



VIEWPOINT 9 - PUBLIC FOOTPATH CHALK HILL

Direction of View:	East	AOD:	23m	Receptors Represented: PRoW Users
Distance from the site boundary:	620m	Date and Time:	22/01/2026, 14:23	



VIEWPOINT 10 - CAMBRIDGE ROAD (A10)

Direction of View:	Sout	AOD:	15m	Receptors Represented: Road Users
Distance from the site boundary:	1.48km	Date and Time:	22/01/2026, 14:13	

2013 Land at Fowlmere Road Foxton Astra No.3 (FOX) Limited

VIEWPOINT 9 & 10

EXISTING BASELINE VIEWS (EXTENDED PANORAMA)
FOR VIEWPOINT LOCATIONS REFER TO FIGURE 04

FIGURE 5.5

DATE: JAN' 26
DRAWN BY: DL
CHECKED: EC



EC-Environmental Services
20, Springwell Close,
Grange Park,
Northampton,
NN4 5AQ
info@ec-environmental.co.uk
07708 637 654
ec-environmental.co.uk



VIEWPOINT 11 - SHEPRETH ROAD, FOXTON

Direction of View:	North East	AOD:	21m	Receptors Represented: Road Users
Distance from the site boundary:	1.42km	Date and Time:	22/01/2026, 14:59	



VIEWPOINT 12 - CAMBRIDGE ROAD (B1368)

Direction of View:	North West	AOD:	22m	Receptors Represented: Road Users
Distance from the site boundary:	1.55km	Date and Time:	22/01/2026, 15:05	

2013 Land at Fowlmere Road Foxton Astra No.3 (FOX) Limited

VIEWPOINT 11 & 12

EXISTING BASELINE VIEWS (EXTENDED PANORAMA)

FOR VIEWPOINT LOCATIONS REFER TO FIGURE 04

FIGURE 5.6

DATE: JAN' 26
 DRAWN BY: DL
 CHECKED: EC



EC-Environmental Services
 20, Springwell Close,
 Grange Park,
 Northampton,
 NN4 5AQ
 info@ec-environmental.co.uk
 07708 637 654
 ec-environmental.co.uk



APPENDIX 1

LVA GLOSSARY



GLOSSARY

Characteristics

Elements, or combinations of elements, which make a contribution to distinctive landscape character.

Landscape character

A distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse.

Landscape Character Areas (LCAs)

These are single unique areas which are the discrete geographical areas of a particular landscape type.

Landscape Character Types (LCTs)

These are distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogeneous in character, and share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation and historical land use and settlement pattern, and perceptual and aesthetic attributes.

Landscape quality (condition)

A measure of the physical state of the landscape. It may include the extent to which typical character is represented in individual areas, the intactness of the landscape and the condition of individual elements.

Landscape receptors

Defined aspects of the landscape resource that have the potential to be affected by a proposal.

Magnitude (of effect)

A term that combines judgements about the size and scale of the effect, the extent of the area over which it occurs, whether it is reversible or irreversible and whether it is short or long term in duration.

Scoping

The process of identifying the issues to be addressed by an EIA. It is a method of ensuring that an EIA focuses on the important issues and avoids those that are considered to be less significant.

Sensitivity

A term applied to specific receptors, combining judgements of the susceptibility of the receptor to the specific type of change or development proposed and the value related to that receptor.

Importance

A measure of the significance or gravity of the environmental effect, defined by criteria specific to the environmental topic.

Susceptibility

The ability of a defined landscape or visual receptor to accommodate the specific proposed development without undue negative consequences.

**Tranquillity**

A state of calm and quietude associated with peace, considered to be a significant asset of landscape.

Visual amenity

The overall pleasantness of the views people enjoy of their surroundings, which provides an attractive visual setting or backdrop for the enjoyment of activities of the people living, working, recreating, visiting or travelling through an area.

Visual receptors

Individuals and/or defined groups of people who have the potential to be affected by a proposal.

Visualisation

A computer simulation, photomontage or other technique illustrating the predicted appearance of a development.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV; sometimes Zone of Visual Influence)

A map, usually digitally produced, showing areas of land within which, a development is theoretically visible.



APPENDIX 2

LVA METHODOLOGY

METHODOLOGY

Characteristics

Approach

This assessment aims to identify and describe the nature and importance of the effects likely to arise as a result of the Proposed Development on the existing landscape and the visual amenity of people. This methodology has been developed in accordance with the principles of good practice set out in the following published guidance produced by the relevant professional organisations concerned with landscape and visual assessment:

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition (2013), (GLVIA3), published by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment
- Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01: Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute, 2024)
- Natural England's 'An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment' (2014)
- An Approach to Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (Natural England, 2019)
- Landscape Institute (2019), Technical Guidance Note 06/19, Visual Representation of Development Proposals
- Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 02/21: Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations (LI, 2021)

The GLVIA3 states that:

“Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) is a tool used to identify and assess the significance of and the effects of change resulting from development on both the landscape as an environmental resource in its own right and on people’s views and visual amenity.”

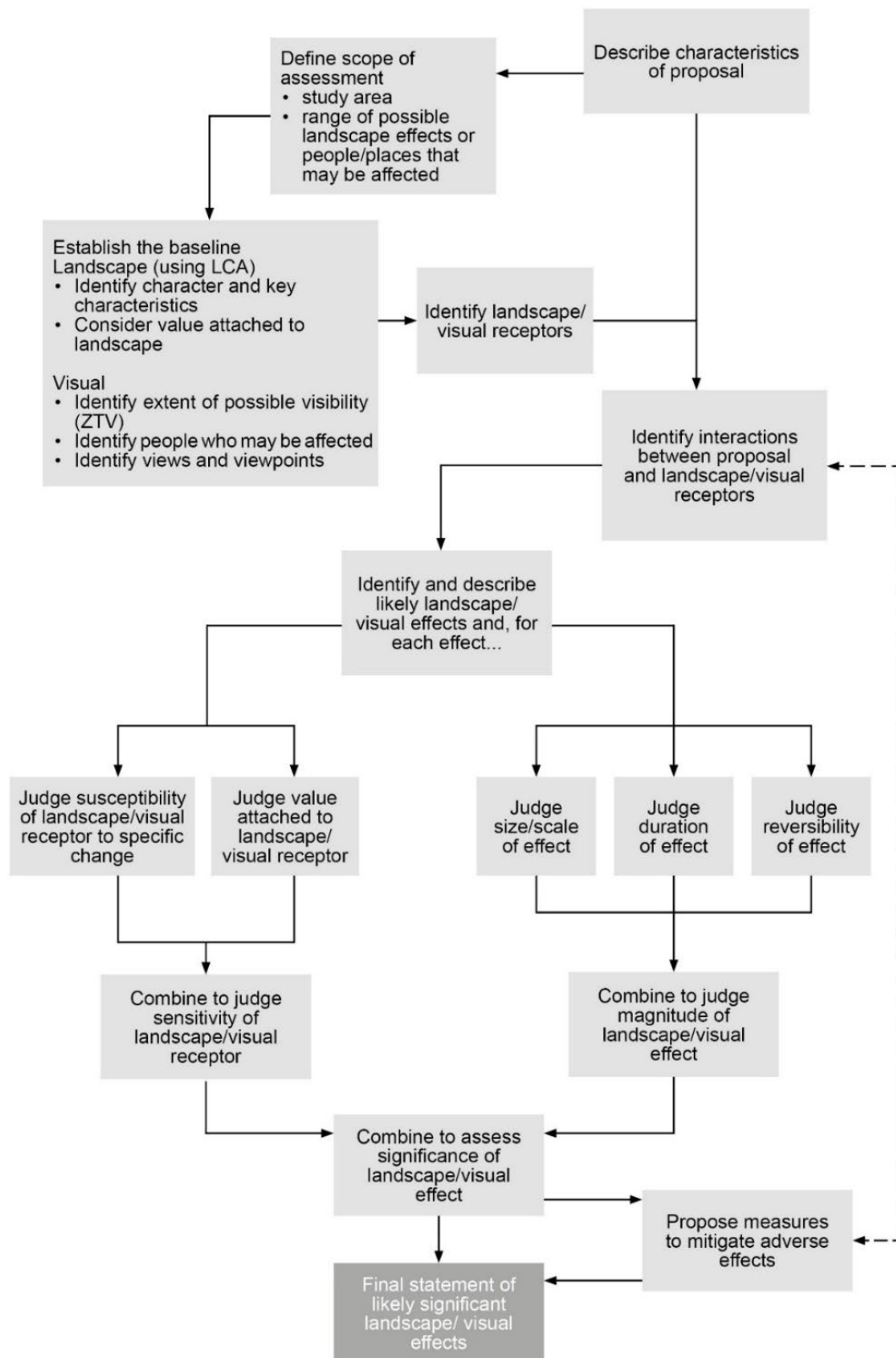
GLVIA3 Statement of Clarification 1/13 states that for an LVIA outside of the EIA process, it is not necessary to establish whether likely effects are significant, given that the term is enshrined in EIA Regulations. It goes on to note an approach that “is proportional to the scale of the project that is being assessed and the nature of its likely effects” also applies to LVIA being undertaken outside of the formal requirements of EIA. In this assessment, judgements are made therefore about the level of effects, referred to by their importance rather than significance, with the assessment then used to determine whether these effects are likely to be relevant in the decision-making process.

Whilst linked, the assessment of landscape and visual effects are treated separately in LVIA. The overall approach used to identify and assess landscape and visual effects is summarised as follows:

- Determine the scope of assessment
- Collate baseline information through desk study research and field based survey work, select appropriate landscape and visual receptors and establish their value
- Review the proposal and determine susceptibility of landscape and visual receptors to the nature of development proposed
- Combine value with susceptibility to determine the sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors to the nature of development proposed
- Describe the nature and magnitude of change (impacts) likely to be experienced by landscape and visual receptors as a result of the Proposed Development
- Describe any measures to avoid or reduce the magnitude of any adverse change (mitigation)
- Assess the importance of effects for landscape and visual receptors in relation to the Proposed Development through a clear description of judgements on sensitivity and magnitude
- Identify those effects that are considered relevant to decision making

The overall process within this LVIA is outlined in the following flow chart (Figure 1) based on figures produced in the Guidelines detailing steps in the assessment of landscape effects and visual effects. The scope of the assessment has been discussed with the Local Authority and stakeholders to agree the scope as much as possible prior to planning submission, to ensure the process is site specific, clear and transparent, and identifies the effects necessary to make a full judgement as to the acceptability of the proposed development in landscape and visual terms.

Figure 1: Steps in assessing landscape/visual effects



BASELINE CONDITIONS

Landscape Baseline

Baseline studies require a mix of desk study and fieldwork to identify and record the character of the landscape, as well as the elements, features and aesthetic and perceptual factors which contribute to it. For landscape effects the study area should cover the proposed project Site and the wider landscape context within which the proposals may influence landscape character and the full extent of any neighbouring features of special value (e.g. designated areas including AONBs, Historic Parks, Conservation Areas etc.) to reflect the setting of that feature.

Published Landscape or Townscape Character Assessments prepared by the Local Authorities have formed the basis of the desk study, followed by the site-specific assessment to identify landscape receptors. The process involves the assessment of a combination of physical (e.g. landform, vegetation, buildings), aesthetic/perceptual (e.g. scale, appearance, tranquillity) and cultural/social (e.g. human interaction, landuse, heritage) aspects which together make up the character of the area and its value. An assessment is also made as to the quality, or condition, of the landscape, which involves consideration of the physical state of the landscape and of the features and elements which make up landscape character.

Landscape Value

Value is “attached to different landscapes by society, bearing in mind that a landscape may be valued by different stakeholders for a whole variety of reasons”². Landscapes or their component parts may be valued at community, local, national or international levels. A review of existing landscape designations is the starting point in understanding value, but the value attached to undesignated landscapes will be carefully considered and individual elements of the landscape - such as trees, buildings, or hedgerows – may also be of value.

The landscape value has been evaluated using the following factors that are generally agreed to influence value, based on Box 5.1 in the Guidelines.

Table 1

FACTOR	DESCRIPTION OF VALUE
LANDSCAPE QUALITY (CONDITION)	A measure of the physical state of the landscape. It may include the extent to which typical character is represented in individual areas, the intactness of the landscape and the condition of individual elements.
SCENIC QUALITY	The term used to describe landscapes that appeal primarily to the senses (primarily but not wholly the visual senses).

² GLVIA3 paragraph 5.19

RARITY	The presence of rare elements or features in the landscape or the presence of a rare Landscape Character Type.
REPRESENTATIVENESS	Whether the landscape contains a particular character and/or features or elements which are considered particularly important examples.
CONSERVATION INTERESTS	The presence of features of wildlife, earth science or archaeological or historical and cultural interest can add to the value of the landscape as well as having value in their own right.
RECREATION VALUE	Evidence that the landscape is valued for recreational activity where experience of the landscape is important.
PERCEPTUAL ASPECTS	A landscape may be valued for its perceptual qualities, notably wildness and/or tranquillity.
ASSOCIATIONS	Some landscapes are associated with particular people, such as artists or writers, or events in history that contribute to perceptions of the natural beauty of the area

Bearing in mind the above factors, the following elements (which are not intended to be prescriptive) provide an indication of the range of attributes that would need to be considered within the assessment³. These should be assessed as to how they contribute or detract from the overall character and quality of the landscape to help identify what should be conserved or protected and what should be enhanced and provides the basis to consider the sensitivity of the landscape to change as a result of the proposed project.

- Natural features and elements. Examples would include:
 - landform (e.g. ridge lines);
 - trees and woodland (e.g. mature hilltop copse, scrub, or isolated trees);
 - any other natural vegetation (e.g. heathland);
 - water features (e.g. lakes, streams and ditches);
 - rock formations.
- Built features and elements. Examples would include;
 - prominent buildings or other landmarks (e.g. a church spire or bridge);
 - settlements and built form (e.g. urban areas, villages, farms or houses);
 - settlement pattern and density (e.g. clustered, isolated or randomly dispersed);
 - style and characteristics of the built landscape (e.g. old or modern, use of local vernacular materials such as stone or thatch).
- Historic features and elements. Examples would include;
 - visible ancient monuments (e.g. earthworks, burial mounds and standing stones);
 - visible historic features remaining from past farming and land management systems (e.g. ridge and furrow);
 - historic buildings, bridges and other structures (e.g. memorials)

³ Taken from Advice Note on LVIA 'IAN 135/10' (Highways England)

- Features and elements of the managed landscape. Examples would include:
 - hedgerow form or other boundary treatment (e.g. dry stone walling);
 - land use (e.g. arable, pasture, urban).
 - Infrastructure features and elements (e.g. roads, canals, railways)
- Any discordant or intrusive features and elements, such as a conspicuous line of pylons or an area of derelict land.
- Less tangible aesthetic and perceptual characteristics concerned with how the landscape is experienced and why, including professional judgment on tranquillity, wildness, intimacy, sense of place, scenic quality and other responses or impressions.

Visual Baseline

The baseline studies for visual effects will establish the geographic area in which the development may be visible from, and the different groups of people (receptors) who may experience views of the development. These receptors have been illustrated through a number of specific/representative viewpoints that are reasonable and proportional to the scale and nature of the proposed development.

The visual baseline has been informed by a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) map to provide information on where, theoretically, the proposal is visible from, and this has been refined by fieldwork to confirm which visual receptors will be identified. The ZTV is calculated utilising a digital terrain model (DTM such as NEXTMAP 25) identifying the 'bare ground' results which therefore do not take account of local conditions and any above-ground features which can significantly reduce the actual extent of visibility. Therefore, a second stage ZTV is produced to include visual barriers such as woodland and settlements using a digital surface model (DSM such as NEXTMAP 25) to provide a better representation of actual visibility.

Likely visual receptors affected by the changes in views and visual amenity include users of open access land, public rights of way, the public highway or other transport routes, local residents, and those at work. Views and viewpoints to represent these receptors have been recorded with panoramic images produced in line with the Technical Guidance Note on 'Visual Representation of Development Proposals'⁴. Data such as the camera, the field of view and weather conditions have been recorded for clarity of information.

⁴ Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19 17th September 2019

Value of views

The nature, composition and characteristics of the existing views experienced at each viewpoint have been recorded as well as an assessment of value attached to that view. Recognition of the value attached to particular views has taken into account the presence of heritage assets or planning designations, appearance in guidebooks or maps, provision of facilities for their enjoyment (viewpoints, benches, information boards), or specific references in literature/art.

The visual receptors most susceptible to change are generally likely to include:

- *Residents at home;*
- *People engaged in outdoor recreation, including use of public rights of way, whose attention or interest is likely to be focused on the landscape or particular views;*
- *Visitors to heritage assets or other attractions, where views of surroundings are an important contributor to the experience;*
- *Communities where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents in the area;*

Travellers on road, rail or other transport routes tend to fall into an intermediate category of susceptibility to change. Where travel involves recognised scenic routes awareness of views is likely to be particularly high.⁵

Visual receptors likely to be less susceptible to change include:

- *People engaged in outdoor sport or recreation which does not involve or depend upon appreciation of views of the landscape;*
- *People at their place of work whose attention may be focused on their work or activity, not on their surroundings.⁶*

ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS

The project description outlines the siting, layout, components and other characteristics of the development that are likely to be relevant to the landscape and visual effects. This also includes the primary landscape measures that have been developed through the iterative design process and have become integrated or embedded into the project design. Having established the baseline receptors for both landscape and visual aspects and their value, it is necessary to predict what interactions there will be between these receptors and the proposed development. This will follow these stages:

⁵ GLVIA3 paragraph 6.33

⁶ GLVIA3 paragraph 6.34

- Evaluate the sensitivity of the receptor through combining judgements on the value attached to the receptor and the susceptibility to change arising from the specific type of development;
- Identify the magnitude of change through judgements on size/scale, extent and duration;
- Combine judgements on sensitivity and magnitude to establish the level of effects.

Determining the significance of effects is a requirement of the LVIA process through an evidence-based process combined with professional judgement. Under the UK EIA Regulations the process must consider the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short-, medium- and long-term, permanent and temporary, as well as positive and negative effects of the development.

In deciding whether effects are positive (beneficial) or negative (adverse), an informed professional judgement has been made, using clearly stated criteria used in reaching the judgement. It is considered that well-designed new development can make a positive contribution to the landscape and need not always be hidden or screened. It is also possible for effects to be neutral in their consequences.

Landscape Effects

The **sensitivity** of the landscape receptor has been identified by combining judgements of the susceptibility to the type of change or development proposed with the value attached to the landscape as established in the baseline study.

Susceptibility is the ability of the landscape receptor (whether it be the overall character or quality/condition of a particular landscape type or area, or an individual element and/or feature, or a particular aesthetic and perceptual aspect) to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation⁷.

The overall landscape sensitivity for each receptor has then been categorised balancing the judgements made on the value attached to the receptor and the susceptibility to the type of change arising from the specific proposal. These are categorised into High, Medium, Low and Negligible and defined in Table 2.

⁷ GLVIA3 paragraph 5.40

Table 2

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY	DEFINITION
HIGH	A landscape with high susceptibility (vulnerability) to change where the type of development would cause large-scale loss to the characteristics of the area. Areas have high landscape value with limited potential for substitution. Likely to be designated at national or regional level and/or rare or high-quality elements or features may be present outside designated areas, especially at a local scale.
MEDIUM	A landscape with medium susceptibility (vulnerability) to change where the type of development would cause some disruption or loss to the characteristics of the area. Areas have medium landscape value with some potential for substitution. Likely to be designated at district or local level and/or medium quality elements or features that are more commonplace but worthy of retention.
LOW	A landscape with medium susceptibility (vulnerability) to change, where the type of development would be consistent with the characteristics of the area. Areas have low landscape value and scope to mitigate for the loss of individual elements/features. Likely to be non-designated areas where landscape is discordant, derelict or in decline with little or no sense of place.
NEGLECTIBLE	A landscape of very low importance and prevalence at a local scale where landscape is heavily discordant or derelict and/or poor-quality elements and features that are commonplace.

Magnitude of Landscape Change

The magnitude of change on the landscape resource has been assessed in terms of its size/scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced, and its duration and reversibility⁸.

Size or Scale: the extent and importance of existing landscape elements that will be lost, and the degree to which aesthetic or perceptual aspects are altered either by removal of existing components or by addition of new ones, and whether this loss is critical to its distinctive character.

Geographical extent: the physical area to which landscape effects will be felt, whether at site level within the development site itself, in the immediate setting of the site, or at a scale of the landscape type or character area.

Duration and reversibility: the duration of the effect whether short, medium or long term, and if the effects are permanent or could be reversed such as some renewable energy developments.

These factors are considered against the baseline conditions and a judgement has been made as to the likely magnitude of effect of the proposals on the landscape resource. This is categorised as High, Medium, Low, Negligible and None and defined in Table 3.

⁸ GLVIA3 paragraph 5.48

Table 3

LANDSCAPE MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	DEFINITION
HIGH	Substantial or total loss/damage/alteration of key characteristics or features within the landscape, or introduction of new uncharacteristic elements, having a marked and defining effect on the receptor.
MEDIUM	Moderate loss/ damage/alteration of key characteristics or features within the landscape, or introduction of new elements, having a noticeable but not defining effect on the receptor.
LOW	Minor loss/ damage/alteration of key characteristics or features within the landscape, or introduction of new elements, having a limited effect on the receptor.
NEGLIGIBLE	A slight perceptible change or very limited loss/ damage/alteration of key characteristics or features within the landscape, or introduction of characteristic new elements, having a slight or undetectable effect on the receptor.
NONE	No noticeable loss, damage or alteration to character or features or elements.

Visual Effects

Each visual receptor has been assessed in terms of their susceptibility to change in views and visual amenity, and the value attached to those views established in the baseline study. The susceptibility varies depending on the occupation or activity of the receptor (people) experiencing the view at particular locations, and the extent to which their attention is focused on the views and the visual amenity they experience from that viewpoint. The visual sensitivity is categorised as High, Medium and Low as defined in Table 4, although in reality there will be some gradation between.

Table 4

VISUAL SENSITIVITY	DEFINITION
HIGH	People at locations where the appreciation of their surroundings is an integral part of the experience. Includes people engaged in recreational use of public land, on National Trails and Pros, and in designated or high value landscapes. Visitors to recognised heritage assets or other areas of special interest.
HIGH → MEDIUM	People at locations where the appreciation of their surroundings is an important contributor to the experience. Includes people engaged in recreational use of public land or PRowS in higher value landscapes, visitors to heritage assets or other attractions, travellers on recognised scenic routes, and residents at home.
MEDIUM	People at locations where the appreciation of their surroundings is evident but not fundamental to the experience. Includes people engaged in recreational use of public land or PRowS in medium value landscapes, those on transport routes, and residents at home with secondary views.
MEDIUM → LOW	People at locations where their focus is likely to be on their activity and less on their surroundings. Includes people engaged in outdoor sport, people in private gardens and those on transport routes.
LOW	People at locations where their focus is primarily on their activity and not on their surroundings. Includes people in low value landscapes, at their place of work, at school, those engaged in indoor sport, or travelling along main infrastructure routes.

Magnitude of Visual Change

Each visual receptor and their sensitivity has been assessed against the magnitude of change in terms of its size or scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced, and its duration and reversibility. The magnitude will be categorised as High, Medium, Low, Negligible and None as defined in Table 5.

Size or Scale: the loss or addition of features in the view and changes in its composition including the proportion of the view occupied by the change, the degree of contrast in terms of form, scale and mass, line, height, colour and texture, and the nature of the view whether full, partial or glimpsed.

Geographical extent: the angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor, the distance away from the proposed development, and the extent of the area over which the changes are visible.

Duration and reversibility: the duration of the effect whether short, medium or long term, and if the effects are permanent or could be reversed such as some renewable energy developments.

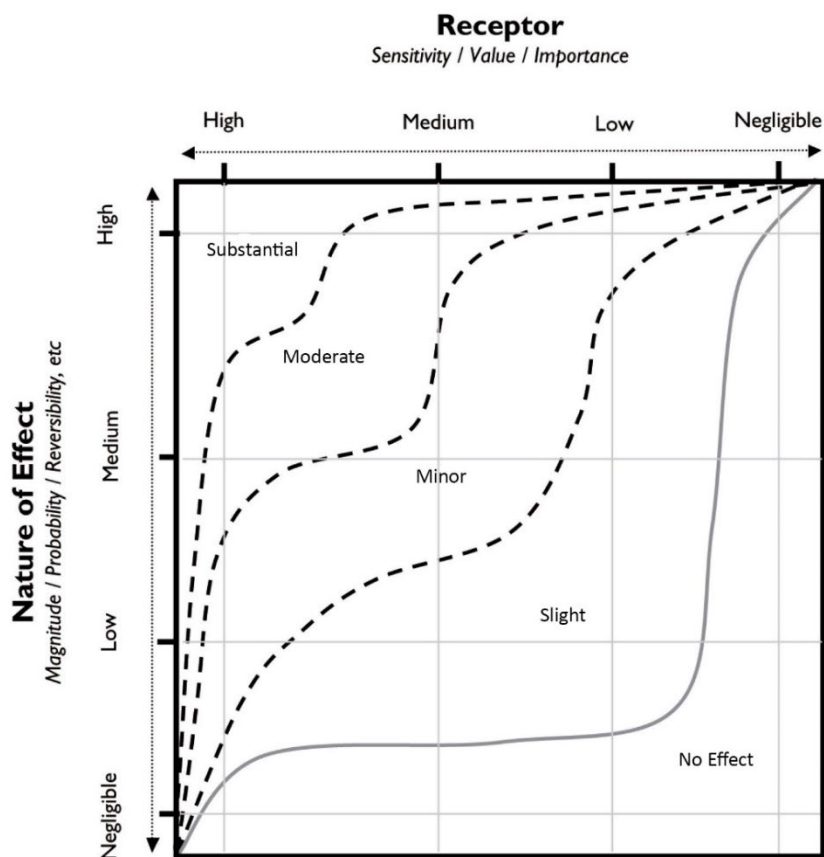
Table 5

VISUAL MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	DEFINITION
HIGH	The proposal forms a dominant and uncharacteristic new component in the view with a substantial loss/alteration to key elements, having a marked and defining effect on the amenity of the visual receptor.
MEDIUM	The proposal may form a perceptible and uncharacteristic component in the view with a moderate alteration to key elements, having a distinct but not defining effect on the amenity of the visual receptor.
LOW	The proposal forms a minor and small-scale component of the view with a minor alteration to key elements, having a noticeable effect on the amenity of the visual receptor.
NEGLECTIBLE	The proposal forms a slight perceptible change in the view, due to distance or intervening topography, buildings or landscape elements.
NONE	No part of the proposals or works/activity associated with it would be discernible.

IMPORTANCE OF EFFECTS

There is a difference between an ‘appraisal’ which seeks to identify and describe the likely landscape and visual effects, and a formal Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) that will assess the likely significance of the effects identified.

For both a landscape appraisal and an LVIA, the landscape and visual effects have been described and judged whether they are adverse or beneficial, and the likely importance of those effects is the next step within an LVIA. This has been categorised using a sliding scale and followed by a final statement summarising those which are ‘significant’ effects, and whether they can be mitigated. The following table is based on the 2011 IEMA Special Report on the ‘State of Environmental Impact Assessment Practice in the UK’.



Based on EIA significance evaluation matrix⁹

Following this example, categories for the level of significance range from Substantial, Moderate, Minor, Slight and No Effect and defined in Table 6.

⁹ IEMA Special Report – The State of Environmental Impact Assessment Practice in the UK (2011)

Table 6

IMPORTANCE	DEFINITION
SUBSTANTIAL	<p>The proposal would cause a considerable loss or fundamentally change the characteristics and perceptible qualities of the landscape resource or visual amenity. Likely to be a determining issue in its own right.</p> <p><i>Beneficial</i> – greatly enhance the character/view and create a sense of place <i>Adverse</i> – completely discordant with the character/view and damage to sense of place</p>
MODERATE	<p>The proposal would cause a discernible loss or change to the characteristics and perceptible qualities of the landscape resource or visual amenity. Could be considered a determining issue when combined with other effects.</p> <p><i>Beneficial</i> – improvement to the character/view and restoration of a sense of place <i>Adverse</i> – conflict with the character/view and some damage to sense of place</p>
MINOR	<p>The proposal would cause a minor loss or localised change to the characteristics and perceptible qualities of the landscape resource or visual amenity. Of little consequence in the decision-making process.</p> <p><i>Beneficial</i> – minor improvement to the character/view and sense of place <i>Adverse</i> – some disparity with the character/view and diminished sense of place</p>
SLIGHT	<p>The proposal would cause a negligible change in the landscape resource or visual amenity. Not considered material in the decision-making process.</p> <p><i>Beneficial</i> – complements the character/view and retains sense of place <i>Adverse</i> – little alteration to the character/view and slight loss of sense of place</p>
NO EFFECT	<p>resulting in a neutral effect (no material change) due to being compatible with local character or not visible. Neither beneficial nor adverse.</p>

APPENDIX 3

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT EXTRACT



Key characteristics

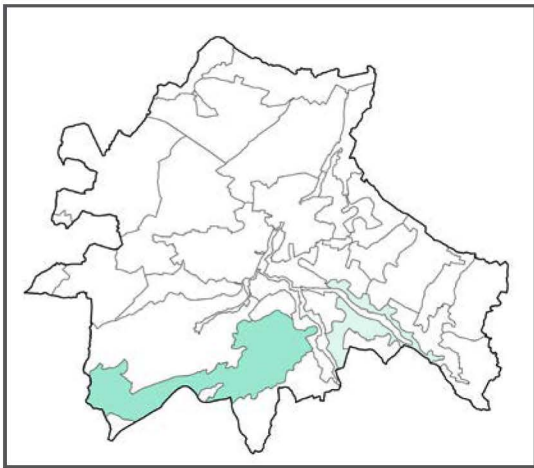
- The underlying and solid geology is dominated by Upper Cretaceous Chalk, a narrow continuation of the chalk ridge that runs south-west–north-east across southern England, continuing in the Chilterns and along the eastern edge of The Wash. The chalk bedrock has given the NCA its nutrient-poor and shallow soils.
- Distinctive chalk rivers, the River Rhee and River Granta, flow in gentle river valleys in a diagonally north-west direction across the NCA.
- The chalk aquifer is abstracted for water to supply Cambridge and its surroundings and also supports flows of springs and chalk streams; features associated with a history of modification include watercress beds, culverts and habitat enhancements.
- The rolling downland, mostly in arable production, has sparse tree cover but distinctive beech belts along long, straight roads. Certain high points have small beech copses or 'hanger', which are prominent and characteristic features in the open landscape. In the east there are pine belts.
- Remnant chalk grassland, including road verges, supports chalkland flora and vestigial populations of invertebrates, such as great pignut and the chalkhill blue butterfly.
- Archaeological features include Neolithic long barrows and bronze-age tumuli lining the route of the prehistoric Icknield Way; iron-age hill forts, including that at Wandlebury; impressive Roman burial monuments and cemeteries such as the Bartlow Hills; a distinctive communication network linking the rural Roman landscape to settlements and small towns, such as Great Chesterford; the four parallel Cambridgeshire dykes that cross the Chalk: the Anglo-Saxon linear earthworks of Devil's Dyke, Fleam Dyke, Heydon/Bran Ditch and Brent Ditch; ridge-and-furrow cultivation remains of the open field systems of the earlier medieval period; and large numbers of later moated enclosures, park lands



Wandlebury Hill Fort from the air in 1980. The wooded concentric earth bank can be clearly seen.

- created, sheepwalks, arterial routes and nucleated villages that emphasise the land use change of this period.
- Brick and 'clunch' (building chalk) under thatched roofs were the traditional building materials, with some earlier survival of timber frame. Isolated farmhouses built of grey or yellowish brick have a bleached appearance.
- Settlement is focused in small towns and in villages. There are a number of expanding commuter villages located generally within valleys. Letchworth Garden City is a nationally significant designed garden city.
- In and around the wider area of Newmarket, stud farms impose a distinctive geometric, enclosed and manicured pattern to the landscape.
- The NCA is traversed by the Icknield Way, an ancient route that is now a public right of way. Roads and lanes strike across the downs perpendicularly and follow historical tracks that originally brought livestock to their summer grazing. Today major roads and railways are prominent landscape characteristics of the NCA.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 8B: MORDEN TO DUXFORD LOWLAND CHALKLANDS



8B: MORDEN TO DUXFORD LOWLAND CHALKLANDS LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA

The Morden to Duxford Lowland Chalklands Landscape Character Area (LCA) is a large scale, open, arable landscape with historic villages at the edges of the River Valleys and distinctive linear features including roads, tracks and earthworks.

Description

Key Characteristics

- Low hedges and few trees create a large-scale, open and simple landscape
- Occasional copses of trees on high ground are a distinctive feature
- Sparse settlement pattern with small villages elevated from the River Valleys on lower ground, interspersed with isolated farms and cottages
- Long distance views across arable fields towards the rising chalk hills to the northeast and south
- Historic linear features include roads, ancient trackways and earthworks

Morden to Duxford LCA is a transitional, gently rolling landscape between the Lowland Farmlands and the smooth rolling Chalk Hills, that extends south into North Hertfordshire District. Within the Study Area, the landform is lowest in the northeast at c. 20m AOD and highest in the southwest at c. 80m AOD. Occasional small streams including Cheney Water and Hoffer Brook flow north towards the River Rhee valley.

This is a simple arable landscape of medium to large fields enclosed by a fragmented network of straight, low trimmed hedgerows, ditches and open boundaries. Fields are set in a generally ordered pattern of rectilinear fields and lanes with straight boundaries. Occasional linear tree belts along field boundaries and tree lines along roads or hedgerow trees combine to give a localised treed character, and provide localised visual enclosure within a large scale, open and spacious landscape. Certain high points have small beech copses, which form strong focal points, and there are occasional shelterbelts around settlements and a chalk pit in the southwest. This is not an ecologically rich LCA, however occasional pockets of deciduous woodland, orchards, floodplain grazing marsh, chalk grassland provide variety within the landscape. The golf course south of Fowlmere and solar farms north of Thriplow and north and east of Royston provide variation within the otherwise simple land use pattern. Views across arable fields are generally long, with smooth or treed distant horizons, and often feature the rolling Chalk Hills to the northeast and south.

Settlement comprises small villages, generally located on lower ground, elevated from the River Valleys, and separated by extensive tracts of countryside, with isolated farms and cottages are scattered in between. Villages include Foxton, Thriplow, Fowlmere, Guilden Morden and Steeple Morden. Generally, the villages have retained their small scale and historic, peaceful character, and can be glimpsed in the wider landscape. Soft edges comprising mature hedges and hedgerow trees, shelterbelts, small fields and paddocks provide a transition between villages and the wider chalk landscape. Church spires are often prominent landmarks. Occasional lines of poplars and telegraph poles are occasional features which interrupt the skyline.

Farm buildings tend to be large, but low and well-integrated into the landscape. The monumental aircraft hangars at Duxford Airfield, now part of the Imperial War Museum, are notable built features within the LCA, but not unsympathetic in the large scale open character of their setting. The strong rural character is locally disrupted by the A505 and M11 major roads which converge east of Duxford Airfield.

Historical and archaeological features including roads, ancient trackways and earthworks form distinctive linear features, including Ermine Street Roman Road, Bran or Heydon Ditch, and Ashwell Street track. The historic Icknield Way and the Harcamlow Way run through the LCA, providing a connection between historical and ecological features in neighbouring LCAs.

Evaluation

Specific Landscape Sensitivities

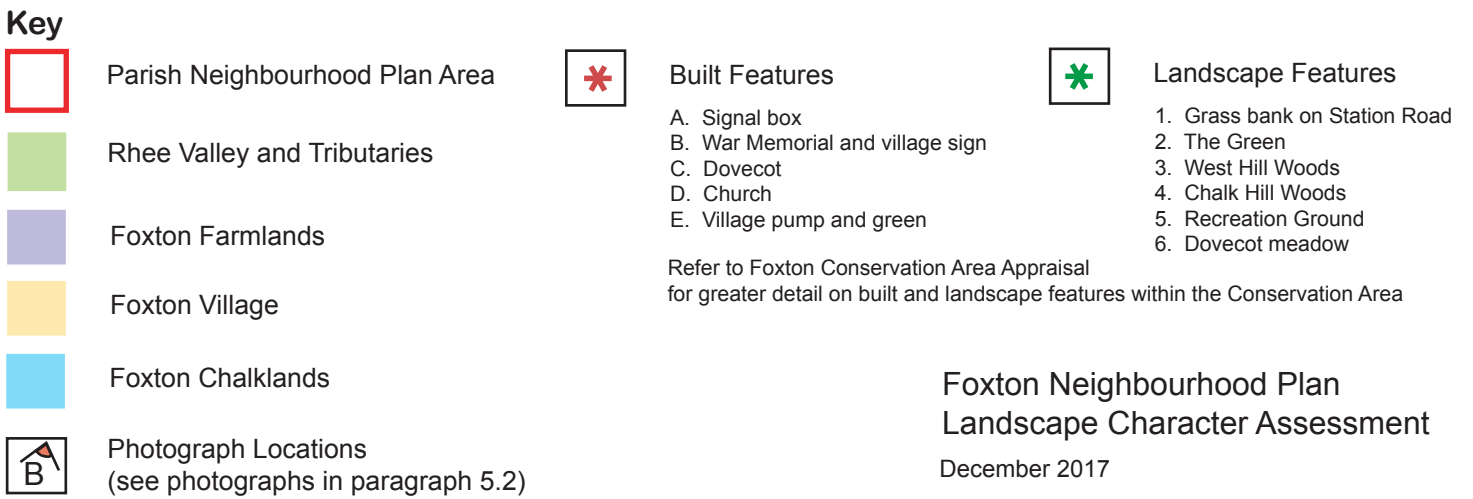
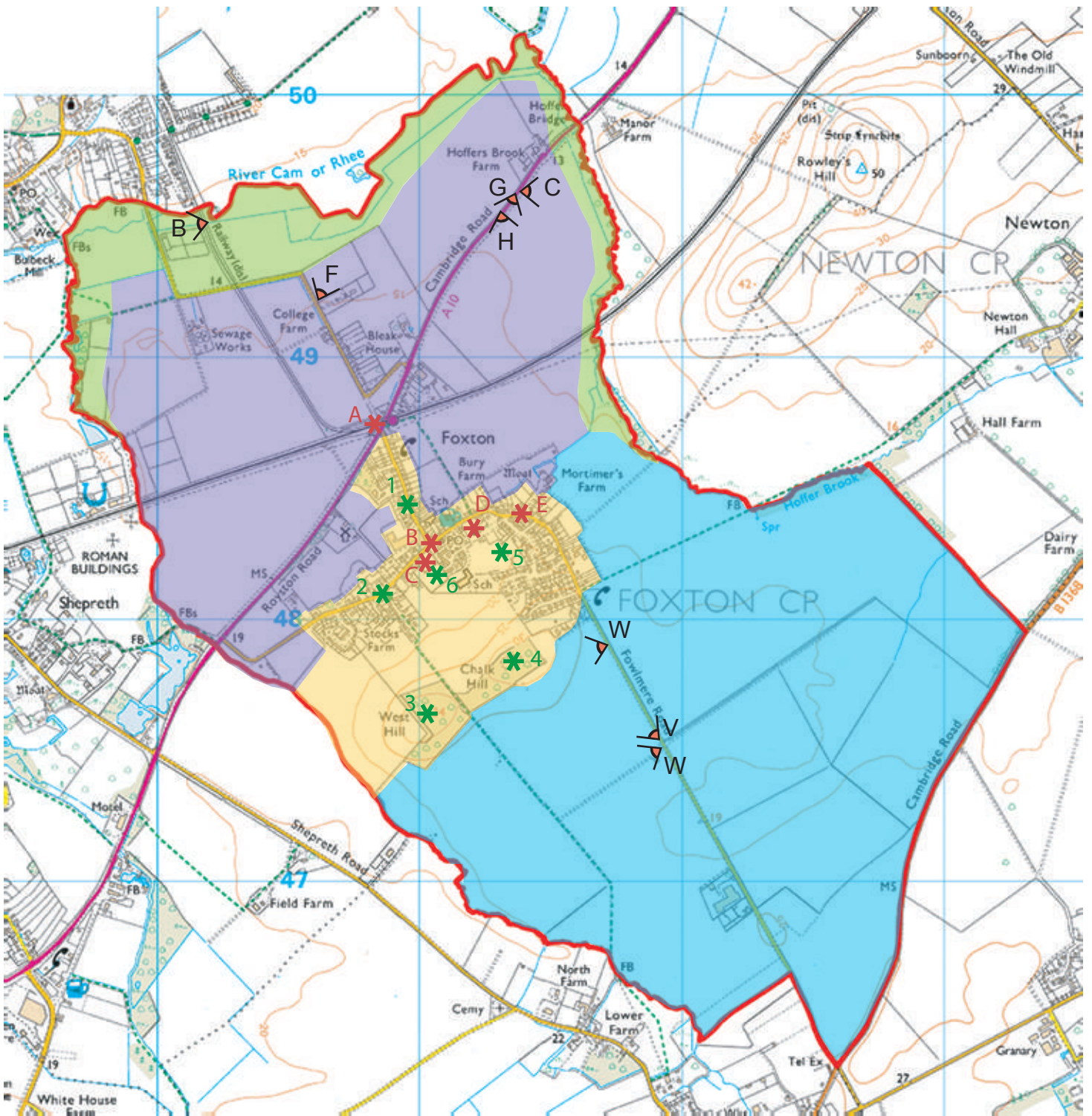
In addition to the generic landscape sensitivities for this landscape character type, the following sensitivities are specific to this character area:

- Limited vegetation, open skylines and long distance views

Specific Landscape Guidelines

In addition to the generic landscape guidelines for this landscape character type, the following guidelines are specific to this character area:

- Conserve the open, expansive landscape and long distance views through careful consideration for location of new development and particularly tall/vertical structures

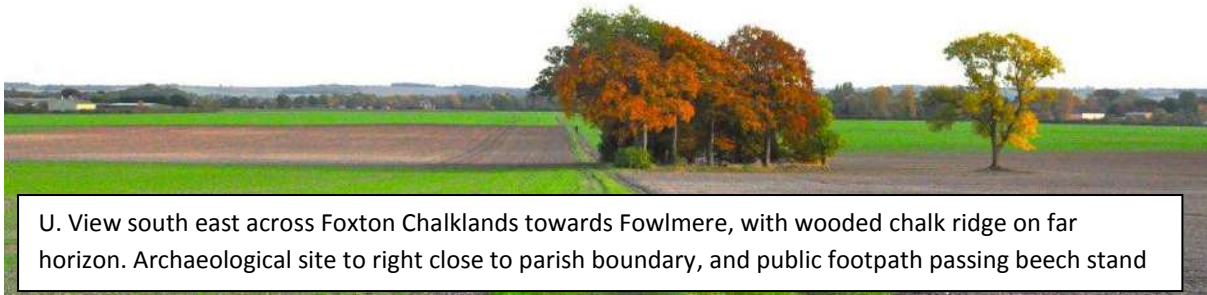


Foxton Neighbourhood Plan
Landscape Character Assessment
December 2017

Figure 14: Landscape Character Areas, main landscape and built features and rural photograph locations

Foxton Chalklands

This character area to the south of the village is an open rolling arable landscape that emphasises the rural setting of the village. It lies entirely on chalk geology giving rise to freely drained soils and hence good quality agricultural land. The land slopes gently south and east, and it provides separation from adjacent villages, not just Fowlmere to the south, but also Newton to the north east and Thriplow to the south-east, all just visible thanks to their church towers.



U. View south east across Foxton Chalklands towards Fowlmere, with wooded chalk ridge on far horizon. Archaeological site to right close to parish boundary, and public footpath passing beech stand

The woodlands of Chalk Hill and West Hill are the key landscape feature, framing the view looking south and east, as well as north and west across the village. The views from the woods and public footpath are expansive and ever-changing. The Royston to Heydon chalk ridge is clearly visible on the skyline, capped in places by woodland stands. As well as farmland birds, aircraft from nearby Duxford airfield are often to be spotted in the skies overhead. Other landscape features important to this character area include the brook-side native tree belt along Hoffer Brook, intermittent roadside planting and other occasional hedging and mature trees such as beech. These are remnants of earlier hedgerows and field boundaries, and are now helping to break up the open landscape of very large fields.



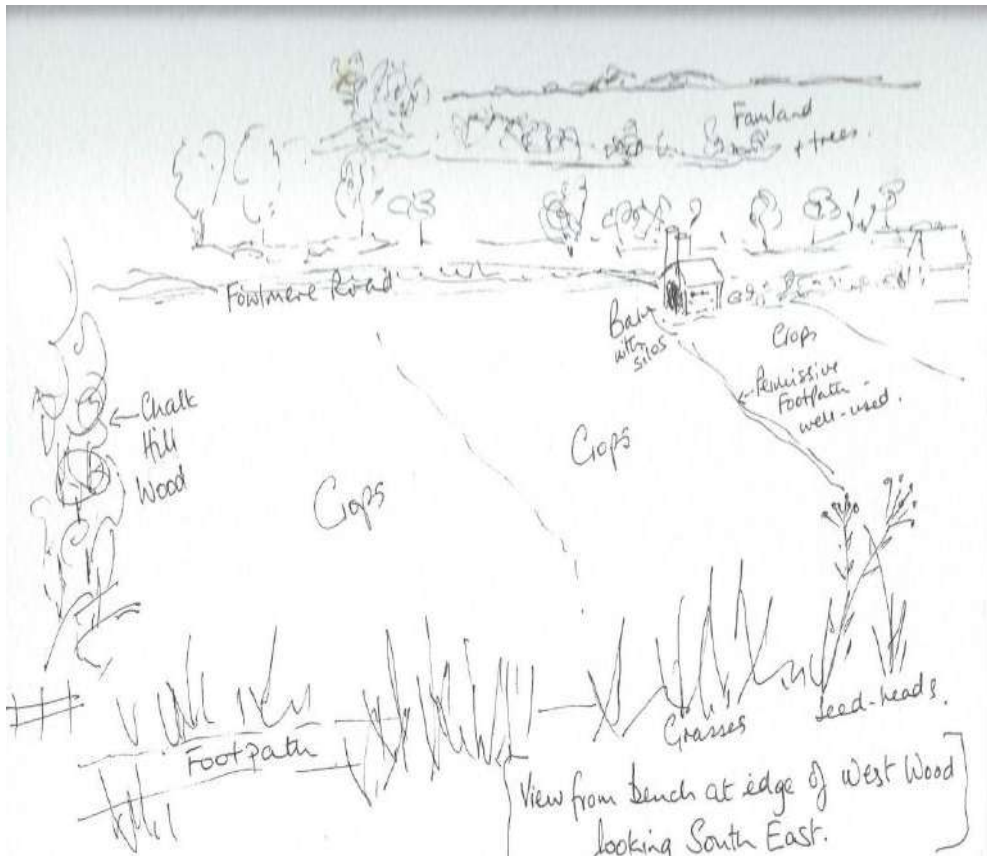
V. View northwest from Fowlmere Road looking towards Chalk Hill and West Hill Woods. New housing development is clearly visible over the ridge line

Archaeological evidence, gathered in advance of the recent ridge-top housing being built, has revealed a linear double ditch crossing the Fowlmere Road at Chalk Hill. Crop markings visible on aerial photographs back up this discovery. It is thought to have provided a defensive structure in the Iron Age, linking Hoffer and Shep brooks. So the importance of the chalk ridge in the landscape was recognised many thousands of years ago.



W. Two views west from the Fowlmere Road across the Foxton Chalklands, with agricultural buildings and new housing interrupting the open landscape

The chalk landscape has the occasional agricultural building and the road interrupting its openness and tranquillity. The small 2016 housing development on the brow of the hill, at the southern edge of the village, also provides some visual intrusion. Its siting bears no relationship to the chalk landscape, and it creates a new village edge escaping over the brow of the hill from the otherwise hidden settlement. External tree screening may in time ameliorate its visual impact.



X. View SE

Evaluation: the Foxton Chalklands are highly characteristic of the wider National Character Area. It is a productive, well-managed agricultural landscape, in which there lies a patchwork of small historic villages. Its principle value, apart from producing food, is its wide open vistas, its rurality and feeling of tranquillity. Any new residential development, extending the village southwards, would have a detrimental impact on the landscape quality, and historic settlement pattern. Any new agricultural or employment buildings would severely detract from the landscape quality, openness and uninterrupted skylines. Any such development could not easily be ameliorated by screening. There are opportunities to improve biodiversity networks along verges and hedgerows through suitable native planting.

Chartered
Member
of the
Landscape
Institute



EC-Environmental
20, Springwell Close,
Grange Park,
Northampton,
NN4 5AQ



info@ec-environmental.co.uk
07708 637 654



www.ec-environmental.co.uk

