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Prepared by	Checked by	Verified by	Approved by
Ela Johnson	Sam Griffiths	Jon Rooney	Neil Titley

Prepared for:

Longfield Solar Energy Farm Ltd

Prepared by:

AECOM Limited
Midpoint, Alencon Link
Basingstoke
Hampshire RG21 7PP
United Kingdom

T: +44(0)1256 310200
aecom.com

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1. Landscape Baseline

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 The landscape baseline across the study area is summarised in **Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity** of the Environmental Statement (ES) [EN010118/APP/6.1] and includes descriptions under a series of headings, based on features and elements within the landscape. It also details the combination of elements, which make a particular contribution to distinctive character and includes a summary of published landscape character assessment work at the national, regional, country and district levels. These are used by local planning authorities as part of their planning policy evidence base and often provide specific guidance or recommendations on managing landscape change.
- 1.1.2 This Appendix to **Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity** of the ES sets out:
- a. *Relevant extracts of the published district landscape character assessments which have informed the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA).*
 - b. *Descriptions of the Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA) which have been defined via desk-based review and fieldwork, to provide an additional and more proportionate level of analysis for the assessment of the Scheme.*
- 1.1.3 This information should be read in combination with **Figure 10-4: National Landscape Character Areas** to **Figure 10-7: Local Landscape Character Area** [EN010118/APP/6.3].
- 1.1.4 Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, third edition (GLVIA3) (Ref 1) (paras 5.12-5.18) indicates that broad-scale character assessments, such as those produced at the national and regional level, can be used to set the scene and indicate the key characteristics that may be apparent in the study area. It suggests that local authority assessments provide more detail and that these can be mapped to show how the Scheme relates to them. GLVIA3 acknowledges it is likely that it will be necessary to carry out specific and more detailed surveys of the site and its immediate setting or surroundings and that it is proportionate to the assessment of the Scheme. This LVIA takes that approach, by identifying 13 LLCAs which have been defined via desk-based review and fieldwork, to provide an additional and more proportionate level of analysis for the assessment of the Scheme.
- 1.1.5 An assessment of the sensitivity of the landscape character area is provided for each of the district level character areas and LLCAs, based upon the methodology stated in **Appendix 10B: LVIA Methodology** of the ES [EN010118/APP/6.2].

1.2 Published landscape character assessments

- 1.2.1 This section summarises the relevant published landscape character assessments at the national, regional, county and district level and the associated Landscape Character Types (LCT) or Landscape Character Areas

(LCA) likely to be affected by the Scheme. In each case, only the key characteristics which are relevant to the study area or directly adjacent are included. These LCAs have been included to provide context and have been used to inform the identification of more detailed Local Landscape Character Areas described in Section 1.7.

National Character Areas

1.2.2 National Character Areas (NCA) have been defined and described by Natural England. These are broad scale and provide context to more detailed studies of local landscape character.

1.2.3 The NCA within the study area are shown on **Figure 10.4: National Landscape Character Areas [EN010118/APP/6.3]**.

National Character Area Profile 86: South Suffolk and North Essex Clayland (2014)

1.2.4 NCA 86 (Ref 2) covers all but the southernmost part of the study area.

1.2.5 The key characteristics of NCA 86 are:

- a. *“An undulating chalky boulder clay plateau is dissected by numerous river valleys, giving a topography of gentle slopes in the lower, wider valleys and steeper slopes in the narrower upper parts;*
- b. *Fragments of chalk give many of the soils a calcareous character, which also influences the character of the semi-natural vegetation cover;*
- c. *South-east-flowing streams and rivers drain the clay plateau. Watercourses wind slowly across flood plains, supporting wet, fen-type habitats; grazing marsh; and blocks of cricket-bat willows, poplars and old willow pollards. Navigation locks are present on some rivers;*
- d. *Lowland wood pasture and ancient woodlands support the dormouse and a rich diversity of flowering plants on the clay plateau. Large, often ancient hedgerows link woods and copses, forming wooded skylines;*
- e. *The agricultural landscape is predominantly arable with a wooded appearance. There is some pasture on the valley floors. Field patterns are irregular despite rationalisation, with much ancient countryside surviving. Field margins support corn bunting, cornflower and brown hare;*
- f. *Roman sites, medieval monasteries and castles and ancient woodlands contribute to a rich archaeology. Impressive churches, large barns, substantial country house estates and Second World War airfields dot the landscape, forming historical resources;*
- g. *There is a dispersed settlement pattern of scattered farmsteads, parishes and small settlements around ‘tyes’ (commons) or strip greens and isolated hamlets. The NCA features a concentration of isolated moated farmsteads and numerous well-preserved medieval towns and large villages;*
- h. *Larger 20th-century development has taken place to the south and east around Chelmsford, Ipswich and the new towns of Harlow and Stevenage;*

- i. *Traditional timber-frame, often elaborate buildings with exposed timbers, colour-washed render, pargeting and steeply pitched roofs with pegtiles or long straw thatch. Sometimes they have been refronted with Georgian red brick or Victorian cream-coloured bricks ('Suffolk whites'). Clay lump is often used in cottages and farm buildings;*
- j. *Winding, narrow and sometimes sunken lanes are bounded by deep ditches, wide verges and strong hedgerows. Transport infrastructure includes the A14, A12, M11 and Stansted Airport;*
- k. *A strong network of public rights of way provides access to the area's archetypal lowland English countryside."*

1.2.6 Statements of Environmental Opportunity (SEO) provide guidance regarding the land use, management and development of the landscape. These have been used to inform the Scheme design, including the landscape strategy and design principles. The following SEO within NCA 86 are relevant to the Scheme:

- a. *"SEO 1: Maintain and enhance the character of this gently undulating, rural landscape by maintaining agricultural productivity and encouraging sustainable land management practices that protect and enhance the landscape, geodiversity and biodiversity assets and benefit carbon storage and water quality, as well as the over-riding sense of place;*
- b. *SEO 2: Protect and enhance the area's ancient woodland cover, parkland trees, river valley plantations and ancient hedgerows, through the management of existing woods and the planting of new woods, hedgerows and hedgerow trees to benefit landscape character, habitat connectivity and a range of ecosystem services, including timber provision, the regulation of soil erosion and the strengthening of the sense of place and history; and*
- c. *SEO 3: Enhance the slow-flowing, winding rivers and their pastoral valley flood plains that provide linkages through the landscape, including redundant sand and gravel extraction sites, for their ecological, historical and recreational importance. This will support the operation of natural processes and their contribution to biodiversity, geodiversity, soil quality, water availability, regulating water flow and the character of the area."*

National Character Area Profile 111: Northern Thames Basin (2013) Ref 3

1.2.7 NCA 111 covers a small part of the southernmost extent of the study area. The key characteristics of the NCA 111 are:

- a. *"The landform is varied with a wide plateau divided by river valleys. The prominent hills and ridges of the 'Bagshot Hills' are notable to the northwest and extensive tracts of flat land are found in the south;*
- b. *Characteristic of the area is a layer of thick clay producing heavy, acidic soils, resulting in retention of considerable areas of ancient woodland;*
- c. *Areas capped by glacial sands and gravels have resulted in nutrient-poor, free-draining soils which support remnant lowland heathlands,*

- although these are now small. Areas that have alluvial deposits present are well drained and fertile;*
- d. The water bearing underlying Chalk beds are a main source of recharge for the principal London Basin Chalk aquifer;*
 - e. A diverse landscape with a series of broad valleys containing the major rivers Ver, Colne and Lea, and slightly steeper valleys of the rivers Stour, Colne and Roman. Numerous springs rise at the base of the Bagshot Beds and several reservoirs are dotted throughout the area;*
 - f. The pattern of woodlands is varied across the area and includes considerable ancient semi-natural woodland. Hertfordshire is heavily wooded in some areas as are parts of Essex, while other areas within Essex are more open in character. Significant areas of wood pasture and pollarded veteran trees are also present;*
 - g. The field pattern is very varied across the basin reflecting historical activity. Informal patterns of 18th-century or earlier enclosure reflect medieval colonisation of the heaths. Regular planned enclosures dating from the Romano-British period are a subtle but nationally important feature on the flat land to the south-east of the area. In the Essex heathlands 18th- and 19th-century enclosure of heathlands and commons followed by extensive 20th-century field enlargement is dominant;*
 - h. Mixed farming, with arable land predominating in the Hertfordshire plateaux, parts of the London Clay lowlands and Essex heathlands. Grasslands are characteristic of the river valleys throughout. Horticulture and market gardening are found on the light, sandy soils of former heaths in Essex, particularly around Colchester, along with orchards, meadow pasture and leys following numerous narrow rivers and streams;*
 - i. The diverse range of semi-natural habitats include ancient woodland, lowland heath and floodplain grazing marsh and provide important habitats for a wide range of species including great crested newt, water vole, dormouse and otter;*
 - j. Rich archaeology including sites related to Roman occupation, with the Roman capital at Colchester and City of St Albans (Verulamium) and links to London. Landscape parklands surrounding 16th- and 17th-century rural estates and country houses built for London merchants are a particular feature in Hertfordshire;*
 - k. The medieval pattern of small villages and dispersed farming settlement remains central to the character of parts of Hertfordshire and Essex. Market towns have expanded over time as have the London suburbs and commuter settlements, with the creation of new settlements such as the pioneering garden city at Welwyn and the planned town at Basildon; and*
 - l. Brick-built dwellings are characteristic from the late 17th century onwards. Prior to this dwellings and farm buildings tended to be timber built with weatherboarding, now mainly painted white but traditionally black or tarred, and whitewashed plaster walls.”*

- 1.2.8 Since the Order limits is not located in NCA 111 the SEO have not been recorded

1.3 Regional Level Published Landscape Character Assessments

East of England Landscape Framework Ref 4

- 1.3.1 The East of England Framework defines Landscape Character Types (LCT) based on landscape character assessments, historic landscape characterisation, biodiversity and rural settlement datasets and consultation. These are broad scale and provide context to more detailed studies of local landscape character. The following LCTs are within the study area.

1.3.2 Valley Settled Farmlands:

- a. *Settled, often busy landscapes which occur along the sides of the sinuous valley corridors that cut through the East Anglian clay plateau. A landscape with substantial and ancient hedges surrounding its predominantly arable fields, along with wet meadows in valley bottoms and patches of ancient woodland on upper valley slopes.*

1.3.3 Valley Meadowlands:

- a. *Flat, low lying valley floors supporting a pastoral land use, associated with notable watercourses/rivers. Generally unsettled, with occasional areas of carr woodland and gravel extraction lakes, or ancient meres. Wet meadowland, lowland fen and other associated wetland vegetation reflect the wet valley nature of this landscape*

1.3.4 Wooded Hills and Ridges:

- a. *This is a varied and textured landscape characterised by undulating hills and steep ridges, which are cloaked in woodland, with clearings of arable farmland and pasture. Survival of Ancient Woodland is relatively high, much of which is found in large blocks and protected by designated sites.*

1.3.5 Wooded Plateau Farmlands:

- a. *For the most part this is a settled, early enclosed landscape with frequent ancient woods, associated with a rolling, in places undulating glacial plateau, dissected by numerous shallow valleys. Frequent small to medium-sized ancient woods, with some notably larger woods in places, connected by a network of ancient hedgerows.*

1.4 County Level

Essex Landscape Character Assessment (2003) Ref 5

- 1.4.1 The Essex Landscape Character Assessment describes the landscape character profiles of Essex.

- 1.4.2 The study defines a series of Landscape Character Types (LCTs), defined as “*broad tracts of landscape with similar characteristics that may re-occur in different parts of the County*”. The study also defines Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) defined as “*geographical areas with a recognisable pattern of landscape characteristics, both physical and experiential that combine to create a distinct sense of place*”.

- 1.4.3 The published study includes a table evaluating the sensitivity of each of the LCAs to different types and scales of development. GLVIA3 (paras 5.41 – 5.42) notes that *“sensitivity and capacity studies... may deal with the general type of development that is proposed, in which case they may provide useful preliminary background information for the assessment. But they cannot provide a substitute for the individual assessment of the susceptibility of the receptors in relation to change arising from the specific development proposal”*. The sensitivity evaluation in the published study does not consider sensitivity to solar farms, or similar, and has therefore the tables have not been included in this baseline.

Glacial Till Plateau Landscapes (B) LCT

- 1.4.4 The Glacial Till Plateau occupies the north and west of the study area, and is part of the extensive claylands that stretch from north Essex into south Suffolk and beyond. It is dissected by the River Valley landscapes that cut into the boulder clay.

- 1.4.5 The key characteristics of this LCT can be summarised as:

- a. *“Gently undulating, glacial boulder clay (‘till’) plateau dissected by major river valleys;*
- b. *Predominantly arable, with some wooded areas and an irregular field pattern;*
- c. *Scattered farmsteads, hamlets and large villages, and relatively few towns;*
- d. *Historic buildings are frequent features in the landscape – these include timber-framed and colour-washed houses, and a rich selection of historic barns;*
- e. *Woodland blocks and hedgerows visually link together to form an often wooded skyline;*
- f. *Winding road pattern away from major routes, with verges and strong hedgerows; and*
- g. *Typical hedgerow species are Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Ash and Field Maple, with occasional Elm, Oak, Hazel, Dogwood, Elderberry.”*

- 1.4.6 The Glacial Till Plateau LCT comprises four Landscape Character Areas (LCA).

- a. *Central Essex Farmlands (B1);*
- b. *North Essex Farmlands (B2);*
- c. *Blackwater Farmlands/Stour Farmlands (B3); and*
- d. *Gosfield Wooded Farmlands (B4)*

- 1.4.7 LCA B1 extends across the central part of the study area, including the Order limits, and therefore considered below.

LCA B1: Central Essex Farmlands

- 1.4.8 Key Characteristics include:

- a. *“Irregular field pattern of mainly medium size arable fields, marked by sinuous hedgerows and ditches;*

- b. Many small woods and copses provide structure and edges in the landscape;*
- c. Scattered settlement pattern, with frequent small hamlets, typically with greens and ponds;*
- d. A concentration of isolated moated farmsteads;*
- e. Network of narrow, winding lanes; and*
- f. Mostly tranquil character away from major roads and Stansted Airport.”*

1.4.9 Overall, character is summarised as:

“an extensive area of gently undulating arable farmland bisected by the Chelmer Valley. Irregular fields are enclosed by thick but intermittent hedgerows, or just marked by grassy banks and ditches. In long views scattered small woods and copses, and hedgerow trees coalesce to sometimes create the illusion of a wooded horizon. The dispersed settlement pattern is characterised by small isolated hamlets and farmsteads, often straggling along lanes, with a few widely separated towns and larger villages. Narrow strip greens and moated farmsteads are distinctive features of the area. Away from the A120, A130, A12, M11 road corridors/Stansted Airport and its flightpaths, large parts of the area have a tranquil character, embracing tracts of fairly secluded countryside.”

1.4.10 Geology

- a. “Glacial Till (Chalky Boulder Clay).”*

1.4.11 Soils

- a. “Slowly permeable calcareous clay soils. Some deep well drained calcareous clay and fine loamy soils.”*

1.4.12 Landform

- a. “Gently undulating plateau 30-90 m in height.*
- b. Locally more rolling, where dissected by small shallow valleys of streams and brooks.*
- c. Some areas to the south almost flat, e.g., around Boreham.”*

1.4.13 Semi-natural vegetation

- a. “Ancient ash-maple woodland with hazel coppice, also oak-hornbeam woodland.*
- b. Pockets of calcareous/neutral meadows and marsh.*
- c. Alder-carr in some river/stream valleys.”*

1.4.14 Pattern of field enclosure

- a. “Irregular field pattern. Predominantly medium size fields, but small fields occur around settlements. Localised areas with large fields where hedgerows have been removed; and*
- b. Fields bounded by thick hedgerows or solely by banks and ditches.”*

1.4.15 Farming pattern

- a. “Mainly arable, small areas of pasture, associated with settlements.”*

1.4.16 Woodland/ tree cover

- a. *“Scatter of small-medium size woodlands and small copses with irregular indented outlines;*
- b. *Occasional poplar tree belts and small mixed plantations of regular shape;*
- c. *Some areas where woodland cover is sparser;*
- d. *Hatfield Forest is a large important area of ancient coppice and wood pasture with pollarded trees; and*
- e. *Intermittent hedgerow trees of oak, ash, hornbeam. Localised areas with more frequent hedgerow trees, e.g., around Terling/Fairstead, and the northern Roding villages.”*

1.4.17 Settlement pattern and built form

- a. *“Frequent hamlets (ends, greens, tyes) and farmsteads with only a few villages and towns;*
- b. *Rich historic architectural detail in market towns such as Thaxted, as well as in many of the smaller settlements;*
- c. *Typical historic vernacular of half timber, colour wash plaster, thatch and pegtile roofs, some decorative pargetting; and*
- d. *Some villages near A12 corridor have more modern suburban development.”*

1.4.18 Communications

- a. *“Many small, narrow winding lanes, sometimes taking dramatic right-angled turns. Variable width grass verges. Lanes are often sunken where valleys are crossed; and*
- b. *Major A120, A130 and M11 roads cross parts of the area.”*

1.4.19 Other landscape features

- a. *“High density of moated farmsteads;*
- b. *Spire of Thaxted church is a local landmark in the north;*
- c. *Large castle mounds at Pleshey, Gt Canfield;*
- d. *A few small historic parklands, e.g. Terling Place and New Hall Boreham;*
- e. *London Stansted Airport - extensive flat runways and large buildings;*
- f. *Various small active and disused airfields e.g. North Weald, Boreham;*
- g. *Two locally visually prominent pylon routes cross east-west in close proximity north of Thaxted, and another route runs north-south between Braintree and Chelmsford;*
- h. *Sand and gravel pits near Boreham and Chigwell St James; and*
- i. *Small irrigation reservoirs are common.”*

1.4.20 Landscape Condition

- a. *“The condition of the hedgerows and woodlands overall is moderate. In some parts many hedges have been lost, or are very fragmented. In others, such as around Terling they are well managed;*
- b. *Localised erosion of character occurs due to sand and gravel workings; and*
- c. *The condition of the small settlements overall is good. However, some farmsteads have large visually intrusive modern sheds and/or conifer planting out of character.”*

1.4.21 Past, present and future trends for change (LCA issues)

- a. *“The landscape was subject to early enclosure and then evolved gradually;*
- b. *However, significant change has occurred since the Second World War with rationalisation of field pattern and loss of hedgerows associated with agricultural intensification. This is now considered to have peaked;*
- c. *Future trends for change may include increasing urban and transportation developments especially associated with the major road corridors. This may include pressure related directly or indirectly to Stansted Airport expansion and potential growth area in RPG9; and*
- d. *The main influence on the landscape will probably continue to be agricultural. Pressures could include larger farm buildings, irrigation reservoirs, forestry and various recreational uses near urban areas. Equally changes in the agricultural subsidy regime could bring opportunities for conservation and restoration of hedgerow pattern, and improved management of woodlands.”*

Landscape Sensitivity

1.4.22 The overall condition is moderate but with some localised areas of poor condition landscape associated with areas of mineral extraction. The LCA exhibits many common features, namely agricultural fields, but is interspersed by rarer features such as ancient woodland and small parkland landscapes. The area is not covered by a landscape designation but does have recreation value associated with the Essex Way and NCA 50. The LCA's scenic quality has been eroded in some areas with the introduction of discordant features. On balance the value of the LCA is medium.

1.4.23 The LCA exhibits features such as pylons, linear infrastructure, gravel pits and largescale agricultural buildings, which reduce its susceptibility to change. The size of fields is irregular. Overall, the susceptibility to change is medium.

1.4.24 The combination of the medium value and medium susceptibility results in a medium sensitivity to the Scheme.

River Valley Landscapes (C) LCT

1.4.25 LCT C traverses the study area from east to west, following the course of the River Chelmer.

1.4.26 The overall character of the LCT is stated as:

“The River Valleys are a significant component of the county's topography, character and identity. The valleys to the north are steeper and more deeply

cut, becoming shallower as the rivers flow either south into the Thames or east into the North Sea. Only the Cam flows northwards. The Stour, Colne, Blackwater, Chelmer and their tributaries rise in the Glacial Till Plateau to the north, and flow east to form extensive estuaries at the coast. The Crouch flows east across the south of the county, and joins the Roach to form a further estuary. The Rivers Lee, Mardyke and Roding flow southwards into the River Thames estuary. The valleys contain river corridors that are frequently of landscape, nature conservation and heritage value.”

1.4.27 The key characteristics of this LCT can be summarised as:

- a. *“The river valleys dissect the boulder clay plateau. They are smaller and steeper in the upper valley reaches, revealing underlying gravel and sand deposits on the valley sides;*
- b. *Parts of the valleys are extensively modified by reservoirs, current and reclaimed gravel pits, landfill sites, artificial wetlands, river realignments and canals;*
- c. *Smaller, intimate tree-lined valleys with small rural settlements contrast with the more developed major river valley floodplains;*
- d. *Organic field shapes are common as they are defined by the valley topography;*
- e. *The high ground of the plateau allows ‘tunnelled’ views through deciduous woodland to the valley bottom;*
- f. *The river courses are often marked by their associated vegetation; and*
- g. *Settlements along the valleys reflect the historic use of them for access into the county.”*

1.4.28 Typical hedgerow species are Hawthorn, Oak, Ash, with occasional White Poplar, Crack Willow, White Willow, Alder, Oak, Field Maple, Goat Willow, Black Poplar and Elm.

1.4.29 The River Valleys LCT comprises eight LCAs, namely:

- a. *Cam Valley (C1);*
- b. *Stort Valley (C2);*
- c. *Lee Valley (C3);*
- d. *Roding Valley (C4);*
- e. *Chelmer Valley (C5);*
- f. *Blackwater & Brain Valley (C6);*
- g. *Colne Valley (C7); and*
- h. *Stour Valley (C8).*

1.4.30 LCA C6 is within the study area and is therefore considered below.

LCA C6: Blackwater/Brain & Lower Chelmer Valleys

1.4.31 LCA C6 covers the low lying River Chelmer valley in the south of the study area. Key Characteristics include:

- a. *“Shallow valleys;*

- b. *Predominantly arable farmland with well hedged medium to large fields;*
- c. *The Brain and the Upper Blackwater Valleys are narrow with undulating valley sides;*
- d. *The Lower Chelmer, and the Blackwater near Maldon, have wide flat valley floors, and gentle valley sides; and*
- e. *Extensive linear poplar and willow plantations are a distinctive feature.”*

1.4.32 Overall, character is summarised as:

“The Brain and the Upper Blackwater valleys are relatively narrow with moderate slopes. By contrast, the Lower Chelmer and the Blackwater, south of Langford, have wide floodplains with gentle valley sides and are more open in character. Medium scale, arable farmland dominates throughout their length, with a predominantly strong pattern of hedgerow boundaries with frequent hedgerow trees. Tree cover is high along the banks of the rivers with willow and poplar plantations common as well as pockets of wet alder/willow woodland. Small settlements are dispersed along valley sides or cluster around a few key bridging points. The towns of Braintree, Witham and Maldon occupy valley side locations, but along with the major roads that cross the area have a limited impact on character.”

1.4.33 Geology

- a. *“Mainly Sands and Gravels, some Alluvial Deposits, Glacial Till (Chalky Boulder Clay).”*

1.4.34 Soils

- a. *“Deep well drained fine loamy, coarse loamy and sandy soils, slowly permeable calcareous clay soils, deep stoneless alluvial soils.”*

1.4.35 Landform

- a. *“Shallow valleys;*
- b. *The upper Blackwater (also known as the River Pant above Braintree) and the Brain;*
- c. *Valleys are relatively narrow, with moderately sloped valley sides;*
- d. *The Lower Chelmer and Lower Blackwater (below Braintree) have gentle valley sides; and*
- e. *The Lower Chelmer, and the Blackwater south of Langford Bridge have wide flat valley floors/floodplains.”*

1.4.36 Semi-natural vegetation

- a. *“Some ancient mixed woodland on valley sides;*
- b. *Alder carr; and*
- c. *Unimproved grazing meadows.”*

1.4.37 Pattern of field enclosure

- a. *“Generally medium size irregular hedged fields on valley sides and valley floor; and*
- b. *Some large fields in the Lower Chelmer Valley.”*

1.4.38 Farming pattern

- a. *“Arable farmland is dominant; and*
- b. *Some pockets of pasture on the valley floor.”*

1.4.39 Woodland/tree cover

- a. *“A few widely dispersed small woods and copses on the valley sides;*
- b. *Extensive poplar/willow plantations on Blackwater valley floor from Braintree to Witham; and*
- c. *Dense riverside trees along the Brain and the middle part of the Blackwater Valley.”*

1.4.40 Settlement pattern and built form

- a. *“Sparse settlement pattern in the upper valleys above Braintree;*
- b. *Scattered farmsteads, hamlets and small villages on the valley sides;*
- c. *Medium size towns of Braintree, Witham and Maldon occupy valley side/valley floor locations; and*
- d. *Local vernacular of colour wash plaster and half timber in the north, more weatherboarding and brick in the south.”*

1.4.41 Communications

- a. *“Roads and lanes run along the top of the valleys or occasionally cross at right angles;*
- b. *Main A120 crosses the Blackwater and Brain valleys near Braintree; and*
- c. *Major A12(T) crosses the Lower Chelmer Valley near Chelmsford, and runs within the Blackwater Valley floor near Witham.”*

1.4.42 Other landscape features

- a. *“Pylon routes cross the Lower Chelmer/Blackwater Valleys;*
- b. *Braxted, Sisted Hall, Faulkbourne Hall historic parks; and*
- c. *Golf courses at Black Notly and Sisted.”*

1.4.43 Landscape Condition

- a. *“Farmland hedgerows are generally in good condition, although there are localised areas of fragmentation;*
- b. *The condition of the settlements is mixed. Some of the towns such as Braintree and Witham have intrusive industrial and housing development and some modern out of character infill tends to occur in the villages close to them; and*
- c. *Gravel workings are locally visually prominent.”*

1.4.44 Past, present and future trends for change

- a. *“Past influences on change were mainly agricultural, but the expansion of the towns of Braintree, Coggeshall, Witham and Maldon, together with the development of sand and gravel workings in the 20th Century had localised impacts; and*

- b. *There are likely to be continued urban development, and associated transportation and recreational development pressures in the A12 corridor and near Braintree.”*

Landscape Sensitivity

- 1.4.45 Overall, the LCA is in largely good condition outside of the settlements. The LCA includes distinctive features, in particular areas of ancient woodland and provides some scenic quality, although there are a number of detracting features, in particular industrial and housing development and infrastructure such as the major road network and rows of pylons. Recreational opportunities are mostly via the local footpath network. The LCA is not covered by any landscape designations but the River Chelmer is identified in the Chelmsford Green Infrastructure Strategic Plan as a green wedge/corridor, providing a green link into the city. On balance, the value of the LCA is medium.
- 1.4.46 Whilst defined by the topography, hydrology and vegetation of the Chelmer Valley, the LCA influenced by a series of settlements and linear infrastructure, indicating some opportunity for change. The susceptibility to change is medium.
- 1.4.47 The combination of the medium value and medium susceptibility results in a medium sensitivity to the Scheme.

Wooded Hill and Ridge Landscapes (D) LCT

- 1.4.48 The Wooded Hills and Ridges are a distinctive landscape type within the south and west of the study area. Their relief and strongly wooded character are a marked contrast to surrounding areas of more open arable farmland and river valleys.
- 1.4.49 The key characteristics of this LCT are:
- a. *“Woodland dominated hills and ridges on a belt of Bagshot/Claygate Beds and other sand and gravel formations, stretching through Essex from Epping Forest to Tiptree;*
 - b. *Wooded commons with ancient and secondary woodland defined by peripheral medieval wood banks;*
 - c. *A concentration of small estates/areas of historic parkland;*
 - d. *Well hedged landscape, with large areas of ancient, semi-natural woodland; and*
 - e. *Historically scattered and fairly sparse settlement pattern, overlain in parts by expanding modern suburban development of historic market towns.”*
- 1.4.50 Typical hedgerow species are Hawthorn and Oak with occasional Gorse, Holly, Blackthorn, Dog rose, Hazel, Elm, Ash, Birch, Beech, Sweet Chestnut and Elder.
- 1.4.51 The Wooded Hills and Ridges comprises four Landscape Character Areas, namely:
- a. *Epping Forest & Ridges (D1);*
 - b. *Brentwood Hills (D2);*

- c. *Danbury Hills (D3); and*
- d. *Tiptree Ridge (D4).*

1.4.52 LCA D3 occupies the southernmost part of the study area and considered below.

LCA D3: Danbury Hills

1.4.53 Key characteristics include:

- a. *“Distinctive landform of a very large gently domed hill, and a broad connecting ridge eroded into small rounded hills in the south east;*
- b. *Dense woodland on Danbury Hill, fairly open arable farmland to the east;*
- c. *Historic parklands, grassy commons, pockets of heathland and orchards diversify character; and*
- d. *Long views across the Chelmer Valley from high ground.”*

1.4.54 Overall, character is summarised as:

“The Danbury Hills are a small area of moderate to steep sided hills markedly elevated above the Chelmer/Blackwater valley to the north and the South Essex farmlands to the east. Extensive deciduous and mixed woodland clothes Danbury Hill and largely surrounds the hilltop settlements of Little Baddow and Danbury. The church spire of Danbury is a distinctive feature rising above the wooded skyline. Small fields of pasture and commons are interspersed amongst the woodland in the west, giving way to more open arable farmland in the east with a medium to large scale field pattern. The main A414, as well as the narrow lanes, follow winding routes through the area. In the east some visual interruption is caused by overhead lines.”

1.4.55 Geology

- a. *“Sands and Gravels and London Clay.”*

1.4.56 Soils

- a. *“Well drained fine loamy soils, often over gravel.”*

1.4.57 Landform

- a. *“Visually prominent dome shaped hill, elevated approximately 90 m above the Chelmer Valley. Moderate to steep western and northern hillsides;*
- b. *Broader, connected approximately east-west aligned ridge of lower elevation. Around Hazeleigh the ridge has been eroded into some distinctive rounded small hills;*
- c. *Small narrow, steep sided valleys are a feature around Danbury and Little Baddow;*
- d. *Semi-natural vegetation;*
- e. *Ancient sessile oak-hornbeam woodland; and*
- f. *Heathland, valley bogs and unimproved meadows.”*

1.4.58 Pattern of field enclosure

- a. *“Small-medium scale irregular hedged field pattern in the west and south east of the area. Medium to large scale field pattern in the north east.”*

1.4.59 Farming pattern

- a. *“Pasture interspersed between the woodland in the west and south east of the area. Arable farmland in the north east; and*
- b. *Strong concentration of orchards in the area.”*

1.4.60 Woodland/tree cover

- a. *“Large complex of deciduous and mixed woodland around Danbury and Little Baddow with indented boundaries to surrounding farmland;*
- b. *Isolated woodland blocks, small copses and some tree belts in the east of the area; and*
- c. *Many hedgerow oak trees.”*

1.4.61 Settlement pattern and built form

- a. *“Historically linear villages of Danbury and Little Baddow, much expanded by modern housing development, but surrounded by woodland; and*
- b. *Small hamlets and individual farmsteads along lanes.”*

1.4.62 Communications

- a. *“The main A414 follows a sinuous route over Danbury Hill and across the farmland in the east to Maldon; and*
- b. *Small winding lanes.”*

1.4.63 Other landscape features

- a. *“Historic parklands of Danbury Park and Riffhams;*
- b. *A number of small disused and active sand and gravel pits, enclosed by woodland; and*
- c. *Scattered small reservoirs.”*

1.4.64 Landscape Condition

- a. *“The condition of the woodlands is good with many actively managed;*
- b. *Some hedgerows are broken within the arable farmland; and*
- c. *Danbury and Little Baddow retain strong historic cores, but extensive modern development is out of keeping with their character.”*

1.4.65 Past, present and future trends for change

- a. *“A strongly wooded character remains in the west of the area, but there has been loss of woodland, erosion of hedgerows associated with intensive arable farmland in the east. This trend may have reached its peak and there may be opportunities for restoration of woodlands, hedgerows and grasslands in the future;*
- b. *Small sand and gravel pits in the area have so far had only very localised impacts and not significantly eroded character; and*

- c. *Pressure for additional small scale housing development around Danbury and Little Baddow is possible.*"

Landscape Sensitivity

- 1.4.66 The condition of the LCA is typically good but with some degraded areas resulting from incongruous development or poor maintenance. The LCA is not covered by a landscape designation but does include some important landscape elements such as areas of ancient woodland and historic parklands. On balance, the value is medium.
- 1.4.67 The pattern of the LCA is largely intact, comprising woodlands, commons and medium scale fields. The wooded character and steep sided hills on the edge of the LCA increase its susceptibility to change. Susceptibility to change is high.
- 1.4.68 Overall, considering that the LCA comprises mostly common elements and is not designated sensitivity is medium.

Urban Landscape (G) LCT

- 1.4.69 Key characteristics include:
- "Very large areas of 20th century residential and commercial developments, usually surrounding a historic core, and/or enveloping former villages.*
 - Visual dominance of an urban skyline.*
 - Integral open spaces important for informal/formal recreation and/or wildlife, and which act as green lungs.*
 - Influence of water, with river valley or large coastal estuary locations, often with an associated gently undulating landform".*
- 1.4.70 Overall, character is summarised as:
- "These are extensive areas that are dominated by urban land uses so that they can be recognised as a distinct landscape division. They are not completely built-up, and include distinctive, but fragmented, areas of open space that help break up and give character and structure to the surrounding built form, such as formal parks and gardens, allotments, playing fields and, areas of 'encapsulated countryside'. Urban fringe countryside of mixed land use around the settlements is also included."*
- 1.4.71 The Urban Landscapes LCT comprises four LCAs:
- Harlow & Environs (G1)*
 - Chelmsford & Environs (G2)*
 - South Essex Coastal Towns (G3)*
 - Colchester & Environs (G4)*
- 1.4.72 LCA G2 occupies a small part of the western part of the study area and considered below.

LCA G2 Chelmsford and Environs

- 1.4.73 Key characteristics include:

- a. *“Historic town with extensive residential estate development spreading over a gently sloping valleyside landform.*
- b. *Wide riverside corridors of green space except in the town centre.*
- c. *Fringe of mixed farmland with variable size hedgerowed fields, with few woods or copses.*
- d. *Large villages of Writtle and Galleywood physically separated from the town, but with much development of an urban character.”*

1.4.74 Overall, character is summarised as:

“Chelmsford lies at the confluence of the Chelmer and Can Rivers with the River Wid on its western boundary. In the town centre dense urban development directly adjoins the rivers, but to the north, west and east, there are wide riverside corridors of green space comprised of a patchwork of small to medium size damp meadows, and land in a variety of other recreational uses. Their character varies from very open to fairly enclosed with dense riverside trees. Between the rivers large areas of 20th century residential development on gentle slopes extend to a narrow farmland fringe. The farmland has a varied character with both large arable fields with few hedgerows, and contrasting areas with a smaller scale pattern of pasture and arable fields. The character area is crossed by many major roads with the A12 visually prominent on embankment to the north east. Overhead lines and a tall mast also visually interrupt the landscape in the south.”

1.4.75 Geology

- a. *“London Clay, Glacial Till, Sand and Gravels, Alluvium.”*

1.4.76 Soils

- a. *“Wide range of soil types. Deep well drained and slowly permeable calcareous clay soils, well drained fine, coarse loamy and sandy soils and deep stoneless alluvial soils.”*

1.4.77 Landform

- a. *“Mostly gently undulating.*
- b. *Gentle shallow valleys of the Rivers Chelmer, Can and Wid cut through/bound the area.*
- c. *Chelmer and the Can, have narrow flat valley floors to the north and west, widening out to the east.*
- d. *Relatively higher ground around Galleywood up to 70 m elevation.”*

1.4.78 Semi-natural vegetation

- a. *“Irregular field pattern of small, medium and large hedged fields, some on the valley floor bounded by ditches.*

1.4.79 Farming pattern

- a. *“Both arable and pasture farmland.*
- b. *Valley floors have extensive horse grazing.*
- c. *Orchards around Galleywood.”*

1.4.80 Woodland/tree cover

- a. *“A few scattered copses/tree belts/plantations within the urban area, in the valleys or at the edges of the area.*
- b. *Variable ornamental tree cover. Some of the main approaches to the town/associated older residential neighbourhoods have a higher tree cover compared with more recent development.”*

1.4.81 Settlement pattern and built form

- a. *“Dense historic town centre of Chelmsford occupies a slightly elevated position above the Can and Chelmer. Mixed skyline including some larger tower blocks.*
- b. *Variable width of undeveloped open spaces and fields adjacent to the rivers create green corridors dividing and softening the urban form. Only within the town core are the valley floors fully developed.*
- c. *Modern residential development has spread absorbing some former villages.*
- d. *The large villages of Galleywood and Writtle retain strong historic cores but have much modern development.”*

1.4.82 Communications

- a. *“The main A12(T) forms part of the eastern boundary to the area.*
- b. *Major ring road around the town centre.*
- c. *Railway principally on embankment acts through the area southwest-northeast.”*

1.4.83 Other landscape features

- a. *“Pylon routes in the north east and south of the area.*
- b. *High mast at Great Baddow.*
- c. *Golf courses near Widford and the Can Valley.*
- d. *Partly canalised course of the River Chelmer with locks.”*

1.4.84 Landscape Condition

- a. *“Hedgerows in the farmland are in mixed condition, some fragmented.*
- b. *The public open spaces within the valleys are in good condition. However, the condition of the meadows/pasture is very mixed. Along the Chelmer Valley some are overgrazed by horses.”*

1.4.85 Past, Present and Future Trends for Change

- a. *“The town of Chelmsford has grown very significantly in the 20th Century.*
- b. *Riverside open spaces have been retained but are under pressure from a variety of urban fringe activities including the expansion of horse grazing.*
- c. *Additional urban development on the urban fringe is likely to be an ongoing trend, as well as transportation improvements.”*

Landscape Sensitivity

- 1.4.86 The condition of the LCA is mixed with some degraded areas resulting from incongruous development or poor maintenance. The LCA is not covered by any landscape designations but does include limited important landscape elements such as areas of ancient woodland and small proportion of historic parkland. On balance, the value is medium.
- 1.4.87 The pattern of the LCA is dominated by historic and more recent urban development with the addition of medium to large scale fields, green spaces and meadows within the river corridors. The presence of riverside open spaces increases its susceptibility to change. Susceptibility to change is medium.
- 1.4.88 Overall, considering that the LCA comprises mostly common elements and is not designated sensitivity is medium.

1.5 District Level

Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon And Uttlesford Landscape Character Assessment (2006) Ref 6

- 1.5.1 The character assessment identifies LCAs at the district level. The geographic extent of the LCAs is shown on **Figure 10-6: District Landscape Character Areas**. The assessment covers the whole study area. Information regarding the LCAs within the study area is detailed below.

LCAA7: Lower Chelmer River Valley

- 1.5.2 LCAA7 covers the Lower Chelmer Valley in the southern part of the study area. Key Characteristics include:
- “Shallow valley;*
 - Predominantly arable farmland on the valley slopes;*
 - The Lower Chelmer where it meets the River Blackwater has gentle valley sides;*
 - Overall, strong sense of place and tranquillity away from Maldon and the A12 and the railway line (Sub-Unit A7a);*
 - Mixture of arable and pastoral fields on the valley floor;*
 - The Lower Chelmer where it meets the River Blackwater has a wide flat valley floor; and*
 - Extensive linear poplar and willow plantations are a distinctive feature in close proximity to the river.”*

- 1.5.3 Overall, character is summarised as:

“The lower reaches of the River Chelmer between Chelmsford and Maldon are open in character, with a wide floodplain and gently sloping valley sides. South of Langford the narrower meandering River Blackwater joins the wider more mature River Chelmer to flow towards Maldon. Medium to large scale arable and pastoral fields with a regular pattern dominate its length. Hedgerows with frequent hedgerow trees delineate their boundaries. In places the hedgerows are thick but fragmented. Where roads cross the river valley ditches with banks that are often vegetated with hedgerows bound them. Tree cover is high along the banks of the river with willow and poplar plantations common as well as

pockets of wet alder/willow woodland. The majority of the river valley floor is sparsely populated adding to its open character. Small settlements are dispersed along valley sides or clustered around the few bridging points. Maldon occupies a valley-side location at the mouth of the river, but along with major roads that cross the area there is a limited impact on character. Within the valley floor are a series of reservoirs in proximity to the river. There is an overall sense of tranquillity throughout the character area, with several quiet rural lanes winding through the landscape.”

1.5.4 Visual Characteristics

- a. *“The views are open and occasionally panoramic in the lower reaches of the river valley where they are unconstrained by hedgerow trees; and*
- b. *Views along the valley corridor are framed.”*

1.5.5 Historic Land Use

- a. *“Evidence of historic land use within the Character Area is dominated by a predominance of medium to large pre-18th century fields with straight boundaries, including 18th to 19th-century enclosure in the south of the area, and with a pocket of small irregular fields to the northeast. On a micro-scale there is a considerable degree of co-axiality in their layout, usually relating directly to the immediate topography. The river valleys are marked by enclosed water meadows. Historic dispersed settlement pattern of scattered farmsteads, isolated manors with some nucleated hamlets.”*

1.5.6 This LCA is dominated by intensive and widespread arable agriculture. The area contains numerous sites of nature conservation value, including:

- a. *“Ten CWS along and including the River Chelmer of running water, wetland, grassland and seminatural woodland habitats; and*
- b. *Four areas of ancient woodland.”*

1.5.7 Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- a. *“Potential for pollution of the ditches and the River Chelmer from fertiliser and pesticide run-off from the surrounding agricultural fields;*
- b. *Potential for erection of new farm buildings and houses within the open landscape, which would be conspicuous on the skyline;*
- c. *Increasing traffic on minor roads including large lorries and HGVs; and*
- d. *Potential further decline in condition of field boundaries through further agricultural intensification.”*

1.5.8 Sensitivities to Change

“Sensitive key characteristics and landscape elements within this character area include linear poplar and willow plantations and pockets of wet alder/willow woodland, which are sensitive to changes in land management. The overall sense of tranquillity throughout the character area would potentially be affected by new development. The skyline of the slopes of the lower valley are moderately visually sensitive, with open (and occasionally panoramic views) gained to and from the river corridor, which could be affected by new development. There is a sense of historic continuity resulting from water

meadows along the river valley and a historic dispersed settlement pattern of scattered farmsteads and isolated manors with some isolated hamlets. Wildlife habitats are scattered throughout the area (including 10 sites of importance for nature conservation, comprising ancient woodland, running water, wetland and grassland). Overall, this area has relatively high sensitivity to change.”

1.5.9 Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

- a. *“Conserve - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures; and*
- b. *Enhance - seek to improve the integrity of the landscape, and reinforce its character, by introducing new and/or enhanced elements where distinctive features or characteristics are absent.”*

1.5.10 Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

- a. *“Manage the traffic flows along the minor roads especially those not suitable for HGVs and lorries;*
- b. *due to narrow bridges;*
- c. *Ensure that new built development is in keeping landscape character;*
- d. *Conserve and enhance the landscape setting of settlements; and*
- e. *Enhance the screening of the A12 and the railway line.”*

1.5.11 Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- a. *“Conserve and enhance the existing hedgerow pattern, and strengthen through planting where appropriate to local landscape character;*
- b. *Conserve and manage the ecological structure of hedges and ditches within the character area; and*
- c. *Conserve and promote the use of building materials, which area in keeping with local vernacular/landscape character.”*

Landscape Sensitivity

1.5.12 Overall, condition is good and the LCA includes some important landscape features, such as wetlands and ancient woodland. The LCA largely has a scenic and tranquil quality with few degrading features. The LCA is not covered by a landscape designation but the River Chelmer is identified in the Chelmsford Green Infrastructure Strategic Plan as a green wedge/corridor, providing a green link into the city. The value of the LCA is high.

1.5.13 The pattern of the LCA is largely intact, comprising woodlands, commons and small scale fields in the floodplain of the River Chelmer. There is limited opportunity for change. The susceptibility to change is high.

1.5.14 Overall, the combination of the high value and high susceptibility results in a high sensitivity to the Scheme

LCA B17: Terling Farmland Plateau

1.5.15 LCA B17 covers the northern and central part of the study area, including the majority of the Order limits. Key characteristics include:

- a. *“Rolling arable farmland;*
- b. *Irregular pattern of medium to large scale fields;*
- c. *Scattered settlement pattern, with frequent small hamlets, typically with greens and ponds;*
- d. *Network of narrow winding lanes; and*
- e. *Mostly tranquil away from the A12 and A131.”*

1.5.16 Overall, character is summarised as:

“The farmland plateau surrounding Terling between the A12 and A131 is on rolling hills and valleys especially in the west. North east of Terling the farmland becomes flat and very open overlying deep well drained fine loams. The land is mainly arable with an irregular pattern of medium to large scale fields. Thick but intermittent hedgerows with frequent hedgerow trees often delineate the field boundaries. In the north east of the area the grassy banks and ditches often mark field boundaries. There are many pockets of predominantly deciduous woodland with occasional mixed woodland. Some of these pockets form the remnants of ancient woodland. In addition there are several ponds or depressions in the middle of the larger fields that tend to be surrounded in trees. In long views these scattered small woods and copses, and hedgerow trees coalesce to create the illusion of a wooded horizon. The farmland is crossed by a comprehensive network of winding narrow lanes that are often bound by tall hedgerows and trees or where they are sunk below the surrounding fields by ditches and banks. In addition the Essex Way and the East Anglian Farm Rides Horse Riding Trail along with a network of footpaths cross the fields. Pylons cross the farmland creating a strong linear feature on the skyline. The dispersed settlement pattern is characterised by small isolated hamlets and farmsteads that are occasionally moated, often dispersed along lanes, with the larger village of Terling in the centre of the area. Away from the A12 and A131 there are areas with a tranquil character.”

1.5.17 Visual Characteristics

- a. *“Key Focal features are the Terling Church Spire which towers over the surrounding countryside and Terling Place; and*
- b. *Views in the area vary between open and panoramic depending on the locality and density of trees within the view.”*

1.5.18 Historic Land Use

“Evidence of historic land use within the Character Area is dominated by a historic pattern of irregular fields of various sizes. The historic pattern of dispersed settlements and scattered farmsteads survive. Some settlements would have been focused on greens. The main historic landscape features include:

- a. *Despite moderate to significant boundary loss, the field boundary pattern survives;*
- b. *Several areas of ancient woodland; and*
- c. *The line of the Roman road from Chelmsford to Braintree, which bisects the Character Area.”*

1.5.19 This LCA is dominated by intensive and widespread arable agriculture. The area contains 35 sites of nature conservation value:

- a. *“The River Ter SSSI and associated wetland habitats.*
- b. *34 CWSs, including 25 with ancient and semi-natural woodland habitat.”*

1.5.20 Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- a. *“Potential for pollution of the streams and ditches from fertiliser and pesticide run-off from agricultural fields;*
- b. *Potential for erection of new farm buildings and residential dwellings on the edge of the settlements, which would be conspicuous on the skyline; and*
- c. *Potential further decline in condition of field boundaries through further agricultural intensification.”*

1.5.21 Sensitivities to Change

“Sensitive key characteristics and landscape elements within this character area include thick (intermittent) hedgerows, frequent hedgerow trees, grassy banks and ditches and many pockets of predominantly deciduous woodland, (which are sensitive to changes in land management). The comprehensive network of quiet rural lanes and byways, which cross the landscape are sensitive to potential increased traffic flow, associated with new development. In association with this, the overall sense of tranquillity within the area is sensitive to change. The open skyline of higher areas of the farmland plateau is visually sensitive to new development that may be visible within views across, to and from the area. There is a sense of historic integrity, resulting from a dispersed historic settlement (comprising dispersed settlements and scattered farmsteads). Several areas of ancient woodland within the character area are also sensitive to changes in land management. Overall, this character area has moderate sensitivity to change”

1.5.22 Landscape Strategy Option

- a. *“Conserve - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures; and*
- b. *Enhance - seek to improve the integrity of the landscape, and reinforce its character, by introducing new and/or enhanced elements where distinctive features or characteristics are absent.”*

1.5.23 Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

- a. *“Ensure that new build is in keeping with landscape character;*
- b. *Conserve and enhance the landscape setting of settlements; and*
- c. *Ensure any new development within the farmland is small-scale, responding to historic settlement pattern, landscape setting and locally distinctive building styles.”*

1.5.24 Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- a. *“Conserve and enhance the existing hedgerow pattern, and strengthen through planting where appropriate to local landscape character;*
- b. *Conserve and manage areas of semi-natural woodland as important historical, landscape and nature conservation features;*
- c. *Conserve and manage the ecological structure of woodland, copses and hedges within the character area; and*
- d. *Conserve and promote the use of building materials, which are in keeping with local vernacular/landscape character.”*

Landscape Sensitivity

- 1.5.25 Overall, the LCA is in good condition. The majority of the LCA is occupied by common agricultural fields, but interspersed by rarer features including a high proportion of ancient woodland. A row of pylons spanning the LCA from north to south are a prominent detracting feature, but there are areas of settled and tranquil character. There is good recreational provision via the public right of way network, including the Essex Way, the East Anglian Farm Rides Horse Riding Trail and NCR 50. The LCA is not covered by any landscape designations but overall, the value of the LCA is high.
- 1.5.26 The LCA is mostly flat and comprises medium to large scale fields such that there is some opportunity for change. Susceptibility to change is medium.
- 1.5.27 On balance, considering the high value and medium susceptibility, and considering that the landscape is not designated and does have capacity to accommodate some change the overall sensitivity is medium.

LCA B21: Boreham Farmland Plateau

- 1.5.28 LCA 21 covers a swathe of land across the centre of the study area, including the proposed cable route and extension to Bulls Lodge Substation. Key Characteristics include:
- a. *“Irregular field pattern of mainly medium size arable and pastoral fields, marked by hedgerows, banks and ditches;*
 - b. *Small woods and copses provide structure and edges in the landscape;*
 - c. *Scattered settlement pattern, with frequent small hamlets; and*
 - d. *A concentration of isolated farmsteads.”*
- 1.5.29 Overall, character is summarised as:

“Boreham Farmland Plateau is centred on Boreham and the A12 dual carriageway. The gently undulating landscape is fairly densely populated with the large settlements of Hatfield Peveral and Boreham and the scattered smaller villages and hamlets such as Nounsley. Farmsteads line the roads outside of the main settlements. To the east and north of Boreham there are several disused sand and gravel pits. The pits have predominantly been filled in with water, the surrounding areas landscaped and trees have been planted. Some of these new lakes are used as fisheries and are surrounded by rough grassland and wire fences. Surrounding the settlements pastoral fields tend to be small to medium with their boundaries delineated by gappy and fragmented hedgerows with hedgerow trees. In the south west of the area are large open arable fields separated by banks and ditches providing extensive long distance views across the River Chelmer Valley. In these areas there are a few isolated

dwelling and farmsteads and trees scattered across the landscape. Throughout the area outside the built up areas the roads tend to be sunk below the surrounding fields and lined with banks topped with tall hedges and hedgerow trees. The A12 dual carriageway splits the area visually into two with only a few crossing points to join the areas. The road is a very dominant feature as the traffic noise carries across large swathes of the area reducing the sense of tranquility.”

1.5.30 Visual Characteristics

- a. *“The A12 forms the key landmark in the area as it is raised above the surrounding landscape and is visible over a long distance; and*
- b. *The views in the area are generally short distance and constrained by the tall hedges and small woodlands, however in the south and west of the area, the large arable fields provide very open panoramic views.”*

1.5.31 Historic Land Use

“Evidence of historic land use within the Character Area is dominated by a predominance of medium to large fields with straight boundaries, including 18th to 19th-century enclosure, with a pocket of small irregular fields to the northeast. Historically there is a dispersed settlement pattern of scattered farmsteads, with nucleated settlement at Boreham. The main historic landscape features include:

- a. *The Roman roads of Stane Street and the former A12 which have left their imprint on the modern landscape, influencing field alignment and settlement distribution.*
- b. *Modern development that is focussed around Boreham, but also within the Character Area there is also an airfield, the modern arterial route of the A12, and areas of gravel extraction.*
- c. *Water meadows along the river valleys; and*
- d. *Historic park and gardens surrounding Boreham House.”*

1.5.32 Ecological Feature

- a. *“This LCA is dominated by intensive and widespread arable agriculture with small pockets of woodland and narrow lanes. The area contains 9 sites of nature conservation value including two with ancient and semi-natural woodland habitat. Ecological features also include ditches, reservoirs, streams and rivers and gravel and sand Pits.”*

1.5.33 Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- a. *“Potential for pollution of the streams, rivers and ditches from fertiliser and pesticide run-off from agricultural fields;*
- b. *Potential for erection of new farm buildings in the open agricultural land, which would be conspicuous on the sky line;*
- c. *Potential residential expansion of villages and towns, which would be conspicuous on the surrounding rural landscape;*
- d. *Increasing traffic on minor roads, especially during rush hour; and*
- e. *Potential further decline in condition of field boundaries through further agricultural intensification.”*

1.5.34 Sensitivities to Change

- a. *“Sensitive key characteristics and landscape elements within this character area include hedgerows, banks and ditches at field boundaries (which are sensitive to changes in land management). There is a sense of historic integrity, with a dispersed historic settlement pattern visible in places and occasional historic features such as New Hall and/or Boreham House and historic park/gardens visible within the landscape. Overall, this character area has low to- moderate sensitivity to change.”*

1.5.35 Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

- a. *“Conserve - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures; and*
- b. *Enhance - seek to improve the integrity of the landscape, and reinforce its character, by introducing new and/or enhanced elements where distinctive features or characteristics are absent.”*

1.5.36 Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

- a. *“Consider the visual impact of new residential development and farm buildings in the surrounding agricultural fields; and*
- b. *Ensure any new development is small-scale, responding to historic settlement pattern, landscape setting and locally distinctive building styles.”*

1.5.37 Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- a. *“Conserve and enhance the existing hedgerow pattern, and strengthen through planting where appropriate to local landscape character;*
- b. *Conserve and manage areas of ancient and semi-natural woodland as important historical, landscape and nature conservation features;*
- c. *Conserve and manage the ecological structure of woodland, copses and hedges within the character area;*
- d. *Strengthen the recreational role of the water filled sand and gravel pits; and*
- e. *Conserve and promote the use of building materials, which are in keeping with local vernacular/landscape character.”*

Landscape Sensitivity

1.5.38 Overall, the LCA includes few important features and several discordant, low quality features and a number of features associated with mineral extraction that detract from the quality of the area. The A12 divides the LCA from east to west. The value of the LCA is very low.

1.5.39 The LCA existing infrastructure and mixed land use indicate opportunity for change. The susceptibility to change is low.

1.5.40 Considering the very low value and the low susceptibility, the sensitivity of the LCA is low.

LCA F5: Little Baddow and Danbury Wooded Farmland

1.5.41 LCA F5 covers the southernmost extent of the study area. Key characteristics include:

- a. *“Wooded hill and ridge housing the linear settlements of Little Baddow and Danbury;*
- b. *Sense of enclosure provided by large areas of dense deciduous and mixed woodland;*
- c. *Intricate landscape pattern consisting of commons, pasture, heathland and woodland habitats;*
- d. *Arable farmland fringing the outer edges of patches of woodland;*
- e. *Series of narrow lanes winding down the hillsides and facilitation views into and across the Chelmer/Blackwater valley to the north and east;*
- f. *Views to wooded horizons within adjacent wooded farmland to the south; and*
- g. *Predominantly linear settlement pattern.”*

1.5.42 Overall, character is summarised as:

“This character area encompasses a distinctive area of wooded hills to the east of Chelmsford. The relatively large linear villages of Little Baddow form a crossroads upon a very large, gently domed hill and connecting ridge. Within the settlements, a strong sense of enclosure is provided by extensive dense patches of deciduous and mixed woodland (e.g. Birch Wood, Pheasanthouse Wood, Spring Wood, Blake’s Wood, Belhill Wood) within the surrounding landscape setting. These woodland patches are interspersed with an intricate, diverse and interesting mosaic of commons (e.g. Danbury, Woodham Walter and Lingwood) heathland (Little Baddow – containing several mature oak pollards) and pasture. Relatively open arable farmland, which is punctuated by single mature deciduous trees and has mature field boundaries, provides the setting for this patchwork of habitats. Narrow lanes (several of which are tree-lined) wind down the hillsides, facilitating panoramic views across and into the Chelmer/Blackwater valley to the north and east. Character is also influenced by views to wooded horizons within adjacent wooded farmland Landscape Character Areas to the south. There is a sense of enclosure and tranquillity and an intimate character within pockets of the area (away from the main A414 corridor). The area also has a strong sense of place and historic continuity. Settlement pattern is predominantly linear, with a cluster of attractive vernacular buildings at Horne Row and housing arranged around a triangular village green within Danbury.”

1.5.43 Visual Characteristics

- a. *“Open and framed panoramic views into and across the Chelmer/Blackwater valley and floodplain to the north and east;*
- b. *Framed views to adjacent arable farmland;*
- c. *Open and framed views to wooded horizons of adjacent wooded farmland to the south; and*
- d. *Patches of woodland create a sense of enclosure and restrict views out from Little Baddow and Danbury.”*

1.5.44 Historic Land Use

“Evidence of historic land use within the Character Area is dominated by small and irregular fields of ancient origin. Historically settlement was dispersed around several commons and greens, with a small nucleation around the church in Danbury. This original settlement pattern has been extended, mostly along the roads, with the commons preserved as nature reserves. The main historic landscape features include:

- a. The prominent Iron Age hill fort, covering an area of 25 hectares; and*
- b. Areas of ancient woodland, surrounding Danbury.”*

1.5.45 Ecological Features

- a. “This LCA is dominated by widespread arable agriculture with woodland areas surrounding the urban area of Danbury. The area contains 23 sites of nature conservation value. These include:*
- b. Blake's Wood & Lingwood Common SSSI (90 hectares) comprising woodland and grassland habitats;*
- c. Danbury Common SSSI (70- hectares) of woodland and grassland habitats;*
- d. Woodham Walter Common SSSI (80 hectares) comprising woodland and grassland habitats; and*
- e. Twenty CWS sites comprising ancient and semi-natural woodland, wetland and grassland habitats.”*

1.5.46 Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- a. “Pressure of increasing traffic on minor rural roads;*
- b. Management of common land and heathland for nature conservation and recreational purposes;*
- c. Noise and visual intrusion associated with the A414 road corridor;*
- d. Potential loss of mature field boundaries as a result of lack of management or further intensification of agricultural practices;*
- e. Management and maintenance of patches of mature deciduous and mixed woodland; and*
- f. Potential new development at the fringes of Little Baddow or Danbury, or on the slopes of the hill, which may be highly visible from surrounding character areas, including the Chelmer/Blackwater valley to the north.”*

1.5.47 Sensitivities to Change

“Sensitive key characteristics and landscape elements within this character area include large areas of dense deciduous and mixed woodland, an intricate mosaic of commons, pasture and heathland spread throughout the area and several mature field boundaries (containing several mature trees), all of which are sensitive to changes in land management. The network of quiet rural lanes is also sensitive to change or increased traffic associated with new development. There is a strong sense of historic integrity, resulting from patches of ancient woodland and a prominent Iron Age hill fort (which is a visible historic feature). There are also several important wildlife habitats within the area (including 20 sites of importance for nature conservation, comprising

ancient woodland, grassland and commons), which are sensitive to changes in land management. Overall, this character area has relatively high sensitivity to change.”

1.5.48 Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

- a. *“Conserve - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures.”*

1.5.49 Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

- a. *“Conserve and enhance the landscape setting of Little Baddow and Danbury settlements;*
- b. *Ensure that any appropriate new development responds to historic settlement pattern and uses materials which are appropriate to local landscape character. Such development should be well integrated within the surrounding landscape;*
- c. *Potential new development should be carefully sited in relation to the ridge and hillsides (taking into account possible visual intrusion when viewed from adjacent character areas); and*
- d. *Conserve the open and framed nature of views into and across the Chelmer/Blackwater valley to the north and also to wooded horizons to the south.”*

1.5.50 Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- a. *“Conserve and manage areas of ancient and semi-natural woodland within the area as important historical, landscape and nature conservation features;*
- b. *Conserve and restore pastures;*
- c. *Conserve and manage the existing hedgerow pattern, and strengthen where appropriate through planting;*
- d. *Conserve the predominantly rural character of the area;*
- e. *Conserve, enhance and manage areas of common land through appropriate management/nature conservation strategies;*
- f. *Conserve and manage areas of heathland as important historic, landscape and nature conservation features; and*
- g. *Conserve historic tree-lined lanes and unimproved roadside verges.”*

Landscape Sensitivity

1.5.51 The condition of the LCA is typically good but with some degraded areas resulting from incongruous development or poor maintenance. The LCA is not covered by any landscape designations but does include some important landscape elements such as areas of ancient woodland and historic parklands. On balance, the value is medium.

1.5.52 The pattern of the LCA is largely intact, comprising woodlands, commons and medium scale fields. The wooded character and steep sided hills on the edge of the LCA increase its susceptibility to change. Susceptibility to change is high.

1.5.53 Overall, considering that the LCA comprises mostly common elements and is not designated sensitivity is medium.

1.6 Other Studies

1.6.1 A number of other studies pertaining to landscape character have been reviewed and are detailed below. They provide additional context to the landscape baseline and the development of Local Landscape Character Areas.

Hatfield Peverel Landscape Character Assessment Ref 7

1.6.2 The Hatfield Peverel Landscape Character Assessment was completed in June 2015 to:

“assist the village in commenting on the appropriateness of the landscape aspects of any development within the village and/or its local setting...”

1.6.3 The majority of the area covered by the landscape character assessment is within the Study Area. The distribution, boundaries and key characteristics of the Hatfield Peverel LCAs have informed the distribution of the Local Landscape Character Areas, set out later in this section.

1.6.4 Area 10 Terling Hall Road, is within the Order limits. The key characteristics of the area are recorded below.

- a. *“The eastern boundary is loosely based on the 25 AOD contour that defines the transition between the gently falling valley slopes within the area and the adjacent floodplain. The boundary wraps around the minor tributary that rises around Toppinghoe Hall and Berwick Place on the eastern boundary, which is further defined by a transition to a landscape of grassland and pasture;*
- b. *The character area comprises large scale arable farmland on the upper valley slopes and on the westernmost edge of the parish, which levels out at approximately 50m AOD on the parish boundary where it meets the adjacent plateau;*
- c. *The landscape is rural and unsettled, with views towards the properties arranged along the Witham Road west of the area and Terling Hall Road east of the area limited by the substantial blocks of woodland present. The only impression of the nearby village is the occasional glimpses of the substantial structures associated with the ‘Arla’ plant close to the station on the Terling Road on the horizon line to the east;*
- d. *The open large scale farmland provides a distinctly rural character on the northern fringes of the village, and contributes to a sense of separation between it and the fringes of Chelmsford approximately 4km to the west;*
- e. *Land cover comprises a series of large and geometric fields under arable cultivation, interspersed with a series of substantial and occasionally Ancient Woodland blocks. The network of field hedgerows is fragmented, with remnants of former hedgerows present along the Terling Hall road on the eastern boundary;*
- f. *The mainline railway, B1137 and A12 on the southern boundary are partially screened by a belt of highway planting along the transport*

corridors. This reduces the impact of the road on the otherwise open landscape to the south of Toppinghoe Hall Wood, where a footpath across arable farmland is unenclosed by hedgerows;

- g. Two footpaths cross the landscape in southern parts of the area, providing connections between Toppinghoe Hall on the eastern boundary and the Witham Road beyond the parish boundary. One of these crosses through and along the edge of the block of ancient woodland at Toppinghoehall Wood; and*
- h. Broad open views are possible across the open arable farmland that characterises the area, as well as across the gently falling valley slopes to the east. These views are experienced from open sections of the Terling Hall Road on the eastern edge, and from the farmstead at Terling Hall on the northernmost tip.”*

1.6.5 Landscape guidelines for Area 10 are listed below. They have informed the Outline Landscape Design, shown on **Figure 10-12: Outline Landscape Masterplan [EN010118/APP/6.3]**.

- a. “Preserve and enhance the pattern of boundary hedges and associated trees to maintain and enhance the pattern of field enclosure, with new hedge and tree planting where gaps are present. This landscape framework would ensure habitat connectivity between the substantial blocks of woodland in the area and the range of habitat types in the valley landscape of the River Ter to the east;*
- b. Restore hedgerows to the Terling Hall Road in the east of the area in keeping with the characteristic hedges in the landscape around Terling, with occasional breaks to allow for views across falling farmland towards the river valley to the east;*
- c. Provide landscape definition to the southern boundary through the planting of tree belts in keeping with the scale of the A12 road corridor. Such planting would provide a visual break between the elevated farmland around Toppinghoe Hall and the valley slopes of the River Ter to the east, whilst also contributing to the sense of separation between Hatfield Peverel and Boreham to the west;*
- d. Maintain the characteristics of the empty landscape, free of settlement other than the farmstead at Terling Hall adjacent to the northern boundary, and the Grade II Listed wing of the previously more substantial house at Toppinghoe Hall;*
- e. Retain key views from high points in the local landscape, such as around the footpath which follows the eastern edge of Toppinghoe Hall Wood at approximately 40m AOD, to allow views into the river valley landscape to the east;*
- f. The distinct rural nature of the landscape, across which broad views are possible is to be safeguarded. New planting in southern parts of the area, as described above, would reduce the impact of noise and light from the mainline railway and A12 road corridor, and reinforce this rural character; and*
- g. Opportunities to improve the network of footpaths on the elevated farmland landscape, using existing tracks within the farmland landscape. A new route from the existing path at Toppinghoe Hall Wood, running*

northwards towards Lost Wood and onwards to the farmstead at Terling Hall, would create a connection with the existing path leading from Terling Hall Road to the village of Terling. Additional paths running east-west across farmland in the area would improve access to the river valley landscape to the east, and connect with potential future links along the river valley corridor. Such routes would provide new circular walks for the benefit of residents in both Hatfield Peverel and Terling.”

Chelmsford City Council Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment Report (2017) Ref 8

- 1.6.6 The report presents an analysis of landscape sensitivity and capacity in relation to residential and employment development. It therefore provides context but cannot be relied up for determining the sensitivity of the landscape in the study area to the Scheme. The assessment considers 19 study sites within the City of Chelmsford District that are identified as broad areas of growth for Chelmsford. These 19 study sites cover a select area of the District. Each area is then divided into a series of discrete land parcels.
- 1.6.7 The local landscape character descriptions and consideration of landscape value provided in the study have informed the definition of the Local Landscape Character Areas, set out in Section 1.7. Since the study considers landscape and visual sensitivity to residential and employment development, and not the introduction of solar arrays and energy infrastructure, the findings of the study’s sensitivity ratings have not been considered further in this LVIA.
- 1.6.8 The study sites within the study area are set out below.
- a. *North East Chelmsford study site, located west of the Order limits, was split into five land parcels (NECLP1-5).*
 - b. *Boreham study site, located south west of the Order limits, was split into seven land parcels (BLP1 - 7)*
 - c. *Great Leighs study site, located north west of the Order limits, was split into ten land parcels (GLP1 – 10).*

North East Chelmsford: Land Parcel NECLP1

- 1.6.9 The stated Local Landscape Character Description, set out below, has informed the key characteristics of LLCA 08 and 09.

“Bearing no relationship with the host LCA (B21: Boreham Farmland Plateau), having been much modified through quarrying, reclamation, golf course development and most recently urban development to the south centred on Belsteads Farm Lane.

- 1.6.10 Visual Context and Characteristics.

Dominated by the Channels Golf Club, set within a quarried and reclaimed landscape, the parcel is of a highly variable visual character, reflecting significant changes to landform (for example the creation of extensive water bodies) and land modelling and the introduction of significant clump and belt tree planting associated with the golf course greens. Consequently, there are a wide variety of short and medium distance views which are part of an enclosed, parkland character. Vistas begin to open out northwards on rising land towards Pratts Farm Lane, but views remain restricted by vegetation. To the south, there is new residential development along Belsteads Farm Lane

and adjacent to the A130, creating a suburban character. Private views are principally associated with the Channels Golf Club and properties along Belsteads Farm Lane, although dense vegetation restricts these views.”

- 1.6.11 The stated Landscape Value, below, has been considered in the assessment of the value of LLCA 08 and 09.

“The parcel is bisected by minor roads with no other public access, being a private golf course. As a whole, the landscape is of a parkland type character, but is distinctively a golf course and as such of ordinary aesthetic appeal. Public access is limited to minor roads running through the parcel and peripheral PRow. Apart from the clubhouse and hotel, the principal visual receptors are residents of new properties being constructed along Belsteads Farm Lane and some properties along Domsey Lane with intermittent views southward. Overall, the parcel is judged to be of low value.”

North East Chelmsford: Land Parcel NECLP2

- 1.6.12 The stated Local Landscape Character Description, set out below, has informed the key characteristics of LLCA 08 and 09.

“A much modified landscape which bears little relationship with the host LCA, comprising reclaimed sand and gravel workings, which to the south of the parcel are part of the Channels Golf Club.”

- 1.6.13 Visual Context and Characteristics

“The parcel is visually exposed, reflecting its elevation and variable vegetation cover. This is a reclaimed landscape based on the original landform but much modified through extensive voids which have been smoothed off. Consequently, the landscape imparts a somewhat artificial appearance comprising extensive grassland, water bodies and screen planting which is now maturing. Medium and longer distance views are from Pratt’s Farm Land and Domsey Lane to the south and east and from peripheral PRow to the north and east.”

- 1.6.14 The stated Landscape Value, below, has been considered in the assessment of the value of LLCA 08 and 09.

“Reflecting the high degree of land use change across the majority of the parcel and absence of formal public access (although there is evidence of informal use), the land is of relatively low value, with opportunities to reinstate landscape elements and thereby restore landscape character.”

North East Chelmsford: Land Parcel NECLP3

- 1.6.15 The stated Local Landscape Character Description, set out below, has informed the key characteristics of LLCA 08 and 09.

Typical of the host LCA, comprising:

- a. *“Irregular pattern of mainly medium size arable and pastoral fields marked by hedgerows and ditches;*
- b. *Small woods and copses provide structure and edges in the landscape;*
- c. *Scattered settlement pattern, with frequent small hamlets;*
- d. *Concentration of isolated farmsteads; and*
- e. *Network of narrow and winding lanes.”*

1.6.16 Visual Context and Characteristics

“This parcel is visually open, reflecting its elevated landform and relatively sparse vegetation, comprising boundary hedgerows of the medium and large scale arable fields. The land falls away to the A130 on the western part of the parcel, part of the valley side of the River Chelmer, with expansive long distance views across the valley to Broomfield. To the east, visual exposure is lessened as the land plateaus out towards Domsey Lane, but there are middle distance views across. The land is open countryside with the Park and Ride (with wind turbine) the only built intrusion. Visual receptors are various properties along Wheeler’s Hill and Domsey Lane and the network of PRow crossing the parcel.”

- 1.6.17 The stated Landscape Value, below, has been considered in the assessment of the value of LLCA 08 and 09.

“The land is judged to be of moderate landscape value, reflecting its broadly intact character and degree of public access through various PRowS traversing the parcel. There is limited nature conservation value aside from hedgerows.”

North East Chelmsford: Land Parcel NECLP4

- 1.6.18 The stated Local Landscape Character Description, set out below, has informed the key characteristics of LLCA 08 and 09.

The parcel is typical of the host LCA, particularly in respect of:

- a. *“Irregular pattern of mainly medium size arable and pastoral fields marked by hedgerows and ditches;*
- b. *Small woods and copses provide structure and edges in the landscape;*
- c. *Scattered settlement pattern, with frequent small hamlets;*
- d. *Concentration of isolated farmsteads;*
- e. *Network of narrow and winding lanes;*
- f. *Visual Context and Characteristics; and*
- g. *Dense vegetation along Domsey Lane, associated with roadside planting, residential gardens and horse paddocks, creates a strong sense of visual enclosure, screening residential development from surrounding viewpoints such as PRowS and local roads.”*

- 1.6.19 The stated Landscape Value, below, has been considered in the assessment of the value of LLCA 08 and 09.

“Landscape value is judged to be moderate reflecting the relatively recent origin of the hamlet, but with features such as small woodlands and some footpaths which are important.”

North East Chelmsford: Land Parcel NECLP5

- 1.6.20 The stated Local Landscape Character Description, set out below, has informed the key characteristics of LLCA 08 and 09.

The parcel is typical of the host LCA, particularly in respect of:

- a. *“Irregular pattern of mainly medium size arable and pastoral fields marked by hedgerows and ditches;*
- b. *Concentration of isolated farmsteads; and*
- c. *Network of narrow and winding lanes.”*

1.6.21 Visual Context and Characteristics

“An open arable landscape of rolling landform, remote from settlement which has a moderate degree of visual exposure, reflecting land use and absence of significant field boundaries. Long distance views are available eastwards from General’s Lane to the disused airfield and middle distance views westwards. There are few receptors, confined to isolated properties and PRowWs on the periphery.”

1.6.22 The stated Landscape Value, below, has been considered in the assessment of the value of LLCA 08 and 09.

“Whilst the parcel has very limited public access, there are nevertheless views northward from the Centenary Circle and hedgerows and waterbodies are likely to be of some nature conservation value.”

Boreham: Land Parcel BLP1

1.6.23 The stated Local Landscape Character Description, set out below, has informed the key characteristics of LLCA 10 and 11.

“The area forms a part of the Boreham Farmland Plateau Landscape Character Area (B21), as defined by the Chelmsford LCA. It consists of two and a half small pastoral fields/ paddocks and has a limited number of elements/ features in common with the host LCA such as small scale pasture around settlements and fragmented hedgerows. The area shows signs of decline and underuse and is subject to the strong influence of modern development to the north and west; characteristics often associated with an urban fringe landscape.”

1.6.24 Visual Context and Characteristics

“The area is relatively well contained and enclosed by hedgerow/ tree cover although coverage is intermittent due to the fragmentation/ absence of boundary hedgerows. Public views are available from PRowWs within and adjoining the area and from users of the B1137 to the north. A variety of private views are available from the settlement edge to the north and west. Those from the north are more open and those from the west are framed and filtered through hedgerow vegetation. There are occasional long reaching views from the area into countryside to the south and east.”

1.6.25 The stated Landscape Value, below, has been considered in the assessment of the value of LLCA 10 and 11.

“The land parcel is judged to be of low value. This is an ordinary non-designated landscape whose character whilst intact and recognisable has become undermined by the adjoining hard urban edge, the busy B1137 and the declining condition of the landscape (hedgerows and under-used fields). These are detractive influences that undermine aesthetic appeal. There is no recreational value (no public access).”

Boreham: Land Parcel BLP2

- 1.6.26 The stated Local Landscape Character Description, set out below, has informed the key characteristics of LLCA 10 and 11.

The area forms a part of the Boreham Farmland Plateau Landscape Character Area (B21), as defined by the Chelmsford LCA. It consists of a single medium scale arable field that has a limited number of characteristics that are typical of the host LCA such as gently undulating landform, large arable field and open panoramic views to the east and south. The area shows signs of decline and is subject to the strong influence of modern development to the west, characteristics often associated with urban fringe landscape.

- 1.6.27 Visual Context and Characteristics

The area is very open with no containment to the east and south affording long distance views across open countryside (including the Chelmer Valley) to the south and east. The area is open in character and highly visible. Public views are available from PRowS both within and adjoining the area, and within the wider countryside to the south and east. Private views are available from residents associated with the adjoining settlement edge as well as a small number of isolated residential properties to the east.

- 1.6.28 The stated Landscape Value, below, has been considered in the assessment of the value of LLCA 10 and 11.

The land parcel is judged to be of low value. This is an ordinary, non-designated landscape whose character is weakened and fragmented (undermined by the hard urban edge, busy B1137, pylons to the north and the declining condition of the landscape). The area has moderate recreational value associated with the heavily used PRowS that adjoin and provide access into the wider countryside. However, whilst there are attractive views across open countryside to the east and south, aesthetic appeal is strongly undermined by detractive features (hard urban edge).

Land Parcel BLP3

- 1.6.29 The stated Local Landscape Character Description, set out below, has informed the key characteristics of LLCA 10 and 11.

The area forms a part of the Boreham Farmland Plateau Landscape Character Area (B21), as defined by the Chelmsford LCA. It consists of a single large scale arable field that has characteristics in common with the host LCA such as a gently undulating arable field with open panoramic views. The area shows signs of decline and weakening and is subject to the influence of modern development to the west.

- 1.6.30 Visual Context and Characteristics

The area is very open and has a strong visual relationship with the wider countryside and adjoining character areas (including views across the Chelmer Valley and of Danbury Hill). The area is open in character and highly visible. Public views are available from a number of PRowS within the immediate vicinity and the wider countryside to the south and east. Private views are limited to residential properties on the edge of the settlement and a small number of isolated residential properties within the immediate vicinity.

- 1.6.31 The stated Landscape Value, below, has been considered in the assessment of the value of LLCA 10 and 11.

The land parcel is judged to be of moderate value. This is an ordinary non-designated landscape whose character whilst intact and recognisable is showing some signs of weakening; with hedgerow removal/ under management and the influence of modern development associated with the settlement edge, the busy B1137 and pylons to the north. Whilst slightly undermined by the above factors, the area presents moderate aesthetic appeal with reasonably attractive views across the wider landscape to the east and south (notably across the Chelmer Valley and towards Danbury Hill). There is moderate recreational value with PRowWs adjoining to the west and south.

Land Parcel BLP4

- 1.6.32 The stated Local Landscape Character Description, set out below, has informed the key characteristics of LLCA 10 and 11.

The area forms a part of the Boreham Farmland Plateau Landscape Character Area (B21), as defined by the Chelmsford LCA. It consists of a number of small fields and small area of scrub along the B1137 (some containing farm buildings/sheds) and a single large scale arable field that is remote from the settlement edge. The area has characteristics in common with the host LCA such as gently undulating arable fields with open panoramic views.

- 1.6.33 Visual Context and Characteristics

The area is very open and has a strong visual relationship with the wider countryside and adjoining character areas (including views across the Chelmer Valley). Whilst smaller fields along the B1137 are more visually contained by hedgerows/ tree cover and restrict views from the extended settlement edge, the area is predominantly open in character and highly visible. Public views are available from the sections of the B1137, adjoining lane to the east, and a number of PRowWs within the immediate vicinity and the wider countryside to the south. Private views are limited to occasional views from residential properties associated with the settlement edge (north of the B1137) and a small number of isolated residential properties within the immediate vicinity (south of the B1137 and along the adjoining lane).

- 1.6.34 The stated Landscape Value, below, has been considered in the assessment of the value of LLCA 10 and 11.

The land parcel is judged to be of moderate value. This is an ordinary non-designated landscape whose character whilst intact and recognisable is showing some signs of weakening; with hedgerow removal/ under management and the influence of modern development. There are reasonably attractive views across the wider countryside including the Chelmer Valley to the south. There is no recreational value.

Land Parcel BLP5

- 1.6.35 The stated Local Landscape Character Description, set out below, has informed the key characteristics of LLCA 10 and 11.

The area forms a part of the Boreham Farmland Plateau Landscape Character Area (B21), as defined by the Chelmsford LCA. The area consists of one and

a half large scale arable fields and has characteristics in common with the host LCA such as large scale arable fields on gently undulating landform with open panoramic views.

1.6.36 Visual Context and Characteristics

The area occupies south facing slopes down to the Chelmer valley. It is very open and has a strong visual relationship with the wider countryside and adjoining character areas (including views across the Chelmer Valley and Danbury Hill). The area is open in character and highly visible. Public views are available from a number of PRowWs within and in the immediate vicinity as well as from the wider countryside to the south and east. Private views are limited to residential properties on the eastern edge of the settlement and a small number of isolated residential properties within the immediate vicinity.

1.6.37 The stated Landscape Value, below, has been considered in the assessment of the value of LLCA 10 and 11.

The land parcel is judged to be of moderate value. This is an ordinary non-designated landscape whose character whilst intact and recognisable is showing some signs of weakening; with hedgerow removal/ under management. The area presents moderate aesthetic appeal with reasonably attractive views across the wider landscape to the east and south (notably across the Chelmer Valley and towards Danbury Hill); although views west are undermined by modern development. There is moderate recreational value associated with adjoining PRowW.

Land Parcel BLP6

1.6.38 The stated Local Landscape Character Description, set out below, has informed the key characteristics of LLCA 10 and 11.

The area forms a part of the Boreham Farmland Plateau Landscape Character Area (B21), as defined by the Chelmsford LCA. The area consists of two medium to large scale arable fields, an area of woodland and a mix of residential properties and cemetery located within the historic core of Boreham. Landform within the area falls away from the settlement edge towards Chelmer Valley floodplain. The area has characteristics in common with the typical character of the host LCA such as the irregular pattern of fields, small woods and arable fields on gently undulating landform with open panoramic views across the adjoining Chelmer Valley towards Danbury Hill.

1.6.39 Visual Context and Characteristics

The eastern field is very open in character with no vegetation to visually contain its south facing slopes. This area is highly visible from Church Road on its approach into the historic core of the village and the wider countryside (notably the Chelmer Valley and Danbury hill). The western field is partially open with a degree of visual enclosure/ containment associated with residential properties and cemetery located within the north western corner (provided by mature vegetation); and in the lower lying southern part of the field (provided by adjoining mature hedgerow trees and woodland). There is still a strong sense of openness with long reaching views from the northern and central elevated parts of this area. Both of these areas can be viewed by a large number of people including a number of PRowWs, Church Road, adjoining and isolated residential properties, and the wider countryside.

- 1.6.40 The stated Landscape Value, below, has been considered in the assessment of the value of LLCA 10 and 11.

The land parcel is considered to be of moderate value. Whilst the north western corner lies within a Conservation Area; it is already developed and comprises residential properties and the cemetery. The majority of the area is an ordinary non-designated landscape with an intact and recognisable character; with some evidence of decline. The area has a moderate or ordinary aesthetic appeal with attractive views across the wider countryside including the Chelmer valley and Danbury Hill. There are a number of nature conservation interests (associated with hedgerows, hedgerow trees, ponds, streams, ditches and woodland) and moderate recreational value associated with a number of PRowS both within and adjoining.

Land Parcel BLP7

- 1.6.41 The stated Local Landscape Character Description, set out below, has informed the key characteristics of LLCA 10 and 11.

The area forms a part of the Boreham Farmland Plateau Landscape Character Area (B21), as defined by the Chelmsford LCA. It consists of two parts; a small arable field in the west and a small paddock/ garden area and stream in the east. It has a limited number of elements/ features in common with the host LCA such as arable fields on gently undulating landform, small sized pastoral field adjoining settlement. The area shows signs of decline, degradation/ abandonment and is subject to the strong influence of modern development to the north, characteristics often associated with urban fringe landscape.

- 1.6.42 Visual Context and Characteristics

The western field is visually well contained by hedgerows/ tree cover to the east and landform to the west. However due to the lack of boundary vegetation along its southern edge, long distance views are available towards the upper parts of Danbury Hill to the south. Public views are available from the POS, adjoining PRow and potentially from the wider countryside to the south. Private views are limited to residential properties on the southern edge of the settlement.

- 1.6.43 The stated Landscape Value, below, has been considered in the assessment of the value of LLCA 10 and 11.

The land parcel is considered to be of moderate value. It is a non-designated or ordinary landscape where character is weakened and fragmented. The hard built edges of the settlement (fencing, walls and buildings) have a strong detractive influence within the western field. There is a concentration of nature conservation features (hedgerows, mature trees and stream) within the eastern field, but few within the western field (remnant hedgerows). It has a moderate or ordinary aesthetic appeal with some reasonably attractive views to the south however this is undermined by modern development and the declining condition of the western field. There is no public access.

Land Parcel GLP1

- 1.6.44 The stated Local Landscape Character Description, set out below, has informed the key characteristics of LLCA 01.

The area forms a part of the Terling Farmland Plateau landscape character area (B17), as defined by the Chelmsford LCA. It has some characteristics in common with the LCA such as its rolling landform, a number of medium to large scale fields and a high presence of hedgerow trees and pockets of woodland. However, it differs in character with a greater number of small scale fields, a predominance of pastoral fields (in the form of rough pasture and paddocks) and a stream valley that combine to form a complex and intimate scale of landscape and varying degrees of enclosure.

1.6.45 Visual Context and Characteristics

Overall the area is visually well contained and views are limited to locations either within the area or within its immediate vicinity. These include public views from a number of PRowS both within and adjoining the area, open access woodland immediately to the north (Sandylay Wood) and short sections of Mill Lane on approach into the settlement. Despite proximity there are few public or private views from the settlement edge to the west due to the presence of dense boundary vegetation. A small number of public and private views available from the edge of the settlement to the south and isolated residential receptors located off Mill Lane.

1.6.46 The stated Landscape Value, below, has been considered in the assessment of the value of LLCA 01.

This land parcel is considered to have moderate landscape value. This is an area of ordinary non-designated landscape with an intact and recognisable mature character. It is of reasonable to moderate quality and condition (with evidence of decline) and has a moderate or ordinary aesthetic appeal with some detracting features (such as the adjoining school building). Whilst ordinary, it does have some nature conservation interests (associated with the stream and the adjoining Sandylay and Moats Woods Nature Reserve and Ancient Woodland). It also has moderate to high levels of recreational use associated with a number of PRowS and adjoining open access woodland that are well connected into the wider countryside east of the settlement. This includes two PRowS that form a part of a promoted circular walk around the settlement.

Land Parcel GLP2

1.6.47 The stated Local Landscape Character Description, set out below, has informed the key characteristics of LLCA 01.

The area forms a part of the Terling Farmland Plateau landscape character area (B17), as defined by the Chelmsford LCA. It comprises woodland and an historic hall (with associated parkland landscape and moat) that are characteristic of the local historic settlement pattern and building styles within the host LCA.

Visual Context and Characteristics Overall woodland, hedgerows and parkland trees provide enclosure within the majority of the land parcel, although the outer edges of woodland and parkland are viewed from the immediate surroundings. Public views are available from within the open access woodland (Sandylay and Moat Woods Nature Reserve) and from the adjoining PRow network and Mill Lane. Private views are limited to Gubbion's Hall and a small number of residents associated with isolated properties off Mill Lane and the settlement edge.

- 1.6.48 The stated Landscape Value, below, has been considered in the assessment of the value of LLCA 01.

The land parcel is considered to be of high landscape value. The landscape is in a constant and mature state and is reasonably attractive. Mature woodland forms an important recreational resource with open access woodland (that also forms a part of a promoted circular walk around the settlement) and is both a Nature Reserve and Ancient Woodland. Gubbions Hall contains the Gubbion's Hall Moated Site and Grade II Listed Building and is surrounded by mature parkland landscape.

Land Parcel GLP3

- 1.6.49 The stated Local Landscape Character Description, set out below, has informed the key characteristics of LLCA 01.

The area forms a part of the Terling Farmland Plateau landscape character area (B17), as defined by the Chelmsford LCA. It predominantly comprises flat/gently undulating medium to large scale fields that are characteristic of the host LCA; with a number of smaller scale fields/ paddocks located within the southern part of the area.

- 1.6.50 Visual Context and Characteristics

Overall, the area is visually contained by woodland and tree cover, with a degree of openness associated with the southern field. Public views are available from a number of PRowS within and adjoining the area, adjoining open access woodland and Mill Lane only. Although views from the PRow to the south and west are restricted by new woodland/ tree planting, private views are limited to Gubbion's Hall and isolated residential receptors along Mill Lane.

- 1.6.51 The stated Landscape Value, below, has been considered in the assessment of the value of LLCA 01.

The area is considered to be of moderate value. This is an area of ordinary non-designated landscape with a strong, intact and recognisable character. It is of medium to good quality and condition and has a moderate or ordinary aesthetic appeal (reasonably attractive views over fields towards woodland/ wooded horizons) with no detracting features. Whilst it does not possess cultural, historic or nature conservation interests, it does lie adjacent to the Sandylay and Moats Woods Nature Reserve and Gubbion's Hall Scheduled Monument and Listed Building, and there are moderate levels of recreational use associated with the presence of a number of PRowS (located on the edges of area) and adjoining open access woodland. Adjoining PRow and Nature Reserves form a part of a promoted circular walk around the settlement.

Land Parcel GLP4

- 1.6.52 The stated Local Landscape Character Description, set out below, has informed the key characteristics of LLCA 01.

The area forms a part of the Terling Farmland Plateau landscape character area (B17), as defined by the Chelmsford LCA. It consists of a number of fields of varying sizes; small area of rough grassland/ paddock; and small wood/ copse containing two ponds). The area has some characteristics in common with the host LCA such as its simple landform, medium to large scale fields

and presence of intermittent hedgerows/ hedgerow trees and a small wood/ copse.

1.6.53 Visual Context and Characteristics

The area is visually well contained and views are limited to locations either within the area or within its immediate vicinity. These include public views from a number of PRowS both within the area, open access woodland immediately to the east and a short section of Banters Lane on approach into the settlement. Private views are limited to a small number of properties on the settlement edge (in the absence of trees/shrubs or tall and dense hedgerows that characterise long sections of the settlement edge) and on Banters Lane.

1.6.54 The stated Landscape Value, below, has been considered in the assessment of the value of LLCA 01.

The land parcel is considered to be of moderate value. This is an area of ordinary non-designated landscape with an intact and recognisable character. It is of poor and declining quality and condition due to the removal and under management of hedgerows and has a moderate or ordinary aesthetic appeal (reasonably attractive views towards woodland) with some detracting features (such as the industrial units and residential properties on the settlement edge). Nature conservation interests are limited to fragmented hedgerows, small wood/copse and ponds. It does not possess cultural and historic interest, although it does lie adjacent to the Sandylay and Moats Woods Nature Reserve and Gubbion's Hall Scheduled Monument and Listed Building. There are moderate levels of recreational use associated with the presence of a number of PRowS and adjoining open access woodland. This includes a PRow that forms a part of a promoted circular walk around the settlement.

Land Parcel GLP5

1.6.55 The stated Local Landscape Character Description, set out below, has informed the key characteristics of LLCA 01.

The area forms a part of the Terling Farmland Plateau landscape (B17), as defined by the Chelmsford LCA. This area consists of a large scale set-a-side/ abandoned arable field and a smaller scale pasture field and shares some landscape characteristics in common with the host LCA such as medium to large scale fields, and intermittent hedgerows with small woods.

1.6.56 Visual Context and Characteristics

The presence of fragmented, thinning and gapping boundary hedgerows and occasional trees/woodland provide only a degree of enclosure and containment to the north, east and west; with frequent inward views available from the immediate vicinity. Views from further afield are restricted by the presence of a combination of rising land form to the west, woodland to the north and the settlement to the south. More open views are available to the east across the adjoining arable landscape where hedgerow trees coalesce to form the illusion of wooded horizons. Public views are available from London Road (approach into Great Leighs), A131, Banters Lane and Bushy Wood (subject to public accessibility). Private views are available to a small number of isolated residential properties and small number of properties on the northern edge of the settlement.

- 1.6.57 The stated Landscape Value, below, has been considered in the assessment of the value of LLCA 01.

The land parcel is considered to be of low value. It is a non-designated or ordinary landscape with detracting features (built development, floodlights/lighting columns and roads) and showing evidence of a decline in farming practices. Character is weak and fragmented. The presence of built development (western area) and floodlights/ lighting columns; and the constant elevated noise levels associated with the A131 further undermine the rural character of the landscape and any sense of time-depth. It has few nature conservation features and no recreational value.

Land Parcel GLP6

- 1.6.58 The stated Local Landscape Character Description, set out below, has informed the key characteristics of LLCA 01.

The area forms a part of the Terling Farmland Plateau landscape character area (B17), as defined by the Chelmsford LCA. It consists of two large scale arable fields partially separated by a fragmented hedgerow; and two small groups of residential receptors. The area has characteristics in common with the host LCA such as its simple landform, large scale arable fields with intermittent hedgerows, frequent hedgerow trees and adjoining woodland.

- 1.6.59 Visual Context and Characteristics

Overall the area is partially open although views are largely restricted to locations within the area or within the immediate surroundings. Tree and woodland cover provides some degree of visual enclosure to the north and west, although the eastern part of the area is more open with views into adjoining countryside where hedgerow trees coalesce to form the illusion of wooded horizons. Similar views are available into the adjoining arable field to the north (GLP5). Public views are available from PRowWs within and adjoining the area, Banters Lane, Mill Lane and area to the east. Private views are limited to a number of isolated residential properties to the south (Banters Lane) and east (north of Hawksmill Farm and along/ to the east of Mill Lane).

- 1.6.60 The stated Landscape Value, below, has been considered in the assessment of the value of LLCA 01.

The land parcel is considered to be of moderate value. This is an area of 'ordinary' non-designated landscape with a recognisable farmland character now in decline as a result of the fragmentation, under management and the removal of hedgerows. The area has moderate or ordinary aesthetic appeal with reasonably attractive views across a farmed landscape with wooded horizons. Although the presence of built development and floodlights/ lighting columns; and the constant elevated noise levels associated with the A131 further undermine the rural character of the landscape. It has moderate recreational value associated with PRowWs within and adjoining the area.

Land Parcel GLP7

- 1.6.61 The stated Local Landscape Character Description, set out below, has informed the key characteristics of LLCA 01.

The area forms a part of the Terling Farmland Plateau landscape character area (B17), as defined by the Chelmsford LCA. It contains few landscape

elements/ features that are representative of the host LCA having been substantially modified by the implementation of the A131 road corridor to the south. It consists of a series of small to medium sized fields, A131 roadside planting/ young woodland and a small number of isolated residential properties and plant nursey buildings (with associated hard standing/ paddocks/ enclosures).

1.6.62 Visual Context and Characteristics

There are varying degrees of enclosure across the area due to the intermittent presence of tall hedgerows (hedgerow trees) and limited influence of new roadside planting adjoining the settlement. Views are limited to locations within the area or within its immediate vicinity. Public views are available from a short section of School Lane to the south and a number of PRowWs both within and adjoining the area. Private views are available to a limited number of residential properties associated with the western of the settlement and isolated residential properties along School Lane.

1.6.63 The stated Landscape Value, below, has been considered in the assessment of the value of LLCA 01.

The land parcel is considered to be of low value. This is an area of ordinary non-designated landscape with a recognisable but weakened farmland character that is in decline as a result of the abandonment of arable farming, the fragmentation/ under-management of hedgerows and the influence of modern development and the A131. The area has limited aesthetic appeal due to the detractive influence of the road (elevated noise levels), modern development and abandoned fields. It has moderate recreational value associated with PRowWs within and adjoining the area (and includes a PRowW that forms a part of a promoted circular walk around the settlement).

Land Parcel GLP8

1.6.64 The stated Local Landscape Character Description, set out below, has informed the key characteristics of LLCA 01.

The area forms a part of the Terling Farmland Plateau landscape character area (B17), as defined by the Chelmsford LCA. This area consists of predominantly large sized arable fields with a stream corridor and associated woodland blocks and smaller sized fields (identified as open space although public accessibility is unknown) to the north. It contains a number of elements/ features that are representative of the host LCA such as large scale arable fields, narrow winding lanes, small woods/ copses and frequent hedgerow trees that combine to form the illusion of wooded horizons, and a number of semi-natural habitats (woodlands, hedgerows, hedgerow trees, stream and ponds).

1.6.65 Visual Context and Characteristics

There are varying degrees of enclosure across the area due to the intermittent presence of hedgerows and mature woodland. The easternmost field is visually better contained by adjoining woodland and hedgerows (although there is still a degree of inter-visibility with the adjoining fields and lane). Whilst the western part is more open due to the fragmentation and decline in the condition of hedgerows along School Lane. Views are limited to those available within the area and its immediate surroundings. Public views are available from

PRoWs within and adjoining the parcel, from School Lane, Moulsham Hall Lane and open space (woodland and fields) within the northern part of the area (subject to public accessibility). Private views are limited to a small number of isolated residents and a small number of residential properties on the western edge of the settlement (occasional/ filtered views of western edge of settlement through field access gap).

- 1.6.66 The stated Landscape Value, below, has been considered in the assessment of the value of LLCA 01.

The land parcel is considered to be of moderate value. This is an area of ordinary non-designated landscape with an intact and recognisable wooded farmland character (with some evidence of decline). The area has moderate aesthetic appeal with attractive views across open countryside with a dominance of wooded horizons (undermined slightly by occasional views of floodlights). Small woodland/ copses, stream, ponds and adjoining Phyllis Currie Natural Reserve to the west provide nature conservation interest. It has moderate recreational value associated with PRoWs within and adjoining the area; and includes PRoWs that form part of a circular walk around the settlement.

Land Parcel GLP9

- 1.6.67 The stated Local Landscape Character Description, set out below, has informed the key characteristics of LLCA 01.

The area forms a part of the Terling Farmland Plateau landscape character area (B17), as defined by the Chelmsford LCA. It consists of predominantly large sized arable/ pastoral fields, a stream and small wood/ copse (identified as open space although public accessibility is unknown) to the south, and a small number of isolated residential properties. It contains a number of elements/ features that are representative of typical character such large scale arable fields, narrow winding lanes, small woods/ copses and frequent hedgerow trees (that combine to form the illusion of wooded horizons).

- 1.6.68 Visual Context and Characteristics

Overall, the area is partially open with the intermittent presence of boundary hedgerows and tree/ woodland cover within the area and immediate surroundings providing a degree of visual containment; particularly in the lower lying parts of the area. However, the northern part of the area is elevated affording open views across the lower lying landscape to the south and adjoining farmland to the north. Public views are available from PRoW on western edge of the area and adjoining lanes (Dumney lane, Hornells Corner and Moulsham Hall Lane) and open space woodland within the south-western part of the area (subject to public accessibility). Private views are limited to a small number of isolated residents; including potential views from Moulsham Hall to the south.

- 1.6.69 The stated Landscape Value, below, has been considered in the assessment of the value of LLCA 01.

The land parcel is considered to be of moderate value. This is an area of ordinary non-designated landscape with an intact and recognisable wooded farmland character (with evidence of decline). The area is relatively tranquil and has moderate aesthetic appeal with attractive views across open

countryside with a dominance of wooded horizons (undermined slightly by occasional views of floodlights). The small wood/ copse, stream and adjoining Phyllis Currie Natural Reserve to the west provide nature conservation interest; and there are two Listed Buildings within the area on Moulsham Hall Lane (thatched cottages). It has limited recreational value associated with public access associated with the open space woodland and adjoining PRow.

Land Parcel GLP10

- 1.6.70 The stated Local Landscape Character Description, set out below, has informed the key characteristics of LLCA 01.

The area forms a part of the Terling Farmland Plateau landscape character area (B17), as defined by the Chelmsford LCA. It consists primarily of medium sized arable/ pastoral fields occupying rising land between two small streams (GLP10a); with a number of smaller fields adjoining and including Moulsham Hall to the east (GLP10b). The area contains a number of elements/ features that are typical of the host LCA such as rolling landform, medium scale arable fields, frequent hedgerow trees, narrow lanes and the Hall itself.

- 1.6.71 Visual Context and Characteristics

Overall, the area is partially open with varying degrees of visual containment. Overall intermittent boundary hedgerows, hedgerow trees, adjoining woodland and built development associated with the hall provide a degree of visual containment; with few views into the area. Visual enclosure is strongest within the southern parts of Sub-area GLP10b and Sub-area GLP10a due principally to lower lying landform. With the elevated north-facing fields located within north central parts of Sub-area GLP10a most visible in the local area. There is no visual relationship with a settlement edge. Public views are limited to glimpsed views through intermittent gaps in hedgerows associated with Moulsham Hall Lane to the east and Hornells Corner to the west, PRow to the west and south, and from adjoining open space woodland and fields (subject to public accessibility). Private views are limited to a small number of isolated residential properties including the Hall.

- 1.6.72 The stated Landscape Value, below, has been considered in the assessment of the value of LLCA 01.

The land parcel is considered to be of moderate value. This is an area of ordinary non-designated landscape with an intact and recognisable wooded farmland character (with evidence of decline). Moulsham Hall (Listed Building) provides cultural heritage interest/ value. The area has moderate aesthetic appeal with attractive views across fields with dominance of wooded horizons (undermined slightly by occasional views of large sheds, extensive modern stable block and floodlighting). Two ponds and adjoining small woods/ copses and Phyllis Currie Natural Reserve to the west provide nature conservation interest. It has limited recreational value associated with a PRow adjoining the western edge.

The Essex Historic Landscape Characterisation Project Ref 9

- 1.6.73 The Historic Landscape Characterisation Project seeks to characterise the distinctive historic dimension of the current rural landscape. The Project defines Historic Landscape Character types. Those within the Study Area are recorded below and have been considered in the distribution and

characterisation of the Local Landscape Character Areas, set out in Section 1.7.

Historic Landscape Character Area: 68. East of Chelmsford, encompassing the Middle Chelmer valley

1.6.74 The Order limits lies within Historic Landscape Character Area: 68. East of Chelmsford, encompassing the Middle Chelmer valley, which characteristics include:

“Rolling countryside dropping down to the middle Chelmer valley, bounded on the southeast by Danbury Hill. Geologically this area is very complex, the northwestern corner comprises Boulder Clays, and to the south and east in the valley of the Chelmer there are brickearths, glaciofluvial sands and gravels, head deposits and alluvium. There is a historic dispersed settlement pattern of scattered farmsteads, with nucleated settlement at Boreham. The historic field pattern shows a predominance of medium to large fields with straight boundaries, including 18th to 19th-century enclosure in the south of the area, and with a pocket of small irregular fields to the northeast. There were also water meadows along the river valley and a historic park and gardens around New Hall School and Boreham House. Moderate to significant boundary loss has created larger fields, but these still respect the historic pattern. The area contains an airfield, the modern arterial route of the A12, and areas of gravel extraction. Modern development is focussed around Boreham. The level of post 1950s loss can be described as moderate to high on some farms.”

Chelmsford Borough Historic Environment Characterisation Project Ref 10

“The report reveals the sensitivity, diversity and value of the historic environment resource within the Borough. The report should facilitate the development of positive approaches to the integration of historic environment objectives into spatial planning for the Borough.” The report identifies Historic Environment Character Areas, which are subdivided into Historic Environment Character Zones.”

1.6.75 Historic Environment Character Areas within the Study Area are recorded below.

Historic Environment Character Area (HECA) 4: Middle Chelmer Valley

“Summary: *Encompasses the floodplain and valley sides of the River Chelmer downstream from Chelmsford with drift geology of alluvium, river terrace sand/gravel, glaciofluvial sand/gravel and head clay/silt/sand/gravel. Traditional land use is divided between pasture in the valley bottom and arable on the valley sides. The valley is largely occupied by scattered farmsteads and little development has occurred other than that at Boreham, which in the second half of the 20th century has been developed into a clearly defined nucleated village. There has been mineral extraction at several sites within the valley.”*

“Historic Landscape Character: *The historic settlement pattern comprises dispersed, polyfocal settlement and scattered farmsteads. Some of the field boundaries are likely to be of great antiquity, overall the field pattern was of medium to large fields with many boundaries of ancient origin but including some later enclosure of the 18th to 19th centuries and the establishment of a*

park around Boreham House. A band of meadow pasture is identifiable along the route of the Chelmer and its tributaries, much of which has been converted to arable in the second half of the 20th century, however, significant areas survive, most notably immediately east of Chelmsford town centre. The boundary between these areas of traditional pasture is defined by clear boundaries often including lynchets, even where converted to arable remains of these boundaries often survive offering the possibility of relatively easy restoration. There are some small areas of ancient woodland on the valley sides.

Modern impacts on the countryside consist of moderate to significant field boundary loss, the growth of Boreham and the construction of the A12 Chelmsford bypass and mineral extraction often in the form of borrow pits and agricultural reservoirs. Despite this, the historic grain of the landscape is largely preserved.”

“Archaeological Character: *The valley contains a varied and valuable archaeological resource within a significant cropmark landscape of trackways, field systems, enclosures and ring-ditches. Much of the nationally important Great Baddow Late Bronze Age enclosure survives. The major prehistoric monuments such as the Springfield Neolithic Cursus and the Springfield Lyons Late Bronze Age enclosure (excavated during the development of Chelmer village [see HECA 2]) were originally significant elements in this landscape. There is a concentration of finds of Bronze Age metalwork around Boreham which extends across the valley into HECA5. Recent work within the valley has shown the potential for the survival of multi-period remains (Neolithic-Medieval) is high. This work has also shown that particularly well preserved archaeological/environmental evidence can be expected within and/or beneath alluvial deposits within the floodplain, of the Chelmer and its tributaries.”*

“Although the area is particularly noted for the quality of evidence relating to the prehistoric landscape, the valley also contains extensive World War II survivals and the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation whose construction began in 1793, and which now forms the core of a linear Conservation Area along the floor of the valley.”

1.6.76 HECA 4 was divided into Historic Environmental Character Zones. The LVIA Study Area falls within HECZ 4.2, HECZ 4.3, HECZ 4.6, and HECZ 4.7.

HECZ 4.2 Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation

“Summary: This zone follows the line of the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation and includes the flood plain on either side of the river. This zone largely follows the line of the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation conservation area. A considerable amount of the original meadow pasture has now been ploughed. A detailed archaeological assessment report has been prepared on the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation (Kemble and Gould 2001).”

“Historic Landscape Character: This zone is characterised by the flood plain of the river Chelmer and is contained within the conservation area of the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation. Elements of the enclosed meadow pasture survive along the sides of the river Chelmer although a considerable amount has been turned into arable production. The boundary between these areas of traditional pasture is defined by clear boundaries often including lynchets, even where converted to arable remains of these boundaries often survive offering the

possibility of relatively easy restoration. It is likely that alluvial deposits will survive well within this area. The built character of the zone is dominated by the structures associated with the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation (Kemble and Gould 2001)."

"Archaeological Character: The Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation has an unbroken history from June 1793 when an Act of Parliament was passed authorising the making and maintaining of a navigable waterway. This follows the river Chelmer part as canal and part as river. Many of the separate elements such as locks, bridges, mills and lock houses survive along the length of the navigation. These are all described in Kemble and Gould (2001). Also surviving are the water works industry complex and associated buildings at Sandford Mill. The flood plains themselves have the potential for preserving archaeological peat deposits and other highly sensitive environmental deposits which contain information regarding past environments and land use. The General Headquarters Line of defence crosses this zone to the east of Sandford Mill."

1.6.77 Key Issues

- a. *"Any development within the conservation area should be carefully considered on its impact on the historic environment assets of the Chelmer Blackwater Navigation and other surviving below ground deposits;*
- b. *Re instatement of the meadow pasture would both improve the setting of the Navigation and protect the archaeological and palaeo-environmental deposits; and*
- c. *Lynchetts should be maintained, enhanced or restored."*

HECZ 4.3 Zone East of the A12

"Summary: *Zone formed on the higher ground above the curve of the river Chelmer comprising sand and gravel terraces. A large number of cropmarks are recorded within this zone. Although there has been some field boundary loss in the zone the surviving pattern largely comprises pre 18th century enclosure boundaries."*

"Historic Landscape Character: *The dominant historic field characteristic is of pre 18th century co axial and irregular enclosure with one large modern agricultural reservoir on the edge of the zone. The co axial enclosure is located on the eastern side of the zone between Hammond Road and the edge of the zone at Sandon Brook. This zone has suffered considerable boundary loss however, the boundaries that do survive are of considerable antiquity."*

"Archaeological Character: *Extensive zone of cropmarks overlooking the River Chelmer. These features are likely to be of multi-period date, probably from the Neolithic through to the medieval period. Although some of the cropmarks have been lost to quarry activities, those remaining are extremely significant and should be preserved wherever possible."*

1.6.78 Key issues

- a. *"The grain of the historic landscape in terms of field boundaries and settlement pattern is well preserved in much of the zone and should be conserved."*

HECZ 4.6 Boreham: present nucleated village and land to the west

“Summary: *This zone lies above the River Chelmer valley, and contains the village of Boreham and the estate of Boreham Hall as well as the present Boreham House and its landscaped gardens. The zone is characterised by large fields and the remnants of Boreham House Park. The zone is crossed by the London to Colchester Roman Road. The southern part of the zone contains extensive cropmark complexes on the gravel terraces above the river Chelmer.”*

“Historic Landscape Character: *The historic landscape at the eastern end of the zone is dominated by the landscape park associated with Boreham House. Elements of the boundaries of this park still survive in the present field system. The historic settlement pattern was dispersed and poly focal with three areas of historic settlement around the manor and church complex with two focal points of occupation along the Roman Road now incorporated into the closely defined nucleated village of Boreham created in the second half of the 20th century. Of the three historic settlement foci two are now protected as conservation areas. In the 20th century various phases of infill have created a single settlement. The dispersed farmsteads include Boreham Hall. On the western side of the zone lies Boreham house, built in 1727-8 with part of the original grounds now registered as a Park and garden.”*

“Archaeological Character: *A Bronze Age hoard and other finds of this date have been identified in the zone. A cropmark landscape in the southern half of the zone comprises a variety of linear features, enclosures, pits, and trackways. The majority of these cropmarks remain undated but are likely to represent in many cases, prehistoric and Roman activity. The Roman road formed a focus point for development throughout the medieval period with the potential for dispersed settlement being identified along it. Boreham contains a historic core centred on the church and manor of Boreham. The church originated in the 11th century and contains Roman brick and tile indicating occupation of this date in the vicinity of the church.”*

1.6.79 Key Issues

- a. *“The Historic Environment including below ground deposits needs to be appropriately represented within any VDS for Boreham;*
- b. *The grain of the historic landscape in terms of field boundaries and settlement pattern is well preserved in much of the zone and should be conserved; and*
- c. *Below ground deposits need to be taken into consideration at an early stage in any development or master plan proposals. It is likely that the results of archaeological field evaluation will be required to be submitted with planning applications.”*

HECZ 4.7 Land to the east of Boreham

“Summary: *This zone lies on the upper slopes of the Chelmer valley to the north of the river comprising sand and gravel terraces. The historic landscape comprises a dispersed settlement pattern, with some ribbon development along the Roman road. There has been considerable boundary loss, but those that survive are of ancient origin. Archaeological deposits are identified from cropmarks overlooking the Chelmer.”*

“Historic Landscape Character: *This zone forms the valley slope above the meadow pasture of the Chelmer Valley out to the main Roman road (Main Road) from Colchester to London. The first edition OS shows the field pattern to have been characterised by rectangular fields set at right angles to the Roman road, which implies a very early origin for the boundaries that survive. Unfortunately the historic field pattern has suffered significantly in this area with the majority of the rectilinear field system lost. A small piece of woodland identified on the first edition survives in the south east corner of the zone. The historic settlement pattern comprises ribbon development along the Roman Road, and dispersed farmsteads, some of the buildings having their origins in the medieval period. The Domesday Manor of Culverts lies in the centre of this zone.”*

“Archaeological Character: *The zone contains a series of cropmarks in its southern half. The cropmark landscape comprises a variety of linear features, enclosures, pits, and trackways. In places, the cropmarks form densely packed complexes. The majority of these cropmarks remain undated but are likely to represent in many cases, prehistoric and Roman activity. The northern part of the zone contains the main Roman road from Colchester to London. Although no deposits are recorded close to the road it has potential for occupation in the Roman and medieval period.”*

1.6.80 Key Issues

- a. *“Enhancement of the historic landscape should be considered especially in the southern part of the zone.”*

HECA 14: Northeast of Chelmsford – Boreham – Leighs Plateau

“Summary: *Gently undulating plateau landscape rising to around 65m OD, bounded by the Upper Chelmer Valley to the west and the Middle Chelmer Valley to the south. The plateau is bisected by the Ter valley to the north with deposits of glaciofluvial sand and gravel and exposed London Clay. The area is mainly under arable cultivation with a landscape of scattered farmsteads and medieval moated sites. Significant mineral extraction has taken place and is continuing in the areas of sand and gravel. Extensive archaeological deposits of multi-period date have been recovered during excavation in advance of quarrying.”*

“Historic Landscape character: *There is a historic pattern of dispersed settlements and scattered farmsteads. Some of the settlements would have been originally focussed on greens. There are irregular fields of various sizes, and there are several areas of ancient woodlands, particularly in the Ter valley. The Ter and smaller streams were fringed with valley bottom pasture which survives in places. Boundary loss has been low to moderate. The construction of Boreham Airfield during the Second World War created a major impact on the landscape. Other modern uses have cut across the landscape, with a major road running north from Chelmsford, two golf courses, the Essex Show Ground, and areas of gravel extraction. Modern settlement expansion has focussed on Great Leighs.”*

“Archaeological character: *A number of archaeological sites have been investigated along or close to the crest of the south facing plateau slope. These include Great Holts Roman villa, an apsidal Roman building at Bulls Lodge and a medieval farm complex including a windmill at Boreham Airfield. Surviving*

prehistoric deposits have been demonstrated on the plateau in the vicinity of Boreham Airfield, a former World War II USAAF base.

Other than mineral extraction and the construction of the airfield, previous development has been slight and there is a high probability of further diverse and significant archaeological sites surviving particularly on the southern and western plateau slopes.”

1.6.81 HECA 14 was divided on Historic Environmental Character Zones. The LVIA Study Area falls within HECZ14.1, HECZ 14.2, HECZ 14.3, HECZ 14.4, HECZ 14.5, HECZ 14.6 and HECZ 14.7.

HECZ 14.1 Boreham Airfield

“Summary: *This zone is dominated by the World War II USAAF airfield at Boreham, now subject to extensive mineral extraction. The historic landscape survives well in the area to the east of the airfield. Cropmark complexes are visible alongside two watercourses leading to the River Chelmer. There have been numerous archaeological finds and discoveries during the quarrying activity within the zone.”*

“Historic Landscape Character: *The historic landscape is dominated by the construction of the Second World War airfield. The construction of the airfield has removed the earlier pre 18th century irregular field boundaries, and some which related to the New Hall estate and deer park (see zone 14.2). The airfield in itself is an important part of the historic landscape which is gradually being removed by the mineral extraction. To the east of Boreham Airfield the historic landscape has survived in good condition. In the area of Chantry Farm the field boundaries contain several mature elms.”*

“Archaeological Character: *Significant cropmark complexes are visible alongside both small watercourses bisecting the zone. Small scale archaeological work prior to mineral extraction on the airfield has identified deposits from both the Bronze and Iron Ages. Excavations have revealed two important Romano-British sites, a 2nd- 4th century substantial farm or villa site at Great Holts and a mid-Roman aped building with probable public function at Bulls Lodge. A medieval settlement and associated windmill have been excavated within Boreham airfield. The presence of so many archaeological sites within the quarried areas so far has shown the importance of this landscape through history and has demonstrated that large areas of the historic landscape survive buried beneath the World War II airfield. Undisturbed areas within this zone must be considered to have a high potential for archaeological survival.”*

1.6.82 Key issues

- a. *“Area on the eastern and southern side of zone 14.1 should be protected where possible in their present form as much of the historic landscape survives and there is considerable potential for below ground deposits; and*
- b. *For a large part of zone 14.1, around and within the airfield, there has been significant damage to the historic environment, however, it is known that below ground archaeological deposits survive very well. Accordingly archaeological conditions should be imposed to provide for mitigation strategies including popular interpretation.”*

HECZ 14.2 Land around New Hall

“Summary: *This zone has the New Hall School at its centre and many of the historic environment assets within the zone relate to the history of the Hall. New Hall developed from a medieval Manor. A major Tudor palace was subsequently built with an associated Deer Park.”*

“Historic Landscape Character: *The historic landscape within this zone relates to the history and development of New Hall. New Hall was a medieval manor possibly one of those noted in Domesday. The first formal record of the manor seems to be in the early 14th century, it came into the possession of Queen Margaret of Anjou in the middle of the 15th century. In 1517 New Hall was acquired by Henry VIII, who greatly enlarged and beautified the building, calling it the Palace of Beaulieu. Eventually, New Hall was acquired by Lord Waltham who demolished much of the Tudor palace and adapted the buildings, which finally became the property of the English nuns of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in 1798. These buildings now form the core of the present school. At some time prior to the 18th century a deer park was created to the north of the Hall. A rectilinear field system runs north from the Hall on the site of the deer park shown on the Chapman and Andre maps. Unlike other field systems in the area these are formed from straight boundaries dating to after the 18th century. An element of the original park boundary survives in some of the irregular edges to the rectilinear system. Parts of the eastern side of the estate boundary have been lost by the construction of Boreham airfield during the Second World War. Apart from New Hall the settlement pattern is dispersed rural dwellings situated on the sides of the roads.”*

“Archaeological Character: *The archaeological record apart from the site of New Hall comprises cropmark evidence indicating a range of prehistoric deposits including Bronze Age burial mounds and Iron Age enclosures. The detailed excavations within Boreham airfield (Zone 14.1) would indicate the potential for multi-period deposits surviving in this zone. The stream running along the eastern side of the zone has the potential for the protection and preservation of environmental and paleo-environmental deposits surviving in waterlogged deposits.”*

1.6.83 Key issues

- a. *“New Hall and its setting require careful conservation; and*
- b. *The grain of the historic landscape in terms of field boundaries and settlement pattern is reasonably preserved in much of the zone and should be conserved and enhanced where possible.”*

HECZ 14.3 Land to the east of Essex Regiment Way

“Summary: *The zone lies to the east of Essex Regiment Way on a sand and gravel sub-soil. A large part of the central area has been subject to mineral extraction. The historic environment assets largely survive in the northern and southern areas of the zone.”*

“Historic Landscape Character: *The historic landscape within this zone has been extensively transformed by quarrying activity. Large areas of the zone have been quarried and are now used for leisure activity. The historic landscape of the remainder is formed from pre 18th century irregular enclosure, although this has also suffered from some post 1950 boundary loss. The northern part of the zone has been less affected by these changes. The*

historic settlement pattern comprises dispersed farmsteads, most probably having their origins in the medieval period. Belstead Hall Farm is thought to date back to the Saxon period.”

“Archaeological Character: *Mineral extraction and modification of the landscape in the centre of this zone will have destroyed any archaeological deposits. Various finds have been recovered from the zone, although there are as yet no defined settlement sites. Small quantities of Late Neolithic, Middle Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post medieval artefacts have been recovered. These finds indicate that in those areas where no quarrying has taken place there is high potential for surviving archaeological deposits of multi-period date. Medieval occupation is also shown by the moated site at Belsteads Hall.”*

HECZ 14.4 Land either side of the A131

“Summary: *Large zone on the Boulder Clay Plateau bisected by the Braintree to Chelmsford Roman Road. The field pattern of pre 18th century enclosure largely survives and is of considerable antiquity. The important Green at Chatham Green survives well. Little archaeological information is available but there is the probability that significant deposits are present within the zone.”*

“Historic Landscape Character: *A large zone comprising mainly a pre 18th century irregular field pattern with some boundary loss. The zone is bisected by the Roman road from Chelmsford to Braintree. However, this seems to have had little impact on the field pattern, suggesting this may pre date the road. Several areas of ancient woodland survive, especially to the south east of the Roman road. These include Sheepcotes Wood and Lyonshall Wood with all of these woodlands having the potential of surviving woodland earthworks. The historic settlement pattern comprises dispersed farmsteads many with their origins in the medieval period. A single Green is located at Chatham Green with most of the original boundaries and properties surviving. The present recreation ground boundary surrounds the original strip fields for the properties on the green. A windmill was also present adjacent to these fields. Several of the farms such as Hyde Hall and Long Farm are moated, which is a characteristic of farms originating in the 12 or 13th century.”*

“Archaeological Character: *Passing through the zone is the Roman road from Braintree to Chelmsford. Although there are no known settlements along the road, evidence from recent fieldwork along Stane Street indicates the potential for such sites to exist. There are a number of medieval moated sites occupying the boulder clay plateau. Little archaeological work undertaken in this zone has resulted in limited information, however, in comparison to its associated zones the potential for surviving deposits to be present is fairly high.”*

1.6.84 Key Issues

- a. *“Very little known historic environment information within this zone, however, when compared to adjacent zones there is high potential for surviving below ground deposits.”*

HECZ 14.5 Ter Valley

“Summary: *This zone is formed from the valley sides of the River Ter. The historic landscape survives well with good preservation of meadow pasture in the valley bottom. Multi-period archaeological deposits survive throughout the*

area with good cropmark evidence on the valley slopes. At the north western corner of the zone lies Leez Priory, most of whose fish ponds lie within Uttlesford District.”

“Historic Landscape Character: *This zone comprises the valley of the River Ter. Both slopes of the valley are of pre and post 18th century irregular enclosure which has suffered little boundary loss in the 20th century. In the valley base lies meadow pasture along the length of this zone which survives in very good condition. The settlement pattern comprises Church/Hall complexes and dispersed farmsteads, many of which have their origins in the medieval period.”*

“Archaeological Character: *Both the northern and southern slopes of the Ter valley demonstrate a variety of archaeological cropmarks of probable multi-period origin. Where fieldwork has taken place, significant deposits of Bronze Age date have been identified. The Roman road from Braintree to Chelmsford crosses the River Ter within this zone and Romano-British settlement may be expected in this area. The medieval church/hall complex of Great Leighs lies at Lyons Hall south of the River Ter and the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Leez Priory lies partially within Chelmsford District at the north of this zone. The river Valley has potential for the protection and preservation of environmental and palaeo-environmental deposits surviving in waterlogged deposits.”*

1.6.85 Key issues

- a. *“The grain of the historic landscape in terms of field boundaries, meadow pasture and settlement pattern is well preserved in much of the zone and should be conserved and enhanced; and*
- b. *Consideration should be given to the protection of cropmark complexes by arable reversion and restoration of meadow pasture.”*

HECZ 14.6 Land North West of the A131

“Summary: *This zone lies to the north west of the A131 on an area of mixed sand and gravel and boulder clay sub-soil. The northern area of the zone has been extensively disturbed by modern development and quarrying. The southern area survives well with boundaries and woodland surviving. Some areas of woodland and several listed farms survive in the zone.”*

“Historic Landscape Character: *This zone’s historic landscape is characterised by pre 18th century irregular enclosure, however development in the mid to late 20th century has significantly altered the landscape in the northern half of the zone. The construction of the Essex Showground and later gravel extraction has altered the landscape along with significant post 1950’s hedgerow loss. The southern part of the zone to the south of Moulsham Hall Lane retains its historic field pattern and several small woods of ancient origin survive in this part of the zone. The historic settlement pattern comprises dispersed farmsteads and halls, some of which have their origins in the medieval period.”*

“Archaeological Character: *Archaeological work has been undertaken on the new A131 with few archaeological sites being identified. An 18th or 19th century brick kiln has been located within a wooded area at Dumney Lane Wood. The extensive disturbance with the show ground, new road and gravel quarrying has disturbed large areas of this zone.”*

1.6.86 Key Issues

- a. *“The grain of the historic landscape in terms of field boundaries and settlement pattern in the southern part of the zone is well preserved and should be conserved and enhanced.”*

HECZ 14.7 Land south east of the A131

“Summary: *This zone lies to the south east of the A131 containing the village of Great Leighs, and Gubbions Green. Much of the historic landscape has survived with large areas of ancient woodland and most of the original field boundaries surviving. The important settlement at Gubbions Green with the moated site, windmill and range of listed buildings is highly sensitive to development. There are rare remains of surviving stetch in the fields immediately to the south east of Great Leighs. The Roman road also crosses this zone.”*

“Historic Landscape Character: *Historic landscape comprises pre 18th century irregular enclosure some of which have suffered from post 1950’s boundary loss. This zone is especially important because it has one of the few areas of surviving stetch (a form of ridge and furrow that promoted drainage) in Essex situated directly to the south east of the present village. The zone contains several areas of ancient woodland which may contain ancient earthworks associated with woodland exploitation. It is also possible that other deposits and earthworks will be preserved within these woodlands. The historic settlement pattern is largely dispersed farmsteads some of which will date back to the medieval period. The Green at Gubbions Green survives very well with a range of listed buildings present. Elements of the original Green shown on the Chapman and Andre maps survive within the present field boundary system. The important moated site of Gubbions Hall is located just to the north of Gubbions Green. The settlement of Great Leighs was formed from ribbon development along the A131 (Roman road) represented today by a series of listed buildings fronting onto the road. Much of this settlement is post 1950 in construction.”*

“Archaeological Character: *The northern edge of the zone contains the line of the Roman road from Braintree to Chelmsford. Chance finds of Roman material have been found in the zone set back from the road frontage indicating Roman settlements may be located in the zone. During the medieval period the moated site of Gubbions Hall was constructed. This is now protected as a Scheduled Monument. Adjacent to the present farm complex lies the site of a windmill, which is associated with Gubbions Hall and Gubbions Green, recorded on the Chapman and Andre Map of 1777. Although no prehistoric deposits are known both these and deposits associated with later occupation are likely to be identified throughout the zone.”*

1.6.87 Key issues

- a. *“The grain of the historic landscape in terms of ancient woodland, field boundaries and settlement pattern is well preserved in much of the zone and should be conserved;*
- b. *The complexity and sensitivity of the historic environment within this zone is sufficient that an Environmental Impact Assessment should be considered for any medium to large scale developments; and*

- c. *Below ground deposits need to be taken into consideration at an early stage in any development or master plan proposals. It is likely that the results of archaeological field evaluation will be required to be submitted with planning applications.”*

1.7 Local Landscape Character Areas

- 1.7.1 The scale of the LCAs defined in published landscape character assessments is generally large and too generalised to be appropriate for the purpose of this assessment. Therefore, a total of 13 LLCAs have been identified to provide a finer level of detail to inform the assessment of landscape effects. These LLCAs have been established through desk study and fieldwork. The extent and distribution of the LLCAs are shown on **Figure 10-7: Local Landscape Character Area [EN010118/APP/6.3]**. The sensitivity of each LLCA has been assessed in accordance with the LVIA methodology set out in **Appendix 10B: LVIA Methodology** of the ES [EN010118/APP/6.2].

LLCA 01: Great Leighs Farmland Plateau



1.7.2 With reference to **Figure 10-7: Local Landscape Character Area**, LLCA 01 is located in the northern part of the Study Area. The Order limits is not located within LLCA 01.

1.7.3 The LLCA is within:

- a. *NCA 86 as defined in Natural England's National Character Assessment (Ref 2);*
- b. *LCA B1 defined in the Essex Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 5);*
- c. *LCA B17 defined in the Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon and Uttlesford Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 5-6); and*
- d. *Land Parcel GLP1 – 10 of Chelmsford City Council's Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment Report (Ref 5-8).*

1.7.4 Key Characteristics:

- a. *Undulating landform and large to medium scale fields give sense of openness across the rural landscape;*
- b. *Predominant agricultural land use creates rural character;*
- c. *Medium to large scale arable fields defined by hedgerows interspersed by hedgerow trees reinforce the historic landscape field pattern;*
- d. *The linear settlement of Great Leighs and a series of scattered farmsteads contribute to the historic pattern of dispersed settlements;*
- e. *Tributaries of River Ter flow from the north to the south across the landscape;*
- f. *Large and medium woodlands coalesce with field boundaries to create the impression of a wooded horizon;*
- g. *A sense of a historic landscape resulting from a number of listed buildings and Gubbion's Hall moated site scheduled monument;*
- h. *Good provision of public rights of way and a section of NCR 50 increase recreational qualities of the area;*
- i. *Sandyday and Moat Woods Nature Reserve enhance localised sense of remoteness and wilderness;*
- j. *Pylons located within adjacent LCAs are a detracting landscape feature present in the view;*
- k. *Areas of brighter skies at night close to Great Leighs, A131 and Chelmsford City Racecourse (Ref 11); and*

- I. *A higher degree of tranquillity away from the A131 contributes to the rural landscape character.*

Landscape Sensitivity

- 1.7.5 The condition of the LLCA is moderate due to the arable land use and vegetation patterns. Although representative of some of the key characteristics of LCA B1 and B17, the LLCA comprises mostly common elements and is not covered by any landscape designations. The value is medium. This accords with the findings of Chelmsford City Council Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment Report (2017) (Ref 5-8).
- 1.7.6 The LLCA exhibits some key characteristics but also features such as the A131, power lines, small scale solar generation and modern house building on the edge of Great Leighs. The susceptibility to change is medium.
- 1.7.7 Considering the medium value and medium susceptibility, the sensitivity is medium.

LLCA 02: Western Farmland Plateau



1.7.8 With reference to **Figure 10-7: Local Landscape Character Area [EN010118/APP/6.3]**, LLCA 02 is located in the centre of the Study Area. The majority of the Order limits is located within LLCA 02.

1.7.9 The LLCA is within:

- a. *NCA 86 as defined in Natural England's National Character Assessment (Ref 2);*
- b. *LCA B1 defined in the Essex Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 5); and*
- c. *LCA B17 defined in the Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon and Uttlesford Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 5-6)*

1.7.10 Key Characteristics

- a. *Undulating landform and large to medium scale fields give sense of openness across the rural landscape;*
- b. *Predominantly farmland use creates rural landscape character;*
- c. *Length of views limited by wooded horizon formed by field boundaries;*
- d. *Dispersed settlements and scattered farmsteads contribute to the historic character;*
- e. *Network of winding, quiet and narrow rural lanes;*
- f. *Field boundaries are marked by fragmented hedgerows with hedgerow trees or grassy banks and ditches reinforcing the historic landscape pattern;*
- g. *Predominantly medium size and small deciduous woodlands scattered across the area create more diverse character of the rural area;*
- h. *Pockets of ancient woodland give some variety to the land cover;*

- i. Good provision of public rights of way including the promoted Essex Way increase recreational qualities of the area;*
- j. Ponds are scattered along field margins;*
- k. Pylons cross the farmland creating a strong, detracting, linear feature on the skyline;*
- l. Areas of relatively dark skies in the east, away from A130 and Little Waltham (Ref 11); and*
- m. A degree of tranquillity away from the A131 and overhead lines.*

Landscape Sensitivity

- 1.7.11 Condition is moderate to good due to the arable land use and vegetation patterns. There is little urbanising influence but the A131 and pylons detract from the otherwise tranquil character. The area is representative of key characteristics of LCA B1 and B17 and provides opportunities for recreation but is not covered by a landscape designation. The value is high.
- 1.7.12 The LLCA exhibits mostly key characteristics but given the plateau topography, existing field structure and existing line of pylons across the area the LLCA and has some opportunity to accommodate the proposed change. Therefore, on balance, susceptibility to change is medium.
- 1.7.13 Considering the high value, medium susceptibility and that the landscape is not designated and does have capacity to accommodate some change the overall sensitivity is medium.

LLCA 03: Ter Valley North



1.7.14 With reference to **Figure 10-7: Local Landscape Character Area**, LLCA 03 is located north of the centre of the Study Area. A small part of the northernmost section of the Order limits is located in LLCA 03.

1.7.15 The LLCA is within:

- a. *NCA 86 as defined in Natural England's National Character Assessment (Ref 2);*
- b. *LCA B1 defined in the Essex Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 5); and*
- c. *LCA B17 defined in the Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon and Uttlesford Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 5-6).*

1.7.16 Key Characteristics:

- a. *Sloping hills of the River Ter valley and limited vegetation create an open character;*
- b. *River Ter flowing from north-west to the south;*
- c. *Limited riparian vegetation along the River Ter valley floor;*
- d. *Small to medium size woodland blocks within the valley slopes gives more diverse character to the pasture and arable fields;*
- e. *Scattered farmsteads including Ridley Hall and Lyons Hall reinforce historic character of rural area;*
- f. *The LLCA is well connected with neighbouring settlements via network of PRoW, including the promoted Essex Way which increase recreational opportunities of the area;*
- g. *Pylons cross the valley creating strong, detracting linear feature across the skyline;*

- h. Sandy Wood Ancient and semi-natural woodland provide enclosure on the valley floor and reinforce historic landscape pattern;*
- i. Areas of relatively dark skies away from the A131 roundabout south of Great Leighs(Ref 11); and*
- j. Pockets of tranquil character away from the A131 and pylons.*

Landscape Sensitivity

- 1.7.17 The condition of the LLCA is good and affords scenic quality resulting from the enclosure provided by the valley sides and woodlands. This is relatively rare within LCA B1 and B17. The value is high.
- 1.7.18 LLCA 03 largely exhibits key landscape characteristics with an enclosed and intimate character; although this is locally reduced by the presence of pylons. The valley topography affords little opportunity for change. On balance, the susceptibility to change is high.
- 1.7.19 Overall, the combination of the high value and high susceptibility results in a high sensitivity to the Scheme.

LLCA 04: Eastern Farmland Plateau



1.7.20 With reference to **Figure 10-7: Local Landscape Character Area**, LLCA 04 is located in the north-eastern part of the Study Area. The Order limits is not located within LLCA 04.

1.7.21 The LLCA is within:

- a. *NCA 86 as defined in Natural England's National Character Assessment (Ref 2);*
- b. *LCA B1 defined in the Essex Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 5); and*
- c. *LCA B17 defined in the Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon and Uttlesford Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 5-6).*

1.7.22 Key Characteristics include:

- a. *Rolling landform and medium to large scale arable fields give sense of openness;*
- b. *Length of views limited by wooded horizon formed by field boundaries;*
- c. *Historic pattern of dispersed settlements and scattered farmsteads;*
- d. *Nucleated settlement pattern of Fairstead;*
- e. *Network of winding narrow lanes contributes to the rural character of the area;*
- f. *Field boundaries are marked by fragmented hedgerows with hedgerow trees or grassy banks and ditches which enhance historic landscape pattern;*
- g. *Predominantly small size and medium deciduous woodlands scattered across the area including some ancient woodland and semi-natural woodland which increase diversity of predominantly arable landscape;*
- h. *Good provision of public rights of way including the promoted Essex Way and National Cycle Route 16 increase recreational opportunities of the area;*
- i. *Pylons cross the farmland creating a strong, detracting linear feature on the skyline;*
- j. *Areas of relatively dark skies away from Witham (Ref 11); and*
- k. *Tranquil away from the railway between Hatfield Peverel and Witham.*

Landscape Sensitivity

- 1.7.23 Condition is moderate to good due to the arable land use and vegetation pattern. There is little urbanising influence, but pylons detract from the otherwise tranquil character. The area is representative of the key characteristics of LCA B1 and B17 and provides opportunities for recreation but is not covered by any landscape designations. The value is high.
- 1.7.24 The LLCA exhibits mostly key characteristics but given the plateau topography, existing field structure and existing line of pylons across the area the LLCA and has some opportunity to accommodate the proposed change. Therefore, on balance, susceptibility to change is medium.
- 1.7.25 Considering the high value, medium susceptibility and that the landscape is not designated and does have capacity to accommodate some change the overall sensitivity is medium.

LLCA 05: Terling



1.7.26 With reference to **Figure 10-7: Local Landscape Character**, LLCA 05 is located in the east of the Study Area. The Order limits is not located within LLCA 05.

1.7.27 The LLCA is within:

- a. *NCA 86 as defined in Natural England's National Character Assessment (Ref 2);*
- b. *LCA B1 defined in the Essex Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 5); and*
- c. *LCA B17 defined in the Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon and Uttlesford Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 5-6).*

1.7.28 Key Characteristics include:

- a. *Historic settlement of Terling, designated as a conservation area, comprises numerous listed buildings including Terling Place, All Saints Church and The Windmill;*
- b. *Sloping hills of River Ter valley give sense of openness on the edges of the village despite diverse vegetation cover including scattered individual trees, small woodland and hedgerows;*
- c. *River Ter flowing from north-west to the south creates strong landscape pattern;*
- d. *Riparian vegetation along the River Ter enhances natural character along the river;*
- e. *The village provides a clear sense of place;*
- f. *Relatively dark skies characterise the night sky (Ref 11); and*
- g. *Historic parkland character of Terling Place Registered Park and Garden Grade II and medium to large scale fields create the setting of Terling.*

Landscape Sensitivity

1.7.29 The LLCA includes assets designated for their historic and conservation value. The village of Terling has a clear sense of place and it in good condition. The LLCA exhibits key characteristics of LCA B1 and B17. The value is high.

1.7.30 Given the clear sense of place and historic character of the LLCA there is very limited opportunity for change. The susceptibility to change is very high.

1.7.31 Overall, the LLCA is covered by historic designations and has distinctive elements making a positive contribution to character and the sense of place. The sensitivity is high.

LLCA 06: Ter Valley South



1.7.32 With reference to **Figure 10-7: Local Landscape Character Area**, LLCA 06 is located in the northern part of the Study Area. The Order limits is not located within LLCA 06.

1.7.33 The LLCA is within:

- a. *NCA 86 as defined in Natural England's National Character Assessment (Ref 2);*
- b. *LCA B1 defined in the Essex Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 5); and*
- c. *LCA B17 defined in the Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon and Uttlesford Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 5-6).*

1.7.34 Key Characteristics:

- a. *A sense of enclosure resulting from the sloping sides of River Ter valley;*
- b. *River Ter flowing from north-west to the south creating a strong landscape pattern;*
- c. *Riparian vegetation along the River Ter, small clumps of woodland, including some ancient woodland, and woodland plantations create enclosed character of the valley;*
- d. *Remnants of historic parkland character in the south;*
- e. *Scattered farmsteads enhance the historic settlement pattern;*
- f. *PRoW limited to one footpath connecting the wider landscape with the river valley;*
- g. *Few listed buildings enhance the historic character of the area;*
- h. *Areas of brighter skies in the south close to Hatfield Peverel, with darker skies in the north (Ref 11); and*
- i. *Tranquil character in the north, away from Hatfield Peverel train station and associated railway.*

Landscape Sensitivity

1.7.35 The condition of the LLCA is good and affords some scenic quality resulting from the enclosure provided by the valley sides and woodlands. This is relatively rare within LCA B1 and B17. The value is high.

1.7.36 The LLCA largely exhibits key landscape characteristics; however, the proximity to the railway and A12 to the south reduce the sense of tranquillity

in the LLCA. The valley sides quickly level out, indicating some opportunity for change. On balance, the susceptibility to change is medium.

1.7.37 The combination of the high value and medium susceptibility results, on balance in a medium sensitivity to the Scheme.

LLCA 07: Toppinghoehall Woods



1.7.38 With reference to **Figure 10-7: Local Landscape Character Area**, LLCA 07 is located in the northern part of the Study Area. The southern part of the Order limits, proposed to accommodate areas of the solar array, Longfield substation and BESS, is located within LLCA 07.

1.7.39 The LLCA is within:

- a. *NCA 86 as defined in Natural England's National Character Assessment (Ref 2);*
- b. *LCA B1 defined in the Essex Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 5); and*
- c. *LCA B17 defined in the Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon and Uttlesford Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 5-6).*

1.7.40 Key Characteristics

- a. *Predominantly flat farmland with large scale arable fields giving a sense of openness;*
- b. *Views are typically limited by large blocks of woodland;*
- c. *Settlement is limited to individual properties along Waltham Road;*
- d. *Field boundaries are marked predominantly by grassy banks and ditches, contributing to the sense of openness;*
- e. *Large deciduous woodlands, including some ancient woodland, with broadleaved trees scattered across the area, create a more diversified landscape character;*
- f. *A few Listed buildings enhance the historic character;*
- g. *Limited recreational access;*
- h. *Scattered ponds within fields contribute to the sense of historic landscape pattern;*
- i. *Relatively bright skies in the south of the LLCA resulting from proximity to Chelmsford, Boreham and the A12 (Ref 11); and*
- j. *Pylons cross the farmland creating a strong, detracting linear feature across the skyline.*

Landscape Sensitivity

1.7.41 Condition is moderate to good due to the arable land use and vegetation pattern. There is little urbanising influence but the A131 and pylons detract from the otherwise relatively tranquil character. The area is broadly

representative of key characteristics of LCAB1 and B17. There is very limited opportunity for recreation. The LLCA is not covered by a landscape designation. The value is medium.

- 1.7.42 The LLCA exhibits mostly key characteristics but given the plateau topography, large-scale field structure and existing line of pylons across the area the LLCA and has some opportunity to accommodate the proposed change. Therefore, on balance, susceptibility to change is medium.
- 1.7.43 Considering the high value, medium susceptibility, and that the landscape is not designated and does have capacity to accommodate some change the overall sensitivity is medium.

LLCA 08: Boreham North



1.7.44 With reference to **Figure 10-7: Local Landscape Character Area**, LLCA 08 is located in the northern part of the Study Area. The proposed cable route and extension to Bulls Lodge substation is within LLCA 08.

1.7.45 The LLCA is within:

- a. *NCA 86 as defined in Natural England's National Character Assessment (Ref 2);*
- b. *LCA B1 defined in the Essex Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 5);*
- c. *LCA B21 defined in the Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon and Uttlesford Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 5-6); and*
- d. *Land Parcel NECLP5 of Chelmsford City Council's Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment Report (Ref 5-8).*

1.7.46 Key Characteristics

- a. *Gently undulating, open landscape cut by tributaries of River Ter flowing from north to the south;*
- b. *Disused sand and gravel pits, some of which are filled with water, contribute to an industrial character;*
- c. *Restoration planting separates the disused sand and gravel pits from Waltham Road and Cranham Road creating a discordant landscape pattern;*
- d. *Active mineral extraction gives sense of industrial character;*
- e. *Disused Boreham Airfield references historic land uses;*
- f. *Scattered farmsteads contribute to the rural landscape character;*
- g. *Dominated by medium size fields interspersed by small blocks of woodland and belts of trees;*
- h. *A large part of the LLCA is excluded from public access due to previous land use as a sand and gravel quarry;*
- i. *Network of PRow including the promoted Centenary Circle route provide access across the fields;*
- j. *Few listed buildings inform localised historic character;*
- k. *Relatively bright night skies, given proximity to Chelmsford and A12 (Ref 11); and*

- I. Multiple power lines cross the farmland creating a strong, detracting linear feature across the skyline.*

Landscape Sensitivity

- 1.7.47 Much of the LLCA is of low quality and poor condition resulting from the mineral extraction works, sub-station and proximity to the A21. Although there are pockets of moderate condition farmland and woodland, the LLCA has a discordant character. The value is very low.
- 1.7.48 The presence of existing infrastructure and the medium scale landscape pattern affords opportunity for change. The susceptibility to change is low.
- 1.7.49 This is a substantially modified landscape with few important features and tolerant of change. The sensitivity is very low.

LLCA 09: Chelmsford North



1.7.50 With reference to **Figure 10-7: Local Landscape Character Area**, LLCA 09 is located in the westernmost part of the Study Area. The Order limits is not located within LLCA 09.

1.7.51 The LLCA is within:

- a. *NCA 86 as defined in Natural England's National Character Assessment (Ref 2);*
- b. *LCA B1 defined in the Essex Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 5);*
- c. *LCA B21 defined in the Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon and Uttlesford Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 5-6); and*
- d. *Land Parcel NECLP 1-4 of Chelmsford City Council's Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment Report (Ref 5-8).*

1.7.52 Key Characteristics

- a. *Gently undulating landscape;*
- b. *Residential land use creates sub-urban character in the south;*
- c. *Medium size arable fields in the north are bounded by hedgerows with hedgerow trees reflecting the historic landscape pattern;*
- d. *The LLCA retains an agricultural character away from residential areas;*
- e. *Disused sand and gravel pits filled with water reference previous industrial land uses;*
- f. *Good provision of PRow including the promoted Centenary Circle route provides recreational opportunities across the area;*
- g. *Recreation provided by a network of parks;*
- h. *Parkland landscape character within the Grade II Registered New Hall School Park and Garden;*
- i. *Extensive construction activity in the south;*
- j. *Few listed buildings;*
- k. *Bright skies at night resulting from residential areas on the edge of Chelmsford and the Essex Regiment Way (Ref 11); and*
- l. *Regiment Way Nature Reserve enhances the sense of wilderness locally.*

Landscape Sensitivity

1.7.53 The condition of the LLCA is variable, with moderate condition in the agricultural land to the north, and poor condition to the south on account of the

extensive construction activity. The LLCA is not covered by a landscape designation and includes few features of importance. On balance the value is medium.

- 1.7.54 The LLCA is varied in character and has undergone recent change through the urban extension to Chelmsford. The susceptibility to change is medium.
- 1.7.55 Whilst LLCA 12 includes some important features, it is also discordant in character and has been modified. On balance, the sensitivity is medium.

LLCA 10: Boreham and Hatfield Peverel



1.7.56 With reference to **Figure 10-7: Local Landscape Character Area**, LLCA 10 is located in the northern part of the Study Area. The Order limits is not located within LLCA 10.

1.7.57 The LLCA is within:

- a. *NCA 86 as defined in Natural England's National Character Assessment (Ref 2);*
- b. *LCA B1 defined in the Essex Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 5); and*
- c. *LCA B21 defined in the Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon and Uttlesford Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 5-6).*

1.7.58 Key Characteristics

- a. *Medium sized settlements of Hatfield Peverel and Boreham are located south of the A12 corridor;*
- b. *The A12 dual carriageway is a dominant feature, forming a key divide in the landscape with few crossing points;*
- c. *A railway line parallel to A12 creates a strong linear feature within the landscape pattern;*
- d. *The A12 traffic noise reduces tranquillity;*
- e. *Buildings within the Boreham Conservation Area and numerous listed buildings contribute to the historic character;*
- f. *Bright skies at night resulting from lighting within Boreham, Hatfield Peverel and the A12; and*
- g. *Roman Road dissecting the LLCA is a historic landscape feature which influence field alignment and settlement distribution.*

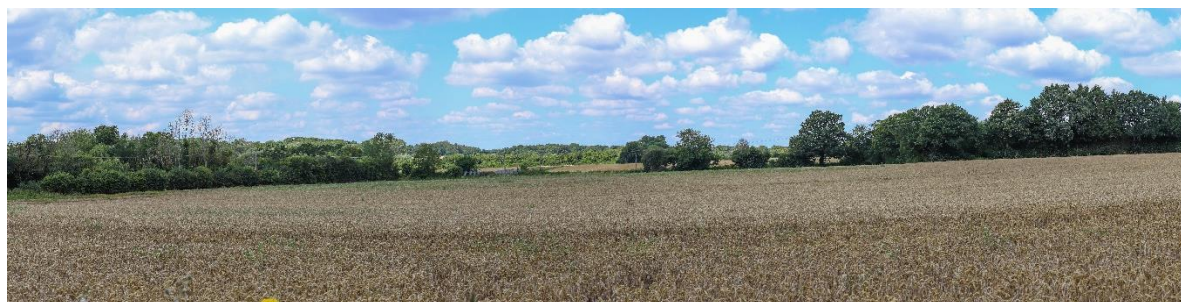
Landscape Sensitivity

1.7.59 Overall, the LLCA includes few important landscape features and very few features that are noted as key characteristics in the district or county assessments. The value is low.

1.7.60 LLCA 14 exhibits opportunity for change without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. The susceptibility to change is low.

1.7.61 The LLCA has been substantially modified and mostly comprises common elements. The susceptibility to change is low.

LLCA 11: Boreham South Farmland Plateau



1.7.62 With reference to **Figure 10-7: Local Landscape Character Area**, LLCA 11 extends across the southern part of the Study area. The Order limits is not located within LLCA 11.

1.7.63 The LLCA is within:

- a. *NCA 86 as defined in Natural England's National Character Assessment (Ref 2);*
- b. *LCA B1 defined in the Essex Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 5);*
- c. *LCA B21 defined in the Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon and Uttlesford Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 5-6); and*
- d. *Land Parcel BLP 1 – 7 of Chelmsford City Council's Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment Report (Ref 5-8).*

1.7.64 Key Characteristics

- a. *Gently undulating farmland with sparse vegetation cover in the western and central part of the LLCA give sense of openness;*
- b. *Large to medium scale primarily arable fields create rural character;*
- c. *Dispersed historic settlement pattern of isolated farmsteads and scattered dwellings;*
- d. *Small woods and copses provide structure and edges in the landscape;*
- e. *Hedgerows with hedgerow trees or grass banks and ditches form field boundaries;*
- f. *Good provision of PRow including National Cycle Route 50 provide access across the area;*
- g. *Historic parkland character of Hatfield Priory Grade II Registered Park and Garden and Boreham House Grade II Registered Park and Garden;*
- h. *Listed buildings contribute to the localised sense of historic character and enhance the dispersed historic settlement pattern;*
- i. *Roman Road dissecting the LLCA is a historic landscape feature which influenced field alignment and settlement distribution;*
- j. *Clumps of woodland, including Moor Gardens Ancient and semi Natural Woodland, east of Hatfield Peverel, create a localised sense of a more wooded landscape;*
- k. *Numerous disused sand and gravel pits filled with water east of Hatfield Peverel are relics of the former industrial land use;*

- l. Relatively bright night skies resulting from proximity to Boreham, Hatfield Peverel and the A12 (Ref 11); and*
- m. Pylons cross the farmland creating a strong detracting linear features across the skyline.*

Landscape Sensitivity

- 1.7.65 Condition is moderate to good due to the arable land use and vegetation pattern. Boreham, Hatfield Peverel and the A12 are strong urban influences in the north of the LLCA. The area is broadly representative of key characteristics of LCA B1 and B21. Recreation is via the local public right of way network. The area is not covered by a landscape designation and has a limited sense of place. The value is medium.
- 1.7.66 Given the plateau topography, existing field structure and urbanising features in the north of the area; the LLCA and has some opportunity to accommodate the proposed change. Therefore, on balance, susceptibility to change is medium.
- 1.7.67 Considering the medium value and medium susceptibility, the overall sensitivity is medium.

LLCA 12: Chelmer Valley



1.7.68 With reference to **Figure 10-7: Local Landscape Character Area**, LLCA 12 is located in the northern part of the Study Area. The Order limits is not located within LLCA 12.

1.7.69 The LLCA is within:

- a. *NCA 86 as defined in Natural England's National Character Assessment (Ref 2);*
- b. *LCA C6 defined in the Essex Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 5); and*
- c. *LCA A7 defined in the Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon and Uttlesford Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 5-6).*

1.7.70 Key Characteristics

- a. *River Chelmer meandering from west to the east creates a distinctive river valley character;*
- b. *Open character of the wide floodplain and gently sloping valley sides;*
- c. *Numerous tributaries flowing from the north and south dissect the valley;*
- d. *Valley slopes are used predominantly as large and medium scale arable fields;*
- e. *Enclosed water meadows are an historic land use;*
- f. *Sparsely populated valley increases the sense of remoteness;*
- g. *Poplar and Willow plantations are distinctive features;*
- h. *Belts of trees and grass banks mark field boundaries;*
- i. *Large and medium scale lakes are scattered along the valley;*
- j. *Good provision of PRow including the promoted Centenary Circle route, increase recreational opportunities across the area;*
- k. *Tranquil landscape, away from the A12, with several quiet rural lanes;*
- l. *A few scattered listed buildings contribute to the historic landscape character;*
- m. *Relatively bright skies in the west, given the area's proximity to Chelmsford, with darker skies to the east (Ref 11); and*
- n. *Pylons cross the valley creating a strong, detracting linear features on the skyline in the western part of LLCA.*

Landscape Sensitivity

- 1.7.71 Overall, condition is good and the LCA includes some important landscape features. The LLCA largely has a scenic and tranquil quality with few degrading features. The LLCA is not covered by a landscape designation but the River Chelmer is identified in the Chelmsford Green Infrastructure Strategic Plan as a green wedge/corridor, providing a green link into the city. The value of the LCA is high.
- 1.7.72 The pattern of the LLCA is largely intact, following the course of the River Chelmer lined with small scale fields across the floodplain. There is limited opportunity for change. The susceptibility to change is high.
- 1.7.73 Overall, the combination of the high value and high susceptibility results in a high sensitivity to the Scheme.

LLCA 13: Little Baddow



1.7.74 With reference to **Figure 10-7: Local Landscape Character Area**, LLCA 13 is located in the northern part of the Study Area. The Order limits is not located within LLCA 13.

1.7.75 The LLCA is within:

- a. *NCA 111 as defined in Natural England's National Character Assessment (Ref 3);*
- b. *LCA D3 defined in the Essex Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 5); and*
- c. *LCA F5 defined in the Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon and Uttlesford Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 5-6).*

1.7.76 Key Characteristics

- a. *Distinctive steep sided wooded hill surrounded by a low lying river valley and arable landscape;*
- b. *Linear development of Little Baddow on the top of the hill;*
- c. *Intricate landscape pattern of woodland and fields;*
- d. *Medium to large pockets of dense, deciduous and mixed woodland provide a sense of enclosure and intimate character;*
- e. *High quality woodland cover, including Ancient Woodlands and Sites of Special Scientific Interest, increase sense of wilderness of the area;*
- f. *Medium scale pasture and large scale arable fields create more open, rural character to the north of the LLCA;*
- g. *Numerous Listed Buildings contribute to the historic landscape character;*
- h. *Good provision of Public Rights of Way provide recreational access across the area;*
- i. *National Cycle Route 1 is a long distance route which links the LLCA with Dover and north of Scotland; and*
- j. *Relatively bright skies to the west, with darker skies to the east (Ref 11);*

Landscape Sensitivity

1.7.77 The condition of the LLCA is typically good to moderate based on the agricultural land use. The LLCA is not covered by a landscape designation but does includes some important landscape elements such as areas of ancient woodland. The value of the area is medium.

- 1.7.78 The pattern of the LCA is largely intact, comprising woodlands and medium scale fields. The wooded character and steep sided hills on the edge of the LLCA increase its susceptibility to change. Susceptibility to change is high.
- 1.7.79 Considering that the LCA comprises mostly common elements and is not designated, sensitivity is medium.

1.8 References

- Ref 1 Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment. (2013). Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition.
- Ref 2 Natural England (2014) NCA Profile: 86 South Suffolk and North Essex Clayland (NE515).
- Ref 3 Natural England (2013) NCA Profile 111 Northern Thames Basin (NE466).
- Ref 4 Landscape East (2011) East of England Landscape Framework.
- Ref 5 Chris Blandford Associates (2003) Essex Landscape Character Assessment.
- Ref 6 Chris Blandford Associates (2006) Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon And Uttlesford Landscape Character Assessment (2006).
- Ref 7 The Landscape Partnership (2015) Hatfield Peverel Local Landscape Character Assessment.
- Ref 8 Chelmsford City Council (2017) Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment
- Ref 9 Archaeology Data Service (2013) Essex Historic Landscape Characterisation Project.
- Ref 10 Essex County Council.
- Ref 11 CPRE. Englands Light Pollution and Dark Skies.