

# A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down

TR010025

## 6.3 Environmental Statement Appendices

Appendix 7.5 Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)  
and Local Townscape Character Areas (LTCA)

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed  
Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

October 2018



## 7.5 Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA) and Local Townscape Character Areas (LTCA)

### LLCA 01: NORTH BERWICK DOWN



#### Key Characteristics

- a) Large scale landscape with strong sense of openness and exposure;
- b) Rolling landscape of predominantly grazed chalk grassland including Parsonage Down National Nature Reserve (NNR), with some arable cultivation;
- c) Limited areas of woodland but some cover from trees and small copses which tend to be in linear belts with low patchy scrub alongside roads as well as current and remnant field boundaries;
- d) Limited settlement;
- e) Recreational routes SLAN 1 and BSJA4 and open access land;
- f) Archaeological earthworks a notable feature, prominently at Yarnbury Castle; and
- g) Visual and audible disturbance caused by traffic along the A303 in the far south of the LCA.

#### Landscape Value

- 7.5.1 The LLCA is of a good condition and scenic quality with substantial open access land and includes rare characteristics such as grazed chalk grassland. It is covered by a local Special Landscape Area designation as well as a nationally important biodiversity designation, and has numerous heritage features including Yarnbury Castle. It is representative of key characteristics within National Character Area (NCA) 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs. It is considered to be of regional geographic value. The value of LLCA 01 is therefore assessed as **medium**.

### **Landscape Susceptibility**

- 7.5.2 The LLCA is largely undeveloped and it's open, elevated and rolling landform and exposed character increases its susceptibility to a change of the type proposed, in combination with the NNR and heritage designations, Whilst in proximity to the existing A303, the LLCA is considered to have a low susceptibility to change and therefore its susceptibility is assessed as **high**.

### **Landscape Sensitivity**

- 7.5.3 The combination of the medium value and high susceptibility results in a **high sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LLCA 02: PARSONAGE DOWN DRY VALLEY



### Key Characteristics

- a) Small-scale, enclosed dry valley extending west from the B3083 and upper slopes of the River Till Valley;
- b) Principally in arable use, with grazed chalk grassland in the upper parts of the valley within Parsonage Down NNR, such that there is a simple pattern to the landscape;
- c) Small number of tree copses, tree belts along ridges around the valley increase sense of enclosure;
- d) Tranquillity is somewhat reduced by local traffic along the B3083 and the existing A303; and
- e) Views beyond the character area are mostly contained by ridgelines around the valley.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.4 The LLCA is of a moderate condition and scenic quality. It is covered by a local Special Landscape Area designation and is partially within a nationally important biodiversity designation. It is representative of key characteristics of NCA 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs. Recreational access is however limited to a permissive path. The LLCA is considered to be of local value and the value is assessed as **low**.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.5 The ability to accommodate the proposed development is balanced by the rolling landform of the character area which limits the capacity for change compared to a flatter landscape, with the limited landscape structure and simple pattern of the landscape, as well as the enclosure from the wider landscape. On balance the susceptibility is therefore assessed as **medium**.

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.6 The combination of the low value and medium susceptibility results in a **medium sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LLCA 03: SOUTH BERWICK DOWN



### Key Characteristics

- a) Large scale landscape with strong sense of openness and exposure;
- b) Strongly rolling landscape in predominantly arable cultivation;
- c) Notable woodland blocks and linear tree belts;
- d) Limited settlement;
- e) Recreational access along public rights of way, although these are somewhat severed from the landscape to the north by the existing A303;
- f) Includes part of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB);
- g) Far-reaching panoramic views from elevated ridgelines; and
- h) Visual and audible disturbance caused by traffic along the A303 in the far north of the LLCA.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.7 The LLCA is of a moderate condition and good scenic quality, with far-reaching views from public rights of way along elevated ridgelines towards the Wylve Valley, River Till Valley and landscape to the north. It is partially covered by a local Special Landscape Area designation and partially within the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB. It is representative of NCA 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs. It is considered to be of national value and overall **high** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.8 The scenic and complex rolling landform increase the susceptibility of this LLCA to a change of the type proposed, however, this is partially reduced in proximity to the A303 in the far north of the area. The character area is therefore considered to be of **high** susceptibility with low capacity to accommodate change of the type proposed.

### **Landscape Sensitivity**

- 7.5.9 The combination of the high value and high susceptibility results in a **high sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LLCA 04: UPPER TILL VALLEY SLOPES



### Key Characteristics

- a) Gentle slopes rising from Till valley floodplain;
- b) Generally small to medium-sized fields with mixture of arable and grazed uses;
- c) Scattered farmsteads;
- d) Recreational access via roads and public rights of way;
- e) Views from lower slopes generally contained by landform and woodland lining the river corridor, with more open views from upper slopes;
- f) Numerous prehistoric monuments within the valley; and
- g) Tranquillity notably disturbed by proximity to the A303 and the A360.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.10 The LLCA has a moderate scenic quality and sense of tranquillity overall, although these attributes are reduced near to Shrewton and Winterbourne Stoke by existing buildings, the A303 and the A360. The LLCA also has a clear pattern of rolling landform, forming the valley sides. The LLCA is within a local Special Landscape Area designation and representative of key characteristics of NCA 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs. The LLCA is considered to be of local value and **medium** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.11 The LLCA has a generally rural character and the ability to accommodate change is reduced by the rolling landform and elevated positions of the valley side. The character of the LLCA is locally influenced by existing highway infrastructure including the A303, B3083, A360 and A36. The LLCA is considered to be of **medium** susceptibility with some capacity to accommodate change of the type proposed.

### **Landscape Sensitivity**

- 7.5.12 The combination of the medium value and medium susceptibility results in a **medium sensitivity**.

## LLCA 05: UPPER TILL FLOODPLAIN AND MEADOWS



### Key Characteristics

- a) Narrow and sinuous chalk valley of the River Till, to the north of the existing A303, and a winterbourne watercourse that is typically dry through the summer months;
- b) Grazed pastoral meadows in the floodplain;
- c) Mature individual trees scattered amongst the floodplain, but generally concentrated along the line of the River Till, with increased tree cover around Shrewton;
- d) Bordered by Shrewton and Winterbourne Stoke;
- e) Tranquillity is reduced by the A360 and the existing A303, the latter of which is perceived from within the valley floor as it crosses Winterbourne Stoke and Winterbourne Stoke Hill; and
- f) Recreational access via byway WST04, WST05 and WST06B.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.13 The LLCA has locally distinctive characteristics including a winterbourne river and open floodplain meadows with an intimate scale and rural quality. The LLCA is also covered by a local Special Landscape Area designation as well as a nationally important biodiversity designation. The LLCA is representative of key characteristics of NCA 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs. The LLCA is considered to be of regional value and overall **high** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.14 The open grazed floodplain meadows and the River Till exhibit a strong pattern and distinctive feature, such that the susceptibility is assessed as **high**.

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.15 The combination of the high value and high susceptibility results in a **high sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LLCA 06: LOWER TILL VALLEY SLOPES



### Key Characteristics

- a) Gentle slopes rising from River Till valley;
- b) Generally medium-sized fields with mixture of arable and grazed uses;
- c) Linear belts of trees, woodland and plantations along the valley slopes provide a sense of enclosure and a wooded character;
- d) Recreational access via roads and public rights of way;
- e) Views contained by landform and woodland in the river corridor, with more open views from upper slopes; and
- f) Mostly tranquil, but this is somewhat reduced in proximity to the A303 and A36.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.16 The LLCA has a generally high scenic quality and sense of tranquillity overall, although these attributes are reduced near to the A36. The LLCA is within a local Special Landscape Area designation and representative of key characteristics of NCA 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs. The LLCA is considered to be of local value and **high** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.17 The LLCA has a rural wooded character and the ability to accommodate change is reduced by the landform and vegetation. The LLCA is considered to be of **high** susceptibility with some capacity to accommodate change of the type proposed.

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.18 The combination of the high value and high susceptibility results in a **high sensitivity**.

## LLCA 07: LOWER TILL FLOODPLAIN AND MEADOWS



### Key Characteristics

- a) Narrow and sinuous chalk valley of the River Till, to the south of the existing A303, and a winterbourne watercourse that is typically dry through the summer months;
- b) Grazed pastoral meadows in the floodplain;
- c) Well-vegetated with mature individual trees and linear belts of woodland, generally concentrated along the line of the River Till but with increased tree cover around settlement at Winterbourne Stoke and Berwick St James;
- d) Tranquillity is reduced by the A36 and locally by the B3083.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.19 The LLCA has locally distinctive characteristics including a winterbourne river and floodplain meadows with an intimate scale and rural quality. The LLCA is also covered by a local Special Landscape Area designation as well as a nationally important biodiversity designation. The LLCA is representative of key characteristics of NCA 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs. The LLCA is considered to be of regional value and overall **high** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.20 The well-vegetated grazed floodplain meadows and the River Till exhibit a strong pattern and distinctive feature, such that the susceptibility is assessed as **high**.

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.21 The combination of the high value and high susceptibility results in a **high sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LLCA 08: WYLYE VALLEY SIDES



### Key Characteristics

- a) Broad chalk river valley sides to the Wyllye Valley and in part the Till Valley;
- b) Valley sides have been eroded in places to form subtle dry tributary valleys, creating a perceived rolling landform;
- c) Arable cultivation on shallower slopes and grazed grassland on steeper slopes;
- d) Occasional small woodland copses but generally exposed character;
- e) Visual connection with the Wyllye Valley;
- f) Far-reaching views from upper valley sides of rolling chalk downland surroundings; and
- g) Tranquillity partially reduced by the A36.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.22 The LLCA is of a moderate condition and good scenic quality, with far-reaching views from public rights of way along elevated ridgelines. It is partially covered by a local Special Landscape Area designation and partially within the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is representative of NCA 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs. It is considered to be of national value for its landscape designations and overall **high** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.23 The complexity of the landform, the national-level landscape designations and the importance of the valley slopes in the setting to the Wyllye Valley increases the LLCA's susceptibility to a change of the type proposed. It is considered to be of **high** susceptibility with low capacity to accommodate change of the type proposed.

### **Landscape Sensitivity**

- 7.5.24 The combination of the high value and high susceptibility results in a **high sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LLCA 09: LESSER CURSUS AND THE PACKWAY RIDGES



### Key Characteristics

- a) Elongated repeated ridgelines;
- b) Open and exposed character;
- c) Principally large scale fields in arable cultivation;
- d) Scattered development includes farms and military buildings;
- e) Limited tree cover principally at Fargo Plantation and along roads;
- f) Archaeological earthworks a notable feature and in part within the WHS;  
and
- g) Far-reaching views across the rolling chalk landscape in most directions.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.25 The LLCA is of a moderate to poor condition, with large scale arable cultivation and intermittent often gappy hedgerows reducing its quality. It has a moderate scenic quality as a result of its far-reaching views of the surrounding landscape. It is covered by a local Special Landscape Area designation and is partially covered by a national heritage designation. It is representative of NCA 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs. It is considered to be of regional value and overall **high** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.26 The LLCA is largely undeveloped and its open and exposed character generally increases its susceptibility to a change of the type proposed, but in the context of the existing Rollestone Junction, the susceptibility is assessed as **medium**.

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.27 The combination of the high landscape value and medium susceptibility results in a **high sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LLCA 10: WINTERBOURNE STOKE DRY VALLEYS



### Key Characteristics

- a) Small-scale, long, narrow dry valleys extending out from the Till Valley with short branching structure in their upper parts;
- b) Principally in arable use, with occasional grazed chalk grassland;
- c) Occasional tree belts and copses;
- d) Limited settlement but includes the Stonehenge Visitor Centre and associated car parks and therefore parts of the WHS;
- e) Recreational routes including Byway WST 06B;
- f) Some evidence of prehistoric settlement, such as field systems and barrows; and
- g) Tranquillity is reduced by traffic along major roads including the A303 and A360.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.28 The LLCA is of a moderate condition and scenic quality and forms part of the Till valley. It is covered by a local Special Landscape Area designation and in places is covered by a nationally important heritage designation. It is representative of NCA 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs. It is considered to be of local value and overall **medium** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.29 The LLCA includes transport infrastructure at the A360, including the street lit Airman's Corner roundabout. In parts of the LLCA tranquillity is reduced by transport infrastructure both within the LLCA and on the periphery. It is considered to be of **medium** susceptibility with some capacity to accommodate change of the type proposed.

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.30 The combination of the medium value and medium susceptibility results in a **medium sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LLCA 11: OATLANDS HILL



### Key Characteristics

- a) Open hilltop and ridges, with landform extending into the western part of the WHS;
- b) Exposed character;
- c) Large scale fields in arable cultivation;
- d) Linear tree belts and hedgerows adjacent to the existing A303, A360 and Byway BSJA9;
- e) Panoramic and far-reaching views; and
- f) Tranquillity reduced by the A303 and A360.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.31 The LLCA has a moderate to poor landscape condition as a result of its arable cultivation and the effect of the A303 and A360. The LLCA has a moderate scenic quality as a result of its far-reaching views of the surrounding landscape. It is covered by a local Special Landscape Area designation and is partially covered by a national heritage designation. It is representative of key characteristics within NCA 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs. It is considered to be of regional value and overall **medium** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.32 The LLCA is largely unpopulated, with the exception of Hill Farm and Hill Farm Cottages and its rising landform and open and exposed character generally increases its susceptibility to a change of the type proposed. However, as the LLCA is already crossed by the existing A303 and A360, its susceptibility is reduced from high to **medium**.

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.33 The combination of the medium value and medium susceptibility results in a **medium sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LLCA 12: STAPLEFORD DOWN



### Key Characteristics

- a) Elevated, undulating chalk landscape;
- b) Predominantly large to medium scale arable fields;
- c) Linear tree belts, woodland copses and plantations provide land cover and reduce the sense of exposure slightly;
- d) Limited settlement, which is mostly farms located amongst areas of woodland;
- e) Archaeological earthworks a notable feature;
- f) Far-reaching views of surrounding landscape; and
- g) Tranquillity reduced by the A360.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.34 The LLCA has a moderate landscape condition and scenic quality, but has few rare landscape elements or features. It is covered by a local Special Landscape Area designation and is partially covered by a national heritage designation. It is representative of NCA 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs. It is considered to be of regional value and overall **high** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.35 The LLCA is largely undeveloped and includes landscape features such as open undulating landform and woodland that would be particularly susceptible to a development of the type proposed. It is considered to be of **high** susceptibility with low capacity to accommodate change of the type proposed.

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.36 The combination of the high value and high susceptibility results in a **high sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LLCA 13: LARKHILL SALISBURY PLAIN TRAINING AREA



### Key Characteristics

- a) Principal area of the MoD's Salisbury Plain Training Area;
- b) Extensive areas of rough grazed chalk grassland interspersed with woodland that has historically been managed by the MoD rather than brought into cultivation with field patterns;
- c) Military tracks, structures and buildings noticeable across the landscape, including at Rolleston Camp and around Larkhill;
- d) Archaeological earthworks a notable feature;
- e) Far reaching views across the plain from around Larkhill; and
- f) Strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness when not in use by the military.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.37 The LLCA is in a good condition and includes rare characteristics in the lack of settlement and field enclosure, as well as the extensive chalk grassland. It is covered by a local Special Landscape Area designation and includes nationally important biodiversity designations and is representative of NCA 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs. It is considered to be of regional landscape value and overall **high** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.38 The LCA is largely undeveloped and has little human influence such as field enclosures or settlement. It is considered to be of **high** susceptibility with low capacity to accommodate change of the type proposed.

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.39 The combination of the high value and high susceptibility results in a **high sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LLCA 14: STONEHENGE AND NORMANTON RIDGES



### Key Characteristics

- a) Broad elongated ridges and spurs;
- b) Stonehenge Monument and other archaeological earthworks are prominent upstanding features as part of the WHS;
- c) Predominantly chalk grassland landscape with an open character;
- d) Blocks of woodland at Longbarrow, Fargo, and Normanton Down provide some cover but are dispersed;
- e) Bus drop-off facility adjacent to Stonehenge Monument and visitor activity in the vicinity;
- f) A303 and Longbarrow Roundabout are directly within the character area and visually prominent as well as having a severing effect on the landscape and visual connectivity of the landscape and disturbing tranquillity; and
- g) Good recreational access with permissive open access land and byways.

### Landscape Value

7.5.40 The LLCA is in a good condition with positive chalk grassland management. It is covered by a local Special Landscape Area designation, a national heritage designation, and has significant cultural interest through Stonehenge and its immediate landscape setting. It is representative of NCA 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs. It is considered to be of national value and overall **high** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

7.5.41 The LLCA has significant cultural interest and despite the existing highway infrastructure reducing tranquillity, scenic beauty, and severing the landscape, it is considered to be of **high** susceptibility with low capacity to accommodate change of the type proposed.

### **Landscape Sensitivity**

- 7.5.42 The combination of the high value and high susceptibility results in a **high sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LLCA 15: SPRINGBOTTOM AND WOODFORD DRY VALLEYS



### Key Characteristics

- a) Gently sloping dry valley across the WHS;
- b) Predominantly in large-scale arable cultivation and intensive pig farming, but with some small-scale pasture;
- c) A few copses and tree-belts but a generally open character;
- d) Numerous archaeological earthworks; and
- e) Largely tranquil character away from the A303.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.43 The LCA is in a good condition and is representative of NCA 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs. The LCA is covered by a local Special Landscape Area and a national heritage designation. The Stonehenge Monument is perceived from within the LCA in the context of the existing A303. It is considered to be of national value and **high** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.44 The LCA has significant cultural interest and despite the existing highway infrastructure reducing tranquillity and scenic beauty, it is considered to be of **high** susceptibility with low capacity to accommodate change of the type proposed.

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.45 The combination of the high value and high susceptibility results in a **high sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LLCA 16: DURRINGTON DOWN AND LARKHILL DRY VALLEY



### Key Characteristics

- a) Shallow dry valley covering part of the WHS;
- b) Predominantly arable cultivation interspersed with mixed tree belts and plantations;
- c) Partial sense of enclosure from woodland;
- d) Includes the urban edge of Larkhill;
- e) Some settlement on the outskirts of Larkhill, as well as a sewage treatment works; and
- f) Numerous archaeological earthworks.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.46 The LLCA is in a moderate condition but its condition and scenic quality is somewhat reduced by the urban edge of Larkhill as well as development in the LLCA. It is covered by a local Special Landscape Area designation and a national heritage designation. It is representative of NCA 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs. It is considered to be of regional value and overall a **medium** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.47 The LCA has a generally rural character but is influenced by the urban edge of Larkhill. The landform and woodland make it partially susceptible to a development of the type proposed. It is considered to have a **medium** susceptibility, with some capacity to accommodate change of the type proposed.

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.48 The combination of the medium value and medium susceptibility results in a **medium sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LLCA 17: UPPER STONEHENGE DRY VALLEY



### Key Characteristics

- a) Broad shallow dry valley within the WHS, severed to the south by the A303 embankment at Stonehenge Bottom;
- b) Open character with some sense of enclosure from woodland in adjacent LCAs and the surrounding landform;
- c) Predominantly grazed chalk grassland in a large-scale fenced field pattern;
- d) Archaeological earthworks including The Stones, The Cursus and The Avenue;
- e) Good recreational access with open access land across much of the area; and
- f) Tranquillity reduced by the A303.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.49 The LLCA is in a good condition comprising grazed chalk grassland and is representative of NCA 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs. It is covered by a local Special Landscape Area and a national heritage designation. It is in the immediate setting of the Stonehenge Monument and therefore is of significant cultural interest. It is considered to be of national value and overall **high** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.50 The LLCA has significant cultural interest and despite the existing highway infrastructure reducing tranquillity and scenic beauty, it is considered to be of **high** susceptibility with low capacity to accommodate change of the type proposed.

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.51 The combination of the high value and high susceptibility results in a **high sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LLCA 18: KING BARROW AND CONEYBURY RIDGE



### Key Characteristics

- a) Elongated ridgeline within the WHS;
- b) Large scale fields of both arable use and grazed chalk grassland;
- c) Several copses and tree belts along the ridgeline;
- d) Numerous upstanding archaeological earthworks which are prominent from the nearby landscape;
- e) Permissive open access land as well as bridleway AMES10;
- f) Predominantly unsettled apart from concealed cottages near the King Barrows by the A303;
- g) Notable views towards the Stonehenge Monument; and
- h) Severed by the A303 dual-carriageway which notably reduces tranquillity and scenic beauty.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.52 The LLCA is in a good condition and is representative of NCA 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs. It is covered by a local Special Landscape Area and a national heritage designation. The Stones are perceived from within the character area in the context of the existing A303. It is considered to be of national value and overall **high** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.53 The LLCA has significant cultural interest and despite the existing highway infrastructure reducing tranquillity and scenic beauty, it is considered to be of **high** susceptibility with low capacity to accommodate change of the type proposed.

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.54 The combination of the high value and high susceptibility results in a **high sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LLCA 19: DURRINGTON DOWN RIDGES



### Key Characteristics

- a) Elongated ridgelines;
- b) Mixed arable and pastoral large to medium scale fields;
- c) Scattered plantations and tree belts;
- d) Archaeological monuments including Woodhenge as part of the WHS;
- e) Visual intrusion from urban edges of Larkhill, Durrington and large scale buildings in Amesbury; and
- f) Tranquillity reduced by the A345.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.55 The LLCA is in a moderate condition but its condition and scenic quality is somewhat reduced by the urban edges of Larkhill and Durrington and the A345. The LLCA is covered by a local Special Landscape Area designation and partially covered by a national heritage designation. It is representative of key characteristics within NCA 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs. The LLCA is considered to be of regional value and overall **high** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.56 The LLCA has a generally rural character but is influenced by urban edge development at Larkhill and Durrington. Its upstanding archaeological monuments and cultural interest make it more susceptible to a development of the type proposed. It is considered to have a **medium** susceptibility, with some capacity to accommodate change of the type proposed.

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.57 The combination of the high value and the medium susceptibility results in a **high sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LLCA 20: COUNTESS FARM DRY VALLEYS



### Key Characteristics

- a) Broad, shallow dry valleys which create a flowing landform;
- b) Large scale fields in arable cultivation;
- c) Intermittent tree clumps known as the Nile Clumps, and intermittent belts alongside the A303 as part of the WHS;
- d) High voltage electricity pylons;
- e) Visual intrusion of pylons and development at Countess, Amesbury, Boscombe Down and the A303; and
- f) Sense of remoteness and tranquillity reduced by the proximity to existing residential properties.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.58 The LLCA is in a moderate condition but its scenic beauty is reduced by the pylons and residential properties. The LLCA is partially covered by a local Special Landscape Area designation, and is within a national heritage designation. It is representative of NCA 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs. It is considered to be of regional value and overall **high** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.59 The LLCA includes the residential properties and pylons which partially reduces its susceptibility to the type of change proposed. It is considered to be of **medium** susceptibility with some capacity to accommodate change of the type proposed.

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.60 The LLCA combination of the high value and medium susceptibility results in a **high sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LLCA 21: AVON VALLEY SLOPES



### Key Characteristics

- a) Gentle valley slopes rising from the floodplain, getting steeper in upper sections, notably around the north of Amesbury;
- b) Gentler slopes are principally arable farmland with small to medium scale fields, occasionally pasture;
- c) Woodland belts on steeper valley slopes;
- d) Scattered settlement and development along the valley sides, notably urban edge development around Amesbury and Durrington, including sewage treatment works and substations north of Amesbury;
- e) Crossed by the A303 and A345, and includes the Countess Roundabout. Traffic along the road reduces tranquillity; and
- f) The A303, pylons and open settlement edges are prominent visual elements.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.61 The LLCA is in a moderate to poor condition and scenic quality as a result of urban edge development around Amesbury and Durrington and other visual detractors including pylons and the A303, which also reduces tranquillity. It is partially covered by a local Special Landscape Area designation and a national heritage designation. It is partially representative of NCA 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs. It is considered to be of local value and overall **medium** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.62 The LLCA includes a number of visual detractors and is influenced by urban edge development in adjacent character areas. Its landform and features are somewhat susceptible to a change of the type proposed. It is considered to be of **medium** susceptibility, with some capacity to accommodate change of the type proposed.

### **Landscape Sensitivity**

- 7.5.63 The combination of the medium value and medium susceptibility results in a **medium sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LLCA 22: AVON VALLEY FLOODPLAIN AND MEADOWS



### Key Characteristics

- a) Sinuous river floodplain with small scale grazed water meadows;
- b) Scattered waterside trees and linear woodland belts alongside the river provide a sense of enclosure;
- c) Minimal development in the floodplain, resulting in a settled character;
- d) Influence from development on settlement edges of Amesbury and Durrington; and
- e) Tranquillity greatly reduced in proximity to the A303.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.64 The LLCA is in a good condition and away from the A303 can be tranquil and scenic. It is partially covered by a local Special Landscape Area designation, and includes national biodiversity and heritage designations. It is partially representative of NCA 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs. It is considered to be of regional value and overall **high** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.65 The LLCA has a reasonably strong scenic beauty and its landform and woodland would be susceptible to a change of the type proposed. It is considered to be of **high** susceptibility to a change of the type of proposed, with low capacity to accommodate change of the type proposed, although this is somewhat reduced in close proximity to the A303.

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.66 The combination of the high value and high susceptibility results in a **high sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LLCA 23: AMESBURY DOWN



### Key Characteristics

- a) Elongated ridge overlooking Amesbury and the Avon Valley;
- b) Large scale arable fields;
- c) Visual connection with the Avon Valley, and also views of settlement at Amesbury and of Boscombe Down; and
- d) Tranquil character away from the A345.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.67 The LLCA is of a moderate condition and has some scenic views across the Avon Valley. It is partially covered by a local Special Landscape Area designation. It is representative of NCA 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs. It is considered to be of local value and overall **medium** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.68 The LLCA includes transport infrastructure in the A345, but its setting of the Avon Valley somewhat increases its susceptibility. It is considered to be of **medium** susceptibility with some capacity to accommodate change of the type proposed.

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.69 The combination of the medium value and the medium susceptibility results in a **medium sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LLCA 24: NINE MILE RIVER



### Key Characteristics

- a) Narrow small scale floodplain around the Nine Mile River with small fields of grazed pasture or in arable use;
- b) Linear belts of woodland create relatively intimate and enclosed landscape;
- c) Glimpsed views of urban edge of Bulford;
- d) Generally tranquil character.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.70 The LLCA has a generally positive character and is in a good condition, despite urban edge pressure from Bulford. The LLCA is partially covered by a local Special Landscape Area designation and partially by a national biodiversity designation. It is considered to be of local value and overall **high** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.71 The LLCA has an intimate and small-scale character; it is considered to be of **high** susceptibility with low capacity to accommodate change of the type proposed.

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.72 The combination of the high value and high susceptibility results in a **high sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LLCA 25: SOUTH BULFORD RIDGE



### Key Characteristics

- a) Elongated ridgeline;
- b) Large scale arable fields with some equine paddocks and byways;
- c) Scattered mixed plantations;
- d) Notable number of archaeological earthworks along ridgelines;
- e) Views of Beacon Hill; and
- f) Visual intrusion from masts and pylons, A3028 and settlement at Amesbury, Durrington and Boscombe Down.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.73 The LLCA has a number of visual detractors that reduce its scenic beauty, whilst localised equine use and general upkeep reduce its condition. It is considered to be partially representative of NCA 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs. It is considered to be of community value and overall **medium** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.74 The LLCA is crossed by a number of roads and has detracting landscape features; however its visually prominent landform and largely undeveloped character maintain a susceptibility to highway infrastructure. It is considered to be of **medium** susceptibility with some capacity to accommodate change of the type proposed.

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.75 The combination of the medium value and medium susceptibility results in a **medium sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LLCA 26: SOLSTICE PARK DRY VALLEY



### Key Characteristics

- a) Gently sloping dry valleys comprising the Solstice Park development;
- b) Crossed by the A303 dual-carriageway and Porton Road overbridge, above the existing A303;
- c) Solstice Park contains numerous large scale warehouses and distribution centres with associated lighting which are visible from beyond the character area;
- d) Small linear belts of trees, and areas of young tree planting typical of a commercial estate;
- e) Tranquillity notably reduced by the A303; and
- f) Notable visual intrusion from the A303, pylons, and nearby settlement.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.76 The LLCA is of a poor condition and has several detracting characteristics on tranquillity and scenic beauty. It is considered to be of limited value and overall **low** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.77 The LLCA has an open character but includes the A303 and other features that reduce its susceptibility. It is considered to be of **low** susceptibility with capacity to accommodate change of the type proposed.

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.78 The combination of the low value and low susceptibility results in a **low sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LLCA 27: EARLS FARM DOWNS



### Key Characteristics

- a) Rolling landform;
- b) Large-scale arable fields crossed by tracks and minor roads;
- c) Scattered plantations and tree belts;
- d) Numerous scattered upstanding archaeological earthworks;
- e) Recreational routes;
- f) Open views;
- g) Tranquillity reduced by the A303; and
- h) Visual intrusion from the A303, Solstice Park, Boscombe Down, pylons, and nearby settlement.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.79 The LLCA is of a moderate to poor condition and moderate to poor scenic beauty as a result of nearby visual detractors. It is representative of NCA 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs. It is considered to be of local value and overall **medium** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.80 The LLCA has an open character but includes the A303 dual carriageway which somewhat reduces its susceptibility. It is considered to be of **medium** susceptibility with some capacity to accommodate change of the type proposed.

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.81 The combination of the medium landscape value and medium susceptibility results in a **medium sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LLCA 28: BEACON HILL



### Key Characteristics

- a) Prominent chalk escarpment;
- b) Chalk grassland with tree belts and patchy scrub;
- c) Panoramic, far-reaching views;
- d) PRoW (footpath) BULF13, Byway AMES32/ BULF12;
- e) Archaeological earthworks; and
- f) Existing A303 is visually prominent, as well as physically crossing the southern part of the character area.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.82 The LLCA is visually prominent due to its elevated landform and from BULF13 there are panoramic views across the surrounding landscape. The LLCA is of a good condition and includes chalk grassland habitat. It is representative of NCA 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs. It is considered to be of regional value and overall **high** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.83 The LLCA is visually prominent and includes a number of sensitive landscape features, including steep elevated landform despite the existing highway infrastructure. It is considered to be of **high** susceptibility with low capacity to accommodate change of the type proposed.

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.84 The combination of the high value and high susceptibility results in a **high sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LLCA 29: BOSCOMBE DOWN AIRFIELD



### Key Characteristics

- a) Large scale military airfield on an elevated broad plateau that includes a solar farm development;
- b) Extensive grassland and runways; and
- c) Large aircraft hangar which is visually prominent from much of the surrounding landscape.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.85 The LLCA is of a moderate to poor condition and has a sprawling developed character as a result of the airfield. It is considered to be of limited value and overall **low** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.86 The LLCA is considered to be of **low** susceptibility with capacity to accommodate change of the type proposed.

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.87 The combination of the low landscape value and low susceptibility results in a **low sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LTCA 1: SHREWTON



### Key Characteristics

- a) Linear village alongside the River Till in the upper River Till valley;
- b) Largely enclosed within the River Till valley which reduces its visual prominence and enhances its connection with the river;
- c) Historic settlement with some more modern buildings predominantly around the A360;
- d) Traffic along the A360, and occasionally the B3083, can somewhat reduce tranquillity in the settlement; and
- e) Trees and tree belts soften the settlement edge.

### Landscape Value

7.5.88 The village has a rural character with some distinctive townscape in the centre, and a connection with the river. It is partially disrupted by traffic using roads through the village. The LTCA is considered to be of local value and overall **medium** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

7.5.89 The LTCA is a rural village set within an intimate valley. It is considered to be of **medium** susceptibility as it consists of built form and road infrastructure.

### Landscape Sensitivity

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

## LTCA 2: WINTERBOURNE STOKE



### Key Characteristics

- a) Linear village in the Till valley aligned to the existing A303 and Church Street;
- b) Largely enclosed within the Till valley to the south by Winterbourne Stoke Hill and to the north by the Till valley slopes. This landform reduces the visual prominence of the village, however it is more open to the north from within the river floodplain;
- c) Small historic core with more modern extensions and buildings;
- d) The existing A303 passes through the northern part of the village which substantially reduces tranquillity and has a severance effect between the remainder of the village and the Till valley north of the A303; and
- e) Trees and tree belts within the valley enclose the south of the village, but do not extend to the same extent to the north of the A303.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.91 The LTCA is largely within the Winterbourne Stoke Conservation Area which consists of older and more vernacular buildings, compared to those to the north of the existing A303. The townscape quality is greatly reduced in proximity to the A303 as a result of the reduced tranquillity and varied built form alongside the road. It is considered to be of regional value and overall **medium** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.92 The LTCA is a rural village but crossed by the existing A303 which is out of character with the scale of the village. The village is considered to be of **medium** susceptibility, as whilst the linear street pattern and relationship to surrounding landform limits the capacity to accommodate change, the existing A303 has already altered the pattern of the village.

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.93 The combination of the medium value and medium susceptibility results in a **medium sensitivity** to the Scheme.

### LTCA 3: BERWICK ST JAMES



#### Key Characteristics

- a) Linear village alongside the River Till in the Till valley;
- b) Enclosed within the Till valley;
- c) Historic core of vernacular stone or flint with some more modern buildings;  
and
- d) Good tree cover in and around the village enhances its rural character.

#### Landscape Value

- 7.5.94 The LTCA is covered by the Berwick St James Conservation Area and has a rural and intimate character. It is considered to be of regional value and overall **medium** landscape value.

#### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.95 The LTCA is a rural village set within an intimate valley enclosed by trees. It is considered to be of **high** susceptibility with low capacity to accommodate change of the type proposed.

#### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.96 The combination of the medium value and high susceptibility results in a **high sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LTCA 4: STAPLEFORD



### Key Characteristics

- a) Linear village located where the Till valley opens out into the Wylve valley;
- b) Separated from the hamlet of Serrington on the opposing side of the Till valley, accessed from the A36;
- c) Historic settlement with a few more modern buildings and utilities infrastructure;
- d) Strong relationship with the adjacent floodplain and valley landforms of the Till and Wylve valleys;
- e) Tranquillity partially disrupted by traffic along the A36; and
- f) Sense of enclosure in the north of the village as a result of more extensive surrounding tree cover.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.97 The LTCA is covered by the Stapleford Conservation Area. The LTCA has a rural character and a strong connection with the valley. It is considered to be of regional value and overall **medium** value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.98 The LTCA is a rural village set within a valley. It is considered to be of **medium** susceptibility

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.99 The combination of the medium value and medium susceptibility results in a **medium sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LTCA 5: LARKHILL



### Key Characteristics

- a) Military settlement comprising accommodation and administration buildings with large sections enclosed by security fencing;
- b) Regular green spaces;
- c) Settlement extension under construction to the east and west; and
- d) Plantations intermittently located around the settlement edge partially screen the settlement.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.100 The townscape of Larkhill is of a military nature and comprises few distinctive characteristics. It is considered to be of community value and overall **low** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.101 The LTCA comprises an urban area which reduces its susceptibility. It is considered to be of **low** susceptibility with capacity to accommodate change of the type proposed.

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.102 The low landscape value and low susceptibility results in a **low sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LTCA 6: DURRINGTON



### Key Characteristics

- a) Historic core in the north of the settlement contrasts with areas of suburban style late 20<sup>th</sup> century housing;
- b) Green spaces located around settlement periphery, including good natural green space access at the Avon Valley; and
- c) Open settlement edge to north, west and south.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.103 The townscape of Durrington lacks any distinctive characteristics away from the historic core and Conservation Area. It is considered to be of community value and overall **low** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.104 The LTCA comprises an urban area which reduces its susceptibility. Away from the Conservation Area it is considered to be of **low** susceptibility with capacity to accommodate change of the type proposed.

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.105 The combination of the low landscape value and low landscape susceptibility results in a **low sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LTCA 7: BULFORD AND BULFORD CAMP



### Key Characteristics

- a) Historic core in the west at Bulford with rural and enclosed character in the Avon valley;
- b) Designed and geometric settlement of straight roads in the east;
- c) Largely military housing and development including barracks and administration blocks;
- d) Interspersed with incidental green spaces; and
- e) Woodland plantations surround settlement.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.106 The townscape of Bulford is predominantly of a military nature away from the historic core and Conservation Area. It is considered to be of community value and overall **low** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.107 The LTCA comprises an urban area which reduces its susceptibility. Away from the Conservation Area it is considered to be of **low** susceptibility with capacity to accommodate change of the type proposed.

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.108 The combination of the low landscape value and low susceptibility results in a **low sensitivity** to the Scheme.

## LTCA 8: AMESBURY



### Key Characteristics

- a) Small scale intimate historic core with large modern estates extending out to the east;
- b) Suburban character and rolling built-up landform; and
- c) Public spaces allow some more open views.

### Landscape Value

- 7.5.109 The townscape of Amesbury is varied and undistinguished away from the historic core and Conservation Area. It is considered to be of local value and overall **low** landscape value.

### Landscape Susceptibility

- 7.5.110 The LTCA comprises an urban area which reduces its susceptibility. Away from the Conservation Area it is considered to be of **low** susceptibility with capacity to accommodate change of the type proposed.

### Landscape Sensitivity

- 7.5.111 The combination of the low landscape value and low susceptibility results in a **low sensitivity** to the Scheme.

If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

© Crown copyright 2018.  
You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence: visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/) write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

This document is also available on our website at [www.gov.uk/highways](http://www.gov.uk/highways)

If you have any enquiries about this document email [info@a303stonehenge.co.uk](mailto:info@a303stonehenge.co.uk) or call **0300 123 5000**.\*

\*Calls to 03 numbers cost no more than a national rate call to an 01 or 02 number and must count towards any inclusive minutes in the same way as 01 and 02 calls.  
These rules apply to calls from any type of line including mobile, BT, other fixed line or payphone. Calls may be recorded or monitored.

Registered office Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford GU1 4LZ  
Highways England Company Limited registered in England and Wales number 09346363