane/ Whitefield Lane and to the south of Whitefield Lane is agricultural and typical of the study area.
Scenic quality	The study area contains one area which is designated on the basis of scenic quality (Locally Important Landscape Areas). The study area is generally low lying allowing long distance views across the predominantly agricultural landscape. Large structures such as power station cooling towers and infrastructure associated with transport routes are widely visible across the study area.	The Gale Common Ash Disposal Site has a high scenic quality in relation to the Stage I ash disposal area, mature woodlands and farmland. Although the remainder of the Site has no special scenic qualities.
Rarity	The landscape of the study area is typical of the wider landscape context regionally.	The Site contains no rare elements or features.
Representativeness	The study area does not contain elements or characteristics that are particularly important examples.	The Gale Common Ash Disposal Site contains an example of the mitigation of a post-industrial landscape.
Conservation interests	The study area contains Sites of Special Scientific Interest, scheduled monuments and listed buildings.	The Gale Common Ash Disposal Site contains two areas of ancient woodland (Southmoor Wood and Grant Spring Wood) and a locally designated mediaeval moated site.
Recreation value	Taken as a whole, the landscape of the study area is of some recreational value, restricted mainly to the use PROWs, waterways including canals and	The Gale Common Ash Disposal Site has no public access and is only of value relating to the woodland screening that is visible from the surrounding area.

FACTOR	STUDY AREA	SITE
	the River Aire.	
Perceptual aspects	The study area contains a relatively high number of areas which can be regarded as tranquil and remote. However, access tends to be limited to PRoWs and minor local roads.	The southern section of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site and the Stage I ash disposal area contains areas that can be regarded as tranquil. However, there is no public access.
Overall landscape value	Medium The study area includes a number of areas designated locally for their landscape character and/ or perceptual qualities/ tranquillity, whilst being heavily influenced by industrial developments and transport corridors.	Medium Overall, the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site is an industrial landscape that is partly restored, containing features of ecological and heritage value. The un-restored areas of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site and the parts of the Site along and to the south of Whitfield Lane have a low value.

Existing Visual Baseline

Visual Receptors

- 6.4.29 In order to identify locations with potential to have views of the Proposed Development, a ZTV has been produced as described below. This identifies those areas which have potential for views of the Proposed Development and to what extent it is likely to be visible. The ZTV is illustrated in Figure 6.4 (ES Volume III).

ZTV Analysis

- 6.4.30 A ZTV has been prepared for the Proposed Development based on the visibility of the tallest landform on the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site, which is the top of the Stage I ash disposal area where it meets the Stage II ash disposal area landform at 61.5 m AOD.
- 6.4.31 The ZTV has been generated by analysis of a 3D digital terrain model (DTM) of the surrounding terrain and the Proposed Development. Large areas of mature woodland were modelled at 12 m in height to provide a more accurate ZTV than a bare-ground scenario (which does not take into account localised screening effects of vegetation and built form). The output provides a graphical representation of the computer calculated inter-visibility between a viewer (at 1.6 m height) and the Proposed Development.
- 6.4.32 Potential viewpoints and receptors were identified throughout the study area. The potential receptors and their existing views are described in Appendix 6B (ES Volume II) and located on Figure 6.5 (ES Volume III).
- 6.4.33 Visibility within the study area is generally widespread as a result of the low land form and limited intervening features such as hedgerows, woodland blocks and settlements.

Dynamic Views

- 6.4.34 Users of the main transport routes may gain dynamic views towards the Site to varying degrees dependent on intervening structures, screening vegetation, elevation and direction of travel.
- 6.4.35 Users of the M62, travelling in an easterly direction, gain views of the existing Gale Common Ash Disposal Site from approximately 2.5 km at its furthest point from the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site. Views are often broken or restricted by screening vegetation or embankments along the M62 corridor. Where vegetation and landform allows, specifically in proximity to the Site, views are wide and open over the flat, rural landscape with transmission lines forming the most prominent features.
- 6.4.36 Users of the M62 traveling in a westerly direction gain views of the existing Gale Common Ash Disposal Site from approximately 3.3 km at its furthest point from the Site. Views are similar to

users travelling in the opposite direction, although there is more screening vegetation which further restricts views. Views along the rest of the M62 are focussed on power stations including Drax, Eggborough and Ferrybridge, a number of wind farms and large infrastructure elements.

- 6.4.37 Users of the local railway network within the study area will gain transient, dynamic views of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site. This will be seen in the context of a landscape containing other large scale structures such as power stations, overhead power lines, highway infrastructure and wind farms.
- 6.4.38 Within the study area there are a number of waterways that may be used for leisure purposes. Generally views from these will be dynamic and ever changing, often limited by intervening vegetation and landform. Where views do exist it is anticipated that the existing Gale Common Ash Disposal Site would be visible in views close to the Site with views elsewhere within the study area influenced by a number of industrial structures including Eggborough and Drax Power Stations and other industrial structures.
- 6.4.39 Within the study area there are a number of local roads, including the A19, in close proximity of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site which join the settlements. Generally views from these roads will be dynamic and ever changing. Views are often broken or restricted by screening vegetation and built form located along the road corridors. Where views are open, the landform associated with the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site is clearly visible, appearing prominent in close views.

Visual Receptors and Representative Viewpoints

- 6.4.40 Through consultation with the relevant authorities listed in Table 6.1, a total of 13 representative viewpoints have been chosen to illustrate the typical range of views of the Site from within the study area, as listed in Table 6.4 and illustrated on Figure 6.6 (ES Volume III).
- 6.4.41 The full list of all viewpoints originally considered can be found in Appendix 6B (ES Volume II).

Table 6.4 – Representative Viewpoints

VIEWPOINT ID	NAME AND LOCATION	RECEPTOR TYPE	APPROX. DISTANCE FROM SITE (KM)	GRID REFERENCE	VIEW
1	Selby Road, Whitley	Road users, residential	1.6	456076,421545	Wide open view from the west of Whitley across open arable farmland with intermittent low hedgerows. The landform associated with Stage I and Stage II ash disposal areas form the most prominent feature along the horizon. Woodland is visible along the horizon to the north of the view. Representative of views from the west of Whitley.
2	Gravel Hill Lane, Whitley PRow 35.73/2/1	Recreational	0.6	455432,420653	Wide, open view, slightly elevated view across arable farmland from the PRow at the edge of Whitley Thorpe. The view is dominated by the Stage II ash disposal area (in the foreground) and Stage I ash disposal area landforms. Intermittent hedgerow and small woodland blocks are visible within the view. Built form associated with the farm at Womersley Grange is clearly visible in the view. View representative of users of the local PRow to the west of Whitley.
3	Fulham Lane, Womersley	Recreational and road users	0.4	454689,420133	Short range view across arable farmland towards Stage II ash disposal area to the north. The farm structures associated with Womersley Grange are clearly visible in the view. Linear blocks of woodland vegetation screen ground level views beyond. More open views are available to the north-east where the lack of vegetation allows longer distance views. View representative of a number of receptors immediately to the south of

VIEWPOINT ID	NAME AND LOCATION	RECEPTOR TYPE	APPROX. DISTANCE FROM SITE (KM)	GRID REFERENCE	VIEW
					the Site.
4	Cow Lane, PRoW 35.75/3/1	Recreational	0.6	453437,419600	Open view across arable farmland, slightly constrained by intermittent tree lined field boundaries. The Stage II ash disposal area landform is visible on the horizon. The top of the stack at Eggborough coal-fired Power Station is visible to the right of the view, behind the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site. View representative of close range views from the south.
5	Northfield Lane, Womersley	Residential	1.0	452785,419402	Medium range views from the edge of Womersley across arable farmland. View is foreshortened by tree planting lining the railway and field boundaries. The mound within Stage I and II ash disposal areas are visible within the view with the top of the stack at Eggborough coal-fired Power Station is visible to the right of the view. Representative of medium range views from the south-west.
6	Northfield Lane, Cridling Stubbs	Residential	0.9	451835,420959	Medium to long range, wide view across arable farmland. The landform at the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site, specifically Stage I and II ash disposal areas are clearly visible within the view. Intermittent hedgerow trees and linear tree planting belts are visible within the view. Overhead power lines and, from parts of

VIEWPOINT ID	NAME AND LOCATION	RECEPTOR TYPE	APPROX. DISTANCE FROM SITE (KM)	GRID REFERENCE	VIEW
					Northfield Lane, the Eggborough coal-fired Power Station is clearly visible, sitting to the left of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site. View representative of views from Northfield Lane and the edges of Cridling Stubbs.
7	Aire and Calder Towpath	Recreational	0.7	459440,424245	Medium range, wide view across arable farmland towards the M62 and the Stage I ash disposal area beyond, which dominates the view from this direction. Pylons and overhead power lines are clearly visible, extending across the whole of the view. The Stage II ash disposal area is visible, although the majority of it is set behind linear tree planting. Representative of close range views from the north.
8	Broomhill Avenue, Knottingley	Recreational, residential	2.1	450834,422952	Long range view over pasture with Stage I ash disposal area forming the horizon in the distance. The view is constrained by linear boundary vegetation and localised landform. Overhead power lines are visible as detractors within the view. Representative of medium to long range views from the north-west and edge of Knottingley.
9	Hollygarth Lane, Beal	Residential	3.0	453324,425293	Long range view over arable and pasture farmland. View is slightly constrained by field boundary vegetation, including hedgerow trees. The landform at Stage I and II ash disposal areas

VIEWPOINT ID	NAME AND LOCATION	RECEPTOR TYPE	APPROX. DISTANCE FROM SITE (KM)	GRID REFERENCE	VIEW
					are visible within the view on the horizon. Overhead power lines and pylons are visible as detractors within the view. Representative of long range views from the north.
10	Kellington Lane, Eggborough	Residential	1.8	455725,423348	Long range, open, 180° view across arable farmland. Intermittent hedgerows forming field boundaries are present within the middle ground. Features on the horizon include extensive pylons and overhead lines to the right of the view and Stage I and Stage II ash disposal areas to the left. Eggborough coal-fired Power Station is visible within the wider view to the north-east. Representative of medium to long range views from the north-east.
11	Willowbridge Road, Little Smeaton	Residential	3.5	453101,416628	Long distance view across arable farmland. View limited in some places by intervening vegetation and woodland blocks. The view contains limited detractors, although overhead lines and pylons are visible within the middle ground and at a long distance. Parts of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site and Eggborough coal-fired Power Station are visible on the horizon. Representative of long distance views from the south.
12	Windermere Drive, Knottingley	Residential, recreational	3.4	449446, 422558	Partially open, long distance view across recreational land from the edge of Knottingley. View is foreshortened due to belts of tree

VIEWPOINT ID	NAME AND LOCATION	RECEPTOR TYPE	APPROX. DISTANCE FROM SITE (KM)	GRID REFERENCE	VIEW
					planting, although filtered views beyond are available. The upper sections of Stage I ash disposal area are visible within the view, forming the horizon. Representative of long distance views from the west.
13	Whitefield Lane, Whitley	Residential	0.0	455889,421798	Short range view across arable fields towards residential properties within Whitley. Hedgerows and small tree groups are visible. Representative of short range views from Whitefield Lane and receptors at Selby Road opposite the proposed realigned junction.

Summary of Visual Baseline

- 6.4.42 Due to the generally open nature of views and low topography of the study area, the landform at the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site is generally visible from views within and around the study area, where intervening vegetation and built form allows. In many areas, due to a combination of the flat landscape and the size of the landform, the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site is generally viewed against the skyline which increases its visibility.
- 6.4.43 The screening and limiting of views of the highest areas of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site (Stage I and II ash disposal areas) is generally only possible where screening elements are located close to the receptor.
- 6.4.44 The extent of views available to receptors range from close proximity to long distance. A number of receptors are located within villages and along roads that are located in relative close proximity to the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site. Views of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site tend to be from the edges of settlements or along roads and routeways where there is limited intervening vegetation and structures restricting views. Views from receptors along Whitefield Lane are generally close distance.

Future Baseline

- 6.4.45 In the absence of the Proposed Development it is predicted that the landform of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site would remain as the current baseline. The restoration scheme would consist of grass seeding to provide 'greening' of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site for biodiversity, arable use, hedgerows, and belts of tree planting. It is expected the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site would remain closed to public access.
- 6.4.46 In the future baseline scenario the wider study area would continue to be influenced by mineral extraction, the presence of a number of large scale industrial buildings, power station complexes and infrastructure corridors.

6.5 Development Design and Impact Avoidance

- 6.5.1 The mitigation of landscape effects is intrinsic within the development proposals which seek to substantially retain existing well established vegetation within the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site.
- 6.5.2 For the duration of the operation stage, the process of extraction has been designed to limit views of operational vehicles through the creation of bunds around the outer edge of the working areas within the Stage II ash disposal area. The bunds will also assist in limiting views of exposed PFA faces as works progress.
- 6.5.3 The following impact avoidance measures will either be incorporated into the design or are standard construction or operational methods. These measures have therefore been taken into account during the impact assessment process described in this chapter:
- lighting required during the construction and operation stages of the Proposed Development will be designed to reduce unnecessary light spill outside of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site boundary;
 - excavation within the Stage II ash disposal area will be in drops of 10 m behind a screening bund that is 5 m high to minimise visibility of operations (and mitigate noise effects – see Chapter 10: Noise and Vibration). As the bund is reduced in height there will be some periodic, short term visibility of earth moving machinery; and
 - existing vegetation along the boundary of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site will be retained and managed to ensure its continued presence to aid the screening of low level views into the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site.

6.6 Likely Impacts and Effects

- 6.6.1 To avoid unnecessary repetition, the structure of the Likely Impacts and Effects section of this chapter does not follow the standard, whereby impacts and effects associated with the construction of the Proposed Development are discussed first, followed by discussion of operation, restoration and post-restoration stages of the Proposed Development.

6.6.2 Landscape impacts and effects are described first, and summarised in Tables 6.6 (operation), 6.7 (restoration) and 6.8 (post-restoration).

6.6.3 Visual impacts and effects are then described, and summarised in Table 6.9.

Landscape

6.6.4 The potential landscape impacts of the Proposed Development relate to the loss of existing landscape features and the visibility of new landscape features and elements (temporary and permanent), including how this affects the perceptual qualities and tranquillity of a character area. In the case of the construction of the Proposed Development this will relate to the following:

- movement of plant and heavy goods vehicles, both on-site and in the surrounding area;
- establishment of site compounds resulting in temporary structures to serve the workforce;
- construction of a temporary site access off the eastern end of Whitefield Lane for the construction of the Whitefield Lane road realignment; and
- external lighting to illuminate operations after dark.

6.6.5 In the case of the operational phases of the Proposed Development this will relate to the following:

- movement of plant and heavy goods vehicles, both on site and in the surrounding area;
- removal of landscape features and earthworks;
- temporary stockpiling of earth and storage of materials on site; and
- external lighting to illuminate operations after dark.

6.6.6 In the case of the restoration phase of the Proposed Development this will relate to the following:

- an altered landform;
- movement of plant on site; and
- the implementation of a beneficial planting and biodiversity scheme.

6.6.7 The post-restoration phase of the Proposed Development this will relate to the following:

- a restored landscape with maturing trees and shrubs that provides better integration into the surrounding landscape.

Overall Character and Key Characteristics of the Study Area

6.6.8 The topography of the study area is a considerable factor in defining the character of the area with the relatively flat landscape enabling wide, open and often long distance views across the study area.

6.6.9 The published landscape character assessments recognise power stations as a characteristic element of the landscape. The large scale industrial buildings/ structures and transport corridors located within the study area are also recognised as characteristic features in the landscape within the relevant published landscape character assessments. The landform at the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site is distinctive at a local level, although not historically characteristic of the area. As such it is considered that the operation of the Proposed Development would not introduce any new uncharacteristic landscape elements to the study area. The road realignment works to Whitefield Lane are characteristic of the area and would therefore not introduce uncharacteristic elements.

Specific Aesthetic or Perceptual Aspects

6.6.10 Large scale infrastructure, quarrying and industry are well-established land-uses within the study area. Although relatively visible within the more remote areas of the study area, it is anticipated that the changes to the existing landform as a result of the Proposed Development will not affect the aesthetic and perceptual qualities of the local landscape.

6.6.11 During construction there would be limited changes in the aesthetic and perceptual qualities through the movement of plant within close proximity to the Site and the introduction of structures within the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site. The realignment works to Whitefield Lane would be implemented at this stage including the planting of a species rich hedgerow and tree planting. At operation, the aesthetic and perceptual qualities would be altered as a result of the changes to landform and the movement of plant on and within close proximity to the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site. At restoration there would be limited changes in the aesthetic and perceptual qualities through movement of plant, minor changes to landform and the implementation of the landscape and habitat planting scheme. At post-restoration there would be limited changes in comparison to the restoration stage as the restoration planting matures.

Assessment of Landscape Effects

6.6.12 The Proposed Development lies within agricultural land and the existing landform at Gale Common Ash Disposal Site. The majority of existing areas of trees and shrubs on the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site will be retained, specifically the mature vegetation around the boundaries of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site and within Stage I ash disposal area. Some internal areas of tree and shrub planting will be removed in relation to access roads and removal of ash. The main feature of change during the operation stage is the removal of the ash material at Stages II and III ash disposal area and Lagoons C and D.

6.6.13 The main potential for effects on landscape character relates to the intervisibility between the Proposed Development and the LCAs. Given that the Proposed Development is located within an area characterised by large scale industrial, highway and power development, it is considered that it is likely to be congruous with its context and therefore there is a low potential for the landscape character of the surrounding areas to be affected.

6.6.14 Due to the existing character of the Site it is anticipated that there is low likelihood that the effects of the Proposed Development will be sufficient to result in an inherent change to the existing landscape character at a local scale and negligible at a regional or national scale. There will be a reduction in the scale and extent of the overall elevated landform, although the key characteristics associated with the elevated landform at the Stage I ash disposal area would be retained. Overall the influence of the Proposed Development will be limited to the localised landscape around the Site.

6.6.15 The main potential for effects on landscape features relates to the removal of areas of woodland plantation, hedgerow and scrub to facilitate the operation of the Proposed Development. Approximately 4.8 hectares (ha) of broad-leaved plantation woodland and approximately 0.7 ha of broad leaved semi-natural woodland will be removed within the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site to facilitate the removal of PFA. 100 m of hedge will be removed along the eastern end of Whitefield Lane to facilitate the realignment of the road. The majority of woodland around the periphery of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site will be retained and managed to provide a screening function. This includes the two areas of ancient woodland and woodland within the area of land to the south associated with the former Wood Hall moated manor.

6.6.16 Table 6.5 provides an assessment of the sensitivity of each landscape receptor whilst Tables 6.6 to 6.8 provide an assessment of the anticipated magnitude of landscape impacts and the classification of effects on landscape receptors at operation, restoration and post-restoration stages. Due to the limited nature of activities undertaken during the construction stage no landscape receptors are assessed during this stage.

6.6.17 A full description of the criteria used to assess the above can be found in Appendix 6A (ES Volume II).

Table 6.5 – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

LANDSCAPE RECEPTOR	SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT		
	VALUE	SUSCEPTIBILITY	SENSITIVITY
North Yorkshire and York Landscape Character Assessment			
Magnesian Limestone Ridge (6) LCT	Medium	The presence of localised woodland screening and existing large scale power stations and the A1(M) corridor does offer some capacity to absorb the type of development proposed. Susceptibility to change is therefore considered to be medium.	Medium
Levels Farmland (23) LCT	Medium	As a result of the low-lying, relatively flat landscape and presence of major energy and transport infrastructure this LCT does offer some capacity to absorb the type of development proposed. Susceptibility to change is therefore considered to be medium.	Medium
River Floodplain (24) LCT	Medium	Due to the presence of large scale industrial and transport features this LCT does offer some capacity to absorb the type of development proposed. Susceptibility to change is therefore considered to be medium.	Medium
Landscape Assessment of Selby District			
River Aire Corridor	Medium	As a result of the low-lying, relatively flat landscape and presence of major energy and transport infrastructure this LCA does offer some capacity to absorb the type of development proposed. Susceptibility to change is therefore considered to be medium.	Medium
Southern Farmlands	Medium	As a result of the low-lying, relatively flat landscape and presence of the A19 corridor and the influence of major energy infrastructure this LCA does offer some capacity to absorb the type of development proposed. Susceptibility to change is therefore considered to be medium.	Medium
West Selby Ridge LCA	Medium	As a result of the low ridge landscape with parkland and the presence of Locally Important Landscape Areas this LCA offers low capacity to absorb this type of development. Susceptibility to change is therefore considered to be high.	High

LANDSCAPE RECEPTOR	SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT		
	VALUE	SUSCEPTIBILITY	SENSITIVITY
Landscape Character Assessment of Wakefield District			
Limestone Escarpment LCT	Medium	As a result of the LCT being dominated by industrial development this LCT has a high capacity to absorb the type of development proposed. Susceptibility to change is therefore considered to be low.	Low
Locally Important Landscape Areas			
Magnesian Limestone Ridge	High	As a result of the enclosed and wooded nature of the areas the receptors have some capacity to absorb the type of development proposed. Susceptibility to change is therefore considered to be medium.	High
Site Landscape			
The Site	Medium	As a result of the historic design of this landscape and screening function of this planting, susceptibility to change for the Stage I ash disposal area is considered to be medium and low for the remainder of the Site and low overall.	Low

Table 6.6 – Assessment of Landscape Effects – Operation

LANDSCAPE TYPE	SENSITIVITY OF RECEPTOR	DESCRIPTION OF IMPACT	PREDICTED MAGNITUDE OF IMPACT	CLASSIFICATION OF EFFECT
North Yorkshire and York Landscape Character Assessment				
Magnesian Limestone Ridge (6) LCT	Medium	The Proposed Development lies outside of this LCT but will introduce views of a changing landform associated with the Stage III ash disposal area and Lagoons C and D. Due to intervening vegetation and landform these operations will have limited influence on the LCT. It is considered that the Proposed Development will have limited potential to affect the landscape character, perceptive qualities including tranquillity of the LCT.	Very low	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Levels Farmland (23) LCT	Medium	The Site lies wholly within this LCT and thus has potential to have a direct impact. The Proposed Development will result in an ever changing landform within the Stage II and Stage III ash disposal areas and Lagoons C and D including excavators used in the process of the extraction of the PFA. The operational stage will also result in a number of HGV movements around and off site. Due to the presence of large scale industrial developments and road infrastructure within the LCT and neighbouring LCTs the Proposed Development will have a reduced influence on the overall LCT although, still have the potential to affect the landscape character, perceptive qualities including tranquillity of the LCT within a localised area. As a result of the introduction of increased vehicle movements and an ever changing landscape it is anticipated that there will be a slight impact on landscape character and perception compared with the future baseline scenario.	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
River Floodplain (24) LCT	Medium	The Proposed Development lies outside of this LCT but will introduce views of a changing landform associated with the Stage II ash disposal area and Lagoons C and D. Due to intervening vegetation and landform these operations will have limited influence on the LCT. It is considered that the Proposed Development will have limited potential to affect the landscape character, perceptive qualities including tranquillity of the LCT.	Very low	Negligible adverse (not significant)

Landscape Assessment of Selby District				
River Aire Corridor LCA	Medium	The Proposed Development will introduce operational activities into the southern edge of the LCA. These activities will include an ever changing landform associated with Lagoons C and D and a number of HGV movements around and off site. Due to the influence of the adjacent M62 these operations will have limited influence on the overall LCT although, still have the potential to affect the landscape character, perceptive qualities including tranquillity of the LCT within a localised area. As a result of the introduction of increased vehicle movements and an ever changing landscape it is anticipated that there will be a slight impact on landscape character and perception compared with the future baseline scenario.	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Southern Farmlands LCA	Medium	The Proposed Development will introduce operational activities into the north-eastern area of the LCA. These activities will include an ever changing landform associated with Stage II and Stage III ash disposal areas, Lagoons C and D and a number of HGV movements around and off site. Due to the large scale of the LCA the Proposed Development will have a limited influence on the overall LCT although, still have the potential to affect the landscape character, perceptive qualities including tranquillity of the LCT within a localised area. As a result of the introduction of increased vehicle movements and an ever changing landform it is anticipated that there will be a slight impact on landscape character and perception compared with the future baseline scenario.	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
West Selby Ridge LCA	Medium	The Proposed Development lies outside of this LCA but will introduce views of an ever changing landform into limited views from it. Due to the existing landscape operations within the LCA including quarrying, it is considered that the Proposed Development will have limited potential to affect the landscape character, perceptive qualities including tranquillity of the LCA.	Very low	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Landscape Character Assessment of Wakefield District				
Limestone Escarpment LCT	Low	The Proposed Development lies outside of this LCA but will introduce views of an ever changing landform into limited views from it. Due to the long distance, it is considered that the Proposed Development will have limited potential to affect the landscape character, perceptive qualities including	Very low	Negligible adverse (not significant)

		tranquillity of the LCA.		
Locally Important Landscape Areas				
Locally Important Landscape Areas – Magnesian Limestone Ridge	High	The Proposed Development lies outside of this LCA but will introduce views of an ever changing landform associated with the Stage III ash disposal area and Lagoons C and D into limited views from the eastern edge of the area. Due to distance and intervening vegetation, it is considered that the Proposed Development will have limited potential to affect the landscape character, perceptive qualities including tranquillity of the Limestone Ridge Locally Important Landscape Area.	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Site Landscape				
The Site	Low	The Gale Common Ash Disposal Site will experience a process of ever changing reduction in the landform associated with the removal of PFA as part of Stage II and III ash disposal areas and Lagoons C and D. As a result of the Proposed Development excavator and HGV movements will intensify compared to the baseline. Areas of tree and shrub planting will be removed as part of this process, although the majority of the screening vegetation around the periphery of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site would be retained. The overall impact on the Site as a result of the operational development would be a substantial change that is large, long term and irreversible.	Medium	Minor adverse (not significant)

Table 6.7 – Assessment of Landscape Effects – Restoration

LANDSCAPE TYPE	SENSITIVITY OF RECEPTOR	DESCRIPTION OF IMPACT	PREDICTED MAGNITUDE OF IMPACT	CLASSIFICATION OF EFFECT
North Yorkshire and York Landscape Character Assessment				
Magnesian Limestone Ridge (6) LCT	Medium	The Proposed Development lies outside of this LCT but will introduce views of a modified landform. Due to intervening vegetation and landform the restored Gale Common Ash Disposal Site will have limited influence on the LCT. It is considered that the Proposed Development will have limited potential to affect the landscape character, perceptive qualities including tranquillity of the LCT. The resulting magnitude of impact would be very	Very low	Negligible beneficial (not significant)

LANDSCAPE TYPE	SENSITIVITY OF RECEPTOR	DESCRIPTION OF IMPACT	PREDICTED MAGNITUDE OF IMPACT	CLASSIFICATION OF EFFECT
		low, long term and irreversible.		
Levels Farmland (23) LCT	Medium	The Site lies wholly within this LCT and thus has potential to have a direct impact. The Proposed Development will result in a modified landform that has been fully restored, although the planting will not have matured by this assessment stage to provide any discernible beneficial impacts. Excavator and HGV movements would have ceased resulting in a beneficial impact. The resulting magnitude of impact would be low, long term and irreversible.	Low	Minor beneficial (not significant)
River Floodplain (24) LCT	Medium	The Proposed Development lies outside of this LCT but will introduce views of a modified landform. Due to intervening vegetation and landform the restored Gale Common Ash Disposal Site will have limited influence on the LCT. It is considered that the Proposed Development will have limited potential to affect the landscape character, perceptive qualities including tranquillity of the LCT. The resulting magnitude of impact would be very low, long term and irreversible.	Very low	Negligible beneficial (not significant)
Landscape Assessment of Selby District				
River Aire Corridor LCA	Medium	The Proposed Development would impact the southern edge of the LCA. The Proposed Development will result in a modified landform that has been fully restored, although the planting will not have matured by this assessment stage to provide any discernible beneficial impacts. Excavator and HGV movements would have ceased resulting in a beneficial impact. The resulting magnitude of impact would be low, long term and irreversible.	Low	Minor beneficial (not significant)
Southern Farmlands LCA	Medium	The Proposed Development would impact the north-eastern area of the LCA. The Proposed Development will result in a modified landform that has been fully restored, although the planting will not have matured by this assessment stage to provide any discernible beneficial impacts. Excavator and HGV movements would have ceased resulting in a beneficial impact. The resulting magnitude of impact would be low, long term and irreversible.	Low	Minor beneficial (not significant)

LANDSCAPE TYPE	SENSITIVITY OF RECEPTOR	DESCRIPTION OF IMPACT	PREDICTED MAGNITUDE OF IMPACT	CLASSIFICATION OF EFFECT
West Selby Ridge LCA	High	The Proposed Development lies outside of this LCT but will introduce views of a modified landform. Due to intervening vegetation and landform the restored Gale Common Ash Disposal Site will have limited influence on the LCT. It is considered that the Proposed Development will have limited potential to affect the landscape character, perceptive qualities including tranquillity of the LCT. The resulting magnitude of impact would be very low, long term and irreversible.	Very low	Minor beneficial (not significant)
Landscape Character Assessment of Wakefield District				
Limestone Escarpment LCT	Low	The Proposed Development lies outside of this LCA but will introduce views of restored landform into limited views from it. Due to the long distance, it is considered that the Proposed Development will have limited potential to affect the landscape character, perceptive qualities including tranquillity of the LCA.	Very low	Negligible beneficial (not significant)
Locally Important Landscape Areas				
Locally Important Landscape Areas – Magnesian Limestone Ridge	High	The Proposed Development lies outside of this area but will introduce views of a modified, restored landform into limited views from the eastern edge of the Area. Due to distance and intervening vegetation, it is considered that the Proposed Development will have limited potential to affect the landscape character, perceptive qualities including tranquillity of the Limestone Ridge Locally Important Landscape Area. The resulting magnitude of impact would be very low, long term and irreversible.	Very low	Minor beneficial (not significant)
Site Landscape				
The Site	Low	The Gale Common Ash Disposal Site will become a fully restored site with areas of established restoration planting within the Stage II ash disposal area and the southern section of Stage III ash disposal area. The whole Gale Common Ash Disposal Site would appear green by this stage due to	Medium	Minor beneficial (not significant)

LANDSCAPE TYPE	SENSITIVITY OF RECEPTOR	DESCRIPTION OF IMPACT	PREDICTED MAGNITUDE OF IMPACT	CLASSIFICATION OF EFFECT
		establishing grass seeded areas and introduction of wetland, ponds and newly planted woodland and scrub planting. Excavator and HGV movements will have ceased by this assessment stage. The resulting magnitude of impact would be medium, long term and irreversible.		

Table 6.8 – Assessment of Landscape Effects – Post-Restoration

LANDSCAPE TYPE	SENSITIVITY OF RECEPTOR	DESCRIPTION OF IMPACT	PREDICTED MAGNITUDE OF IMPACT	CLASSIFICATION OF EFFECT
North Yorkshire and York Landscape Character Assessment				
Magnesian Limestone Ridge (6) LCT	Medium	The Proposed Development lies outside of this LCT but will introduce views of a restored landform. Due to intervening vegetation and landform the restored Gale Common Ash Disposal Site will have limited influence on the LCT. It is considered that the Proposed Development will have limited potential to affect the landscape character, perceptive qualities including tranquillity of the LCT. The resulting magnitude of impact would be very low, long term and irreversible.	Very low	Negligible beneficial (not significant)
Levels Farmland (23) LCT	Medium	The Site lies wholly within this LCT and thus has potential to have a direct impact. The Proposed Development will result in a modified landform that has been fully restored with maturation of the planting to provide softening and screening of the Site from the surrounding areas. The resulting magnitude of impact would be low, long term and irreversible.	Low	Minor beneficial (not significant)
River Floodplain (24) LCT	Medium	The Proposed Development lies outside of this LCT but will introduce views of a modified landform. Due to intervening vegetation and landform the restored Gale Common Ash Disposal Site will have limited influence on the LCT. It is considered that the Proposed Development will have limited potential to affect the landscape character, perceptive qualities including tranquillity of the LCT. The resulting magnitude of impact would be very low, long term and irreversible.	Very low	Negligible beneficial (not significant)

LANDSCAPE TYPE	SENSITIVITY OF RECEPTOR	DESCRIPTION OF IMPACT	PREDICTED MAGNITUDE OF IMPACT	CLASSIFICATION OF EFFECT
Landscape Assessment of Selby District				
River Aire Corridor LCA	Medium	The Proposed Development would impact the southern edge of the LCA. The Proposed Development will result in a modified landform that has been fully restored, with maturation of the planting to provide softening and screening of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site from the surrounding areas. The resulting magnitude of impact would be low, long term and irreversible.	Low	Minor beneficial (not significant)
Southern Farmlands LCA	Medium	The Proposed Development would impact the north-eastern area of the LCA. The Proposed Development will result in a modified landform that has been fully restored, with maturation of the planting to provide softening and screening of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site from the surrounding areas. The resulting magnitude of impact would be low, long term and irreversible.	Low	Minor beneficial (not significant)
West Selby Ridge LCA	High	The Proposed Development lies outside of this LCT but will introduce views of a modified landform. Due to intervening vegetation and landform the restored Gale Common Ash Disposal Site will have limited influence on the LCT. It is considered that the Proposed Development will have limited potential to affect the landscape character, perceptive qualities including tranquillity of the LCT. The resulting magnitude of impact would be very low, long term and irreversible.	Very low	Minor beneficial (not significant)
Landscape Character Assessment of Wakefield District				
Limestone Escarpment LCT	Low	The Proposed Development lies outside of this LCA but will introduce views of restored landform into limited views from it. Due to the long distance, it is considered that the Proposed Development will have limited potential to affect the landscape character, perceptive qualities including tranquillity of the LCA.	Very low	Negligible beneficial (not significant)

Locally Important Landscape Areas				
Locally Important Landscape Areas – Magnesian Limestone Ridge	High	The Proposed Development lies outside of this Area but will introduce views of a modified, restored landform into limited views from the eastern edge of the Area. Due to distance and intervening vegetation, it is considered that the Proposed Development will have limited potential to affect the landscape character, perceptive qualities including tranquillity of the Limestone Ridge Locally Important Landscape Area. The resulting magnitude of impact would be very low, long term and irreversible.	Very low	Negligible beneficial (not significant)
Site Landscape				
The Site	Low	The Gale Common Ash Disposal Site will become a fully restored site with areas of maturing restoration planting. The planting across the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site would provide softening and screening of the landform from the surrounding areas. The resulting magnitude of impact would be medium as a result of the beneficial impacts of the established planting, long term and irreversible.	Medium	Minor beneficial (not significant)

Visual Amenity

- 6.6.18 Potential visual effects of the Proposed Development in comparison with the future baseline visual context are considered in Table 6.9 by reference to representative viewpoints. The assessments contained within Table 6.9 should be read in conjunction with Figures 6.7 to 6.19 (ES Volume III) which illustrate the baseline situation at each viewpoint during the winter months. These viewpoints were chosen in consultation with NYCC as a range of representative views of the Proposed Development. A series of photomontages have been prepared (Figures 6.20 to 6.25 (ES Volume III) which illustrate the likely visibility of the Proposed Development at six of the assessed viewpoints. The viewpoints to be used for photomontages were chosen through professional judgement.

Table 6.9 – Assessment of Effects on Visual Amenity

VIEWPOINT 1: SELBY ROAD, WHITLEY				
Grid reference	Receptor type	Elevation (mAOD)	Approx. distance from Site (km)	Direction of view
456076, 421545	Road users, residential	15.2	1.6	West
Visual susceptibility to change (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)		Value of view (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)		Sensitivity of receptor (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)
Views form primary focus for residential receptors and road users at this location due to lack of alternative long distance views. Therefore, susceptibility is considered to be high for residents and medium for road users.		Typical view with no recognised quality containing a minimal number of detractors. Low.		Medium for residential. Low for road users.
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at operation				
Medium distance views towards the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site and the gradual reduction of landform associated with the Stage II ash disposal area. Occasional views of excavators would be available, although the majority of movements would be screened by the bunds at the edges of the working areas. Landform in the middle distance would screen views of the lower working areas. Views for the residents would generally be direct with oblique views for road users. Due to the gradual reduction in the landform that would be noticeable but would not alter the overall balance of features in comparison with the existing and future baseline, the magnitude of impact is assessed to be low. Impacts would be long term and irreversible.				
Magnitude of impact at operation				Low
Significance of effect at operation		Residential		Minor adverse (not significant)
		Road users		Negligible adverse (not significant)
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at restoration				
Medium distance views towards the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site with the whole of the landform at the Stage II ash disposal area now removed. The slope at the southern edge of the Stage I ash disposal area would be characteristic of the existing landform to the north of Stage I ash disposal area. The change in landform would be noticeable but would not alter the overall balance of features in comparison with the future baseline. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be low beneficial due to the removal of the landform. Impacts would be long term and irreversible.				
Magnitude of impact at restoration				Low
Significance of effect at restoration		Residential		Minor beneficial (not significant)
		Road users		Negligible beneficial (not significant)

VIEWPOINT 1: SELBY ROAD, WHITLEY		
Visual susceptibility to change at operation (2060 future baseline)	Value of view (2060 future baseline)	Sensitivity of receptor (2060 future baseline)
There is no change to susceptibility at this future baseline scenario. Therefore, susceptibility is considered to be high for residents and medium for road users.	Typical view with no recognised quality containing a minimal number of detractors and a reduced landform. Low	Medium for residential. Low for road users.
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at post-restoration		
The landscape mitigation planting including trees and hedges would be partially mature by year 15 post restoration and would contribute to the softening of the landform and integration into the view. At this distance the view would differ little compared to the restoration year 2045 resulting in a low beneficial magnitude of impact. Impacts would be long term and irreversible.		
Magnitude of impact at post-restoration		Low
Significance of effect at post-restoration	Residential	Minor beneficial (not significant)
	Road users	Negligible beneficial (not significant)

VIEWPOINT 2: GRAVEL HILL LANE, WHITLEY PRoW 35.73/2/1				
Grid reference	Receptor type	Elevation (mAOD)	Approx. distance from Site (km)	Direction of view
455432, 420653	PRoW users	24.6	0.9	North-west
Visual susceptibility to change (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)		Value of view (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)		Sensitivity of receptor (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)
Views form primary focus for recreational receptors at the edge of a local nature reserve. Therefore, susceptibility is considered to be high for recreational users at this location.		Locally valued view with low visitor numbers containing minimal detractors. Medium.		Medium for recreational users.
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at operation				
Medium distance views towards the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site and the gradual reduction of the landform at the Stage II ash disposal area. Occasional views of excavators would be available, although the majority of the time movements would be screened by the bunds at the edges of the working areas. Low level working areas towards the end of the operational period would be visible, although partially filtered by vegetation surrounding the edge of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site. The working face of the southern edge of the Stage I ash disposal area would be clearly visible, although gradual restoration of this face would reduce the impact on visual amenity. Due to the gradual reduction in the landform that would be readily apparent in comparison with the existing and future baseline, the magnitude of impact is assessed to be medium. Impacts would be long term and irreversible.				
Magnitude of impact at operation				Medium
Significance of effect at operation		Recreational		Moderate adverse (significant)
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at restoration				
Medium distance views towards the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site with the whole of the landform at the Stage II ash disposal area now removed. The slope at the southern edge of the Stage I ash disposal area would be softened and integrated into the landscape through ongoing restoration. The change in landform would be noticeable with the mound further from the receptor, although not altering the overall balance of features. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low adverse in comparison with the future baseline. Impacts would be long term and irreversible.				
Magnitude of impact at restoration				Very low
Significance of effect at restoration		Recreational		Negligible adverse (not significant)
Visual susceptibility to change at operation (2060 future baseline)		Value of view (2060 future baseline)		Sensitivity of receptor (2060 future baseline)
There is no change to susceptibility at this future baseline scenario. Therefore,		Locally valued view with low visitor numbers containing		Medium for recreational

VIEWPOINT 2: GRAVEL HILL LANE, WHITLEY PRoW 35.73/2/1		
susceptibility is considered to be high for recreational users at this location.	minimal detractors. Medium.	users.
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at post-restoration		
The landscape mitigation planting including trees and hedges would be partially mature by year 15 post restoration and would contribute to the softening of the landform and integration into the view. At this distance the view would provide further landscape integration in comparison with the restoration year 2045 resulting in a low beneficial magnitude of impact. Impacts would be long term and irreversible.		
Magnitude of impact at post-restoration		Low
Significance of effect at post-restoration	Recreational	Minor beneficial (not significant)

VIEWPOINT 3: FULHAM LANE, WOMERSLEY				
Grid reference	Receptor type	Elevation (mAOD)	Approx. distance from Site (km)	Direction of view
454689, 420133	PRoW and road users	21	0.9	North
Visual susceptibility to change (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)		Value of view (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)		Sensitivity of receptor (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)
Views forms secondary focus for recreational and road user receptors at this location due to alternative views to the east. Therefore, susceptibility is considered to be medium for recreational users and road users.		Typical view with no recognised quality containing a minimal number of detractors. Low.		Medium for recreational and road users.
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at operation				
Close range views towards the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site and gradual reduction of the landform associated with the Stage II ash disposal area. Excavator movements may be visible, although generally hidden behind the bunds around the working area. The working face of the southern slope of the Stage I ash disposal area would be visible during the later stages of operation, although the impacts would be minimised through ongoing restoration of this slope. Views of lower level operations would be visible, although partially screened by the vegetation around the boundary of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site. The reduction in landform, although gradual, would alter the balance of the view and be prominent in comparison with the existing and future baseline. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be medium, long term and irreversible.				
Magnitude of impact at operation				Medium
Significance of effect at operation		Recreational and road users		Moderate adverse (significant)
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at restoration				
Close proximity views towards the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site with the whole of the landform at the Stage II ash disposal area now removed. The Stage I ash disposal area would appear as a much lower landform in the view and further from the receptor. The change in landform would be readily apparent in the view in comparison with the future baseline. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be low adverse, with impacts being long term and irreversible.				
Magnitude of impact at restoration				Low
Significance of effect at restoration		Recreational and road users		Minor adverse (not significant)
Visual susceptibility to change at operation (2060 future baseline)		Value of view (2060 future baseline)		Sensitivity of receptor (2060 future baseline)
There is no change to susceptibility at this future baseline scenario. Therefore, susceptibility is considered to be		Typical view with no recognised quality containing a minimal number of detractors.		Low for recreational and road users.

VIEWPOINT 3: FULHAM LANE, WOMERSLEY		
medium for recreational users and low for road users.	Low.	
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at post-restoration		
<p>The landscape mitigation planting including trees and hedges would be partially mature by year 15 post restoration and would contribute to the softening of the Stage I ash disposal area landform and integration into the view. At this distance the view would provide further landscape integration in comparison with compared to the restoration year 2045 resulting in a low beneficial magnitude of impact. Impacts would be long term and irreversible.</p>		
Magnitude of impact at post-restoration		Low
Significance of effect at post-restoration	Recreational and road users	Minor beneficial (not significant)

VIEWPOINT 4: COW LANE, PROW 35.75/3/1				
Grid reference	Receptor type	Elevation (mAOD)	Approx. distance from Site (km)	Direction of view
453437, 419600	PRoW Users	9.5	0.4	North
Visual susceptibility to change (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)		Value of view (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)		Sensitivity of receptor (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)
Views form secondary focus for recreational receptors due to alternative views available. Therefore, susceptibility is considered to be medium for recreational users at this location.		Attractive view with no recognised quality containing a very limited number of detractors and a reduced landform. Low		Medium for recreational users.
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at operation				
Close proximity views of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site and the gradual reduction of the landform at Stage II and III ash disposal areas and Lagoons C and D. As works progress, views of lower level operations would be screened and filtered by tree planting around the edges of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site, specifically to the left of the view around Lagoons C and D. Eggborough coal-fired Power Station would become more visible within the view as operations progress. Due to the gradual reduction in landform that would be noticeable but not alter the overall balance of features in comparison with the existing and future baseline, the magnitude of impact is assessed to be low. Impacts would be long term and irreversible.				
Magnitude of impact at operation				Low
Significance of effect at operation		Recreational		Minor adverse (not significant)
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at restoration				
Close proximity views towards the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site with the whole of the landform at the Stage II and III ash disposal area and Lagoons C and D now removed. Any views of the southern slope of the Stage I ash disposal area would be greened and integrated into the landscape as a result of the ongoing restoration through the operation stage. The change in landform would be barely noticeable, in comparison with the future baseline, with a landform located much further away from the receptor. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low adverse. Impacts would be long term and irreversible.				
Magnitude of impact at restoration				Very low
Significance of effect at restoration		Recreational		Negligible adverse (not significant)
Visual susceptibility to change at operation (2060 future baseline)		Value of view (2060 future baseline)		Sensitivity of receptor (2060 future baseline)
There is no change to susceptibility at this future baseline scenario. Therefore, susceptibility is considered to be medium for recreational users at this		Typical view with no recognised quality containing a minimal number of detractors and a reduced landform. Low		Medium for recreational users.

VIEWPOINT 4: COW LANE, PROW 35.75/3/1		
location.		
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at post-restoration		
<p>The landscape mitigation planting including trees and hedges would be partially mature by year 15 post restoration and existing planting would have further matured, contributing to the softening of the Stage I ash disposal area landform and integration into the view. At this distance the view would differ little compared to the baseline resulting in a very low beneficial magnitude of impact. Impacts would be long term and irreversible.</p>		
Magnitude of impact at post-restoration		Very low
Significance of effect at post-restoration	Recreational	Negligible beneficial (not significant)

VIEWPOINT 5: NORTHFIELD LANE, WOMERSLEY				
Grid reference	Receptor type	Elevation (mAOD)	Approx. distance from Site (km)	Direction of view
452785, 419402	Residential	20.2	1	North-east
Visual susceptibility to change (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)		Value of view (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)		Sensitivity of receptor (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)
Views form secondary focus for residential receptors to the rear of their properties. Therefore, susceptibility is considered to be medium for residential users at this location.		Typical view with no recognised quality containing a minimal number of detractors. Low		Medium for residential receptors.
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at operation				
Medium distance views towards Gale Common Ash Disposal Site on the horizon. The gradual reduction of the Stage II ash disposal area would be clearly visible. As works progress, views of lower level operations would be screened and filtered by tree planting around the edges of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site. Eggborough coal-fired Power Station would become visible in the view to the right of the Stage I ash disposal area. Operations at the Stage III ash disposal area would be largely screened by mature planting along the railway line in the middle distance. Due to the gradual reduction in landform that would be noticeable but not alter the overall balance of features the magnitude of impact is assessed to be low in comparison with existing and future baseline. Impacts would be long term and irreversible.				
Magnitude of impact at operation				Low
Significance of effect at operation		Residential		Minor adverse (not significant)
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at restoration				
Medium distance views towards Gale Common Ash Disposal Site with the whole of the landform at the Stage II and III ash disposal area now removed. The reduced mass of landform noticeably has reduced within the view with views of Eggborough coal-fired Power Station now visible. Any views of the southern slope of the Stage I ash disposal area would be greened and integrated into the landscape as a result to the ongoing restoration through the operation stage. The change in landform would be noticeable, in comparison with future baseline, exposing views of Eggborough coal-fired Power Station, resulting in a very low adverse magnitude of impact that would be long term and irreversible.				
Magnitude of impact at restoration				Very low
Significance of effect at restoration		Residential		Negligible adverse (not significant)
Visual susceptibility to change at operation (2060 future baseline)		Value of view (2060 future baseline)		Sensitivity of receptor (2060 future baseline)
There is no change to susceptibility at this future baseline scenario. Therefore, susceptibility is considered to be		Typical view with no recognised quality containing a minimal number of detractors.		Medium for residential receptors.

VIEWPOINT 5: NORTHFIELD LANE, WOMERSLEY		
medium for residential users at this location.	Low	
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at post-restoration		
The landscape mitigation planting including trees and hedges would be partially mature by year 15 post restoration and existing planting would have further matured, contributing to the softening of the Stage I ash disposal area landform and integration into the view. The change in landform would be noticeable in comparison with future baseline resulting in a very low beneficial magnitude of impact. Impacts would be long term and irreversible.		
Magnitude of impact at post-restoration		Very low
Significance of effect at post-restoration	Residential	Negligible beneficial (not significant)

VIEWPOINT 6: NORTHFIELD LANE, CRIDLING STUBBS				
Grid reference	Receptor type	Elevation (mAOD)	Approx. distance from Site (km)	Direction of view
451835, 420959	Residential	26.4	0.9	East
Visual susceptibility to change (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)		Value of view (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)	Sensitivity of receptor (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)	
Views from rear of properties forms primary focus for residential receptors and road user receptors at this location due to a lack of alternative views. Therefore, susceptibility is considered to be high for residents and medium for road users.		Locally valued view on the edge of the Locally Important Landscape Area and contains minimal number of detractors. Medium.	High for residents. Medium for road users.	
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at operation				
Medium range views towards the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site and the gradual reduction of the landform associated with the Stage II ash disposal area to the right of the view. Views of the operations to the Stage III ash disposal area would be visible in front of the Stage I ash disposal area. The working face of the Stage I ash disposal area would be visible, although the impacts would be minimised through ongoing restoration of this slope. The reduction in landform would be noticeable although would not alter the balance of the overall view in comparison with existing and future baseline. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be low adverse, long term and irreversible.				
Magnitude of impact at operation				Low
Significance of effect at operation		Residential		Moderate adverse (significant)
		Road users		Minor adverse (not significant)
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at restoration				
At this stage the whole of the landform at the Stage II and Stage III ash disposal areas would be removed. Any views of the southern slope of the Stage I ash disposal area would be greened and integrated into the landscape as a result of the ongoing restoration through the operation stage. The change in landform would be noticeable in comparison with the future baseline, but would not alter the overall balance of the view. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low adverse, long term and irreversible.				
Magnitude of impact at restoration				Very low
Significance of effect at restoration		Residential		Minor adverse (not significant)
		Road users		Negligible adverse (not significant)

VIEWPOINT 6: NORTHFIELD LANE, CRIDLING STUBBS		
Visual susceptibility to change at operation (2060 future baseline)	Value of view (2060 future baseline)	Sensitivity of receptor (2060 future baseline)
There is no change to susceptibility at this future baseline scenario. Therefore, susceptibility is considered to be high for residents and medium for road users.	Locally valued view on the edge of the Locally Important Landscape Area and contains minimal number of detractors. Medium.	High for residents and medium for road users.
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at post-restoration		
The landscape mitigation planting including trees and hedges would be partially mature by year 15 post restoration and would contribute to the softening of the Stage I ash disposal area landform and integration into the view. At this distance the restoration scheme would provide further landscape integration in comparison with the restoration year 2045 resulting in a very low beneficial magnitude of impact. Impacts would be long term and irreversible.		
Magnitude of impact at post-restoration		Very low
Significance of effect at post-restoration	Residential	Minor beneficial (not significant)
	Road users	Negligible beneficial (not significant)

VIEWPOINT 7: AIRE AND CALDER TOWPATH				
Grid reference	Receptor type	Elevation (mAOD)	Approx. distance from Site (km)	Direction of view
459440, 424245	Road users and towpath users	16	0.6	South-east
Visual susceptibility to change (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)		Value of view (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)		Sensitivity of receptor (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)
Secondary view from the towpath and local roads due to direction of view. Therefore, is considered to be medium for recreational receptors and road users.		Typical view with no recognised quality containing a minimal number of detractors. Low		Medium for recreational receptors and road users.
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at operation				
Medium range views towards the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site and the gradual reduction of the landform associated with Lagoons C and D to the right of the view. The reduction in landform of Lagoons C and D would be clearly visible during the initial stages of operations, including earth moving machinery and the continual tree removal along the slope. Later stages of operations as the landform reduces in height would be partially screened by boundary vegetation. The gradual reduction in landform would be noticeable to the receptor in comparison with the existing and future baseline, although forms part of a wider view which contains continual movement in the form of traffic on the M62. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be low adverse, long term and irreversible.				
Magnitude of impact at operation				Low
Significance of effect at operation		Recreational and road users		Minor adverse (not significant)
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at restoration				
At this stage the whole of the landform at Lagoons C and D would be removed. The Lagoons C and D would appear greened for any filtered views into the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site, integrating it into the landscape upon completion of the operation stage. The change in landform would be noticeable in comparison to the future baseline, but would not alter the overall balance of the view. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low adverse, long term and beneficial.				
Magnitude of impact at restoration				Very low
Significance of effect at restoration		Recreational and road users		Negligible adverse (not significant)
Visual susceptibility to change at operation (2060 future baseline)		Value of view (2060 future baseline)		Sensitivity of receptor (2060 future baseline)
There is no change to susceptibility at this future baseline scenario. Therefore, is considered to be medium for recreational receptors and road users.		Typical view with no recognised quality containing a minimal number of detractors. Low		Medium for recreational receptors and road users.

VIEWPOINT 7: AIRE AND CALDER TOWPATH		
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at post-restoration		
<p>The landscape mitigation planting including trees and hedges would be partially mature by year 15 post restoration and would contribute to the screening of views towards the Lagoons C and D area. The increase in tree planting would result in a low beneficial magnitude of impact in comparison to future baseline, that is long term and irreversible.</p>		
Magnitude of impact at post-restoration		Low
Significance of effect at post-restoration	Recreational and road users	Negligible beneficial (not significant)

VIEWPOINT 8: BROOMHILL AVENUE, KNOTTINGLEY				
Grid reference	Receptor type	Elevation (mAOD)	Approx. distance from Site (km)	Direction of view
450834, 422952	Residential and Recreational	47.4	3.3	South-east
Visual susceptibility to change (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)		Value of view (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)		Sensitivity of receptor (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)
Views form primary focus for residential and recreational receptors. Therefore, susceptibility is considered to be high for residential users and medium for recreational receptors at this location.		Typical view with no recognised quality containing a minimal number of detractors. Low		Medium for residential and recreational receptors.
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at operation				
The reduction in landform associated with the Stage II ash disposal area, would be visible where vegetation, located in the middle ground, allows. The upper elevations of operations would be largely screened with low level operations being entirely screened by landform. The impact would be very low in comparison with the existing and future baseline, long term and irreversible.				
Magnitude of impact at operation				Very low
Significance of effect at operation		Residential and recreational		Negligible adverse (not significant)
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at restoration				
The whole of visible landform at the Stage II ash disposal area would now be removed. The change to the view would be barely noticeable in comparison with the future baseline, resulting in a very low adverse magnitude of impact that would be long term and irreversible.				
Magnitude of impact at restoration				Very low
Significance of effect at restoration		Residential and recreational		Negligible adverse (not significant)
Visual susceptibility to change at operation (2060 future baseline)		Value of view (2060 future baseline)		Sensitivity of receptor (2060 future baseline)
There is no change to susceptibility at this future baseline scenario. Therefore, susceptibility is considered to be high for residential users and medium for recreational receptors at this location.		Typical view with no recognised quality containing a minimal number of detractors. Low		Medium for residential and recreational receptors.
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at post-restoration				
The maturation of planting upon the existing visible areas of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site would be barely noticeable in comparison with the future baseline, resulting in a very low beneficial impact that would be long term and irreversible.				

VIEWPOINT 8: BROOMHILL AVENUE, KNOTTINGLEY		
Magnitude of impact at post-restoration		Very low
Significance of effect at post-restoration	Residential and recreational	Negligible beneficial (not significant)

VIEWPOINT 9: HOLLYGARTH LANE, BEAL				
Grid reference	Receptor type	Elevation (mAOD)	Approx. distance from Site (km)	Direction of view
453324, 425293	Residential	18.3	2.9	South
Visual susceptibility to change (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)		Value of view (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)		Sensitivity of receptor (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)
Views form primary focus for residential receptors. Therefore, susceptibility is considered to be high for residential users at this location.		Typical view with no recognised quality containing a minimal number of detractors. Low		Medium for residential receptors.
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at operation				
Long range views towards the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site and the gradual reduction of the landform associated with the Stage II ash disposal area to the left of the view. The upper elevations of operations would be visible with low level operations being entirely screened by landform. The impact would be very low in comparison with the existing and future baseline, long term and irreversible.				
Magnitude of impact at operation				Very low
Significance of effect at operation		Residential		Negligible adverse (not significant)
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at restoration				
The whole of the previously visible landform at the Stage II ash disposal area would now be removed. The change to the view would be barely noticeable in comparison with the future baseline, decreasing the extent at which the landform is visible across the horizon. The impact would be very low beneficial that would be long term and irreversible.				
Magnitude of impact at restoration				Very low
Significance of effect at restoration		Residential		Negligible beneficial (not significant)
Visual susceptibility to change at operation (2060 future baseline)		Value of view (2060 future baseline)		Sensitivity of receptor (2060 future baseline)
There is no change to susceptibility at this future baseline scenario. Therefore, susceptibility is considered to be high for residential users at this location.		Typical view with no recognised quality containing a minimal number of detractors. Low		Medium for residential receptors.

Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at post-restoration		
There would be no change from that assessed for year 2045.		
Magnitude of impact at post-restoration		Very low
Significance of effect at post-restoration	Residential	Negligible beneficial (not significant)

VIEWPOINT 10: KELLINGTON LANE, EGGBOROUGH				
Grid reference	Receptor type	Elevation (mAOD)	Approx. distance from Site (km)	Direction of view
455725, 423348	Residential	12.4	2	South-west
Visual susceptibility to change (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)		Value of view (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)		Sensitivity of receptor (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)
Views form secondary focus for residential receptors due to alternative available views. Therefore, susceptibility is considered to be medium for residential users at this location.		Typical view with no recognised quality containing a minimal number of detractors. Low		Medium for residential receptors.
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at operation				
Long range views towards the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site and the gradual reduction of the landform associated with the Stage II ash disposal area to the left of the view. The upper elevations of operations would be clearly visible with low level operations being partially screened by vegetation. The impact would be low adverse in comparison with existing and future baseline, long term and irreversible.				
Magnitude of impact at operation				Low
Significance of effect at operation		Residential		Minor adverse (not significant)
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at restoration				
The whole of the previously visible landform at the Stage II ash disposal area would now be removed. The change to the view would be barely noticeable in comparison with the future baseline, resulting in a very low adverse magnitude of impact that would be long term and irreversible.				
Magnitude of impact at restoration				Very low
Significance of effect at restoration		Residential		Negligible adverse (not significant)
Visual susceptibility to change at operation (2060 future baseline)		Value of view (2060 future baseline)		Sensitivity of receptor (2060 future baseline)
There is no change to susceptibility at this future baseline scenario. Therefore, susceptibility is considered to be medium for residential users at this location.		Typical view with no recognised quality containing a minimal number of detractors. Low		Medium for residential receptors.
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at post-restoration				
The maturation of planting upon the existing visible areas of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site would be barely noticeable in comparison with the future baseline, resulting in a very low beneficial impact that would be long term and irreversible.				
Magnitude of impact at post-restoration				Very low

Significance of effect at post-restoration	Residential	Negligible beneficial (not significant)
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VIEWPOINT 11: WILLOWBRIDGE ROAD, LITTLE SMEATON				
Grid reference	Receptor type	Elevation (mAOD)	Approx. distance from Site (km)	Direction of view
453101, 416628	Residential	37.4	3.5	North
Visual susceptibility to change (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)		Value of view (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)		Sensitivity of receptor (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)
Views form secondary focus for residential receptors from rear of properties. Therefore, susceptibility is considered to be medium for residential users at this location.		Typical view with no recognised quality containing a minimal number of detractors. Low		Medium for residential receptors.
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at operation				
Long range views towards the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site and the gradual reduction of the landform associated with the Stage II ash disposal area to the right of the view and Stage III to central part of the view. The upper elevations of operations would be clearly visible with low level operations being screened by landform and vegetation in comparison with the existing and future baseline. The working face of the southern edge of the Stage I ash disposal area would be clearly visible, although gradual restoration of this face would reduce the impact on visual amenity. Due to distance the impact would be very low adverse, long term and irreversible.				
Magnitude of impact at operation				Very low
Significance of effect at operation		Residential		Negligible adverse (not significant)
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at restoration				
The whole of the previously visible landform at the Stage II and III ash disposal area would now be removed. The change to the view would be barely noticeable in comparison to the future baseline, decreasing the extent at which the landform is visible across the horizon. Due to distance the impact would be very low beneficial that would be long term and irreversible.				
Magnitude of impact at restoration				Very low
Significance of effect at restoration		Residential		Negligible beneficial(not significant)
Visual susceptibility to change at operation (2060 future baseline)		Value of view (2060 future baseline)		Sensitivity of receptor (2060 future baseline)
There is no change to susceptibility at this future baseline scenario. Therefore, susceptibility is considered to be medium for residential users at this location.		Typical view with no recognised quality containing a minimal number of detractors. Low		Medium for residential receptors.
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at post-restoration				

VIEWPOINT 11: WILLOWBRIDGE ROAD, LITTLE SMEATON		
There would be not change from that assessed for year 2045.		
Magnitude of impact at post-restoration		Very low
Significance of effect at post-restoration	Residential	Negligible beneficial (not significant)

VIEWPOINT 12: WINDERMERE DRIVE, KNOTTINGLEY				
Grid reference	Receptor type	Elevation (mAOD)	Approx. distance from Site (km)	Direction of view
449446, 422558	Residential and PRow Users	14.4	2.1	South-east
Visual susceptibility to change (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)		Value of view (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)		Sensitivity of receptor (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)
Views form secondary focus for residential receptors from rear of properties and primary focus for recreational users. Therefore, susceptibility is considered to be medium for residential and recreational users at this location.		Typical view with no recognised quality containing a minimal number of detractors. Low		Medium for residential and recreational receptors.
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at operation				
Long range views towards the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site and the gradual reduction of the landform associated with the Stage II ash disposal area to the right of the view and Stage III to central part of the view. The upper elevations of operations would be clearly visible with low level operations being screened by landform and vegetation in comparison with the existing and future baseline. The working face of the southern edge of the Stage I ash disposal area would be clearly visible, although gradual restoration of this face would reduce the impact on visual amenity. Due to distance the impact would be very low adverse, long term and irreversible.				
Magnitude of impact at operation				Very low
Significance of effect at operation		Residential and recreational		Negligible adverse (not significant)
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at restoration				
The whole of the previously visible landform at the Stage II and III ash disposal area would now be removed. The change to the view would be barely noticeable, although decreasing the extent at which the landform is visible across the horizon. The impact is assessed to be very low beneficial magnitude of impact that would be long term and irreversible.				
Magnitude of impact at restoration				Very low
Significance of effect at restoration		Residential and recreational		Negligible beneficial (not significant)
Visual susceptibility to change at operation (2060 future baseline)		Value of view (2060 future baseline)		Sensitivity of receptor (2060 future baseline)
There is no change to susceptibility at this future baseline scenario. Therefore, susceptibility is considered to be medium for residential and recreational users at this location.		Typical view with no recognised quality containing a minimal number of detractors. Low		Medium for residential and recreational receptors.

VIEWPOINT 12: WINDERMERE DRIVE, KNOTTINGLEY		
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at post-restoration		
There would be no change from that assessed for year 2045		
Magnitude of impact at post-restoration		Very low
Significance of effect at post-restoration	Residential and recreational	Negligible beneficial (not significant)

VIEWPOINT 13: WHITEFIELD LANE, WHITLEY				
Grid reference	Receptor type	Elevation (mAOD)	Approx. distance from Site (km)	Direction of view
455889, 421798	Residential	12.8		South
Visual susceptibility to change (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)		Value of view (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)		Sensitivity of receptor (2019-2046 existing and future baseline)
Views form primary focus for residential receptors. Therefore, susceptibility is considered to be high for residential receptors at this location.		Typical view with no recognised quality containing a minimal number of detractors. Low		Medium for residential receptors.
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at construction				
Close proximity views of the installation of close boarded fencing and construction of the access road (including the movement of machinery) associated with the realignment of Whitefield Lane for a period of approximately six months. Lower level construction operations associated with the road would be screened behind the close boarded fencing for receptors at Whitefield Lane, but clearly visible for the two properties opposite the proposed junction. Construction works would be highly visible with no alternative view available for residents at this location. The construction operations would form a prominent feature that would be readily apparent to the receptors in comparison with the existing and future baseline. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be medium adverse, short term and irreversible.				
Magnitude of impact at construction				Medium
Significance of effect at construction		Residential		Moderate adverse (significant)
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at operation				
The increase of HGV movements as this stage of development will be the main impact for receptors at this location. The mitigation planting would be slowly maturing and reducing the impacts through filtering of views of the HGV movements for residents off Whitefield Lane. It is anticipated that the change in view during the operation period would be noticeable but wouldn't alter the overall balance of features in comparison with the future baseline. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be low adverse, long term and irreversible.				
Magnitude of impact at operation				Low
Significance of effect at operation		Residential		Minor adverse (not significant)
Size/ scale, duration and reversibility of impact at restoration				
At completion of the operation stage the road and fencing would remain in place resulting in a low adverse magnitude of impact that would be long term and irreversible.				
Magnitude of impact at restoration				Low
Significance of effect at restoration		Residential		Minor adverse (not significant)

Sequential Views

- 6.6.19 Users of the main transport routes and long distance trails will gain dynamic views towards the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site to varying degrees dependent on intervening structures, screening vegetation, elevation and direction of travel. As a result of the height of the landform within Stage II and III ash disposal areas and a lesser extent within Lagoons C and D, these receptors will gain a wide variety of views, dependant on the proximity to the Proposed Development and direction of travel.
- 6.6.20 The M62 is orientated in an east to west direction through mainly agricultural land with roadside vegetation occasionally limiting views beyond the road corridor. The value of the view is considered to be medium. Views of the Proposed Development will fall within side views from the road and susceptibility to change is considered low. Overall sensitivity to change is considered to be low. Users of the M62, travelling in both directions, will gain views of the Proposed Development where not restricted by screening vegetation.
- 6.6.21 Views in proximity to the Proposed Development would be clear, with views towards Lagoons C and D being the most noticeable, partly due to limited screening vegetation along the northern boundary of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site. Magnitude of impact is therefore predicted to be medium to low at operation and very low at restoration and post restoration assessment scenarios resulting in a minor to negligible adverse impact (not significant) at operation and a negligible adverse impact (not significant) at restoration that is long term and irreversible. As a result of the maturation of boundary vegetation the magnitude of impact would be negligible beneficial (not significant) at the post-restoration assessment stage that is long term and irreversible.
- 6.6.22 The local rail line is orientated in an east to west direction through agricultural land with some screening vegetation. The value of the view from this route is considered to be low. Views of the Proposed Development will fall within oblique views in proximity to the Site. Susceptibility is considered to be medium with overall sensitivity to change considered to be medium.
- 6.6.23 Views from the trains will be intermittent as a result of intervening vegetation and occasional structures. As a result of distance, existing detractors and the dynamic nature of views the magnitude of impact is therefore predicted to be low at all assessment scenarios resulting in a minor adverse effect (not significant) that is long term and irreversible.
- 6.6.24 The waterways within the study area are generally located within agricultural land with intervening vegetation and landform occasionally limiting views. The value of the view is considered medium. The direction of views ranges along the different waterways and susceptibility is considered to be medium. Overall sensitivity is considered to be medium. Views in proximity of the Proposed Development will be either restricted by flood embankments or partially screened by intervening vegetation along the M62 and field boundaries. Views for these receptors will be similar to that reported in the assessment for Viewpoint 7.
- 6.6.25 Magnitude of impact for views in proximity of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site is therefore predicted to be low during operation resulting in a minor adverse effect (not significant). At restoration the magnitude of impact is assessed to be very low resulting in a negligible adverse effect increasing to negligible beneficial at the post-restoration stage.
- 6.6.26 The local roads within the study area, including the A19, will gain views of the Proposed Development are located within and around the settlements including land between settlements. The value of the view is considered to range from low to medium. The direction of the view ranges and susceptibility is considered to be low to medium. Overall sensitivity is considered to be low to medium. In places views of the Proposed Development are restricted by intervening vegetation and built form. Where views are available they would be clear, varying in distance and the extent to which the gradual reduction of the landforms would be visible. During the operation stage magnitude of impact is therefore predicted to range between low and very low resulting in a minor to negligible adverse effect (not significant) that is long term and irreversible.
- 6.6.27 During restoration magnitude of impacts is predicted to reduce to very low resulting in a negligible adverse effect (not significant) that is long term and irreversible and negligible beneficial effect (not significant) at post-restoration stage.

6.7 Mitigation and Enhancement

6.7.1 Significant adverse visual effects have been assessed for the following representative viewpoints:

- Viewpoint 2 (Gravel Hill Lane, Whitley), during the operation assessment scenario;
- Viewpoint 3 (Fulham Lane, Womersley), during the operation assessment scenario;
- Viewpoint 6 (Northfield Lane, Cridling Stubbs) during the operation assessment scenario; and
- Viewpoint 13 (Whitefield Lane, Whitley) during the construction of the Whitefield Lane realignment (approximately six months duration).

6.7.2 Planting within the front gardens of the properties directly opposite the proposed realigned Whitefield Lane junction on Selby Road (A19) at Whitley will be offered to the residents to minimise the identified effects. No further mitigation measures have been identified to further reduce the identified impacts at these locations.

6.7.3 Mitigation for the loss of tree and shrub planting throughout the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site will be in the form of an Indicative Landscape and Biodiversity Restoration Strategy that would be implemented at the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site during the phased and final restoration phases of the Proposed Development, refer to Figure 6.26 (ES Volume III).

6.8 Limitations or Difficulties

6.8.1 Assessment of visual impact through the use of representative viewpoints has been restricted by the limits of public access. In particular, it has not been possible to visit the upper storeys of residential properties to accurately record the views available. In these instances, an estimation of the view has been made from visiting nearby public vantage points.

6.8.2 Views of the Proposed Development other than those assessed are acknowledged to exist. The viewpoints are not intended to provide an exhaustive or fully comprehensive catalogue of views of the Site, rather they provide a representative sample for the purpose of the landscape and visual impact assessment. The assessment has been undertaken in accordance with best practice guidance for landscape and visual impact assessment (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013).

6.9 Residual Effects and Conclusions

6.9.1 The assessment has determined that the Proposed Development is likely to result in a significant short term adverse effect on a very limited number of residential receptors along Whitefield Lane and Selby Road, Whitley (Viewpoint 13) as a result of the construction of the proposed road realignment. Impacts at this location are assessed to reduce to not significant levels during the operation, restoration and post-restoration stages. No other receptors will experience significant impacts during the construction stage of the Proposed Development due to the small scale of the proposed works and/ or location within the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site.

6.9.2 The assessment has determined that the Proposed Development is likely to result in a significant long term adverse effect on a limited number of visual amenity receptors during parts of the operation stage. Recreational receptors using PRoW 35.73/2/1 at Gravel Hill Lane, Whitley (Viewpoint 2) and recreational and road users located to the south-west of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site at Fulham Lane, Womersley (Viewpoint 3) are likely to experience moderate adverse significant effects for the duration of operations in the Stage II ash disposal area as a result of the close distance and limited intervening vegetation. Residential receptors along Northfield Lane and the north-eastern edges of Cridling Stubbs (Viewpoint 6) are likely to experience moderate adverse significant effects for the duration of operations in the Stage II and III ash disposal areas as a result of the close distance and limited intervening vegetation. The impact for all receptors would reduce to not significant levels during the restoration and post-restoration stages.

6.9.3 Mitigation measures are to be offered to residential properties in relation to Viewpoint 13. The assessed effects in relation to this viewpoint could be reduced over time if planting took place.

This assessment has assumed that the planting may not be delivered and therefore the residual effects remain as per the main assessment.

- 6.9.4 As there are no available mitigation measures that can be implemented for the viewpoints detailed above, these effects will remain.
- 6.9.5 No significant effects have been identified for the remaining representative viewpoints and no significant landscape effects have been identified.
- 6.9.6 A summary of significant landscape and visual effects is presented in Table 6.10.

Table 6.10 – Summary of Significant Effects

Development stage	Environmental effect (following development design and impact avoidance measures)	Classification of effect prior to mitigation	Mitigation/enhancement (if identified)	Classification of residual effect after mitigation	Nature of effect(s) (Lt/ Mt/ St and P/ T and D/ In)
Construction	Impact on visual amenity to residents at Viewpoint 13 (Whitefield Lane, Whitley) during construction of the Whitefield Lane realignment	Moderate adverse (significant)	None	Moderate adverse (significant)	St/T/D
Operation	Impact on visual amenity to footpath users at Viewpoint 2 (Gravel Hill Lane, Whitley) during operational activities	Moderate adverse (significant)	None	Moderate adverse (significant)	Lt/P/D
Operation	Impact on visual amenity to footpath and road users at Viewpoint 3 (Fulham Lane, Womersley) during operational activities	Moderate adverse (significant)	None	Moderate adverse (significant)	Lt/P/D
Operation	Impact on visual amenity to residents at Viewpoint 6 (Northfield Lane, Cridling Stubbs) during operational	Moderate adverse (significant)	None	Moderate adverse (significant)	Lt/P/D

Development stage	Environmental effect (following development design and impact avoidance measures)	Classification of effect prior to mitigation	Mitigation/ enhancement (if identified)	Classification of residual effect after mitigation	Nature of effect(s) (Lt/ Mt/ St and P/ T and D/ In)
	activities				

6.10 References

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