

Caton with Littledale Neighbourhood Plan
Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

May 2019



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Introduction

Caton with Littledale Parish Council has set up a Neighbourhood Plan Group (NPG) to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan. As part of this the NPG is considering the best approach for new housing developments within the villages of Brookhouse and Caton.

The Parish and these villages lie within the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Whilst the NPG would like to see the provision of housing to meet local needs within the Parish, it should not be at the expense of the special character of the nationally protected landscape.

Lancaster City Council is reviewing potential sites to meet local housing needs. Caton and Brookhouse have been identified as 'Sustainable Settlements' as they have a variety of services to meet the communities needs. They are therefore deemed suitable for further housing development. The City Council has provided information to the NPG to help identify suitable sites. Some of these sites have been developed. A further 4 have been identified as appropriate for housing development.

There is a need to understand the cumulative changes that might arise as a result of all the sites being developed, and the impacts that it might have on the special qualities and character of the villages and wider landscape. It was agreed that the best way to do this would be through a cumulative landscape and visual impact assessment of the potential sites.

This report sets out the findings of a cumulative landscape and visual assessment of 4 sites. It identifies the potential changes to the landscape character and visual amenity that could arise if all 4 sites were developed, in combination with recent and planned housing development in the villages of Caton and Brookhouse.

Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

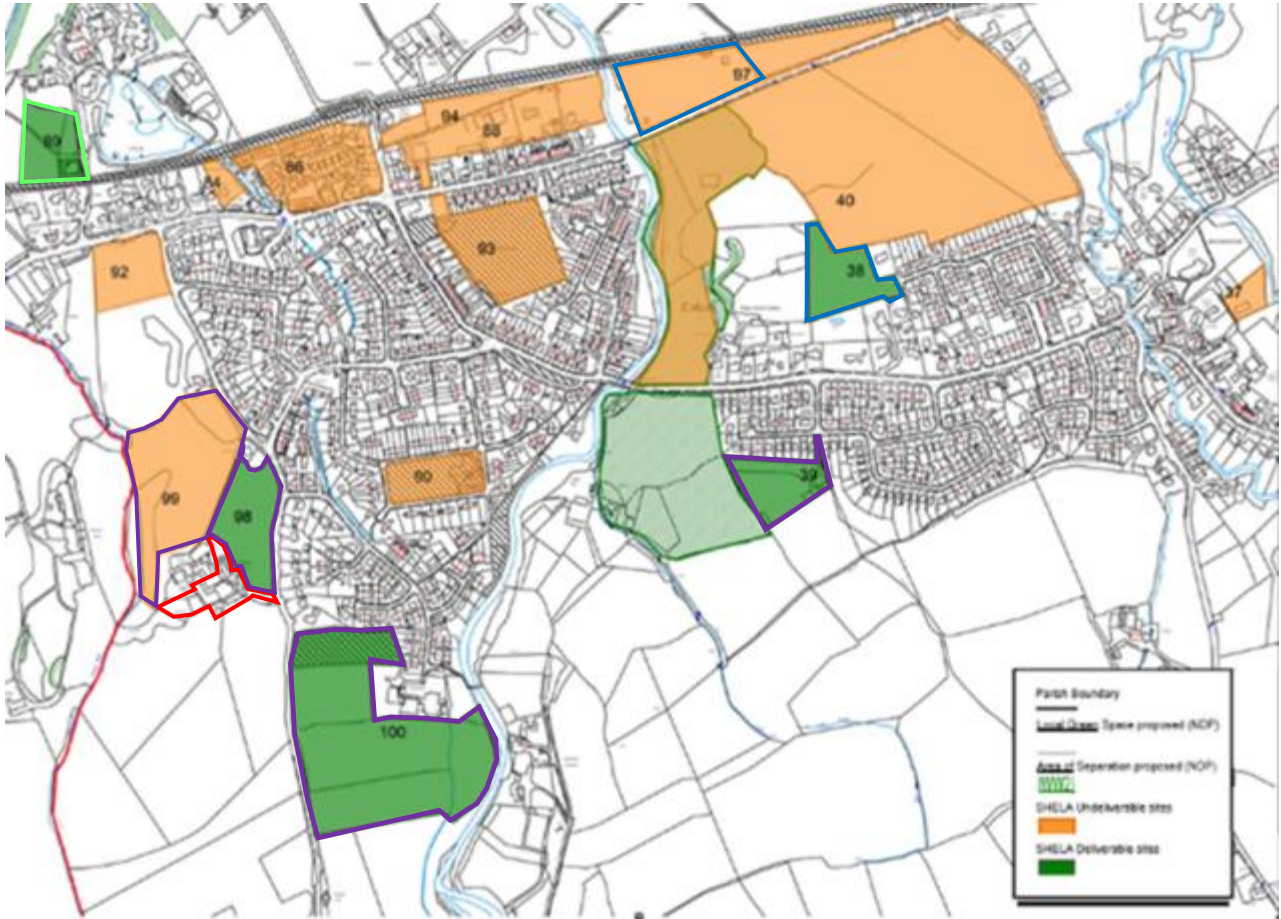
Project description

The cumulative effects of 4 potential housing sites has been assessed, in conjunction with other housing sites that are subject to a planning application, have planning consent and are under construction. The number or types of housing units for the sites are not specified.

The assessment considers the effects of landscape and visual changes of expanding the villages based on a 5-10 year development period. Consideration is given to the combined effects of the four sites to the landscape character, views and visual amenity of the area.

The sites are identified on the map below as: Site 39, Site 98, Site 99 and Site 100

An additional 4 sites are in development, have received planning consent or are subject to a current planning application. These form part of the baseline. These are: Site 38 and Site 97 (built/under construction), Site 89 (current planning application) and Escowbeck Farm (planning consent).



SHELA: Lancaster City Council

- Potential sites
- Sites with planning consent
- Built/under construction
- Sites awaiting planning decisions

Site 39:

Site description

The site is located to the south of Hawthorn Close. It lies at a higher elevation to the settlement and is a small, relatively level, field used for horse grazing. It has a small collection of outbuildings at its south eastern and south western corners. It is bounded by a dry stone wall to the south, by fencing to and a grown out hedge along the western side, by bungalows and wooden fencing to the north and by fencing to the east. A public footpath runs along its eastern side and access route, giving way to gardens of more bungalows.

The site reflects the general pastoral characteristics of the wider landscape. Similar sized fields continue south on rising land. These are often bounded by hedges with trees.

Site 98:

Site description

The site lies at the western edge of Caton. The land is agricultural, used as pasture for sheep. The field forms part of the wider landscape character. The land rises gently away from Quernmore Road at its south west corner. It has a strong stone wall along its eastern boundary with Quernmore Road. To the north the site is bounded by a single house. To the south west the site abuts Escowbeck Farm, containing a farmhouse and cluster of medium sized the agricultural buildings*. A track to Escowbeck Farm runs through the centre of the field and forms the western boundary. Open to this is Site 99. It is a continuation of the same field that forms Site 98. The site is accessed from Quernmore Road via an existing gated access to Escowbeck Farm.

The strong stone wall and tall hedge along the eastern side of the site and the buildings at Escowbeck Farm provide a degree of containment in the landscape. The wall and hedge partially screen the site from the village. The land immediately adjacent to the wall and hedge is lower lying than the rest of the field.

The site forms part of the parkland setting to Escowbeck House and the wider pastoral setting to the village. See notes under site 99 for more information on the setting of Escowbeck House.

*There is planning permission to convert stone farm buildings into 2 dwellings and demolish other buildings and replace with 2 dwellings.

Site 99:

Site description

The site lies at the western edge of Caton. The land is agricultural, used as pasture for sheep. The site rises slightly northwards, then dips gently to the stream in the north western corner and the fields at its northern extent. It is bounded to the north by a stone wall and small wire fence, to the west by a small stream and to the east by a small woodland. The woodland forms a strong boundary at the edge of the settlement and forms the setting to East Lodge. A pair of semi-detached houses are adjacent to its north eastern corner. Houses front Quernmore Road, which runs along the eastern extent of the site. The site is accessed from Quernmore Road via an existing gated access to Escowbeck Farm.

The site forms an important part of the parkland setting to Escowbeck House. Although not listed, the house and its parkland are historically locally important, with strong connections to the mill history of Caton. Escowbeck House was built in 1842 by John Gregg who ran Low Mill (reputed to be the oldest cotton mill in England), Forge Mill, Willow Mill and Rumble Row Mill. The house had significant landscaped parkland - organised so that only the Vicarage could be seen from its windows, with Town End hidden. There was also considerable farmland at Escowbeck farm attached. The house maintains its open views across its parkland setting and can still be easily seen from several places in and around Caton and Brookhouse.

The field forms part of the wider agricultural landscape character to the south and west of the settlement.

Site 100:

Site description

Site 100 comprises four level rectilinear, small to medium sized, grassy fields at the southern edge of the settlement. All have strong hedge boundaries. Most of the site is used for pasture, with the field closest to the settlement being used as a school playing field and a community leisure resource. A public footpath runs along the northern boundary of the site, connecting Quernmore Road with Broadacre and the public footpaths to the east of the site.

At its northern end, the site is bounded by some medium sized educational buildings, and smaller scale bungalows, with more domestic style hedges and walls. The eastern part of the site is bounded by Artle Beck and more pasture fields, and a mature belt of trees alongside the beck. There is a strong matrix of hedges that bound the fields within the site and along Quernmore Road. Artle Beck, its sinuous wooded banks and the matrix of hedges with mature trees are important and distinctive landscape features.

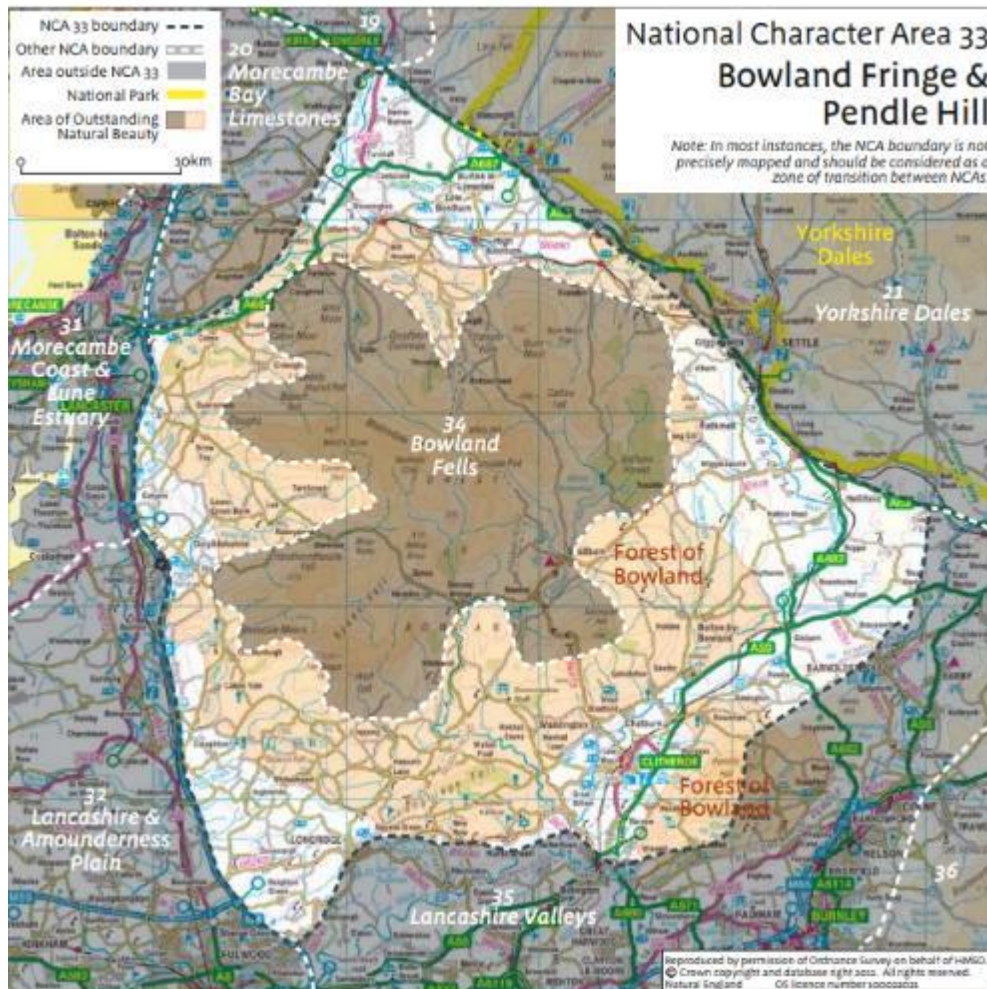
The site reflects the pastoral characteristics of the wider undulating lowland farmed landscape and forms part of the pastoral setting to the village.

This school playing field/community leisure resource is identified as a 'Local Green Space' in studies for the neighbourhood development plan. The field immediately west of the school is being considered as an all weather playing pitch.

Landscape baseline

National and Regional Character Assessments

Natural England has produced profiles for England's 159 National Character Areas (NCAs). These are areas that share similar landscape characteristics, and which follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries, making them a good decision-making framework for the natural environment. The parish of Caton with Littledale lies within NCA 33: Bowland Fringe and Pendle Hill.



The NCA is a transitional landscape that wraps around the dramatic upland core of the Bowland Fells, underpinned by Carboniferous geology. Over half of this NCA, along with the Bowland Fells, makes up the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This is a diverse landscape of herb rich hay meadows – several of which are nationally and internationally designated – lush pastures, broadleaved woodland, parkland and waterbodies (including rivers and streams supporting nationally and internationally protected species). The numerous river valleys and associated woodlands are a major component of the area.

Key characteristics (selected):

- An undulating, rolling landscape, with local variation created by numerous river valleys and by the moorland outliers of Beacon Fell, Longridge Fell and Pendle Hill.
- The Bowland Fells provide a dramatic backdrop to the north, with extensive views across the river valleys and Lancashire plain below.
- On the northern edge of the area, drumlins are characteristic, while on the south, strong mounded outcrops or 'reef knolls' of limestone form distinct landscape features in the Ribble and Hodder valleys.
- Semi-natural woodland, much of which is ancient, occurs in the main valley bottoms, side valleys and ridges, and is dominated by oak, ash and alder.
- Small- to medium-sized fields are defined by hedgerows with mature hedgerow trees. Drystone walls are also common in some areas. Metal railings around estate boundaries and highway corners and junctions are characteristic of the southern and western edges of the NCA.
- Land use is mainly permanent, improved pasture for livestock and dairy farming.
- There are numerous rivers of importance for many protected species, including bullheads, salmon, trout, eels, otters, kingfishers and dippers. There are also many brooks and small reservoirs.
- There are many archaeological sites, particularly on the moorland fringes and in valleys where agriculture has been less intensive.
- A network of winding, hedge-lined lanes connect small, often linear, settlements, hamlets and scattered farmsteads, mostly in local stone. Traditional stone barns are commonplace on higher ground and are of stone with slate or stone flag roofs.
- Isolated country houses set in formal parkland are typical of the area and may be enclosed by belts of woodland and estate fencing.

The NCA has experienced changes including a decline in riverside woods from excessive grazing and lack of management, the decline of prominent mature floodplain, parkland and hedgerow trees. The distinctive hedge field boundaries are in decline. The incremental effect of many small-scale new developments is resulting in the dilution of traditional vernacular building styles.

There are pressures for new development and urban expansion in some of the larger historic settlements. New development and building conversion in an open exposed landscape can be visually intrusive.

Sympathetic design of new buildings in keeping with landscape character with appropriate siting and screening should be sought. There is a need to protect views to and from the area from large-scale developments that may erode the open and undeveloped character of the area.

The conservation and management of riparian woodland, semi-natural and ancient woodland, hedgerows, hedgerow trees and avenues should be considered.

There is a need to maintain the areas highly distinctive stock of field boundaries and associated features, respecting differences in local style.

There is a need to control built development to maintain vernacular styles and materials and the character of the built environment locally.

Forest of Bowland Landscape Character Assessment

The settlements of Caton and Brookhouse lie at the north western part of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The Forest of Bowland AONB is a nationally protected landscape and internationally important for its heather moorland, blanket bog and rare birds. It was designated as a landscape of national significance due to a variety of factors: the grandeur and isolation of the upland core; the steep escarpments of the Moorland Hills; the undulating lowlands; the visual contrasts between each element of the overall landscape; the serenity and tranquillity of the area; the distinctive pattern of settlements; the wildlife of the area; and the landscape's historic and cultural associations.

The Forest of Bowland AONB Landscape Character Assessment¹ describes 14 Landscape Character Types (LCT) and 82 Landscape Character Areas within only 803 square kilometres. It provides an evidence base against which proposals for change can be judged in an objective and transparent manner.

The table below shows the landscape character types and areas that lie within the 5km study area, and, highlighted in bold, the 1km detailed assessment study area.

Landscape character type	Landscape character area
A: Moorland Plateaux	
B: Unenclosed moorland hills	B1: Mallowdale
C: Enclosed moorland fells	C1: Caton Moor C8: Birk Bank
D: Moorland fringe	D1: Caton Moor D4:Hare Appletree
E: Undulating lowland farmland	E2: Quernmore
F: Undulating lowland farmland with wooded brooks	F4: Caton
I: Wooded rural valleys	I1: Littledale
J: Valley floodplain	J1: Lune
K: Drumlin Field	K1: Gressingham
N: Farmed ridges	N1: Quernmore

The northern part of the AONB has been influenced the last Ice Age in the Pleistocene and Holocene periods from around 2.5 million years ago. During this period, the climate fluctuated markedly, and softer, unconsolidated deposits of clays, sands and gravels were left by retreating ice sheets. Meltwater deposits are clearly visible within the present-day landscape, in the form of small hills and hollows of the drumlin fields in the north and east of the AONB. Meltwater channels created the dells to the north

¹ Chris Blandford Associates, 2009

of Clougha Pike. Regionally important geological sites run north/south along the western side of Caton.

Landscape character overview

There are four main landscape character types that cover the majority of the wider 5km study area Type D, F, I and J. One of these, Type F, covers the majority of the detailed 1km study area. The landscape characteristics, condition, sensitivity and guidelines for managing change are summarised below.

D: Moorland Fringe – to the east of the study area

Key characteristics

- Traditional stone field barns are a recognisable landscape feature.
- Dry stone walls of rough-hewn blocks create strong patterns within the landscape and reflect the underlying geology.
- Sheep grazing is the predominant land use, interspersed in places with a patchwork of traditionally managed meadows, wet rushy pasture, in-byes and acid grassland.

This is a transitional rolling landscape that skirts the edges of the Moorland Hills, linking the upland and lowland landscape. The rolling landscape provides 'in-bye' pasture for sheep and some cattle. Traditional meadows provide rich habitats, and the patches of heather moorland, occasional windswept trees and small woodlands offer variety in the texture of these lower hills. Damp pastures are colonised by wading birds in the spring and early summer. Small landscape features such as sheepfolds, tramways and tracks, quarries, mines, field barns and stiles provide local distinctiveness and signs of a more industrial past within a still expansive and atmospheric landscape. There are still dramatic open views afforded from these flanks of the fells – towards the settlements and valleys of the lowlands, and often featuring reservoirs and parkland in the foreground.

This LCT contains Landscape Character Area D1: Caton Moor. Its key characteristics are:

- Open views southwards towards the wind farm on Caton Moor Enclosed Moorland Hills, which is a landmark;
- Extensive, open, panoramic views northwards across the wide flood plain of the River Lune. Views are, however, interrupted in places by patches of woodland within adjacent areas of Undulating Lowland Farmland;
- The distinctive aerial ropeway and associated metal pole structures is a distinctive feature within this area, which contributes to an instantly recognisable sense of place. The ropeway is still used to transport shale to Claughton brickworks associated with the nearby Claughton Moor quarries;
- Visible steps in the landscape where moorland has been quarried for clay to make bricks (at Claughton Moor quarries).

The overall landscape condition is moderate with landscape features managed in places, but with stone walls being lost to fencing, verges eroded and suburbanisation of traditional farmsteads.

Forces for change include the loss of vernacular building styles and use of inappropriate building materials may also result in a loss of local landscape characteristics.

The landscape sensitivity is high due to the meadow and moorland habitats, traditional farmsteads, packhorse ways and parish markers, stone walls, hedges and clough woodlands. There is strong intervisibility with adjacent Landscape Character Types, giving high visual sensitivity.

The overall strategy for the Moorland Fringe Landscape Character Type is to conserve the remote, multi textured character of upland habitats including acid grassland, herb rich meadows and rush dominated pasture; and the existing recognisable pattern of drystone walls, hedgerows and settlements, and to enhance these features where they are depleted. There is also a need to conserve open views across adjacent Landscape Character Types.

F: Undulating lowland farmland with wooded brooks – central and eastern part of the study area

Key characteristics

- A patchwork of pasture fields which are deeply incised by wooded troughs and gorges.
- A network of hedgerows and stone walls delineate field boundaries.
- Several scattered cottages and clustered villages.

This is a lowland landscape that encompassing a patchwork of pastoral fields cut by wooded brooks and river gorges, which provide a sense of enclosure, sheltered habitats and distinctive landscape patterns.

Sinuous broadleaved woods, following the courses of hidden brooks, are often filled with wild garlic and bluebells in the springtime: the colour, texture and smells of which create a strong sense of place. A network of minor lanes criss-crosses the landscape, with stone hump backed bridges a key feature within the wooded valleys where the roads cross the brooks. The small fields are enclosed by hedges and trees, and herb rich verges line many of the lanes in this area. The valleys provide a strong contrast with the small enclosed fields, and they often house historic industrial sites which were located in order to harness waterpower generated by the swift flowing brooks. The clough woodlands are often of ancient origin. The birdsong and tranquillity of these woods are distinctive features.

This LCT contains Landscape Character Area F4: Caton. Its key characteristics are:

- The large, nucleated village of Caton exhibits a combination of traditional stone buildings and more modern materials;
- Linear belts of deciduous woodland punctuate this landscape and contribute to an intermittent sense of enclosure within views;
- The aerial ropeways associated with Cloughton Moor quarries are a key recognisable feature within the landscape, which contribute to recognisable local sense of place;
- Panoramic, open and framed views northwards across the wide flood plain of the River Lune;

- To the south, the dramatic rising profile of the central Unenclosed and Enclosed Moorland Hills and Moorland Plateaux Landscape Character Types form the skyline backdrop to views;
- Field boundaries are delineated by a combination of stone walls and hedgerows, which provides a relatively stark contrast with the adjacent Moorland Fringe and Moorland Hills;
- Minor road corridors are often lined with mature hedgerows which limit open views across the landscape.

The overall landscape condition is moderate to good with landscape features generally well managed.

Forces for change include increased pressure from residential and tourist related development, affecting the character and quality of the landscape.

Sensitivities and capacity for change are identified. The landscape is ecologically sensitive due to the hedges, hedgerows trees, diverse brook corridors and the mature woodlands along watercourses. These also form a mature landscape feature.

Woodlands and hedgerows limit views in places, but elsewhere there is a strong intervisibility with the moorland hills and plateaux. Overall the landscape sensitivity is moderate, and the visual sensitivity is moderate too.

Guidelines for managing landscape change:

- Conserve and enhance woodland, hedges and stone walls.
- Create new hedgerows and regenerate existing hedges to maintain and enhance key landscape linkages;
- Encourage conservation of existing key landscape features and habitats;
- Conserve the distinctive settings to rural settlements;
- Encourage sympathetic new uses for disused farm buildings to ensure that they remain a viable and contributory feature within this landscape;
- Encourage the use of local building materials, in particular gritstone and limestone;
- Ensure that any potential new development on the edges of villages reflects the characteristic clustered form; development should be sited to retain views to landscape features and landmarks, such as church towers on the approaches to villages.
- Conserve open views towards the surrounding higher Moorland Plateaux and Unenclosed and Enclosed Moorland Hills Landscape Character Types;
- Conserve open and framed views across and into the corridors of the River Ribble and Lune;
- Maintain the distinctive pattern of hedgerows and stone walls at field boundaries.

I: Wooded rural valleys – to the south of the study area

Key characteristics

- Undulating lanes dip into and out of the valleys.
- Deeply incised, wooded cloughs create a strong pattern.
- Local areas of landslip on the steep valley sides create a distinctive

- hummocky local topography.
- Strong sense of enclosure.

These deeply incised wooded valleys link upland and lowland Bowland, creating a strong pattern of linear landscapes, which radiate out from the central fells. The steep valley sides are cloaked in woodland, with farmland being confined to the slopes above the trees, or in the damp valley bottoms. Waterfalls, gorges, mill lodges and historic mill sites are strung along the course of the brooks and rivers, but the woods are largely uninhabited. Settlements (small hamlets and isolated farms) are generally above the tree line, or at a confluence of rivers such as at Wray or Dunsop Bridge; and undulating lanes dip into and out of the valleys, crossing the watercourses with narrow packhorse bridges or fords. The valleys have a strong sense of enclosure and remoteness, contrasting with the surrounding Unenclosed and Enclosed Moorland Hills and Moorland Fringe.

This LCT contains Landscape Character Area I1: Littledale. Its key characteristics are:

- Meandering, narrow corridor of Artle Beck, containing fast-flowing water which tumbles over rocks and boulders on the river bed;
- Very broad and steep sided river valley with associated large blocks of ancient, semi-natural woodland and managed broadleaved woodland;
- There is a long history of estate management for a large part of this area, including Gresgarth, Littledale Hall and Abbeystead;
- Strong sense of enclosure provided by linear belts of mature deciduous and mixed woodland, almost continuously lining both sides of the beck;
- Small pockets of carr woodland are also a feature;
- Series of relatively narrow, traditional stone bridges cross the river corridor;
- Panoramic, open views northwards towards Morecambe Bay and Black Combe (Lake District) from the higher points along the southern slopes of the river valley;
- In close proximity to Artle Beck, views are channelled along the river corridor;
- Open views from the northern valley slopes towards Caton Moor to the north, with the windfarm a visible feature on the horizon;
- Narrow road corridors and field boundaries are lined with a combination of stone walls and hedgerows.
- Landscape pattern of small to medium sized, regular pastoral fields, often delineated by drystone walls;
- Taller, gritstone walls are a feature of the Gresgarth Estate (at Hawkeshead Farm and Intack House);
- A network of walled tracks cross the western half of this area;
- Park woodlands are generally oval in shape and enclosed by drystone walls or fenced boundaries;
- Gresgarth Hall (whilst in current ownership) has been developed as a formal parkland landscape, including gardens, new beech hedgerows, metal railings, entrance gates and newly planted formal trees;
- Beech hedgerows are a feature in places;
- Field barns, such as Skelbow Barn to the east of Littledale are also key landmarks within views across the landscape from the valley sides.

The overall condition of the landscape is moderate.

The erosion and loss of vernacular building styles within the small villages, through introduction of cheaper alternatives will reduce the distinctive characteristics of this area. It is likely that there will also be increased pressure from residential and tourist related developments, affecting the character and quality of the landscape.

The LCT has a moderate visual sensitivity due to the variable sense of enclosure and moderate intervisibility with adjacent character types. In places, open views can be gained across the landscape, whilst in others, views are limited by woodland cover and landform. It has a high landscape, cultural and ecological sensitivity. Overall it has a limited capacity to accommodate change without compromising key characteristics.

Guidelines for managing landscape change:

- Conserve distinct landscape features that are vulnerable to developments such as highway improvements;
- Conserve and restore traditional buildings and settlements;
- Conserve channelled views along river corridors and framed views to adjacent Landscape Character Types.

J: Valley floodplain – to the north of the study area

Key characteristics

- Open, broad, flat floodplains, subject to periodic flooding which provides fertile grazing land.
- Steep, wooded bluffs and terraces enclose the floodplain.
- Mature spreading floodplain trees are distinctive elements.
- Large fields, divided by post and wire fencing, hedgerows or stone walls.

The Lune and Ribble are wide, slow, lazy rivers that meander across open broad and flat floodplains. The floodplains are fertile grazing land for cattle and sheep. Old flood defences and occasional ox bow lakes, remnant river channels and weirs provide visual interest and offer up evidence of past activity of both man and the river itself. The valleys are enclosed by steep, wooded bluffs and terraces. The lush green fields are usually large and divided by post and wire fencing, hedgerows and walls. Large mature spreading floodplain trees are distinctive elements in the fields and hedgerows. Settlements and impressive stone bridges mark ancient bridging points of the rivers.

This LCT contains Landscape Character Area J1: Lune. Its key characteristics are:

- Flat, wide floodplain of the River Lune, which is surrounded by rolling drumlins and hills;
- Patchwork of medium to large size, regular fields of lush green pasture (predominantly improved agricultural land) are bounded by low clipped, often gappy, hedgerows with hedgerow trees.;
- River terraces and bluffs along the edge of the floodplain are sculptural elements which often support stone farm buildings and the remains of motte-and-bailey castles;
- Stone bridges are a feature and mark historic (medieval) crossing points of the river;

- There is also evidence of the industrial past and present; the route of a dismantled railway is still visible in the landscape;
- Large, traditional field barns are a key feature of the floodplain landscape;
- Panoramic open views northwards towards the peaks of the Yorkshire Dales and southwards to the dramatic rising Moorland Hills and Plateaux contribute to strongly recognisable sense of place.

The overall condition of the landscape is good to moderate.

The built environment is predominantly in the vernacular style and is currently a distinct element of the landscape fabric. A loss of traditional skills and a reduction in the use of appropriate local materials will erode this distinct characteristic of the landscape, with increasing pressure on the landscape around towns from residential and other development.

The LCT has a high visual sensitivity due to the generally strong intervisibility with surrounding higher LCTs and the strong sense of openness with views along the valleys. There is a high landscape character sensitivity too.

Guidelines for managing landscape change:

- Encourage use of local materials and vernacular styles in developments to strengthen local character, including limestone and gritstone;
- Conserve and enhance the distinct pattern of stone walls and hedgerows delineating field boundaries in order to maintain landscape structure;
- Conserve historic and archaeological sites in the Valley Floodplains and consider the setting of historic and archaeological sites when planning and implementing all landscape management action;
- Conserve open views along and across the valley floodplains towards adjacent Landscape Character Types.

Other landscape character types

There are a further 6 LCTs within the wider 5km study area. These are Types A, B, C, E, K and N. The most relevant landscape characteristics and sensitivities are summarised below:

A: Moorland Plateaux

The very edge of the Moorland Plateaux falls within the southern most extent of the 5km study area. The high moorland plateaux is a series of wide flat topped, or gently rolling, ridges dominating the skyline and views from the rest of the AONB. The sense of tranquillity and remoteness is strongest, with vast skies, extensive panoramic views and strong sense of tranquillity, wildness and isolation.

The overall condition of the landscape is moderate. This type has a very high visual sensitivity as a result of the very open character, the simplicity of the uncluttered skylines and associated panoramic views. There is strong intervisibility with the Unenclosed Moorland Hills (B) and Enclosed Moorland Hills (C) Landscape Character Types and also with surrounding lower Landscape Character Types. This Landscape Character Type also forms a striking backdrop to views from adjacent landscapes. It also has a high landscape character sensitivity.

The guidelines for managing change seek to conserve the exposed and undeveloped character of skylines and the overall strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity.

B: Unenclosed moorland hills

4-5km south of Caton and Brookhouse is the wide expanse of rolling unenclosed moorland hills. These are characterised by dramatic cloughs incised into wooded valley sides, with large rocky outcrops at the top. The landscape is open and exposed, with a strong sense of wildness, remoteness and tranquillity. There are long distance and panoramic views from viewpoints, such as Clougha Pike across the rolling farmland and to villages and hamlets north and the towns and cities along the coastal plain to the west.

The overall condition of the landscape is moderate. The visual sensitivity is very high as a result of the strong sense of openness and generally uninterrupted skylines, coupled with strong intervisibility with adjacent LCTs. It also forms a striking backdrop to views from adjacent landscapes. The landscape sensitivity is high due to a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity.

The guidelines for managing change seek to conserve the exposed and undeveloped character of skylines and the overall strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity.

C: Enclosed moorland fells

4-5km east and south of Caton and Brookhouse are 2 areas where the enclosed moorland fells landscape character occurs. These encircle the Moorland Plateaux at lower elevations and form distinct hill profiles. There are large enclosures, often with gritstone walls, and small, isolated stone hamlets and farmstead. The hills are incised by steep narrow cloughs created by fast flowing streams draining the fells and plateaux above. The enclosed fields are mostly large, so there is still a feeling of openness and remoteness and the dramatic, long distance views across wide valleys and surrounding lowlands are unimpeded.

The overall condition of the landscape is moderate to good. The visual sensitivity is very high as a result of the strong sense of openness and generally uninterrupted skylines, coupled with strong intervisibility with adjacent LCTs. It also forms a striking backdrop to views from adjacent landscapes. The landscape sensitivity is high due to a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity.

The guidelines for managing change seek to conserve the exposed and undeveloped character of skylines and the overall strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity.

E: Undulating lowland farmland

4-5km south west of Caton and Brookhouse is the undulating lowland farmland. This this enclosed landscape comprises a rich patchwork of pastures, mixed farm woodlands, copses, hedgerows and scattered picturesque stone villages. The small villages consist of stone houses and cottages and the churches provide landmarks in the landscape. Isolated farmsteads are often marked with single mature trees. Quarries and mines can also be found. Winding lanes are lined with hedgerows and herb rich verges, and hedges with mature trees clearly delineate the pastures and

meadows in summer and autumn time. This is an intimate and scenic landscape, where there is a relatively strong sense of tranquillity in many places.

The overall condition of the landscape is good. The landscape has a moderate sensitivity due to the mature structure of hedges and hedgerow trees, and small stream corridors, and network of stone walls, bridges and historic villages. The visual sensitivity is also moderate as woodland and hedgerows limit views.

The guidelines for managing change seek to conserve or restore neglected landscape features and encourage the retention and restoration of historic and vernacular building materials and details and the careful design of new buildings.

K: Drumlin Field

3-5km north of Caton and Brookhouse is the Drumlin Field. These distinctive rounded hills occur in 'fields' or clusters, usually strongly aligned in one direction. They are characterised by small copses of woodlands, sheltered marshy hollows, hedgerows and walls following the skylines of the hills and narrow streams winding between them. Major roads often skirt the areas, and villages tend to lie on the sheltered lower slopes of the hills. Strong field patterns and some evidence of ancient ridge and furrow suggest a long history of farming these areas, and secluded woodland and wetlands have become important wildlife refuges because of their isolation. Framed views out of the areas look inwards towards the upland Bowland Fells and out to Yorkshire's Three Peaks.

The overall condition of the landscape is good. Landscape character sensitivity is moderate to high as a result of pattern of landscape features, including stone walls, hedgerows and pockets of woodland.

The guidelines for managing change seek to conserve the distinctive rolling landform, and to maintain the distinctive landscape pattern of pasture fields delineated with dry stone walls and hedgerows.

N: Farmed Ridges

3-5km west of Caton and Brookhouse is a series of farmed ridges. These rise from the coastal plain and have distinctive rounded profiles and are mainly covered with a mosaic of mixed pastoral farmland and visually striking broadleaved woodlands. The ridge tops which afford long, open views across surrounding lowlands are often crowned with a woodland, village or road. Villages tend to be linear or scattered isolated farmsteads. Low stone walls are often used to delineate field boundaries in pasture land used for sheep, beef and dairy cattle. Designed landscapes and country houses reflect the long history and suitability of the ridges for village.

The overall condition of the landscape is good. The landscape character sensitivity within is moderate as a result of patches of mixed woodland which contribute to the mosaic pattern. Visual sensitivity is also moderate, resulting from the intermittent sense of enclosure provided by areas of dense woodland.

The guidelines for managing change seek to conserve the distinctive mosaic of mixed farmland and woodland, the intricate pattern of stone walls that delineate field boundaries and the long, open views across surrounding lowlands from the ridge top villages and roads.

Landscape condition

The landscape condition varies across the 5km wider study area. Within the 1km detailed study area the landscape condition is moderate to good. The condition of the sites reflects this with sites 98, 99, and 100 all being in good condition. Site 39 is in moderate condition with some degraded boundary features.

Landscape character type	Condition
A: Moorland Plateaux	Moderate
B: Unenclosed moorland hills	Moderate
C: Enclosed moorland fells	Moderate - Good
D: Moorland fringe	Moderate
E: Undulating lowland farmland	Good
F: Undulating lowland farmland with wooded brooks	Moderate - Good
I: Wooded rural valleys	Moderate
J: Valley floodplain	Good - Moderate
K: Drumlin Field	Good
N: Farmed ridges	Good

Landscape Value

The landscape value is high. The sites all lie within the Forest of Bowland AONB. The Forest of Bowland AONB is a nationally protected landscape and internationally important for its heather moorland, blanket bog and rare birds. It was designated as a landscape of national significance due to a variety of factors: the grandeur and isolation of the upland core; the steep escarpments of the Moorland Hills; the undulating lowlands; the visual contrasts between each element of the overall landscape; the serenity and tranquillity of the area; the distinctive pattern of villages; the wildlife of the area; and the landscape's historic and cultural associations.

The value of all sites is high.

Landscape use

The landscape is used for its scenic beauty, as a backdrop to historic villages and buildings, and as a resource for recreational activities, including walking, cycling, horse riding, paragliding, fishing and motor cross.

All sites form part of the pastoral setting to the village of Caton and Brookhouse. They provide a landscape and visual connection with the wider landscape. Sites 99 and 98 provide part of the parkland setting to locally historically important Escowbeck House.

Landscape character sensitivity and guidelines

The landscape character sensitivity and guidelines for managing change varies across the 5km wider study area.

Within the 1km detailed study area the landscape sensitivity is High. Sites 98, 99 and 100 contain several distinctive features including becks, woodland copses, drumlin landform, hedges and mature trees. These all have a high sensitivity to change. Site 39 has a moderate sensitivity to change due to its distinctive boundary features being of a moderate condition.

Landscape character type	Landscape sensitivity
A: Moorland Plateaux	High
B: Unenclosed moorland hills	High
C: Enclosed moorland fells	High
D: Moorland fringe	Moderate
E: Undulating lowland farmland	Moderate
F: Undulating lowland farmland with wooded brooks	High
I: Wooded rural valleys	High
J: Valley floodplain	High
K: Drumlin Field	Moderate - High
N: Farmed ridges	Moderate

Guidelines for managing change within the 1km study area seek to:

- Conserve and enhance woodland, hedges and stone walls.
- Conserve and enhance herb-rich river banks;
- Create new hedgerows and regenerate existing hedges to maintain and enhance key landscape linkages;
- Conserve and enhance the distinct pattern of stone walls and hedgerows delineating field boundaries in order to maintain landscape structure;
- Encourage conservation of existing key landscape features and habitats;
- Maintain the distinctive pattern of hedgerows and stone walls at field boundaries;
- Encourage use of local materials and vernacular styles in developments to strengthen local character, including limestone and gritstone;
- Conserve the distinctive settings to rural settlements;
- Conserve and restore traditional buildings and settlements;
- Conserve historic and archaeological sites in the Valley Floodplains and consider the setting of historic and archaeological sites when planning and implementing all landscape management action;

- Conserve distinct landscape features that are vulnerable to developments such as highway improvements;
- Ensure that any potential new development on the edges of villages reflects the characteristic clustered form; development should be sited to retain views to landscape features and landmarks, such as church towers on the approaches to villages.
- Encourage sympathetic new uses for disused farm buildings to ensure that they remain a viable and contributory feature within this landscape;
- Conserve open views towards the surrounding higher Moorland Plateaux and Unenclosed and Enclosed Moorland Hills Landscape Character Types;
- Conserve open and framed views across and into the corridors of the River Ribble and Lune;
- Conserve channelled views along river corridors and framed views to adjacent Landscape Character Types.
- Conserve open views along and across the valley floodplains towards adjacent Landscape Character Types.

Brookhouse Conservation area

The Brookhouse Conservation Area, focussed on St Paul's Church, is at the eastern end of Brookhouse village. The conservation area is separated from the 4 sites by 20th and 21st Century development.

The conservation area comprises well over 50 dwellings, the majority of which date from c.1650-1900. These historic stone-built dwellings (detached, semi-detached and in short rows) combine with a 19th century church, school and chapel to create a place of special historic interest with a strong local identity. In order to delineate a clear boundary, the conservation area also includes some 20th century development that does not form part of the area's special historic interest.

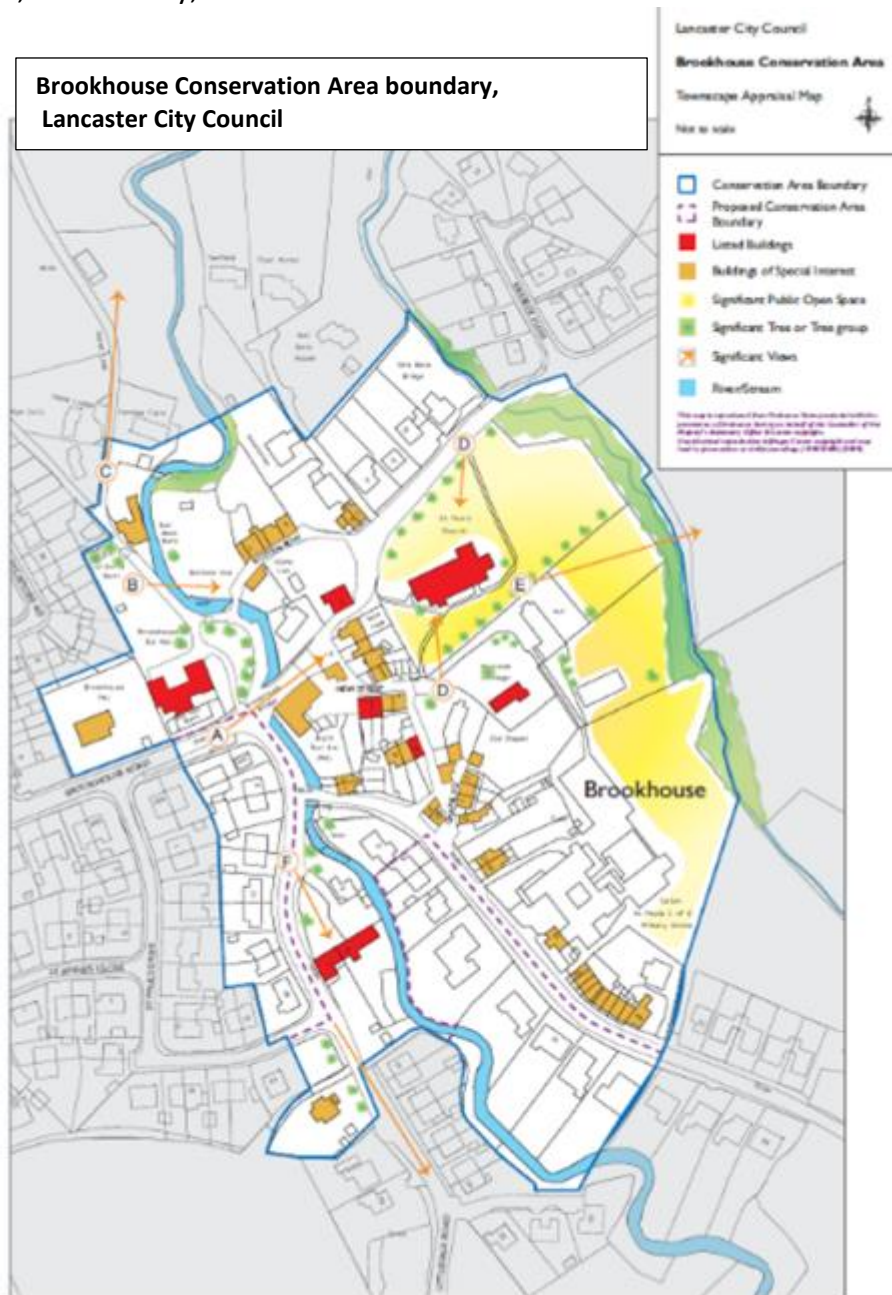
Brookhouse sits on a raised spur above the southern bank of the River Lune just as the land begins to rise up from the valley bottom southwards. The area to the south of the village is hilly ascending to Clougha Pike (413 metres). To the north there is a short descent to the level valley of the serpentine River Lune. The majority of the old village, and the conservation area, lies on a mound just above the confluence of two brooks, Bull Beck and its small tributary, Kirk Beck. The tall tower of St Paul's Church, located at the head of the spur, has a commanding presence over much of the village.

During the 20th century Brookhouse has expanded westwards and has almost joined with Caton (the former Town End) although the two villages still have very separate and distinct identities.

From the north of the conservation area (Holme Lane) there is a view across the Lune Valley to Burton Wood on the far side of the River Lune; from the south of the area (Littledale Road) there is a view upwards to open fields. These views help to confirm the hamlet's rural location between moor and valley, albeit adjoined to the west by an area of modern houses.

Long views within the area are restricted by the historic village's tightly knit built development and, in summer, by trees. The sinuous form of the street pattern gives rise to ever-changing oblique views and glimpses of stone cottages, boundary walls

and, occasionally, the streams.



The special interest that justifies the designation of Brookhouse Conservation Area can be summarised as follows:

- Origins as a medieval unplanned nucleated village with a remnant of a 12th century church;
- Varied topography between two streams on either side of a low promontory on which stands the parish church;
- Irregular street pattern comprising a haphazard layout without uniformity;
- Bull Beck and Kirk Beck and four stone bridges;
- St Paul's Church, listed grade II*, one of a number of Victorian churches designed by E G Paley of Lancaster;

- Views of the tower of St Paul's Church and longer views across surrounding countryside that help to place the area in its rural context;
- Architectural and historic interest of the area's buildings, including eight listed buildings;
- Prevalent use of locally quarried building stone for walling, roof slates and boundary walls;
- Semi-rural setting of the village between moorland and river valley;
- Trees, especially around St Paul's Church, beside Bull Beck and Kirk Beck and in the garden of Brookhouse Old Hall;
- Features and details that contribute to local identity e.g. small areas of historic stone floorscape, decorative datestones, the plague stone.

Caton village character

The village of Caton has a mixed character influenced by 19th century mills and mill workers cottages and later post war housing.

The first settlement dates back to 650AD. Over a thousand years ago the Parish boundaries in the Lune valley were laid out so that each village had its share of the riverbank, fisheries, water meadow for grazing, the lower slopes for plough land and the moors for summer grazing. Caton-with-Littledale Parish still follows this plan. By the 12th century the village was flourishing, having been acquired by Cockersands Priory. In the 18th and 19th centuries the Parish was transformed by the industrial revolution. The mill race fed from Artle Beck at Gresgarth was harnessed to power up to 8 mills producing cotton, bobbins, silk and flax, the latter particularly for sailcloth. By Nelson's time Caton was one of the major suppliers of sails to both the Royal Navy and the Merchant Navy. The hamlet of Town End grew to service the mills. The population grew substantially following the construction of the Turnpike Road along the valley in 1812, and the arrival of the railway in 1850. The railway opened the area for tourism in Victorian times, as witnessed by JMW Turner's paintings of the Crook O' Lune.

Escowbeck House was built in 1842 by John Gregg who ran Low Mill (reputed to be the oldest cotton mill in England), Forge Mill, Willow Mill and Rumble Row Mill. The house had significant landscaped parkland - organised so that only the Vicarage could be seen from its windows, with Town End hidden. There was also considerable farmland at Escowbeck farm attached. The house maintains its open views across its parkland setting and can still be easily seen from several places in and around Caton and Brookhouse.

There is little interwar housing, with considerable new housing development dating from 1950s and early 1960s. In the late 1960s the planning policy changed to preserve the character of the village and only in-fill housing development was permitted. A clear 'green gap' between Caton and Brookhouse has been maintained and some old mill complexes have since been converted for housing or business use.

Houses are the dominant building type. Their scale is small to medium reflecting traditional characteristics of housing in the heart of Caton village and Brookhouse Conservation Area.

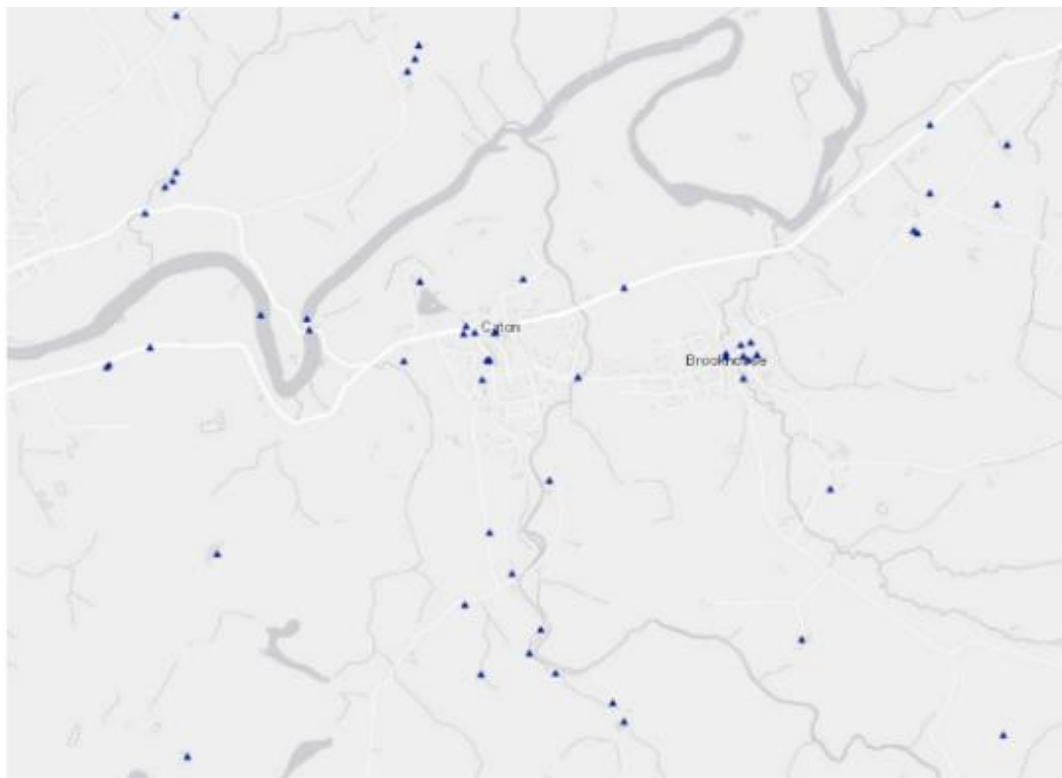
Opposite the entrance to sites 98 and 99 there are some traditional vernacular sandstone cottages, with slate roofs that were built to house workers at the mills in Caton. The majority of housing on the western edge, closest to the sites, is post war, often pebble dashed, and mixture of bungalow, terraced and semi-detached houses. Land to the east and south of the village is steeply rising pasture with medium size fields usually bounded by fences and hedges. In some places trees grow along hedge lines.

Small streams and rivers criss cross the landscape. To the east of Caton the land is dominated by gently rising ridges often topped with deciduous woodland. Hedges delineate fields providing a strong feature that follows the line of the ridges. Fields are medium to large in size. To the south the landscape has similar pastoral characteristics with larger fields along the Lune Valley.

Listed Buildings

There are 53 listed buildings within the parish of Caton with Littledale. Within the 1km detailed study area those closest to the sites and/or in open countryside are:

- Artle Beck Bridge, north west of Site 39.
- Croftlands, north west of Site 98.
- Gresgarth Lodge, South of Sites 99 and 100.
- The Nook, south east of Site 100.
- Oak Cottage, Quernmore Road, south of Sites 99 and 100.
- Borwicks and Barn is approximately 100m east of Site 100, across Artle Beck.
- Eastern railway bridge over the River Lune and the Crook o' Lune, nw of site 98.



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Landscape Assessment

This section sets out the combined landscape effects on the landscape receptors, including direct, indirect, secondary, temporary, permanent.

It identifies if the effects are positive, negative or neutral along with the reasons why.

It identifies the significance of the development on the landscape character, either major, moderate, minor, or none. This judgment considers the landscape's:

- sensitivity to change (based on the susceptibility of features to change and the value of the landscape and features. These are measured on a scale of high, medium, low.)
- magnitude of change (based on the scale and size of the change, geographical extent and duration. This is measured on a scale of major, moderate, minor, none).

Landscape character

Sites 39 and 100 lie in landscape character type F: Undulating lowland farmland with wooded brooks and landscape character area F4: Caton.

Sites 98 and 99 lie in landscape character type J: Valley floodplain and landscape character area J1: Lune.

The key characteristics of both LCTs are set out in full earlier in the report. Those of most relevance to the sites are described below.

All sites lie on the edge of the villages of Caton (Sites 98,99, 100) and Brookhouse (Site 39). The villages are both nucleated, and exhibit a combination of traditional stone buildings and more modern style buildings and materials. The undulating farmland, with drumlins and ridges, Lune valley and floodplain, and wooded brooks form part of the setting to the two villages. A patchwork of medium, regular shaped field of improved pasture are bounded by a combination of stone walls and hedgerows. Hedgerow trees are common. Linear belts and copses of deciduous woodland punctuate the village and surrounding landscape and contribute to an intermittent sense of enclosure within views. Road corridors are often lined with mature hedgerows which limit open views across the landscape. From the edges of the village to the south the dramatic rising profile of the central moorlands provide a skyline backdrop to views and contribute to strongly recognisable sense of place. Farmland rises to south of the villages. From here there are long views to the unenclosed moorland and the wind turbines at Caton Moor.

All sites contain characteristic landscape features and elements.

Site 39 has stone walls, in poor condition, a mature hedge with trees, and residential curtilage walls. It is used for horse grazing. There is a public footpath running along its eastern boundary.

Site 100 comprises several pasture fields with a strong matrix of hedgerow boundaries and hedgerow trees, and a sinuous wooded belt along Artle Beck. Together, these provide distinctive landscape features at the western side of the village and form part of its pastoral setting. The roadside hedgerow boundary and tree lined river boundary limit views into the site. The village is generally well contained in the landscape and

the school buildings have been sited and designed to reflect the characteristics of rural/agricultural buildings and respect the rural character of the wider landscape. Immediately east of the river, the general pastoral character of the village setting prevails, with fields being used for horse grazing. A series of footpaths run through these fields connecting part of Caton with parts of Brookhouse. Grade II listed Borwicks Barn lies approximately 100m to the east of the eastern boundary of site 100, on the eastern side of Artle Beck. The immediate setting of the barn is a mixture of modern agricultural buildings, a modern house and equestrian menage, and pasture adjacent to the tree lined beck. The site contains a locally significant historic feature associated with Rumble Row Mill. There is a public footpath running along its northern boundary.

Site 98 is a pasture field. The land rises gently away from Quernmore Road at its south west corner. It has a strong stone wall along its eastern boundary with Quernmore Road.

Site 99 is a pasture field on the edge of a small drumlin, with a characteristic wooded copse along its eastern edge and within fields and along field boundaries. The site rises slightly from the access road, then dips gently to the stream in the north western corner and the field to the north. The woodland forms a strong boundary at the edge of the village and forms the setting to East Lodge and the village. The site also provides the parkland setting for the locally historically important Escowbeck House.

The development of all four sites would result in the loss of characteristic landscape features, and in particular hedgerows, wooded copses and hedgerow trees and the pastoral setting of the villages. The development of sites 98, 99 and 100 is likely to result in an increase in density along the western edge of the village. This is characteristically lower in density than the rest, especially when viewed from the wider landscape. The extension of the village would result in the loss of important landscape features, the pastoral setting to the village, and the loss of the parkland setting to Escowbeck House. These would all create a significant negative effect on the local and wider landscape character of the AONB.

Sensitivity

The hedges, hedgerow trees and trees along watercourses are ecologically sensitive to change and are distinctive landscape features that would be effected by the development of all four sites. These characteristics are most prevalent on Site 99 and Site 100 and are therefore most susceptible to change from development.

All sites are high in value due to the AONB designation and the role they have in providing a pastoral setting to the villages of Caton and Brookhouse.

The cumulative sensitivity is highest on the western side of Caton, where the cumulative landscape sensitivity of sites 98, 99 and 100 is considered to be **high**.

Magnitude of change

The cumulative change will be greatest at the western side of Caton. This is due to the combined effect on the landscape character of the development of sites 98, 99 and 100. They are likely to have a **major adverse** effect on the landscape character of the area due to the scale of the development. The three sites, in combination with the

planned development at Escowbeck Farm, would extend significantly the built character of the village into the countryside. Their development would erode the pastoral setting of the village, which is currently respected by the careful design and siting of the primary school. It would significantly harm the parkland setting to Escowbeck House.

Significance on landscape effects

The development of the sites for housing would result in the loss of characteristic landscape features including hedgerows, matrix of fields and would erode the pastoral setting of the village. The development of sites 98 and 99 is likely to have a significant negative effect the parkland character and setting to Escowbeck House. Overall the cumulative adverse impact is considered to be **moderate – major** and unacceptable in landscape terms. With regard to sites 98, 99 and 100 the cumulative adverse impact is considered to be **major** and unacceptable.

Mitigation

The number of sites developed, and the siting, density and scale of any housing could mitigate some of the adverse landscape effects.

The development of part of site 98 and site 39 may not result in unacceptable cumulative landscape effects. Any development should be designed in accordance with Policy CL10 in the emerging Caton and Littledale Neighbourhood Plan.

The eastern part of site 98, closest to Quernmore Road would, is low lying. The height of the site and the containment of the stone boundary wall would help mitigate development on the site and integrate it into the wider landscape. The impact of the landscape setting and character could be further mitigated by siting the housing close to the road, and for housing to be single storey dwellings that reflect the scale of the adjacent housing. This would prevent any development becoming dominant on the edge of the village. The materials should reflect the vernacular character of mill workers cottages off Quernmore Road, and traditional farm buildings at Escowbeck Farm. The traditional boundary hedge and retaining wall should be retained as important site features.

Site 39 is small in scale and well related to the existing housing around Hawthorn Close and Pinewood Avenue. The site is relatively well contained. However, in order to mitigate landscape effects any development would need to be restricted to small scale, single storey dwellings to ensure a low profile, prevent unacceptable skylining and to prevent any new dwellings becoming a dominant feature in the landscape (especially when viewed from adjacent housing and from the series of public footpaths in the area). The site should reflect the density of nearby housing. The site could be better integrated into the landscape through shelterbelt deciduous tree planting along the southern and western boundaries. This would help form a strong edge of village boundary for the future and reinforce the woodland and hedgerow landscape characteristics of the village and its setting.

It is likely that such mitigation would result in the overall significance being reduced to **moderate**.

Conclusion

The cumulative impacts of sites 39, 98, 99 and 100 on the landscape character of the AONB would be major and unacceptable. The development of the sites would lose significant landscape features, extending the villages into the wider pastoral setting. It would extend the footprint of the villages in the wider landscape.

The development of sites 98 and 99 would have a significant adverse effect on the parkland setting of Escowbeck House, a locally important historic house.

The partial development of site 98, close to Quernmore Road, and the development of site 39 would have a moderate effect on the landscape character of the AONB.

Development would need to take place in accordance with emerging policy LC10 of the draft Caton and Littledale Neighbourhood Plan in relation to scale, density, siting, use of vernacular materials and landscaping.

Cumulative visual effects

Visual Baseline

Receptors

Visual receptors are the people and groups of people that are likely to experience the effects of the development of the sites for housing. The receptors that are likely to be affected by the change in views and visual amenity were discussed with the Caton with Littledale Neighbourhood Plan steering group and were agreed to be:

- Local residents living adjacent to the sites and in and around the villages of Caton and Brookhouse.
- Workers in and around the villages.
- Visitors to the AONB and villages of Caton and Brookhouse.
- Cyclists using local and long distance cycle routes, including National Cycle Route 69 and The Way of the Roses, and Northern Lancashire Route 90 of the Lancashire Cycleway.
- Walkers and runners on long distance route - the Lune Valley Ramble, local footpaths, self guided routes and walks promoted by the AONB Partnership and Visit Lancashire, and open access land on Caton Moor and Clougha Pike and around.
- Horse riders on local bridleways.
- Anglers on the River Lune and ponds around the AONB.
- Nature watchers at local nature reserves and sites.
- Scenic drivers in the AONB.
- Hot air balloonists and paragliders from ridges and plateaux across the AONB.
- Moto cross riders at the track on Caton Moor.

The landscape character types have a range of visual sensitivity within the 5km study area is highest around the River Lune. Within the 1 km detailed study area the visual sensitivity of landscape character type F is Moderate. This is largely due to the varied landform and landcover often containing and limiting views within the landscape.

Landscape character type	Visual sensitivity
A: Moorland Plateaux	Very high
B: Unenclosed moorland hills	Very high
C: Enclosed moorland fells	Very high
D: Moorland fringe	High
E: Undulating lowland farmland	Moderate
F: Undulating lowland farmland with wooded brooks	Moderate
I: Wooded rural valleys	Moderate
J: Valley floodplain	High
K: Drumlin Field	-
N: Farmed ridges	Moderate

Viewpoints

27 viewpoints were identified in discussion with the Caton with Littledale Neighbourhood Plan steering group and an officer from the Forest of Bowland AONB.

They include a variety of public viewpoints, along roads, footpaths, cycle routes, long distance footpaths, amenity areas and scenic spots and moorland summits. They include specific viewpoints chosen because they are an important viewpoint to the local community and visitors and representative viewpoints along footpaths, routes and roads. They consider static and sequential views along key roads and routes and the potential for cumulative views of the developments in conjunction with each other and other built and planned developments.

There are 6 key views identified in the conservation area appraisal. None of these would be affected by the development of any of the four sites and were not included in the viewpoint selection.

The viewpoints selected are listed below and mapped in Appendix 3. Photographs of each viewpoint are set out in Appendix 4 (separate document).

1. Footpath network northeast of Halton Park (GR 527660).
2. Park Lane (running from GR518653 to 524654).
3. Lawson's Seat and Aughton Wood nature reserve (GR535663).
4. Summit of Clougha Pike (GR544596).
- 4a. Potts Hill area near Bents Barn (GR541624).
5. Amenity area at Caton Moor looking north west (GR572645).
6. Route along Quarry Road towards Brookhouse.
7. Along the route of the A683 approaching Caton from the west (GR528647).
8. Along the route of the A683 approaching Caton from the east (GR526649).
9. Along the route of Quernmore Road towards Gresgarth Hall (GR525631).
10. Quernmore Road near Caton Community primary school (GR530640).
11. Along the routes of Roeburndale Road (GR569629).
12. Littledale Road, (GR542638).
13. Moorside Road (GR544643).
14. Along Caton Green Road westwards into Brookhouse (GR545648).
15. Crook o' Lune viewpoint (GR522647).
16. Lune Valley Ramble to Aughton Barn (GR541661).
- 17a. Millennium cycle track (GR544652).
- 17b. Bull Beck Bridge amenity area (GR544652).
18. Footpath south of Hawthorn Close (GR543638).
19. Footpath east of Caton Community Primary School (GR533639).
20. Green Space area of separation adjacent to Artle Beck (GR534645).
21. Footpath off Quernmore Road (GR528634).
22. Permitted path near Escowbeck House.
23. Footpath from Forge Mill (GR533636) east.
24. Footpath near Annas Ghyll (GR552642).
25. Footpath near Gresgarth Lodge (GR531636).

Visual Assessment

The effects of each site are set out below. The cumulative effects for all sites are set out in the following section.

This section identifies the visual impacts from each viewpoint for each site. It considers the nature of the view, and the amount of the site(s) that would be visible, the distance from the viewpoint, the type of view – static, transient or sequential from a route/footpath, the nature of the change. A professional judgement is made to determine if the visual effects are positive, negative or neutral, based on whether changes will affect the quality of the visual experience for people/groups of people. In making the judgement consideration is given to the sensitivity of the viewers and the value attached to the views, and the size of the change that is likely (magnitude of change).

The most sensitive viewers are likely to be residents at home, people engaged in outdoor recreation that is based around the appreciation of views in the landscape, visitors to heritage assets, communities where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents in the area and travellers on scenic routes.

The visual assessment was carried out in early spring when trees and hedgerows were in partial leaf cover. Seasonal changes to the deciduous hedge, tree and woodland screening have been considered when making judgements on potential effects.

Summary of effects

Viewpoint	Likely significant effects	Viewpoint	Likely significant effects
1	Moderate	13	None
2	None	14	None
3	Minor	15	None
4	Moderate	16	None
4a	None	17	None
5	None	18	Moderate/Major
6	Minor	19	Moderate/Major
7	Moderate	20	None
8	Minor	21	Minor
9	Minor	22	Moderate/Major
10	Major	23	Major
11	Moderate	24	Moderate
12	Moderate/Major	25	Moderate/Major

By viewpoint

1. Footpath network northeast of Halton Park (GR 527660)

(1.6km from Artle Beck proposed Green Gap at the centre of Caton and Brookhouse.)

This viewpoint is representative of views from walkers along a ridge side path above the River Lune, looking southwards towards Brookhouse and Caton. The villages appear as a single village, nestled along the valley bottom in the undulating farmland. The trees around the edges of the village are a key characteristic. The rising farmed ridges and unenclosed moors provide a backdrop to the villages.

Site 99 is partially visible across the river floodplain and would be viewed as an extension to the village of Caton to the west. However, it would be seen against Escowbeck Farm, which could be perceived to be the western extent of the village from this point. The drumlin feature to the north of the site, mature field trees, and wooded copse along Quernmore Road would partially screen site 98 and 99 mitigating any significant effects in the view.

There would be partial views of site 100, which would also appear as an extension to the village. The houses to the north of site 98 and 100 would screen the site, integrating it into the wider view.

Sites 98, 99 and 100 would be seen in combination with each other. However, due to the distance from the viewpoint and the intervening woodland and village characteristics, it is unlikely that they would produce unacceptable cumulative visual effect.

Site 39 would appear as an extension of the village southwards. The site would be well related to existing housing. However, there would be very little screening due to it being elevated above adjacent housing to the north. The cumulative effect, in combination with sites 98, 99 and 100 would be limited due to the distance between the sites and the characteristics of the village in between.

The susceptibility to change is medium and the value of the viewpoint medium. The size of the change is moderate due to the distance from the viewpoint and screening provided by existing housing, trees and topography.

The cumulative development of all sites would have a **moderate** likely significant effect on views or visual amenity of users of the footpaths in the vicinity of Halton Park.

2. Park Lane (running from GR518653 to 524654).

(1.7km from Artle Beck proposed Green Gap at the centre of Caton and Brookhouse.)

This is a representative viewpoint of users of National Cycle Route 69 and scenic drivers. The views towards Caton and Brookhouse are of farmland and the mature trees and vegetation along the River Lune. The trees provide a dense screen, with only partial and glimpsed views of rooftops and parts of houses in the villages. All four sites are likely to be screened from view.

The susceptibility to change is low and the value of the viewpoint medium. The size of the change is negligible due to the distance from the viewpoint and screening provided by trees.

The cumulative development of all sites would have **no** likely significant effect on the views or visual amenity of users of the users of the quiet roads and lanes of Route 69.

3. Lawson's Seat and Aughton Wood nature reserve (GR535663).

(1.7km from Artle Beck proposed Green Gap at the centre of Caton and Brookhouse.)

This is static view from an open meadow above Aughton Wood nature reserve. This is a popular spot for residents and visitors. There is a long distance view towards Caton and Brookhouse across the mature woodlands and the largescale flood plain of the River Lune. There are panoramic views towards Clougha Pike, with the ridges and open moorland forming a backdrop to the view.

Sites 98, 99 and 100 are screened by trees and existing buildings in and around Caton and would not be visible. Site 39 forms a very small part of the wider view. It is likely that it would appear as an extension of Pinewood Avenue to the east of the site.

The susceptibility to change is high and the value of the viewpoint high. The size of the change is low due to the distance from the viewpoint, the size of the site in relation to the existing settlements, and the fact that only one site would be visible.

The cumulative development of all sites would have a **minor** likely significant effect on the views or visual amenity of users of the users of amenity area and seat in Aughton Woods.

4. Summit of Clougha Pike (GR544596).

(5km from Artle Beck proposed Green Gap at the centre of Caton and Brookhouse.)

This is a representative viewpoint of walkers on the summit of Clougha Pike. The view is wide and expansive looking northwards across enclosed moorland, wooded valleys and undulating farmland. Caton and Brookhouse appear as a single linear village in the wider landscape, following the line of the ridges that run across the landscape. The villages are tucked down, nestling along the Lune floodplain.

Sites 98 and 99 are likely to be visible in the landscape. They would accentuate the linear characteristic of the village, in combination with newly developed site 38. The other sites are screened by topography.

The susceptibility to change is high and the value of the viewpoint high. The size of the change is medium due to the reinforcement of the linear characteristic of the villages, the distance from the viewpoint and the expansive nature of the view.

The cumulative development would have a **moderate** likely significant effect on the views or visual amenity of users of the users open access land in and around the summit of Clougha Pike.

4a. Potts Hill area near Bents Barn (GR541624).

(2.2km from Artle Beck proposed Green Gap at the centre of Caton and Brookhouse.)

This viewpoint is representative of walkers using the footpaths in and around Potts Hill. The view is across wooded farmland north towards Halton. Caton is relatively well screened from view by topography and woodland planting.

The susceptibility to change is medium and the value of the viewpoint medium. The size of the change is negligible due to topography and screening provided by trees.

The cumulative development of all sites would have **no** likely significant effect on the views or visual amenity of users of the users of the footpaths in and around Potts Hill.

5. Amenity area at Caton Moor looking north west (GR572645).

(3.6km from Artle Beck proposed Green Gap at the centre of Caton and Brookhouse.)

This viewpoint is static for users of the amenity parking area at Caton Moor wind turbines and representative of walkers, cyclists and motocross riders of Caton Moor, sequential views by cyclists and drivers using Quarry Road. Views from the amenity car parking area limited to immediate moorland and the distant drumlin field to the north of Caton and Brookhouse. There is no view of the villages or the sites. This is also the case for sequential views along the upper sections of Quarry Road where the topography and landcover provide screening.

The susceptibility to change is low and the value of the viewpoint medium. The size of the change is negligible due to the distance from the viewpoint and screening provided by topography.

The cumulative development of all sites would have **no** likely significant effect on the views or visual amenity of users of the users of the area and road around Caton Moor windfarm.

6. Route along Quarry Road towards Brookhouse.

(2.3km from Artle Beck proposed Green Gap at the centre of Caton and Brookhouse.)

This viewpoint is representative of cyclists and drivers using Quarry Road, and users of footpaths in the vicinity. Views would be sequential. The view is wide and expansive across the farmed landscape towards Caton and Brookhouse. The villages sit within a wooded farmed landscape. Site 39 would be discernible in the southern extent of the view. It would appear as an extension of the village, with trees and topography providing partial screening. It would be seen in combination with newly developed site 38.

The susceptibility to change is low and the value of the viewpoint is medium. The size of the change is low/medium due to only site 39 being discernible, the distance from the viewpoint and screening provided by trees and topography.

The cumulative development of all sites would have a **minor** likely significant effect on the views or visual amenity of users of the users of Quarry Road.

7. Along the route of the A683 approaching Caton from the west (GR528647).

(0.75km from Artle Beck proposed Green Gap at the centre of Caton and Brookhouse.)

This is a representative view of residents living in nearby housing and users of the A683 and adjacent pavement. People cycling, driving or walking through the village would have sequential views of the sites. Residents would have static views.

Sites 98 and 99 are closest to this viewpoint at 0.25 and 0.4km south. The view is largely of the field to the north of site 99, with a long distance view of the wooded farmland and rising moorland beyond. It forms part of the pastoral setting to the village. The undulating field closest to the road has a small drumlin feature and clusters of mature trees. This is likely to partially screen the development of site 99. Sites 98, 100 and 39 would not be visible from this location due to topography and land cover.

The susceptibility to change is medium/high and the value of the viewpoint medium. The size of the change is medium due to the proximity of site 99, the partial screening provided by topography and trees and the fact that only one site would be visible.

The cumulative development of all sites would have a **moderate** likely significant effect on the views or visual amenity of residents and users of the main road through Caton.

8. Along the route of the A683 approaching Caton from the east (GR526649).

(0.5km from Artle Beck proposed Green Gap at the centre of Caton and Brookhouse.)

This is a representative view of residents living in nearby housing and users of the A683 and adjacent pavement. People cycling, driving or walking through the village would have sequential views of the sites. Residents would have static views.

There are no views sites 39, 98, 99 or 100. Trees and the existing village screen the sites to the west and a ridge screens the site to the south. New housing forms part of the view.

The susceptibility to change is low and the value of the viewpoint medium. The size of the change is negligible due to screening provided by the village, topography and trees.

The cumulative development of all sites would have a **minor** likely significant effect on the views or visual amenity of residents and users of the main road through Caton.

9. Along the route of Quernmore Road towards Gresgarth Hall (GR525631).

(1.4km from Artle Beck proposed Green Gap at the centre of Caton and Brookhouse.)

This is a representative view of users of Quernmore Road. People cycling or driving have sequential views towards Caton. Residents of isolated farmhouses would have static views.

Views are limited from Quernmore Road due to the topography of the undulating farmland, that is heavily wooded in parts, with additional shelterbelts of trees and high roadside hedges that all provide screening of views towards Caton.

There is likely to be a partial/glimpsed view of sites 98 and 99 from the higher point of the road close to Deys Farm. The views would be limited by woodland screening. There would be no impact on residents of the farm due to the orientation of the farmhouse and screening from farm buildings.

The susceptibility to change is low and the value of the viewpoint low. The size of the change is low due to the distance from the viewpoint and screening provided by trees.

The cumulative development of all sites would have a **minor** likely significant effect on the views or visual amenity of users of Quernmore Road.

10. Quernmore Road near Caton Community primary school (GR530640).

(0.5km from Artle Beck proposed Green Gap at the centre of Caton and Brookhouse.)

This is a representative view of users of Quernmore Road, and residents adjacent to Site 98 and 100. Users of Quernmore Road would have sequential views. Residents would have static views. Walkers would have sequential views along the public footpath that runs across the northern part of the site.

For users of the road there would be partial views of site 100, through wire fencing and over mature hedges. The loss of hedges to create a safe access could open the site to wider view. There would be partial views of sites 98 and 99, with screening provided by mature hedges and walls along Quernmore Road. Drivers and cyclists would enter the village much sooner, shifting the perception of being in the countryside, as the developments would extend the village substantially.

The effects on users of the public right of way that runs across the northern part of the site would be significant. There would be clear views of the development. The experience would change from a rural experience in a recreational/community amenity field on the edge of the village with views across to wider farmland, to a linear corridor between housing.

Residents of Broadacre and Broadacre Place, adjacent to site 100, have open views into the site over their small curtilage walls and hedges. Residents adjacent to Quernmore Road would have relatively open views across to site 98. Residents of East Lodge, immediately adjacent to site 98 and site 99 would have very open views to both sites through their post and rail curtilage fence. Residents on Quernmore Road adjacent to site 99 would have views screened by the woodland shelterbelt as long as this wasn't cleared as part of the site's development.

Site 39 is not visible due to topography and buildings within the village.

The susceptibility to change is high and the value of the viewpoint medium/high. The size of the change is high due to the close proximity of views, only partial screening of the sites and the fact that 3 sites would be seen in combination and sequentially.

The cumulative development of all sites would have a **major** likely significant effect on the views or visual amenity of users of the public footpath, residents and users of Quernmore Road and Broadacre and Broadacre Place.

Mitigation of site 98

The development of only part of site 98 could mitigate some of the adverse visual effects. Land in the south west corner of site is highest. This should be left undeveloped to reduce adverse visual impacts on nearby residents and users of Quernmore Road. The siting of small scale housing close to the wall/hedge along Quernmore Road, and the careful selection of materials to reflect the vernacular character of nearby mill workers houses would also help mitigate adverse impacts.

If just site 98 was developed as above, it is likely to have a **moderate** likely significant effect.

11. Along the routes of Roeburndale Road (GR569629).

(3.8km from Artle Beck proposed Green Gap at the centre of Caton and Brookhouse.)

This viewpoint is representative of cyclists and drivers using Roeburndale Road, and users of footpaths and open access land in the vicinity. Views would be sequential.

The view is wide and expansive across the moorland fringe and farmed landscape to the west. There is a small stretch of road with views across the farmed landscape to Caton and Brookhouse, close to the cattle grid. Site 98 and 99 would be visible from this area. The development of this site would extend the village into the wider landscape, removing the parkland setting of Escowbeck House. However, the site would form part of the wider landscape and would form a small element of the overall view. The other sites aren't visible due to topography and landcover.

The susceptibility to change is medium and the value of the viewpoint medium. The size of the change is medium.

The cumulative development of all sites would have a **moderate** likely significant effect on the views or visual amenity of users of the users of Roeburndale Road and surrounding landscape.

12. Littleedale Road, (GR542638).

(0.7km from Artle Beck proposed Green Gap at the centre of Caton and Brookhouse.)

This viewpoint is representative of users of footpaths on rising farmland to the south of the villages. All four sites would be visible from users of these routes, both sequentially and in combination from a single vantage point. Views of site 39 are likely to be partial due to screening from trees and hedges and the topography. Views west towards sites 98, 99 and 100 would be more open, with some screening from the mature trees found on the edges of the sites, the village and throughout Caton.

The susceptibility to change is medium and the value of the viewpoint high. The size of the change is likely to be major due to the proximity from the viewpoint, and combined view of sites 98, 99 and 100.

The cumulative development of all sites would have a **moderate/major** likely significant effect on the views or visual amenity of users of the users of the footpaths to the south of the villages.

Mitigation of site 98 and no development of sites 99 and 100 would result in a **moderate** likely significant effect.

13. Moorside Road (GR544643).

(1.1km from Artle Beck proposed Green Gap at the centre of Caton and Brookhouse. Please note there is no photograph of this viewpoint).

This viewpoint is representative of users of Moorside Road. The road is lower than the surrounding farmland and/or screened by tall mature hedges. There are no views to the wider landscape or to the sites.

The susceptibility to change is low and the value of the viewpoint low. The size of the change is negligible due to screening provided by topography and hedges.

The cumulative development of all sites would have a **no** likely significant effect on the views or visual amenity of users of Moorside Road.

14. Along Caton Green Road westwards into Brookhouse (GR545648).

(1.3km from Artle Beck proposed Green Gap at the centre of Caton and Brookhouse.)

This viewpoint is representative of users of Caton Green Road. The road rises from Brookhouse and is lined in part by detached houses, giving way to farmland. Glimpsed views are possible through farm gateways towards newly developed housing to the north of the village, as the land drops in this direction. The land rises to the south. The road is lined by mature hedges, and detached houses. There are no views of the sites.

The susceptibility to change is low and the value of the viewpoint low. The size of the change is negligible due to screening provided by topography and hedges.

The cumulative development of all sites would have a **no** likely significant effect on the views or visual amenity of users of Caton Green Road.

15. Crook o' Lune viewpoint (GR522647).

(1.3km from Artle Beck proposed Green Gap at the centre of Caton and Brookhouse.)

This viewpoint is representative of walkers and users of the Crook o' Lune amenity site and riverside footpaths. The view from the area is open and expansive across the River Lune flood plain southwards towards undulating farmland and rising moorland. The wind turbines at Caton Moor area provide a focal point in the wider landscape. The farmland rises along a series of low ridges which are interspersed with substantial woodland blocks. These screen Caton and Brookhouse from view. Mill buildings are the main built feature in the foreground, with the wind turbines forming part of the backdrop. There are no views of any of the sites.

The susceptibility to change is high and the value of the viewpoint high. The size of the change is negligible due to screening provided by topography, woodlands and trees.

The cumulative development of all sites would have a **no** likely significant effect on the views or visual amenity of users of Crook o' Lune amenity area and riverside walks.

16. Lune Valley Ramble to Aughton Barns (GR541661).

(2.6km from Artle Beck proposed Green Gap at the centre of Caton and Brookhouse.)

This viewpoint is representative of walkers of the Lune Valley Ramble along the River Lune through Aughton Woods to Aughton Barns. The views would be sequential along the route, and from static viewpoints, such as the Waterworks Bridge. The views are low level across the River Lune flood plain across to woodlands and farmland around Caton and Brookhouse. The villages are well screened by woodlands, tree belts and mature hedges along the Millennium Cycle track on the route of the dismantled railway.

The susceptibility to change is medium and the value of the viewpoint medium. The size of the change is negligible due to the distance from the viewpoint, low lying nature of the land and screening provided by trees.

The cumulative development of all sites would have a **no** likely significant effect on the views or visual amenity of users of the users of the Lune Valley Ramble to Aughton Barns.

17a & b. Millennium cycle track and Bull Beck Bridge amenity area (GR544652).

(1.1km from Artle Beck proposed Green Gap at the centre of Caton and Brookhouse.)

These viewpoints are representative of users of the Millennium cycle track and footpaths in the vicinity of the Bull Beck amenity area.

Walkers and cyclists on the cycle track have limited views to the south west due to the cycle track being in a cutting below the road and being heavily lined by trees and hedgerows. Any glimpsed views from the track would be further limited by the ridge topography to the south. Users of the amenity area and footpaths in the vicinity would also have limited views due to the ridge landform.

The susceptibility to change is medium and the value of the viewpoint medium. The size of the change is none due to the screening provided by topography, trees and hedges.

The cumulative development of all sites would have a **no** likely significant effect on the views or visual amenity of users of the users of the Millennium cycle track and Bull Beck amenity area.

18. Footpaths south of Hawthorn Close (GR543638).

(0.3km from Artle Beck proposed Green Gap at the centre of Caton and Brookhouse.)

This viewpoint is representative of users of footpaths to the south of Brookhouse. The views here are across rising farmland to the south and north, back towards the village of Brookhouse. Site 39 is visible from the footpaths, partly screened by hedges with mature trees. Development of the site would extend the village into the countryside, but it would be well related to existing housing to the north and east. As users of the footpath move westward towards site 100, partial views could be likely. These are described in viewpoint 19 below.

Sites 98, 99 and 100 are not visible due to topography and landcover.

The biggest impact on the change of views and visual amenity will be from the rear of properties adjacent and close to the site 39 and users of the public footpath that runs along the eastern side of the site.

Overall the susceptibility to change is medium and the value of the viewpoint medium. The size of the change is moderate due to the close proximity of the viewpoint to site 39 and nature of the views against the backdrop of existing housing. However, only one site will be experienced by viewers.

The cumulative development of all sites would have a **moderate** likely significant effect on the views or visual amenity of users of the users of the footpaths to the south of Hawthorn Close.

The development of **site 39** would have a **moderate/major** likely significant effect on users of the nearby footpaths. It would have a **major** likely significant effect on

residents of Hawthorn Close and Pinewood Avenue and users of the footpath along its eastern side. This is due to the open views from dwellings and for users of the footpath, and the close proximity to the site.

Mitigation of site 39

The density, scale and siting of any housing could mitigate some adverse visual effects. Single storey dwellings would reflect the scale of the adjacent housing and would prevent skylining and overdominance that could occur due to the land being higher than surrounding housing. Woodland planting along the southern side of the site could help to integrate the development into the wider landscape and screen the development from the nearby footpaths.

The cumulative development of this site could have a **moderate/major** likely significant effect with such mitigation.

19. Footpath east of Caton Community Primary School (GR533639).

This viewpoint is representative of users of footpaths to the east of Caton primary school and Artle Beck. The views here are over undulating farmland to the west across tree lined Artle Beck and back towards the village of Caton. The trees that line the Beck along with the houses and agricultural buildings to the east of Artle Beck provide partial screening of site 100. Sites 98 and 99 are screened by trees and buildings.

Site 39 lies east of the footpaths. This is screened by changes in topography and hedges with mature trees.

The susceptibility to change is high and the value of the viewpoint medium/high. The size of the change is moderate due to the partial screening provided by trees and buildings.

The cumulative development of all sites would have a **moderate/major** likely significant effect on the views or visual amenity of users of footpaths to the east of Artle Beck and to residents around Borwicks.

20. Green Space area of separation adjacent to Artle Beck (GR534645).

(0.0km from Artle Beck proposed Green Gap at the centre of Caton and Brookhouse.)

This viewpoint is representative of pedestrians and walkers using the pavement and footpaths in the vicinity of Artle Bridge. Views from here are limited by rising topography to the south and mature trees that line the road. Site 39 is closest, but this is heavily screened by trees. There is no visibility of sites 98, 99 and 100 due to screening from buildings within the village.

The susceptibility to change is medium and the value of the viewpoint medium. The size of the change is negligible due to screening provided by trees and buildings.

The cumulative development of all sites would have a **no** effect on the views or visual amenity of users of the footpaths and the pavement around Artle Bridge.

21. Footpath off Quernmore Road running from GR528634.

(1km from Artle Beck proposed Green Gap at the centre of Caton and Brookhouse.)

This viewpoint is representative of walkers using the footpath near Forge House/Quernmore Road. There are open views across the farmed landscape north. Mature tree belts provide a significant screen to Escowbeck Farm and Caton Primary School. These buildings are just discernible in the landscape. The development of sites 98 and 100 are likely to be well screened by trees from this viewpoint, and the open pastoral character is likely to remain for users. Sites 39 and 99 are not visible.

The susceptibility to change is medium and the value of the viewpoint medium. The size of the change is minor due to the screening provided by trees.

The cumulative development of all sites would have a **minor** likely significant effect on the views or visual amenity of users of the footpath.

22. Permitted path near Escowbeck House.

(1.6km from Artle Beck proposed Green Gap at the centre of Caton and Brookhouse.)

This viewpoint is representative of walkers using the permitted footpath across the field north of site 99. This path has historic origins, providing access for the mill owner at Escowbeck House to the mills in Caton.

The path skirts to the west of small rise in the field towards the north west corner of site 99. Views are restricted to the southern most section of the permissive path which ends abruptly adjacent to a wooded copse. Here views are open to the site. There are also open views across the site from adjacent Escowbeck House. Any development would change the perception of users, creating a strong connection to still being in the village, rather than being in the open countryside. Sites 39, 98 and 100 are not visible.

The susceptibility to change is medium and the value of the viewpoint medium. The size of the change is moderate due to the short duration of the view from the permitted footpath and the fact that no other sites are visible.

The cumulative development of all sites would have a **moderate/major** likely significant effect on the views or visual amenity of users of the footpath, and residents of Escowbeck House. They have open parkland views across sites 98 and 99. When considered on its own the development of site 99 would have a **major** likely significant effect on residents of Escowbeck House.

23. Footpath from Forge Mill (GR533636) west.

(0.9km from Artle Beck proposed Green Gap at the centre of Caton and Brookhouse.)

This is a representative viewpoint of users of the footpath that runs from Forge Mill east towards Littledale Road. The effects are greatest at its western end near Forge Mill.

The footpath crosses rising land to the east of sites 98, 99 and 100. There are clear views to the western side of the village of the 3 sites. The sites are partially screened by mature trees, but the sites would cumulatively form a significant part of the view, with open views directly into the sites. Development of the 3 sites would significantly change the experience of the view and visual amenity of the area introducing a significant linear built feature, extending the village into an area that is predominantly

undulating farmland. The planned development of Escowbeck Farm would further erode the pastoral character and extend the village.

The susceptibility to change is medium and the value of the viewpoint medium. The size of the change is major due to the proximity of the viewpoint and limited screening provided by trees.

The cumulative development of all sites would have a **major** likely significant effect on the views or visual amenity of users of the footpath to the west of Forge Mill.

24. Footpath to Annas Ghyll (GR552642).

(1.6km from Artle Beck proposed Green Gap at the centre of Caton and Brookhouse.)

This viewpoint is representative of walkers using the footpath from Annas Ghyll. For a small section of the footpath there are open views across the farmed landscape west towards Caton and Brookhouse. All sites would be discernible. They would appear as part of the wider village due to their proximity to existing housing. The significant number of mature trees, wooded copses and undulating topography would help to mitigate the effects of the development from this viewpoint.

The susceptibility to change is medium and the value of the viewpoint medium. The size of the change is minor due to the short duration of the view and screening provided by trees and topography.

The cumulative development of all sites would have a **moderate** likely significant effect on the views or visual amenity of users of the footpath from Annas Ghyll.

25. Footpath near Gresgarth Lodge (GR531636).

(0.9km from Artle Beck proposed Green Gap at the centre of Caton and Brookhouse.)

This viewpoint is representative of walkers using the footpath near Forge House/Quernmore Road. There are open views across the farmed landscape north to site 100 and site 98. Escowbeck Farm and Caton Primary School are visible along with an electricity line. The development of site 100 would be open above the mature hedges that form the boundary of the site. The open pastoral character of the view is likely to change with a significant part of the view changing to a built form. Sites 39 and 99 are not visible.

The susceptibility to change is medium and the value of the viewpoint medium. The size of the change is major due to the proximity of the viewpoint and the openness of the view.

The cumulative development of all sites would have a **moderate/major** likely significant effect on the views or visual amenity of users of the footpath.

Conclusion

The assessment has considered the impact of the proposed sites in combination with recently planned or constructed sites within the village.

Cumulative views are likely to be most significant in the 1km study area from the following viewpoints:

10	Major
12	Moderate/Major
18	Moderate/Major
19	Moderate/Major
21b	Moderate/Major
22	Moderate/Major
23	Major

The cumulative impacts will be greatest along the western parts of the village from footpaths, for residents and along Quernmore Road. The cumulative impacts will be greatest in relation to sites 98, 99 and 100. Other significant impacts will be experience by users of footpaths to the south and east of Caton, again in relation to sites 98, 99 and 100. The effects arise from open views and the close proximity of residents and path/amenity area users.

These effects could be mitigated by not developing sites 99 and 100, and the partial development of site 98. The development of site 98 should be contained to the low lying land that runs along Quernmore Road and careful design, siting and use of vernacular materials that respects the scale of nearby housing.

It is unlikely that you would experience changes from Site 39 in combination with Sites 98, 99 and 100. Changes in topography, ridges and drumlins and significant tree screening throughout the village along field edges, river and stream banks and in copses prevents cumulative impacts from many locations of sites 39, 98, 99, and 100.

The most significant effects of site 39 could be mitigated through careful design, use of materials, siting and landscape planting.

Impacts in the 5 km study area are limited largely due to the distance from viewpoints to the villages, the low lying nature of the villages in the valley bottom, the nucleated characteristics of the villages, varied topography and significant tree planting that integrates the villages into the wider farmed landscape.

Appendix 1: Approach and methodology

The approach for carrying out the cumulative landscape and visual assessment is based on the latest published national guidance². The assessment identifies and assesses the significance of and the effects of change resulting from development on:

- Landscape effects: the landscape as an environmental resource in its own right and
- Visual effects: on specific views and on the general visual amenity experience by people.

Study area

The assessment focussed on a 5km wider study area and 1km detailed study area. The study area was agreed by the Caton in Littledale Neighbourhood Plan steering group.

Landscape baseline

The aim of the landscape baseline is to provide an understanding of the landscape in the area that may be affected, its constituent elements, its character and way it varies spatially, its geographic extent, its history, condition and the way it is experienced and the value attached to it.

The assessment included a desk top review of relevant landscape character and planning studies, field survey of all four sites and the wider landscape, to identify and record the character of the landscape and the elements, features and aesthetic and perceptual factors that contribute to it. It also considered the condition and value attached to the landscape. Sources of information for the desktop study included ordnance survey maps, aerial maps, landscape character assessments, planning assessments and relevant planning policy.

Visual baseline

The aim of the visual baseline is to establish the area where the developments might be visible, and to identify the different groups of people that that might experience views of the development, the places where they will be affected and the nature of the views and visual amenity at the different places.

The assessment included a desk top review of relevant maps and recreational guides, and identification of viewpoints, the nature of the views, and the different groups of people that might experience views, in discussion with the steering group and an officer from the Forest of Bowland AONB. Consideration was given to the cultural heritage influences on the receptors and views. This was followed by a field survey of all four sites from 25 viewpoints.

Landscape assessment criteria

The overall significance of effects is established by considering both the sensitivity of the landscape and the magnitude of effects arising from the development of the sites both individually, and in combination with each other and other new development in the villages.

² Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Ed (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment 2013).

When considering the sensitivity of the landscape consideration is given to the landscape receptors susceptibility to change and value attached to the receptor.

When considering the magnitude of change to the landscape character, the size/scale, duration and its ability of the landscape effect to be reversed is assessed.

Visual assessment criteria

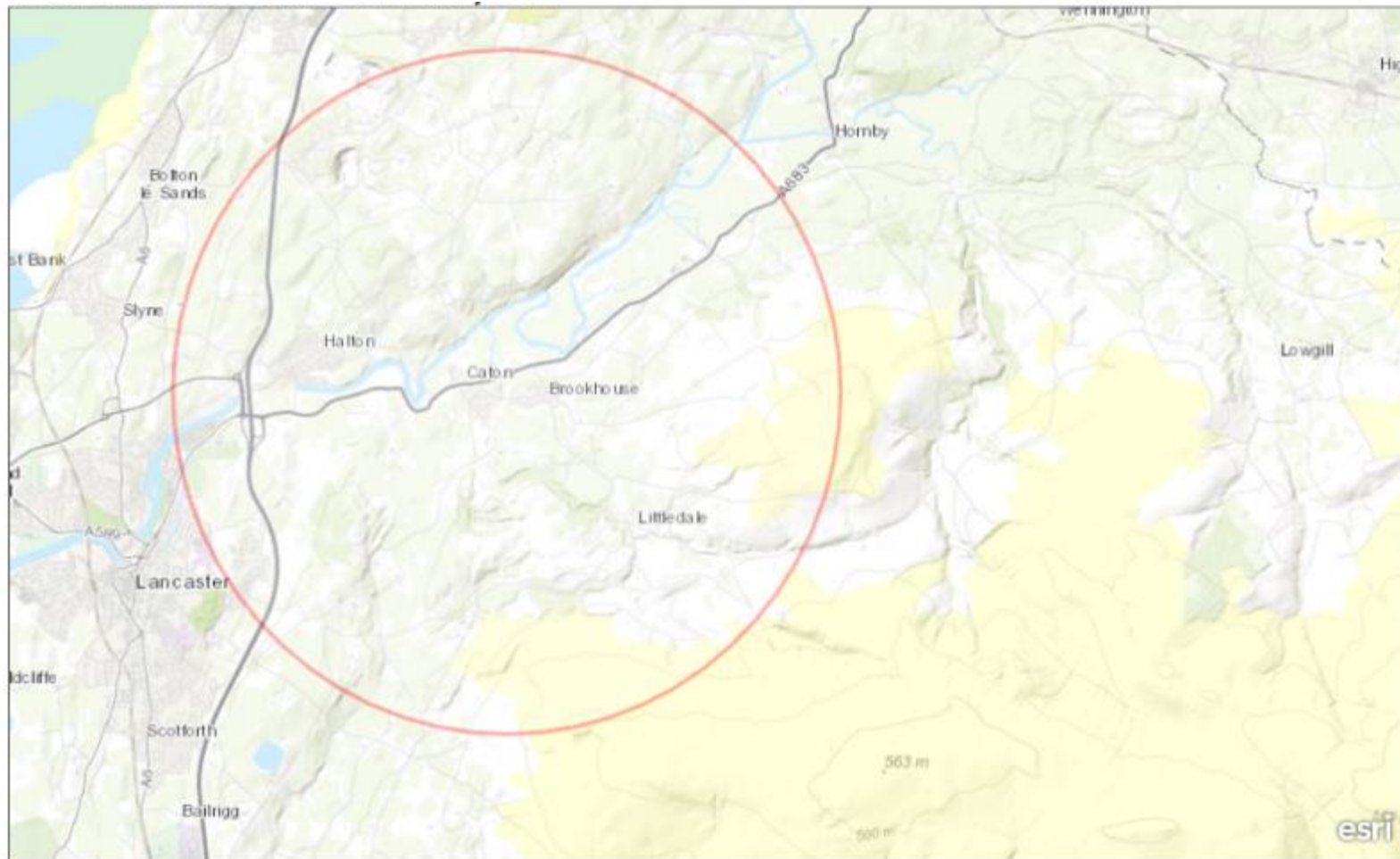
The overall significance of effects is established by considering both the sensitivity of visual receptors and the magnitude of visual effects arising from the development of the sites both individually, and in combination with each other and other new development in the villages.

When considering the sensitivity of the visual receptors consideration is given to the landscape receptors susceptibility to change and value attached to particular views.

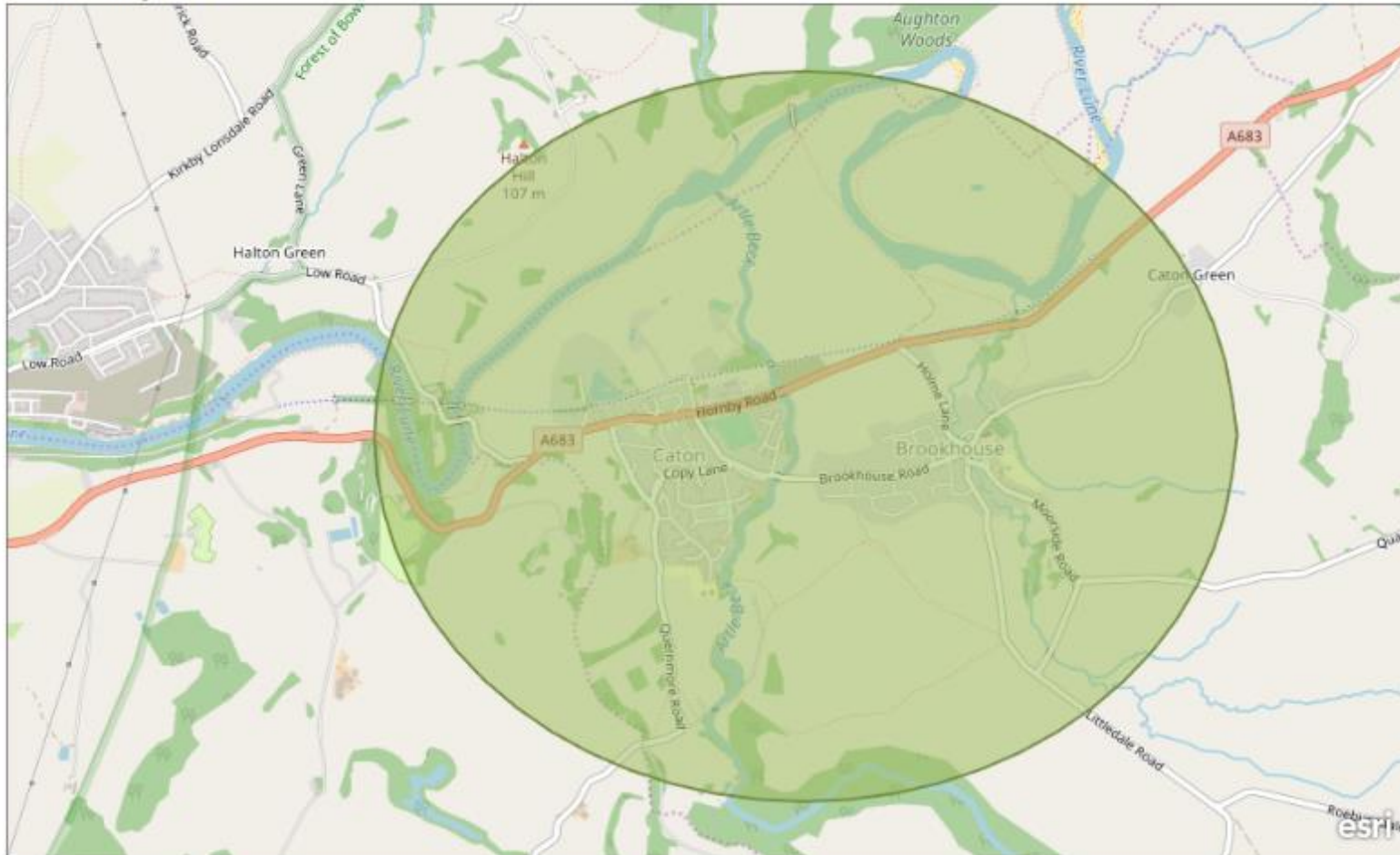
When considering the magnitude of change to the visual effect, the size/scale, duration and ability of the effect to be reversed is assessed.

Appendix 2: Study area

5km study area



1 km study area

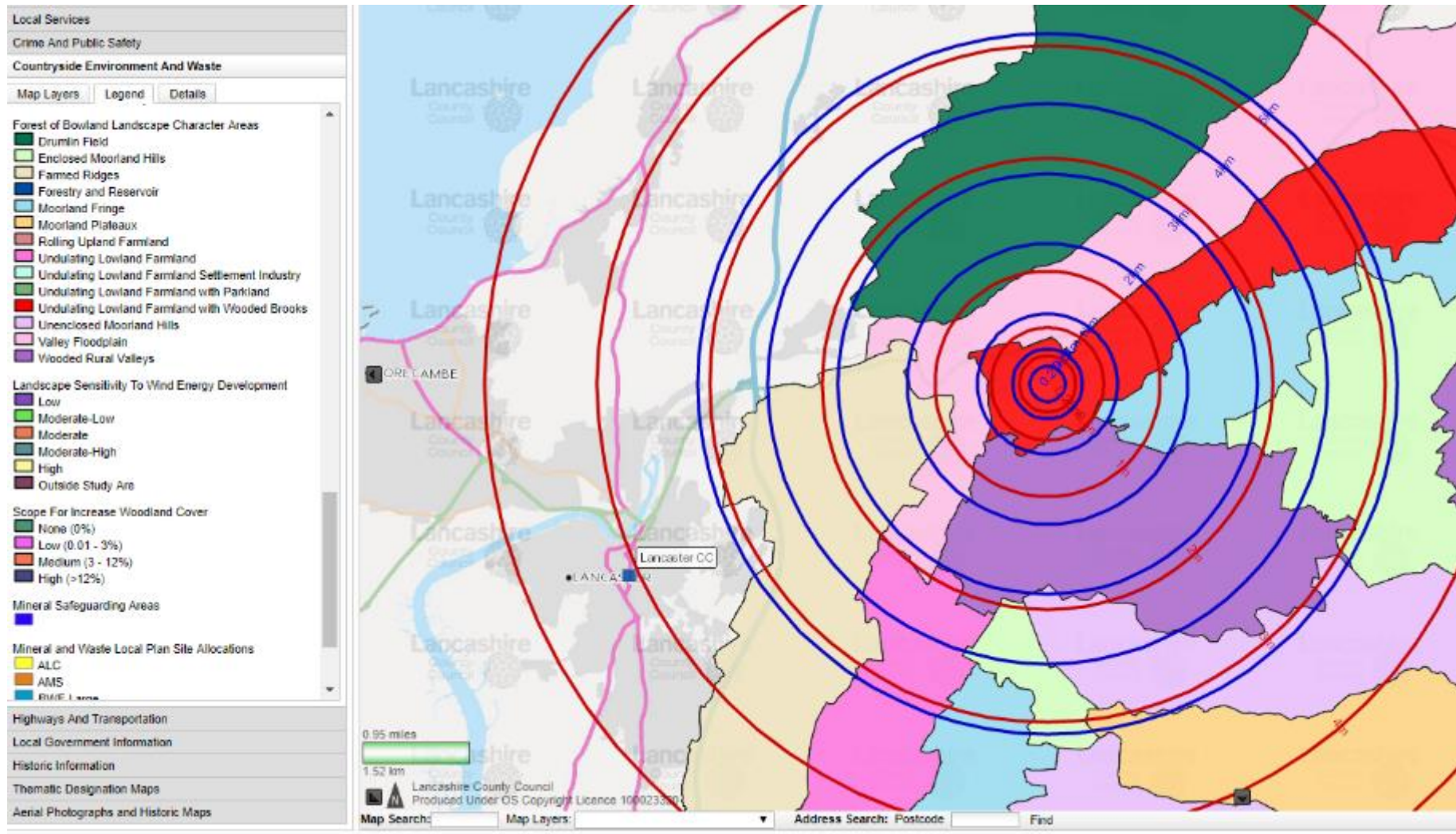


1km study area

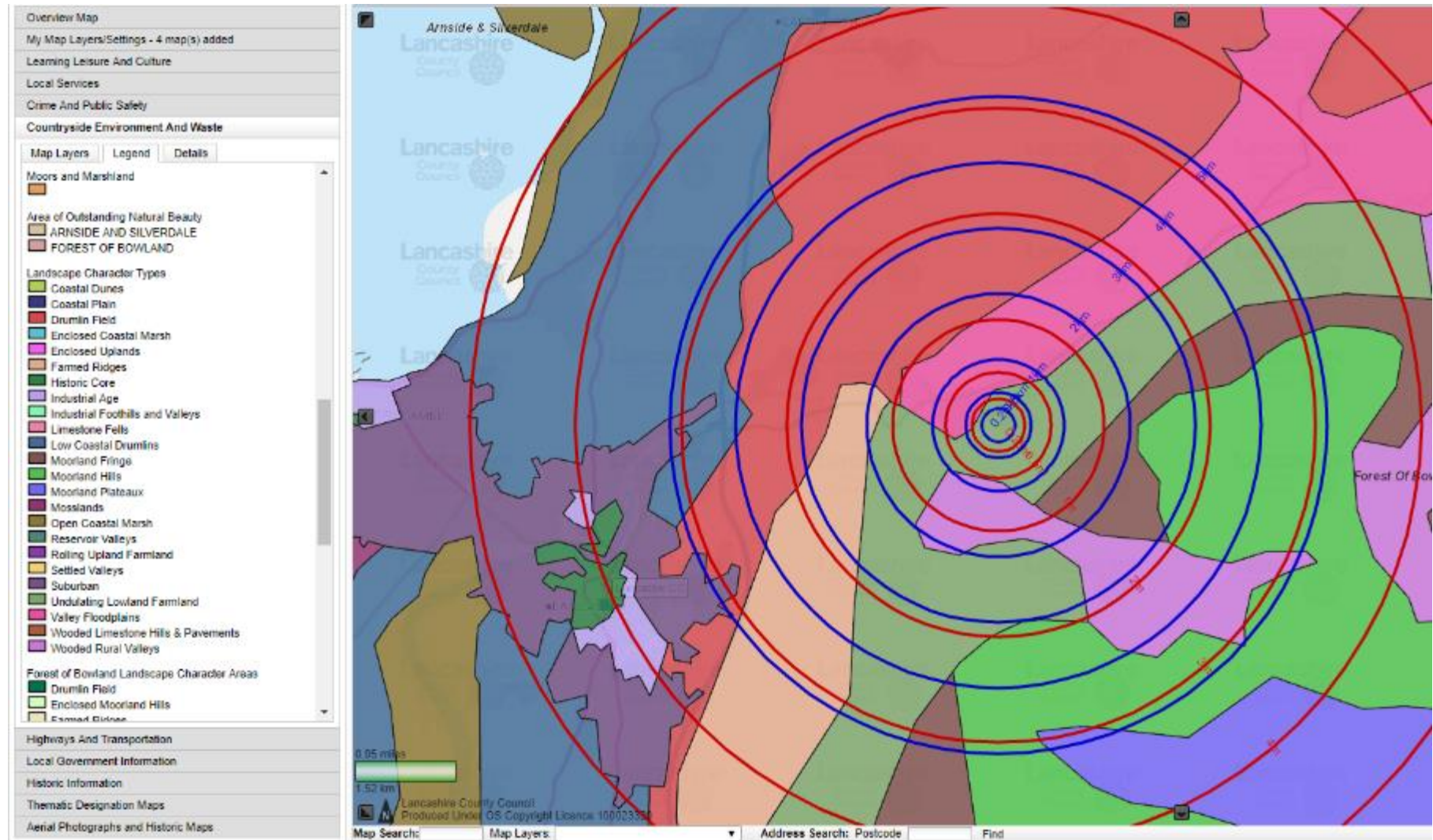
0.6km

Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, CC-BY-SA

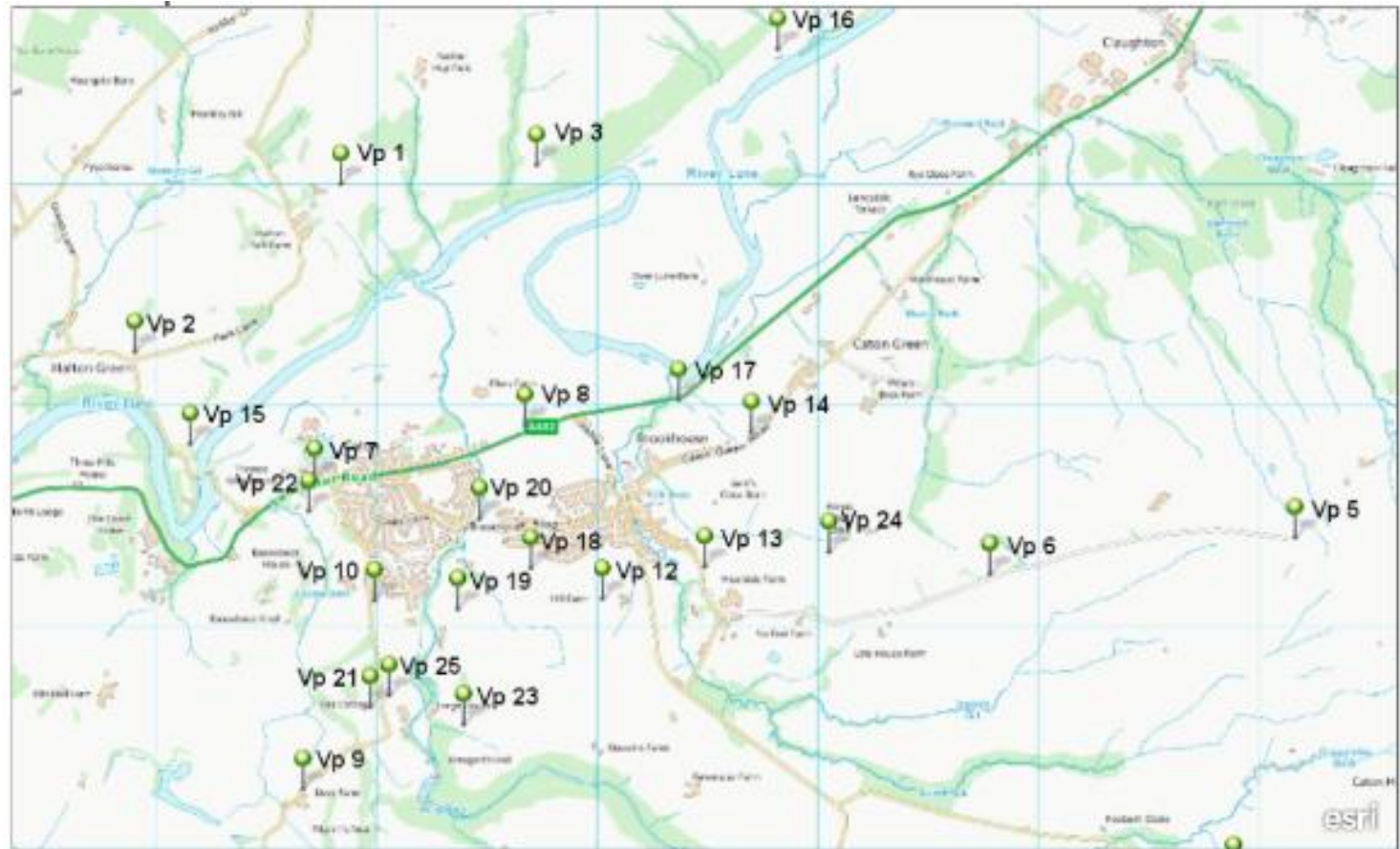
Appendix 2a: Study Area by Landscape Character Areas



Appendix 2b: Study area by Landscape Character Types



Appendix 3: Viewpoints



CLVIA viewpoints

0.6km

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CLVIA viewpoints south and 4



CLVIA viewpoints

0,6km

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Appendix 4 Images of Viewpoints

See separate document.