



**Royal  
HaskoningDHV**  
*Enhancing Society Together*

## **Section 20 Appendix 20.2 Landscape Assessment**

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### Assessment of Receptor Sensitivity

Sensitivity to change for landscape receptors is identified through assessment of the value of the receptor, based on a series of key criteria, combined with assessment of the susceptibility of the receptor to the type of change that would arise from the proposed development. Sensitivity values of **low**, **medium** or **high** are assigned to each receptor.

For this project, the nature of the proposed development is large scale industrial infrastructure. This is considered to be in keeping with the character and scale of existing industrial development across the Teesmouth industrial complex.

Where a receptor is expected to be directly physically affected by a development greater weight is given to this criterion when assessing sensitivity to change. Where a receptor is expected to be visually affected by a development remote from the receptor itself a lower weighting is given to this criterion unless external visual character is a key characteristic of the receptor or is likely to affect other key characteristics.

LCA – denotes 'landscape character area'.

Receptor	Value								Susceptibility		Sensitivity to change
	Condition/quality	Scenic quality	Rarity/representativeness	Conservation interests	Recreation value	Perceptual aspects	Cultural associations	Value rating	Commentary	Susceptibility rating	
Industrialised Estuary (including the development site area)	Low – heavily altered man-made industrialised landscape with most original landscape features removed.	Low – the area is heavily urbanised/ industrialised and is without scenic value.	Low – commonplace man-made disturbed or regenerating urbanised landscape.	Low - no designated sites within LCA.	Low – area is crossed by several PROW and Teesdale Way but LCA makes no contribution to the recreational experience.	Low – significant visual, aural and olfactory detractors affect whole of the LCA.	Low – recorded associations not known.	Low	The area has little or no susceptibility to physical or visual change due to the presence of extensive urban and industrial detractors forming the greater part of the LCA or heavily adversely influencing non-developed parts of the LCA.	Low	Low
Redcar LCA R4 (Coastal Marsh – Coatham Marsh)	Medium – estuary farmland and creeks remainder is fragmented but under management.	Low – extensive urban and industrial influences.	High – contains remainder coastal marsh and creek features.	Medium – no designated sites within LCA, Coatham Marsh Nature Reserve within LCA contains ancient marsh.	Low – crossed by Teesdale Way, otherwise of no intrinsic value.	Low – significant adverse influences from adjoining industrial areas.	Low – recorded associations not known.	Medium	The area has moderate to high susceptibility to physical change and low susceptibility to external visual or perceptual change due to the presence of extensive urban and industrial detractors within views of surrounding character areas, including those towards the development site.	Low	Low
Redcar LCA R5 (Sandy Shoreline – Coatham Sands)	High – area appears to be well managed with intact landscape components.	Medium – inherently scenic setting despite presence of obvious detractors.	High – distinctive dune system backed by areas of open water.	High – LCA contains parts of Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Ramsar & SPA, South Gare and Coatham Sands SSSI.	High – beaches, dune systems, Teesdale Way, golf course. Coastal landscape contributes strongly to recreational experience.	Medium – significant detractors affect views out from the character area but it still retains a strong sense of coastal wildness and exposure.	Low – recorded associations not known.	High	The area has high susceptibility to physical change and low susceptibility to external visual or perceptual change due to the presence of extensive urban and industrial detractors within views of surrounding character areas, including those towards the development site.	Low	Low
Redcar LCA E2 (Escarpment)	High - area appears to be well managed with intact landscape components.	Medium - area is inherently scenic but proximity of the Teesside conurbation influences overall scenic value.	Medium – wooded escarpment slopes are distinct but not rare.	Low - no designated sites within LCA.	Medium – area is crossed by PROW network with landscape and Eston Nab viewpoint contributing to recreational experience.	Medium – significant detractors within Teesside conurbation and industrial areas influence the LCA.	Low – recorded associations not known.	Medium	The area has high susceptibility to physical change. Panoramic views over the Teesside conurbation are a key characteristic of the LCA. Within existing views, however, large scale urban and industrial detractors form a key component. On the basis that the proposed development is contained within and is in keeping with the scale of existing industrial areas the LCA is considered to be less susceptible to changes in external views.	Low	Low

Receptor	Value								Susceptibility		Sensitivity rating
	Condition/quality	Scenic quality	Rarity/representativeness	Conservation interests	Recreation value	Perceptual aspects	Cultural associations	Value rating	Commentary	Susceptibility rating	
Stockton on Tees LCA – East Billingham to Teesmouth	Medium – area appears to be well managed with some intact landscape components.	Low – character is heavily influenced by urban and industrial setting including extensive development areas within the LCA and surrounding areas.	High – whilst overall character area is fragmented and contains commonplace features remaining pockets of distinctive estuarine wetlands are rare.	High – parts of the LCA are designated as SPA, Ramsar and SSSI, several other sites are designated as Local Nature Reserves.	Medium – large parts of the LCA do not contribute to recreational experience but wetland areas at Saltholme (including RSPB visitor centre) make a strong local contribution to recreational value.	Low – surrounding large scale industrial development forms an intrinsic part of the LCA key characteristics.	Low – recorded associations not known.	Medium	The area has high susceptibility to physical change within wetland conservation areas and low susceptibility to external visual or perceptual change overall, due to the presence of extensive urban and industrial detractors within the LCA and surrounding areas.	Low	Low
Hartlepool – Coastal Fringe Landscape Type	High – area appears to be well managed with intact landscape components.		High – coastal farmland, wetland and dune characteristics are rare features.	High – the LCA contains parts of the Teesmouth National Nature Reserve, Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Ramsar and SPA and various SSSI.	High – beaches and dune systems accessible to the public, coastal landscape contributes strongly to recreational experience.	Medium – significant detractors affect views out from the character area but it still retains a strong sense of coastal wildness and exposure.	Low – recorded associations not known.	High	The area has high susceptibility to physical change and low susceptibility to external visual or perceptual change due to the presence of extensive urban and industrial detractors adjoin the LCA on its southern edge and within more distant views towards the proposed development.	Low	Low

## Assessment of Magnitude of Change

Magnitude of change is identified following consideration of several key criteria and is reported as being **negligible, low, medium** or **high** for each receptor. Intermediate values of **low to medium** and **medium to high** may be used where magnitude is considered to fall between the main values. In addition positive changes are identified as being **beneficial** whilst negative changes are identified as being **adverse**.

Given the nature and scale of the proposed development and its setting, significant differences between construction phase, operational phase and decommissioning phase effects on landscape receptors are not expected to occur for this project. On this basis the magnitude of change arising during the various phases of the project has been given the same value for assessment purposes.

Receptor	Size/ scale of change	Degree of contrast or integration	Duration and reversibility	Magnitude of change
Industrialised Estuary (including the development site area)	Construction stage access and activity would occur within a busy area that is already in use for operational and construction access to surrounding industrial sites (see views 16 and 17). Construction stage effects would represent a minor change to the existing condition. The conveyor structure would be locally visible from parts of the LCA and would constitute a minor change set amongst existing large scale industrial infrastructure. The phase 1 and phase 2 shiploaders, rising conveyor and silos would be visible from within the LCA, with proposed structures being in keeping/ scale with surrounding large scale industrial features.	Construction stage effects would be in keeping with general existing operational and construction activity in the wider area. Both conveyor and quayside structures would be in keeping with the existing industrialised setting, where large scale engineering features are a key characteristic of the LCA.	Phase 1 construction stage effects are expected to last approximately 17 months. Phase 2 construction stage effects are expected to last approximately 17 months and would occur within approximately year 6 of completion of Phase 1. Operational stage effects are considered to be permanent and irreversible.	Low adverse
Redcar LCA R4 (Coastal Marsh – Coatham Marsh)	Views from the LCA to the conveyor route and proposed quay are generally blocked by intervening higher ground (see view 5) or large scale buildings associated with the Redcar steelworks. Upper sections of the shiploaders, conveyor, transfer towers and silos may be visible in distant glimpsed views between steelworks buildings from part of the LCA but would form a barely perceptible component of the view.	Proposed structures are in keeping with the existing industrialised character of views from the LCA with changes barely perceptible.	As above.	No change or negligible adverse
Redcar LCA R5 (Sandy Shoreline – Coatham Sands)	Shiploaders, silos and shiploading activities would be visible in skyline views from parts of the north western edge of the LCA returning inland along the River Tees. Visible structures and activities would be entirely in scale and keeping with the existing view character and would constitute a minor change.	Proposed structures are in keeping with the existing industrialised character of views from LCA with changes being perceptible and minor.	As above.	Low adverse
Redcar LCA E2 (Escarpment)	Larger scale features including the conveyor, shiploaders, silos and docked ships would be visible within the very distant panoramic views from the northern flank of the escarpment (see views 18 and 19). Within the overall context of the existing panoramic view and extent of surrounding industrial development proposed changes would be difficult to perceive.	Proposed structures are in keeping with the existing industrialised character of views from LCA with changes being barely perceptible.	As above.	Negligible adverse
Stockton on Tees LCA – East Billingham to Teesmouth	The proposed quay structure, shiploaders, silos, rising conveyors and shiploading activities would be visible from parts of the eastern edge of the LCA but would be in scale and keeping with existing view character and would be seen against an existing industrialised backdrop. Within available views from the LCA the proposed development would constitute a minor change.	Proposed structures are in keeping with the existing industrialised character of views from LCA with changes being perceptible and minor.	As above.	Low adverse
Hartlepool – Coastal Fringe Landscape Type	The proposed quay structure, shiploaders, silos, rising conveyors and shiploading activities would be visible in skyline views from parts of the eastern edge of the LCA across the River Tees (see view 1). Visible structures and activities would be entirely in scale and keeping with the existing view character and would be seen against an existing industrialised backdrop. Within available views from the LCA the proposed development would constitute a minor change.	Proposed structures are in keeping with the existing industrialised character of views from LCA with changes being perceptible and minor.	As above.	Low adverse

### Assessment of Significance

Sensitivity and magnitude of change values are combined using professional judgement to identify the significance of change likely to arise from the development for each receptor. Significance of change is reported as being **negligible, minor, minor moderate, moderate, moderate major** or **major** and as being either **beneficial** or **adverse**. The following colour system is used to highlight significance values:

Moderate/ moderate major beneficial/ major beneficial		Moderate adverse/ moderate major adverse/ major adverse	
Minor moderate beneficial/ minor beneficial		Minor moderate adverse/ minor adverse	
Negligible beneficial/ no change		Negligible adverse/ no change	

Significance values of **moderate** or **major** should be considered as **likely significant effects** for the purposes of the EIA regulations and should be taken into account by decision making bodies.

Given the nature and scale of the proposed development and its setting, significant differences between construction phase, operational phase and decommissioning phase effects on landscape receptors are not expected to occur for this project. On this basis the significance of change arising during the various phases of the project has been given the same value.

Receptor	Sensitivity to change	Magnitude of change	Significance of change	Commentary
Industrialised Estuary (including the development site area)	Low	Low adverse	Minor adverse	The proposed development would not result in the loss of any valued landscape features. It is located within an area of highly degraded industrialised landscape and would be in scale and keeping with existing industrialised landscape character.
Redcar LCA R4 (Coastal Marsh – Coatham Marsh)	Low	No change/ Negligible adverse	No change/ negligible adverse	Potential glimpsed views of tops of quay structures may be visible between steelworks buildings but would not have a material effect on views from the LCA.
Redcar LCA R5 (Sandy Shoreline – Coatham Sands)	Low	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	The proposed development would be visible on the south bank of the River Tees from parts of the LCA but would be in scale and keeping with the existing industrial setting and view character.
Redcar LCA E2 (Escarpment)	Low	Negligible adverse	Negligible adverse	The proposed development would be barely perceptible as a distant change amongst an existing setting of large scale industrial development within panoramic views from the LCA.
Stockton on Tees LCA – East Billingham to Teesmouth	Low	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	The proposed development would be visible from heavily industrialised parts of the LCA that are without public access and would be in scale and keeping with existing industrialised character.
Hartlepool – Coastal Fringe Landscape Type	Low	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	The proposed development would be visible on the south bank of the River Tees from parts of the LCA but would be in scale and keeping with the existing industrial setting and view character.