

# **BURNHOUSE FARM**

Back Lane, Slaidburn

Siting of Three Camping Pods within a Woodland Area

## **LANDSCAPE & VISUAL STATEMENT**

*July 2021*



## Report Control Sheet

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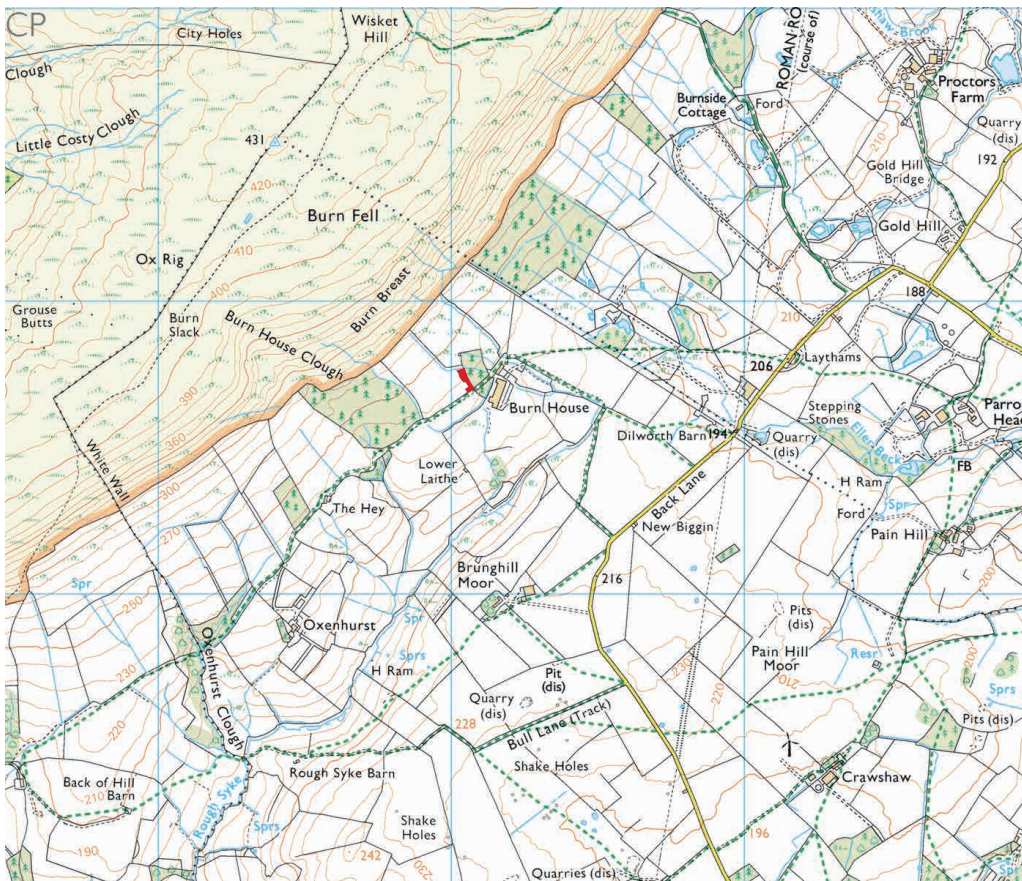
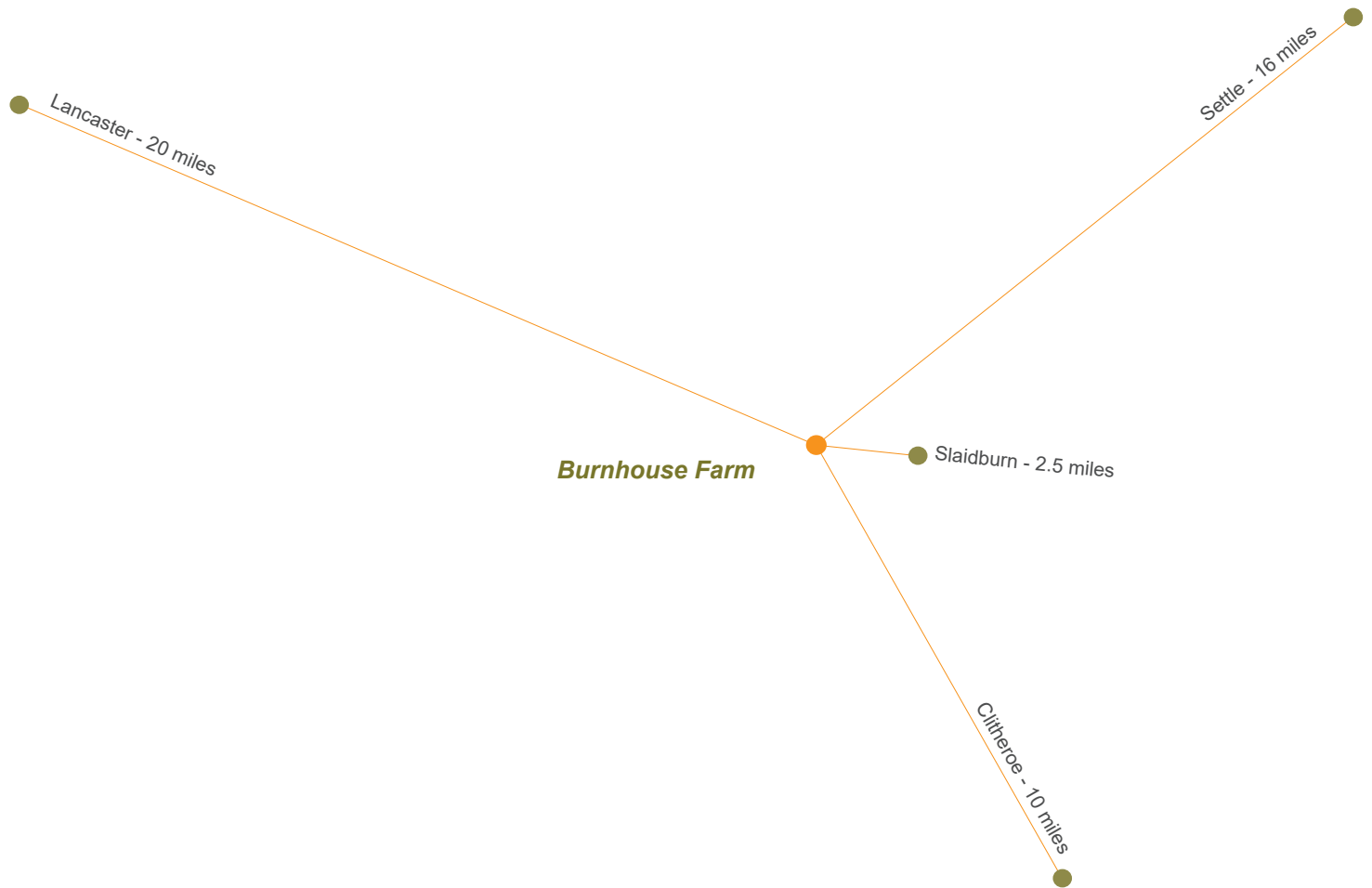
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 Application Site

Figure 1: Site Location.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 SCOPE & PURPOSE

1.1.1 Collington Winter Ltd was commissioned by Mr Hartley to prepare a Landscape & Visual Statement (LVS) to support an application for approval for the change of use from agriculture to the siting three camping pods to be used as short term holiday lets at Burnhouse Farm, Slaidburn. This LVS is designed to be read in conjunction with other material considerations and will consider, in outline, any potential landscape and visual effects arising from the proposal.

1.1.2 This report was prepared through:

- a desktop review of landscape character and landscape designations and relevant planning policy;
- a site assessment of landscape and visual sensitivities, to assess any potential visibility of the proposed camping pods, from publicly accessible receptors; and
- preparation of an illustrated landscape and visual statement, with a brief cartographic overview of the existing landscape baseline, to set the site within the context of the surrounding landscape, along with annotated photoviewpoint/s, where relevant.

1.1.3 The field assessment was carried out by a Landscape Architect CMLI, on the 17th June 2021 in dry and bright weather conditions.

### 1.2 LOCATION

1.2.1 Burnhouse Farm is located approximately two and a half miles from the village of Slaidburn and approximately ten miles from the market town of Clitheroe. The Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Beauty (AONB) designation washes over the landscape. See *Figure 1*.

### 1.3 THE PROPOSAL

1.3.1 *The proposal seeks approval for the change of use from agriculture to the siting three camping pods to be used as short term holiday lets. One parking space for each pod will be positioned where the existing access point is next to the wooded area. They will not drive up the field/ woodland right up to the pods. (Pre Application Statement (Inc. Agricultural Justification) 2021. MacMarshalls Rural Chartered Surveyors & Planning Consultants).*

1.3.2 The location of the camping pods was carefully considered to ensure minimal impacts on the landscape. The camping pods will be set within a wooded landscape, with new woodland edge planting extending out from the existing woodland.

1.3.3 See *Pre Application Statement (Inc. Agricultural Justification) 2021. MacMarshalls Rural Chartered Surveyors & Planning Consultants* for full details of the scheme.

## 2.0 LANDSCAPE BASELINE

### 2.1 WHAT IS LANDSCAPE?

- 2.1.1 The landscape is a resource in its own right. The European Landscape Convention (ELC), designed to achieve improved approaches to the planning, management and protection of landscapes throughout Europe, defines landscape as ‘*an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors*’. (Council of Europe, 2000).
- 2.1.2 This definition was expanded in 2002 to illustrate how all landscapes are special and valuable, even if they are not recognised with a statutory designation.

*“Landscape is about the relationship between people and place. It provides the setting for our day-to-day lives. The term does not mean just special or designated landscapes and it does not only apply to the countryside. Landscape can mean a small patch of urban wasteland as much as a mountain range, and an urban park as much as an expanse of lowland plain. It results from the way that different components of our environment – both natural (the influences of geology, soils, climate, flora and fauna) and cultural (the historic and current impact of land use, settlement, enclosure and other human interventions) – interact together and perceived by us. People’s perceptions turn land into the concept of landscape.”(Swanwick, C and Land Use Consultants (2002) Landscape Character Assessment Guidance. Countryside Agency & Scottish Natural Heritage).*

### 2.2 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

- 2.2.1 Landscape character is assessed at different scales, from the national and regional, down to the county, district and site specific.
- 2.2.2 NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER - The region is classified in the ‘Character of England Map’, as defined by Natural England, as falling within National Character Area **34: Bowland Fells** (<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/3261818?category=587130>). The character of the Bowland Fells landscape is summarised as:

- *The large-scale, sweeping landform of the Bowland Fells is incised by narrow, wooded, intimate valleys and cloughs. Steeply sloping sculptural escarpments and exposed moorland tops contrast with the surrounding lush green valleys of the Lune, Ribble, Hodder and Wyre.*
- *The dominant feature is the central upland core of Carboniferous Millstone Grit fells, with its large areas of moorland habitat – including some of England’s most extensive tracts of blanket bog.*
- *Extensive coniferous plantations, such as Gisburn Forest, occur to the south-east and east of the area.*
- *The moorland is ringed by extensive rough grazing enclosures with mosaics of woodland, unimproved meadows, pasture, marshes and streams. These upland pastures are enclosed by drystone walls and are grazed mainly by sheep, with some cattle.*
- *Rare and endangered species are associated with the mosaic of habitats. The fells support a diverse upland breeding bird community of international importance, which includes three protected species of raptor – hen harrier, merlin and peregrine – and a large colony of lesser black-backed gulls. The mosaic of habitats also supports the red-listed ring ouzel and amber-listed whinchat. Similarly, fields of wet flushed grassland around the moorland fringe are important for breeding wader populations, including redshank, lapwing, snipe and curlew.*
- *The area is also home to a number of rare or important plant species, including the nationally scarce bog rosemary and pale forget-me-not, with high-quality species-rich grasslands found in the limestone areas to the east.*
- *The area’s many rivers and streams provide habitat for nationally and internationally important species such as salmon, trout, eels, bullheads, grayling, otters, kingfishers and dippers.*
- *Piecemeal, irregular-shaped fields around individual farms are found on the slopes, where there is also a complex system of narrow lanes with occasional wide historic drove roads. Systematic division of the*



*majority of the commons resulted in more regular enclosures on higher ground.*

- *The area is sparsely populated, with the scattered settlements restricted to villages, hamlets and isolated farmhouses.*
- *Traditional farmhouses are generally of gritstone and typically shelter a barn under the same roof line (laithe houses). There is strong unity of building materials, styles and village form.*
- *Large areas of the Bowland Fells are managed for field sports, principally red grouse shooting on the heather moors and pheasant rearing in plantations below the Fells. Fishing is also very popular.*
- *Large areas of open access land enable access to and enjoyment of, the many natural and cultural features of the landscape, and thus improve opportunities to experience escapism and inspiration.*

2.2.3 DISTRICT LANDSCAPE CHARACTER - Lancashire County Council commissioned Chris Blandford Associates (CBA) to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), to provide a framework for developing a shared understanding of the current character of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) landscapes and future management needs. The study, which builds upon existing national and county landscape character assessments, identified, mapped and described in detail 14 Landscape Character Types (LCT) and 82 Landscape Character Areas (LCA), all of which with unique characteristics which set them apart from their neighbours. Burnhouse Farm lies within the *D: Moorland Fringe* LCT and the *D5: Beatrix to Collyholme* LCA. The characteristics of *D: Moorland Fringe* LCT which are relevant to the this study include:

- *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.*

2.2.4 The characteristics of *D5: Beatrix to Collyholme* LCA which are relevant to the this study include:

- *The rocky outcrop of Knot or Sugar Loaf disused quarry is a distinctive landscape feature within this character area;*
- *Belts and patches of deciduous and coniferous woodland provide an intermittent sense of enclosure within this area;*
- *Dramatic open views into the Lower Hodder Valley from the western edges of the area contribute to recognisable sense of place;*
- *Pockets of mature single deciduous trees, such as those close to Beatrix Farm, contribute to landscape pattern;*
- *The dilapidated field barn at Back of Hill is also a landscape feature;*
- *The landscape is incised by a network of cloughs and sykes which add variety and texture to the landscape;*
- *Sled tracks (relating to past quarrying and peat cutting activities) are a key historic landscape feature on Dunsop and Burn Fells, which are still visible today, set against the smooth moorland backdrop;*
- *Beatrix hamlet (an ancient settlement, which is older than Dunsop Bridge), is a feature of the lower end of the valley;*
- *Hedgerows are a feature of the landscape in places (for example at Burn House).*

2.2.5 The upland landscape of Burn Fell and beyond, to the west is described as being within the *B: Unenclosed Moorland Hills* LCT/*B7: Langden* LCA, with a characteristic “open and exposed character, with a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity”. To the south east, the *G: Undulating Lowland Farmland with Parkland* LCT/*G3 Upper Hodder* LCA is a gently undulating landscape with “mature parkland trees and other ornamental designed landscape features contribute to the ‘designed’ estate character”.

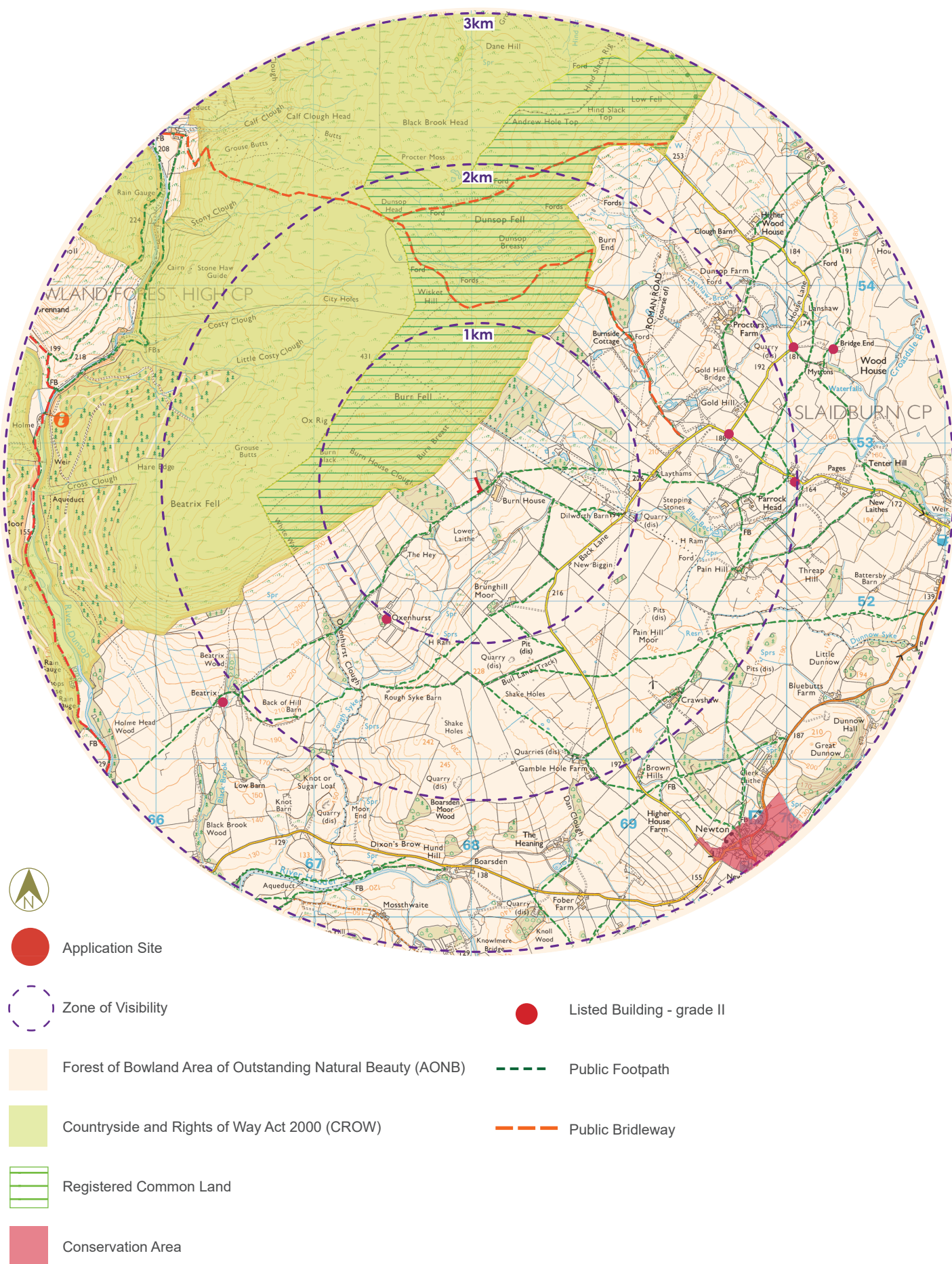


Figure 2: Landscape Designations



## 2.3 LOCAL LANDSCAPE SETTING & THE APPLICATION SITE

- 2.3.1 Burnhouse Farm lies within a rolling, rural and pastoral in-by landscape and set against the backdrop of the dramatically rising moorland of Burn Fell. Scattered vernacular farmsteads, often set within or adjacent to small woodland compartments, are a characteristic feature of the landscape. A mosaic of pastoral, often herb-rich and unimproved fields grazed by sheep and cattle, are defined by drystone walls. Native, predominantly hawthorn hedgerows are a characteristic feature of the landscape surrounding Burnhouse Farm, increasing biodiversity value and providing valuable connective habitat for flora and fauna. A network of narrow lanes and tracks provide access across this farmed landscape. Roadside verges and trackside margins are a haven for wildflowers and make a strong and valuable contribution to landscape character.
- 2.3.2 The upland moorland of Burn Fell is Registered Common Land and grazed by sheep. Moorland communities support a variety of wildlife and, at the time of survey, ground nesting birds such as lapwing, curlew, oyster catcher and snipe were observed in high numbers. Wetter pastures create a visible change to the landscape, with flushes and streams dissecting the herb-rich pastures and supporting species such as sedges and colourful perennials such as marsh marigold and iris.
- 2.3.3 The application site lies to the north and west of Burnhouse Farm and is currently open, rough pasture, with the rising moorland of Burn Fell to the north west. A mature woodland stands to the east comprising native broadleaves and occasional pine, behind a post and wire stock fence. To the south east, a public footpath, 3-29-FP1, runs along the access track and is defined by a mature native hedgerow, which visually encloses the application site. Agricultural buildings are located to the south east, beyond a woodland block which conceals them from view from the footpath.

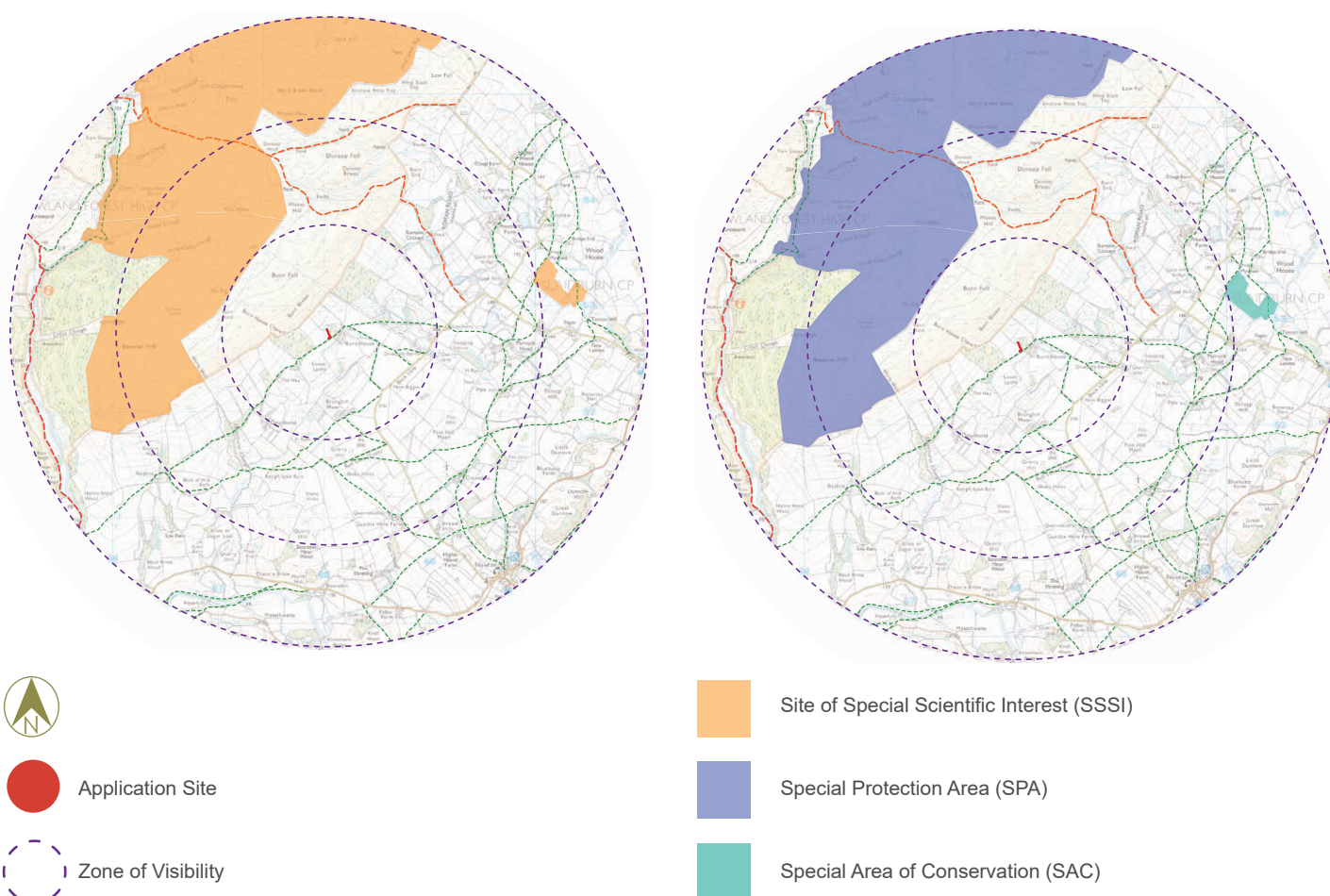


Figure 3: Landscape Designations - SSSI, SPA & SAC

## 2.4 LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS & SENSITIVITY

2.4.1 The statutory designations relevant to the landscape of the wider study area surrounding the application site are illustrated at *Figures 2 and 3* (pages 8 and 9).

2.4.2 The sensitivity of the landscape to change is the degree to which a particular landscape can accommodate changes, or new features, without significant detrimental effects to its essential characteristics. Sensitivity is defined as being high, medium or low. (See *Appendix A*). The following table (*Table 1*) considers, in outline, the sensitivity of landscape receptors, identified in the Landscape Baseline and illustrated in *Figure 2 and 3*, to change resulting from the proposed development of 3no. camping pods at the application site.

DESIGNATION	SENSITIVITY	MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS	DISCUSSION
NCA 34: Bowland Fells	High	No change	Neutral	Due to the landscape-wide scale of these receptors and the proposed development of 3no. camping pods within these character areas, it is considered that there would be little perceptible effect upon the wider character and quality of the national and district landscape.
District Character LCT D: Moorland Fringe	High	No change	Neutral	
District Character LCA D5: Beatrix to Collyholme	High	No change	Neutral	
Forest of Bowland AONB	High	No change	Neutral	<p>The Forest of Bowland AONB is of national, regional, and local importance and is a highly valued landscape for its scenic and natural beauty. The Forest of Bowland AONB area “<i>was designated as a landscape of national significance, primarily, due to the following key characteristics:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The grandeur and isolation of the upland core;</i></li> <li>• <i>The steep escarpments of the moorland hills;</i></li> <li>• <i>The undulating lowlands;</i></li> <li>• <i>The serenity and tranquillity of the area;</i></li> <li>• <i>The distinctive pattern of settlements;</i></li> <li>• <i>The wildlife of the area;</i></li> <li>• <i>The landscape’s historic and cultural associations.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Natural beauty is at the heart of what makes the Forest of Bowland AONB special: it is the reason the Bowland landscape is designated for its national and international importance; and of course, it’s also a key factor in attracting visitors. This natural beauty is derived from the area’s largely unspoilt countryside, combined with a number special qualities that contribute to the area’s unique character or ‘sense of place’. The special qualities of the Forest of Bowland AONB are numerous and varied, but in general terms they can be summarised as follows:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>An Outstanding Landscape</i></li> <li>2. <i>Wild Open Spaces</i></li> <li>3. <i>A Special Place for Wildlife</i></li> </ol>

				<p>4. <i>A Landscape Rich in Heritage</i>  5. <i>A Living Landscape</i>  6. <i>Delicious Local Food and Drink</i>  7. <i>A Place to Enjoy and Keep Special</i>"  (2019-2024 Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan).</p> <p>The AONB designation washes over the landscape at Burnhouse Farm and as such, there is direct intervisibility between the AONB and the application site. However the scale and appearance of the development of the site for 3no. camping pods, which will be integrated into the adjacent woodland, will not have a marked effect upon the special quantities and characteristic features of the larger-scale AONB landscape, set out above.</p>
Heritage Assets (Conservation Area & Listed Buildings)	The heritage assets provide a strong sense of historic time depth. Heritage assets which are located within the study area are illustrated at <i>Figure 2</i> . The site assessment found there to be no intervisibility between the listed buildings or conservation area, located within the study area, due to an undulating topography, intervening vegetation and distance from the application site. Therefore, these landscape receptors have been scoped out of this assessment of sensitivity.			
CROW/Registered Common Land	High	No change	Neutral	CROW access land located within the study area is illustrated at <i>Figure 2</i> . The site assessment found there to be direct intervisibility between this landscape receptor and the application site. However the scale and appearance of the development of the site for 3no. camping pods, which will be integrated into the adjacent woodland, will not have a marked effect upon the quantities and characteristic features of the CROW/Registered Common Land.

Table 1: Landscape Sensitivity

### 3.0 VISUAL BASELINE

#### 3.1 ASSESSMENT CONTEXT

3.1.1 The visual assessment considers the potential for visibility of the application site from the surrounding public visual receptors and considers, in outline, any potential for landscape and visual effects arising from the proposal for 3no. camping pods at Burnhouse Farm. This section provides an overview of general visibility of the application site, as well as identifying the potential key public visual receptors to whom the proposal may most notably affect. The initial site assessment found that topography largely restricts visibility of the application site and that the site is seen within the context of the wider, large-scale pastoral landscape. To gain an understanding of the visual context, for the purposes of this LVS, an assessment has been conducted from likely public receptors within 1.5km of the application site.

##### 3.1.2 Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

The sensitivity of the landscape to change is the degree to which a particular landscape can accommodate changes, or new features, without significant detrimental effects to its essential characteristics. The sensitivity of visual receptors will depend on three key factors and is described as being high/medium/low, where high is the most sensitive:

- The receptor's activity whilst exposed to the view (work, recreational activities, resident);
- Degree of exposure to view; and,
- Period of exposure to view.

#### 3.2 VISUAL ASSESSMENT

3.2.1 *"An assessment of visual effects deals with the effects of change on views available to people and their visual amenity. The concern here is with assessing how the surroundings of individuals or groups of people may be **specifically affected by changes in the content and character of views as a result of the change or loss of existing elements of the landscape and/or introduction of new elements.**"* (*'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment'*, Landscape Institute (LI) & Institute of Environmental Management and Awareness (IEMA), Third Edition, 2013) (GLVIA3).

3.2.2 A visual assessment has been carried out according to guidance set out in '*Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*', Landscape Institute (LI) & Institute of Environmental Management and Awareness (IEMA), Third Edition, 2013; and '*An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment*', Natural England, 2014.

3.2.3 Photograph/s have been taken using a DSLR with a 50mm focal length standard lens. The viewpoints selected are representative of views afforded towards the application site. This LVS acknowledges that there may be other views afforded of the application site, within proximity to these receptors, however the following views are considered to best represent the baseline visual context.

#### 3.3 VISUAL ENVELOPE

3.3.1 The potential visual envelope for the proposed development was established through a desktop review of Ordnance Survey 1:25 000 and topographical data, setting out all locations that may afford a view of the application site, which was subsequently verified on site. Viewpoints no.1 to 4 illustrate the potential for visibility of the proposal. The sensitivity of these viewpoints is discussed below.

#### 3.4 VISUAL CONTEXT

3.4.1 This is a large-scale and predominantly open landscape, however intervisibility across the landscape is restricted by topography. The application site at Burnhouse Farm is visible from a number of locations to the south and south east, however views from the east and north are restricted by topography and intervening, mature woodland vegetation.



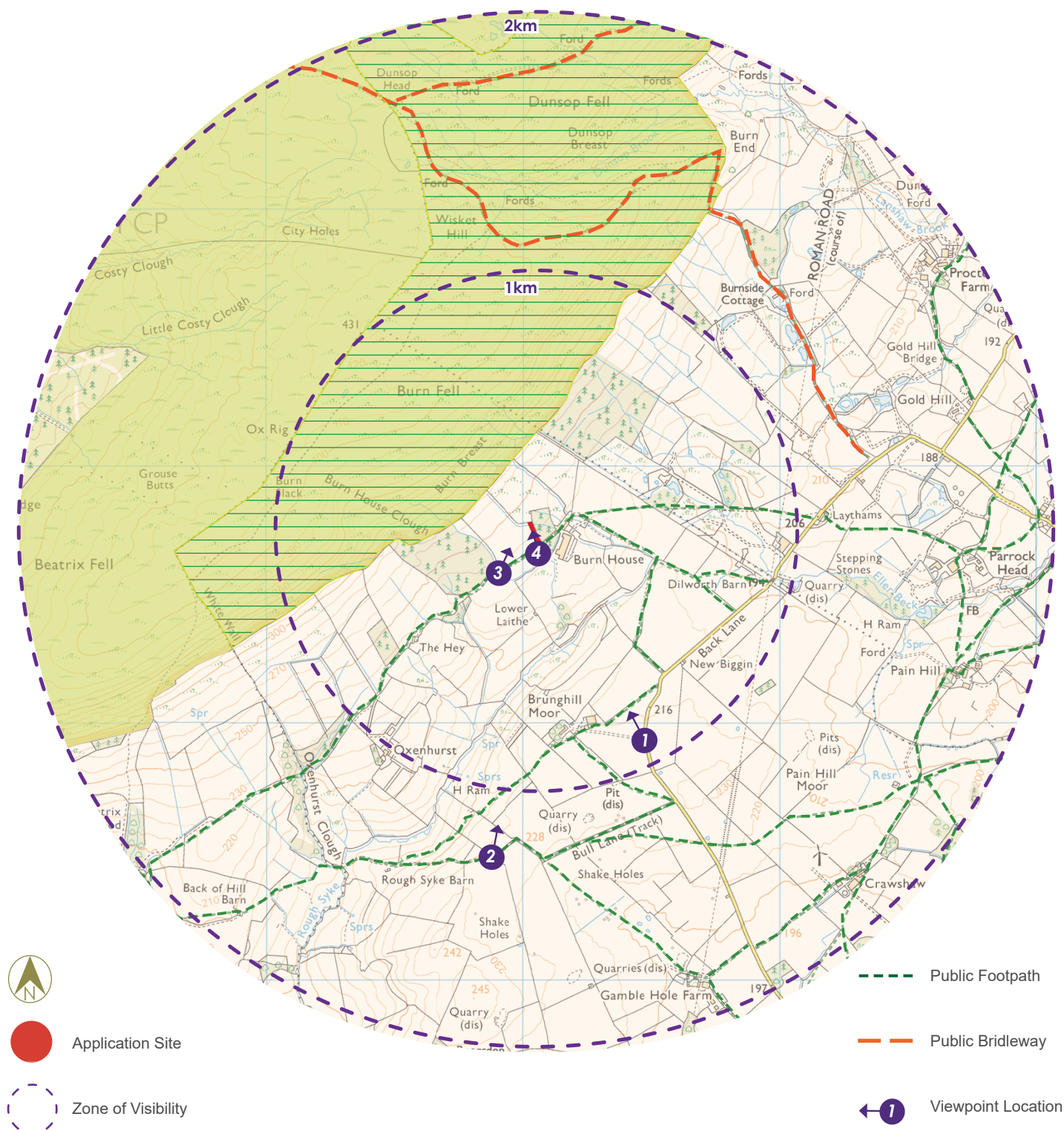


Figure 4: Viewpoint Locations

- 3.4.1 There is an excellent network of public rights of way within the study area, however many follow routes defined and enclosed by mature native hedgerows, which restrict intervisibility across the landscape. Long distance and panoramic views are afforded from the higher elevations of the study area and the vernacular farmsteads often appear dwarfed by the scale of the landscape. Rough Syke, a upland stream, runs through a scenic and steep sided valley to the south east of Burnhouse Farm. Mature broadleaved trees within the valley restrict intervisibility, whilst adding to landscape character.
- 3.4.2 The rising upland landscape of Burn Fell is designated as CROW open access land. Whilst there is a public bridleway providing access up onto the moor to the north of Burnhouse Farm, visibility of the application site is

restricted by the mature intervening woodland. Access onto the fell adjacent to the application site would be across the uneven terrain of the open moorland. This study acknowledges that there will be views of the application site afforded from Burn Fell, however at the time of site assessment, there were a number of ground nesting bird species observed on Burn Fell and we made the decision not to make any disturbance of this area at that time.

- 3.4.3 It should be noted that, at the time of site survey, a touring caravan was parked at the application site and a motor-home was parked to the south of the track/public footpath. It is understood that both of these vehicles will soon be moved and so any visibility of either one in the following viewpoint photographs, is temporary.

### 3.5 VISUAL BASELINE

- 3.5.1 Viewpoints no.1 to 4 on pages 17 and 18 are representative of the potential for visibility of the application site and are described below in *Table 2 Visual Baseline*.

VIEWPOINT No.1	Grid Ref: SD 68477 51937	Looking north west from Back Lane.
<p>DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEW - There is a partial view of the application site, seen within the context of a wide-scale, panoramic landscape. The rising upland, moorland landscape of Burn Fell is seen beyond Burnhouse Farm and the in-by landscape forms a distinct transition between the pasture in the foreground and the upland moorland beyond in the distance. Hedgerows create visual filters and the mature tree cover encloses the view of the farm buildings. From this viewpoint, the 3no. camping pods will be largely indiscernible within this panoramic view.</p> <p>POTENTIAL VISUAL SENSITIVITIES - The receptor is the motorised users of Back Lane, a minor road in the countryside, where attention is focused upon the narrow and winding road ahead. The receptor may also be a pedestrian users of Back Lane. The sensitivity of a user to change from certain types of development is therefore considered to be medium. The proposal would constitute a negligible magnitude of change to this view, where the development of 3no. camping pods would be seen within the context of this wide-scale, panoramic view. The proposal would therefore not have a marked effect upon this view and would be largely indiscernible to users of Back Lane.</p>		
VIEWPOINT No.2	Grid Ref: SD 67885 51479	Looking north from Footpath 3-29-FP9.
<p>DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEW - There is an open and direct view of the application site, seen from this location approximately 1.25km to the south. The upland moorland landscape dominates the view, with mature tree cover and drystone walls a characteristic feature. Burnhouse Farm is largely indiscernible from this location, however the agricultural buildings at Brunghill Moor Farm can be seen to the right of the view. From this viewpoint, the 3no. camping pods will be largely indiscernible within this panoramic view.</p> <p>POTENTIAL VISUAL SENSITIVITIES - The receptor is the users of footpath 3-29-FP9, with an open and direct view of the application site. The sensitivity of a user to change from certain types of development is therefore considered to be high. The proposal would constitute a negligible magnitude of change to this view, where the 3no. camping pods would be largely indiscernible and are at such a distance that they are scarcely appreciated, consequently they have little effect upon the landscape scene.</p>		
VIEWPOINT No.3	Grid Ref: SD 67900 52605	Looking north east from Footpath 3-29-FP1.
<p>DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEW - There is an open and direct view, seen from the gateway to the south west of the field that the application site forms a part of. The 3no. camping pods will be seen to the foreground of the woodland, however once the proposed woodland planting of the application site matures, it is anticipated that the pods will assimilate with the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>POTENTIAL VISUAL SENSITIVITIES - The receptor is the users of footpath 3-29-FP1, with an open and direct view of the application site. The sensitivity of a user to change from certain types of development is therefore considered to be high. The proposal would constitute a low magnitude of change to this view, constituting only a minor component in a</p>		

wider view and may not be immediately apparent to users of the footpath. A visual awareness of the 3no. camping pods is not anticipated to have a marked effect upon the quality or characteristics of this landscape scene.

VIEWPOINT No.4	Grid Ref: SD 68057 52688	Looking north from Footpath 3-29-FP1.
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DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEW - The application site is seen from the gateway to the application site, from footpath 3-29-FP1, in an open and direct view. Burn Fell rises steeply in the background of the view and the mature woodland to the north east is seen to the right of the view, providing enclosure. The mature native hedgerow which provides a boundary between the pasture and the footpath restricts intervisibility with the application site, with views only afforded at the open gateway.

POTENTIAL VISUAL SENSITIVITIES - The receptor is the users of footpath 3-29-FP1, with an open and direct view of the application site. The sensitivity of a user to change from certain types of development is therefore considered to be high. The proposal would constitute a medium magnitude of change to this view, where the 3no. camping pods would form a new and visible addition to the landscape scene, however with sensitive soft landscape planting, they may not be immediately apparent and would, over time, assimilate with the wooded landscape.

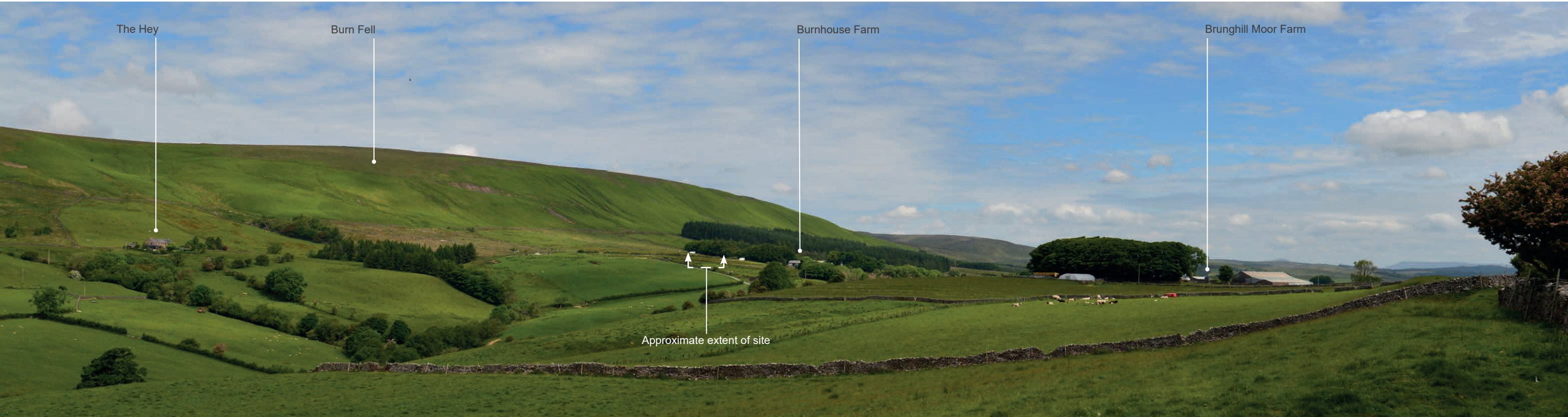
*Table 2: Visual Baseline*

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<b>Viewpoint - No.1</b> Looking north west from Back Lane.	<b>Grid Reference</b> - SD 68477 51937	<b>Image</b> - Stitched panorama of multiple photographs
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<b>Viewpoint - No.2</b> Looking north from Footpath 3-29-FP9.	<b>Grid Reference</b> - SD 67885 51479	<b>Image</b> - Stitched panorama of multiple photographs
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<b>Viewpoint - No.3</b> Looking north east from Footpath 3-29-FP1.	<b>Grid Reference</b> - SD 67900 52605	<b>Image</b> - Stitched panorama of multiple photographs
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<b>Viewpoint - No.4</b> Looking north from Footpath 3-29-FP1.	<b>Grid Reference</b> - SD 68057 52688	<b>Image</b> - Stitched panorama of multiple photographs
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## 5.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.0.1 This landscape and visual statement (LVS) has been prepared to support an application for approval for the change of use from agriculture to the siting three camping pods to be used as short term holiday lets at Burnhouse Farm, Slaidburn (the Application Site). This report has considered, in outline, existing landscape character and designations and has assessed the potential for visual effects arising from the proposal.
- 5.0.2 This study is not a formal assessment of landscape and visual effects or impacts, however it does take into consideration the ‘*Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment - Third Edition (2013)*’, published by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (GLVIA). Therefore this study does not provide an assessment of the likely effects and impacts of the proposal.
- 5.0.3 A representative number of public receptors have been selected, which best describe the potential for visual sensitivities, however this study acknowledges that there may be other views afforded of the application site, within proximity to these receptors, however for the purpose of this LVS, viewpoints no.1 to 4 are considered to best represent the visual context. In respect of landscape and visual matters, this report concludes the following:

### 5.1 CONCLUSIONS OF THE LANDSCAPE BASELINE

- 5.1.1 This report has found that the landscape surrounding the application site is consistent and characteristic of national landscape character area 34: *Bowland Fells* and the district landscape character of *D: Moorland Fringe* LCT and the *D5: Beatrix to Collyholme* LCA. The sensitivity to change for landscape character, which washes across the application site, to change from certain types of development is **high**. This is a visually distinct and recognisable landscape, with a high historic continuity and strong sense of place. This is a landscape which is highly valued for its scenic and natural beauty and as such, has been designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There is a superb network of public rights of way, which cross the study area, which are well used and enjoyed by the public for outdoor recreation.
- 5.1.2 “Overall, the Moorland Fringe LCT is considered to have **moderate** ecological sensitivity. Although ecological habitats have been depleted in places by agricultural improvement, valuable ecological habitats include traditionally managed meadows and acid grassland which support a diverse range of bird species. Cultural and historic sensitivity is **high** as a result of the numerous scattered, isolated, traditional historic farmsteads, the presence of packhorse ways and parish boundary markers, which are still visible within the present landscape. As a result, landscape character sensitivity is considered to be **high**. There is strong intervisibility with adjacent Landscape Character Types, giving **high** visual sensitivity. Other sensitivities within the landscape include the distinctive pattern of stone walls which exhibit traditional construction styles and wall copings, stunted hawthorns and small, semi-natural clough woodlands, which are landscape features. As a result, this Type is considered to have **high landscape character sensitivity**. Overall, the Moorland Fringe Landscape Character Type has **limited to moderate capacity** to accommodate change without compromising key characteristics” (Forest of Bowland Landscape Character Assessment, 2009. CBA).
- 5.1.3 RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL CORE STRATEGY 2008 – 2028  
Local planning policy in relation to landscape character and with relevance to this LVS includes:
- 5.1.4 KEY STATEMENT EN2: LANDSCAPE  
*The landscape and character of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty will be protected, conserved and enhanced. Any development will need to contribute to the conservation of the natural beauty of the area.*

*The landscape and character of those areas that contribute to the setting and character of the Forest of Bowland Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty will be protected and conserved and wherever possible enhanced.*

*As a principle the Council will expect development to be in keeping with the character of the landscape, reflecting local distinctiveness, vernacular style, scale, style, features and building materials.*

- 5.1.5 The site assessment found that the scale of the Forest of Bowland AONB landscape is vast, with expansive open skyline views, panoramic upland moorland and large skies across the upland landscape. The vernacular buildings associated with scattered farmsteads are often sited within or adjacent to mature woodland vegetation and the mosaic of herb-rich pasture, dissected and defined by a network of drystone walls is a characteristic feature. The scale of the landscape is able to absorb certain types of development and the addition of the 3no. camping pods at Burnhouse Farm is anticipated to be respectful of the existing character and local vernacular.

## **5.2 CONCLUSIONS OF THE VISUAL BASELINE**

- 5.2.1 Viewpoints no.1 to 4 illustrate the potential for visibility of the application site, however this assessment acknowledges that there are other views afforded of the application site, within proximity to these receptors. For the purpose of this LVS, viewpoints no.1 to 4 are considered to best represent the baseline visual context.
- 5.2.2 The site assessment confirmed that the application site is largely visually contained by the rolling topography and mature intervening wooded vegetation in views from the north and north east. Limited intervisibility is afforded from the south east and south, however views are largely distant and partial and filtered by mature hedgerows and wooded vegetation. There are open and direct views of the application site from footpath 3-29-FP1, which runs adjacent to the south of the application site, however views would be seen within the context of a wider-scale and panoramic landscape. It is therefore anticipated that a visual awareness of the 3no. camping pods is not anticipated to have a marked effect upon the quality, characteristics or enjoyment of the landscape.

## **5.3 CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.3.1 Following a review of baseline information, together with consideration of likely landscape and visual sensitivities, this LVS considers that the application site and wider landscape are able to accommodate the proposed camping pods, without undermining the inherent qualities and characterises of the landscape, or having an overall unacceptable effect or loss of visual amenity.
- 5.3.2 The location of the camping pods has been carefully chosen to minimise any landscape or visual sensitivities and their construction from timber recognises and respects local character. Sensitive soft landscape planting with native species of local provenance, aims to root the camping pods into the landscape scene, ensuring that the key characteristics and special qualities of the Forest of Bowland AONB are protected and enhanced.



## **A.0 LANDSCAPE & VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY**

## A.0 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

### A.1 INTRODUCTION

A.1.1 This assessment has been conducted in accordance with the principles set out in:

- ‘*Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*’, Landscape Institute (LI) & Institute of Environmental Management and Awareness (IEMA), Third Edition, 2013; and
- ‘*An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment*’, Natural England, 2014; and

### A.2 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

A.2.1 To determine whether or not landscapes will be able to successfully accommodate a development, landscape and visual assessments:

- Establish the nature of the potential change anticipated;
- Establish the landscape baseline, in terms of its character, condition, designations and current land use;
- Establish a visual baseline, considering likely public receptors; and
- Assess the impacts and significance effects of the potential change against the sensitivity of the landscape.

A.2.2 **Landscape Sensitivity** - The sensitivity of a landscape to a particular type of change, is defined in terms of the interactions between the landscape in its own right, the perceptions of that landscape, in the eyes of people who see it on a regular basis and the nature of the proposal.

A.2.3 Landscape sensitivity is defined as relating:

*“to the **stability of character**; the degree to which that character is **robust** enough to continue and to be able to **recuperate** from loss or damage. A landscape with a character of high sensitivity is one that, once lost, would be **difficult to restore**; a character that, if **valued**, must be afforded particular **care** and **consideration** in order for it to survive”.* Bray C (2003) *Unpublished paper on a County Wide Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity*. Worcestershire County Council.

A.2.4 Landscape sensitivity can be seen as a combination of the sensitivity of the landscape as a resource in its own right, which encompasses natural and cultural elements, the value that is attributed to that particular landscape, in terms of designations and the visual sensitivity, such as views and visibility from public receptors. It is important to understand that judgements about the potential for landscapes to accept and accommodate change can alter over time, not only in terms of peoples perception to a particular landscape, but also in terms of peoples attitudes towards a the type and extent of that change.

- The receptor's activity whilst exposed to the view (work, recreational activities, resident);
- Degree of exposure to view; and,
- Period of exposure to view.

A.2.5 **Landscape Character** - Landscape character It is defined as:

*“a **distinct**, recognisable and consistent **pattern** of elements, be it **natural** (soil, landform) and/or **human** (for example settlement and development) in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse”.*

SENSITIVITY	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER
HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong landscape structure.</li> <li>• Strong positive character.</li> <li>• Good condition.</li> <li>• Strong sense of place.</li> <li>• Visually distinctive.</li> <li>• Aesthetically pleasing/occasional detracting features.</li> <li>• Distinct features of worthy conservation.</li> </ul>
MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognisable landscape structure.</li> <li>• Positive character.</li> <li>• Moderate condition.</li> <li>• Reasonable sense of place.</li> <li>• Visually notable.</li> <li>• Aesthetically satisfactory or uninspiring/ some detracting features.</li> <li>• Some features of worthy conservation.</li> </ul>
LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weak or degraded landscape structure.</li> <li>• Weak or negative character.</li> <li>• Poor condition.</li> <li>• Poor sense of place.</li> <li>• Visually notable.</li> <li>• Aesthetically unsatisfactory or unpleasant.</li> <li>• Few or no features of worthy conservation.</li> <li>• Scope for positive enhancement.</li> </ul>

Table A.1a: The General Criteria for Establishing the Sensitivity of Landscape Character.

SENSITIVITY	VISUAL RECEPTORS
HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residential properties with predominantly open views from windows, garden or curtilage. Views will normally be from principal living rooms and from windows of rooms in use during the day.</li> <li>• Users of Public Rights of Way with predominantly open views and of recreational use.</li> <li>• Non-motorised users of minor or unclassified roads in the countryside.</li> <li>• Visitors to recognised viewpoints or beauty spots.</li> <li>• Users of outdoor recreational facilities with predominantly open views where the purpose of that recreation is enjoyment of the countryside - e.g. Country Parks, National Trust sites etc.</li> </ul>
MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residential properties with views from windows, garden or curtilage. Views from ground floor windows will be oblique or partially obscured by garden and/or other intervening vegetation.</li> <li>• Users of Public Rights of Way with restricted views, in less sensitive areas or where there are significant existing intrusive features.</li> <li>• Schools and other institutional buildings, and their outdoor areas.</li> <li>• Motorised users of minor or unclassified roads in the countryside. Where alteration is focussed upon often narrow and winding routes.</li> </ul>
LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People in their place of work.</li> <li>• Users of main roads or passengers on public transport on main routes.</li> <li>• Users of outdoor recreational facilities with restricted views and where the activity is focussed within the area.</li> <li>• Occupants of industrial premises.</li> </ul>

Table A.1b: The General Criteria for Establishing the Sensitivity of Visual Receptors.

- A.2.6 Landscapes are not static, they are in a constant state of change, altering in line with management, land use and climate change. Climate change is one of the largest factors that is likely to bring about changes in landscape character.
- A.2.7 Landscape character should not be seen as the physical elements of the landscape in isolation, but the combination of those elements with perceptual, aesthetic and experiential aspects of the landscape, which makes one place different to another.
- A.2.8 Landscape Character is assessed at different scales, from the national and regional, down to the county, district and site specific.
- A.2.9 Assessment of the landscape can help in:
- Understanding how and why landscapes are important;
  - Promoting an appreciation of landscape issues;
  - Successfully accommodating new development within the landscape; and
  - Guiding and directing landscape change.
- A.2.10 The **value** (or quality) of the landscape, as a resource in its own right, can be assessed at a variety of scales and is defined as being of exceptional, high, moderate, poor or very poor value. See *table A.2*.
- A.2.11 In respect of **Landscape Condition** (the physical state of the landscape), assessment is made according to the criteria set out in *table A.3*.

VALUE	CRITERIA	TYPICAL SCALE	TYPICAL EXAMPLE
EXCEPTIONAL	Very high importance (or Quality) and Rarity. No or extremely limited potential for substitution.	International, National.	World Heritage Site, National Park or AONB.
HIGH	High Importance (or Quality) and Rarity. Limited potential for substitution.	National, Regional, Local	National Park, AONB, AGLV, ALLI
MODERATE	Medium Importance (or Quality) and Rarity. Limited potential for substitution.	Regional, Local	Undesignated site but its value perhaps expressed through non-official publications or demonstrable use.
POOR	Low Importance (or Quality) and Rarity.	Local	Areas identified as having some redeeming feature or features and possibly identified for improvement.
VERY POOR	Low Importance (or Quality) and Rarity.	Local	Areas identified for recovery.

*Table A.2: The General Criteria for Establishing Landscape Value*



CATEGORY	CRITERIA	TYPICAL EXAMPLE
EXCEPTIONAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong landscape structure, characteristic landscape character with a balanced combination of landform &amp; land cover;</li> <li>Appropriate management of land use and land cover;</li> <li>Distinct features worthy of conservation;</li> <li>Strong sense of place;</li> <li>No detracting features</li> </ul>	Internationally or nationally recognised landscape, all, or the majority of which is, e.g. a World Heritage Site, National Park or AONB.
HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong landscape structure, with characteristic landscape character and a balanced combination of landform &amp; landcover;</li> <li>Appropriate management of land use and land cover, with potential scope to improve;</li> <li>Distinct features worthy of conservation;</li> <li>Sense of place;</li> <li>Occasional detracting features.</li> </ul>	Nationally or Regionally recognised landscape, e.g. parts of a National Park or AONB or the majority of AGLV
GOOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognisable landscape structure, characteristic patterns and combinations of landform and land cover are still evident;</li> <li>Scope to improve management for land use and land cover;</li> <li>Some features worthy of conservation;</li> <li>Sense of place;</li> <li>Some detracting features.</li> </ul>	Nationally or Regionally recognised e.g. localised areas within National Park, AONB or AGLV. Locally recognised e.g. all or the great majority of Area of Local Landscape Importance (ALLI).
ORDINARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distinguishable landscape structure, characteristic patterns of landform and landcover often masked by land use;</li> <li>Scope to improve management of vegetation;</li> <li>Some features worthy of conservation;</li> <li>Some detracting features.</li> </ul>	
POOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weak landscape structure, characteristic patterns of landform and landcover are often masked by land use;</li> <li>Lack of management and intervention has results in degradation;</li> <li>Frequent detracting features.</li> </ul>	
VERY POOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Degraded landscape structure, characteristic patterns and combinations of landform and land cover are masked by land use;</li> <li>Lack of management / intervention has resulted in degradation;</li> <li>Extensive detracting features.</li> </ul>	
DAMAGED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Damaged landscape structure;</li> <li>Disturbed or derelict land requires treatment;</li> <li>Detracting features dominate.</li> </ul>	
DERELICT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land so damaged by industrial or other development that it is incapable of beneficial use without treatment.</li> </ul>	

Table A.3: The General Criteria for Establishing Landscape Condition

### A.3 MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE

A.3.1 The magnitude of change is the '*combination of the scale, extent and duration*' of the development and its impact on landscape character and visual receptors. In the case of landscape impacts this relates to:

- The size, extent or degree of change to landscape character or individual landscape features;
- Whether there is a direct impact resulting in the loss of landscape features or a change beyond the land take of the scheme having an impact on the character of the area; and,
- Whether the impact is permanent or temporary.

A.3.2 For visual impact this relates to:

- Degree of change to existing views;
- Distance of the receptor from the application site; and,
- Whether the impact is permanent or temporary.

A.3.3 The criteria for assessing the magnitude of change on visual receptors and landscape character are set out in *Table A.4*.

A.3.4 The magnitude of change may be negligible or no change and the resulting effect significance would also be negligible or no change, as the development would hardly be discernible or not seen at all or the loss to landscape features and the character of the area would experience very little or no change.

MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	VISUAL AMENITY
HIGH	High degree of loss or major alteration to one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the landscape character. Introduction of elements considered to be uncharacteristic when set within the attributes of the receiving landscape.	Where the proposals become the only dominant feature in the scene or would form a significant and immediately apparent element which would affect the overall impression of the view.
MEDIUM	Partial loss or alteration to one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the landscape character. Introduction of elements that may be prominent but not necessarily be considered to be substantially uncharacteristic when set within the attributes of the receiving landscape.	Where the proposals would form a visible and recognisable new feature in the scene but may not be immediately apparent, or become a dominant feature in the view.
LOW	Minor loss or alteration to one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the landscape character. Introduction of elements may not be uncharacteristic when set within the attributes of the receiving landscape.	The proposals constitute only a minor component of the wider view, and may not be immediately apparent to the casual observer. Awareness of the proposals would not have a marked effect on the overall quality of the scene.
NEGLIGIBLE	Very minor loss or alteration to one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the landscape character. Introduction of elements are not uncharacteristic with the surrounding landscape.	The proposals are largely indiscernible and/or they are at such a distance that they are scarcely appreciated. Consequently they have little effect on the scene.
NO CHANGE	No change to the landscape character is experienced.	No change to the view is experienced.

*Table A.4: The Criteria for Establishing the Magnitude of Change*

## A.4 SCORING MATRIX

A.4.1 The two principal criteria determining significance of effect are the **magnitude of change** and the environmental **sensitivity** of the location or receptor.

*‘A higher level of significance is generally attached to large-scale effects and effects on sensitive or high-value receptors; thus small effects on highly sensitive sites can be more important than large effects on less sensitive sites. It is therefore important that a balanced and well-reasoned judgment of these two criteria is achieved’. (Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Landscape Institute (LI) & Institute of Environmental Management and Awareness (IEMA), Third Edition, 2013).*

A.4.2 The matrix shown in *Table A.5* encourages transparency in the process of identifying the significance but the experience and judgement of the landscape architect is also used. Note the significance of effects may be adverse or beneficial depending upon the nature of the magnitude of change.

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	NEGLIGIBLE	NO CHANGE
HIGH	Major	Major	Moderate	Neutral	Neutral
MEDIUM	Major	Moderate	Minor	Neutral	Neutral
LOW	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Neutral	Neutral

*Table A.5: The Significance of Effects*

## A.5 NATURE OF IMPACT

A.5.1 The determination of the nature of an impact is a result of judging whether the introduction of a proposed development would be of benefit or detriment to the existing landscape character or view. Therefore, the impact of a proposed development can be adverse or beneficial. *Table A.6* defines the difference between adverse and beneficial.

	NATURE OF IMPACT
ADVERSE	The key characteristics of the existing landscape or view would be weakened by the introduction of the proposed development.
NEUTRAL	The key characteristics would neither be weakened or strengthened by the proposed development.
BENEFICIAL	The key characteristics of the existing landscape or view would be strengthened by the introduction of the proposed development.

*Table A.6: The Nature of the Impact*

## A.6 EFFECTS SIGNIFICANCE

A.6.1 The effects arising from any given development will be categorised using the terms neutral, minor, moderate and major effects, with both moderate and major categories being considered as comprising significant effects. *Table A.7* illustrates how each of these categories have been summarised.

EFFECT SIGNIFICANCE	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	VISUAL AMENITY
<b>MAJOR ADVERSE</b>	The proposed scheme would result in effects that are at complete variance with the landform, scale and pattern of the landscape. It would permanently degrade, diminish or destroy the integrity of valued characteristic features, elements and/or their setting. A high quality landscape would be permanently changed and its quality diminished.	The proposals would cause a significant deterioration to an existing view.
<b>MODERATE ADVERSE</b>	The proposed scheme be out of scale with the landscape or at odds with the local pattern and landform and it would leave an adverse impact on the landscape to recognisable quality.	The proposals would cause a noticeable deterioration to an existing view.
<b>MINOR ADVERSE</b>	The proposed scheme would not entirely fit into the landform and scale of the landscape and it would have an effect on the landscape character.	The proposals would cause a barely perceptible deterioration to an existing view from a receptor.
<b>NEUTRAL</b>	The proposed scheme would not effect the scale, landform and pattern of the landscape and would maintain existing landscape quality.	No or negligible discernible deterioration or improvement in the existing view.
<b>MINOR BENEFICIAL</b>	The proposed scheme has the potential to improve the landscape character. It would fit in with the scale, landform and pattern of the landscape and enable the incorporation of the valued characteristic features.	The proposed development would cause a barely perceptible improvement in the existing view.
<b>MODERATE BENEFICIAL</b>	The proposed scheme would have the potential to accord with the landscape character and improve the quality of the landscape through removal of damage caused by existing land uses.	The proposed development would cause a noticeable improvement in the existing view.
<b>MAJOR BENEFICIAL</b>	The proposed scheme would have the potential to accord seamlessly with the landscape character and significantly improve the quality of the landscape through restoration and the removal of damage caused by existing land uses.	The proposed development would cause a significant improvement in the existing view.

Table A.7: The Effects Significance Table

## **B.0 Landscape Character Assessment**



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## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE D: MOORLAND FRINGE

### Key Characteristics

- 1 Traditional stone field barns are a recognisable landscape feature.
- 2 Dry stone walls of rough hewn blocks create strong patterns within the landscape and reflect the underlying geology.
- 3 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.



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## **4.5 D: MOORLAND FRINGE**

### **CHARACTER ASSESSMENT**

#### **Location**

- 4.5.1 The Moorland Fringe Landscape Character Type occurs in several locations throughout the Study Area and on the Pendle Hill outlier. This Landscape Character Type usually forms the setting for either the Unenclosed Moorland Hills (B) or Enclosed Moorland Hills (C) Landscape Character Types.

#### **Landscape Character Description**

- 4.5.2 The transitional rolling enclosed landscape of the Moorland Fringe skirts the edges of the Moorland Hills, usually at an elevation of more than 200m, and links the upland to the lowland landscape. There is an increasing impact of human activity here, with more dry stone walls, improved pastures, scattered farmsteads and stone out-barns.
- 4.5.3 The Moorland Fringe is still largely gritstone, although there are small but significant areas of limestone in the Hodder Valley. The rolling landscape provides 'in-bye' pasture for sheep and some cattle, and their movements mark the seasons of the year. 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, when the calls and sights of curlew and lapwing dominate the scene. Hares are also relatively common in these areas.
- 4.5.4 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. Farmsteads are isolated, often strung along a track following a contour of the hill, and drystone walls still form the majority of field boundaries, with distinctive through and coping stones creating strong patterns in the landscape, and reflecting the underlying geology. The distinctive calls of wading birds including lapwing, curlew, snipe and redshank contribute to recognisable sense of place. There are still dramatic open views afforded from these flanks of the fells – towards the villages and valleys of the lowlands, and often featuring reservoirs and parkland in the foreground.

## Key Environmental Features

### Physical

- 4.5.5 The fringes of moorland areas are transitional enclosed landscapes between the inhospitable moorland fells and the more intensively farmed land of the lowlands. The Moorland Fringes are underlain by a combination of rocks of the Millstone Grit Series and limestone. The solid geology is overlain by soils whose thickness varies according to elevation and topography; the gentler, more sheltered slopes and broad terraces above the valleys have a thicker covering of soils than the moorland summits. This Landscape Character Type occupies the high ground fringing the main moorland blocks, typically at an altitude of between 215 and 250 m above sea level, sometimes extending to 300m or above. Little Mearley Clough, on the steeply sloping western side of Pendle Hill (which falls partly within this Landscape Character Type) is designated as a SSSI for its considerable geological interest. It provides excellent exposure of rock layers originally laid down during the Namurian period of geological history about 320 million years ago. It has been proposed as the standard for this interval of geological time and is thus a site of National importance.

### Ecological

- 4.5.6 The land within this Landscape Character Type which remains as unimproved agricultural grassland is extremely valuable for nature conservation and, with the moorlands, forms an intimate part of the rich mosaic of upland habitats within the AONB. Manchester Treble-bar, and a rare spider, *Clubiona norvegica*, have both been recorded on Caton Moor. Of the drier calcareous meadows, the few which are traditionally managed to produce a summer hay crop, support a range of characteristic plants including lady's mantle, sneezewort and adder's tongue. Myttons Meadows (approximately 1km to the north-west of Slaidburn) are designated as a SSSI because they represent an example of traditionally managed, species-rich meadow in Lancashire. Where parts of the in-bye land are still undrained, moisture loving plants such as marsh marigold, yellow iris, ragged robin and marsh thistle thrive. Traditionally managed meadows also provide feeding grounds valuable for twite, while the wet rushy pastures support nationally important populations of birds such as curlew, redshank, lapwing and snipe. Upland rushy pastures were formerly hay meadows which provided a valuable habitat for breeding waders. Acidic grasslands are also important for the survival of several upland bird species. The lower slopes of the moorland fringes show a gradual transition to the verdant grasslands of the Undulating Lowland Farmlands. Bright green 'improved' pasture fields are a feature of the landscape. Within this landscape, flushes, fens, streams and roadside verges also provide key ecological habitats.

### **Cultural and Historical**

- 4.5.7 The hillside areas, which are set above the densely wooded valleys and below the exposed summits of the open moors, have a long history of land use and settlement. The comparatively small size of some land holdings results from the system of land inheritance whereby land was divided equally between sons. On good farmland this has created a landscape of scattered farmhouses in relatively close proximity. A large number of farmhouses are distinctive 'laithes houses' which were part house, part stall/hay loft. In places, vaccaries (large, open areas which were used to graze livestock and were created by feudal landowners to make economic returns on their 'waste's' beyond the boundaries of the Deer Parks) are also features of the Moorland Hills. The tenancies of the vaccaries were often held by the same families for many years and were later broken up into smaller holdings for rent. Vaccaries were primarily used in the 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. The pace of enclosure grew during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries and continued as a result of the Parliamentary Enclosure Acts of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Whilst some may have an ancient origin, possibly dating back to the prehistoric period, the network grew from industrial pressures and the need to transport finished goods and raw materials between urban centres. The packhorse ways associated with the transport of salt, lime and wool, form particularly distinctive features of the landscape. Recent land use has focused upon sheep grazing; most farms have rights for summer grazing on the open moorland which forms an integral part of the hill farming system. The land has traditionally been used as in-bye land for winter grazing and to make hay in the summer to feed livestock through the winter months.
- 4.5.8 The lower gentler slopes comprise older enclosures distinguished by their small size and irregular shape. On the higher slopes and steeper areas the later Parliamentary Enclosures are represented by large regular rectangular fields enclosed by robust walls. In the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, big bale silage replaced hay making and many of the upland fields were improved by drainage and reseeded to enhance productivity. Changes in farming practices ensure that damp pastures and hay meadows are now rare. With the decline in upland farming, more marginal farms have been abandoned and the fields taken over by rushes. Increasingly, farmers are seeking to diversify to supplement falling incomes. Diversification (in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries) is evident in occasional weavers' cottages which incorporated a weaving workshop. There is good preservation of archaeological sites in these marginal locations as a result of the non intensive agricultural practices adopted.

### **Development, Settlement and Buildings**

- Isolated stone farmsteads which are usually constructed from gritstone (the local vernacular material);
- A network of narrow, winding roads, often at the foot of slopes;
- General absence of hamlets or villages;
- Other built elements within this landscape include stone field barns and walls.



## **Landscape Character Areas**

4.5.9 Landscape Character Areas within this Landscape Character Type include:

## Landscape Character Area D5: Beatrix to Collyholme



- The rocky outcrop of Knot or Sugar Loaf disused quarry is a distinctive landscape feature within this character area;
- Belts and patches of deciduous and coniferous woodland provide an intermittent sense of enclosure within this area;
- Dramatic open views into the Lower Hodder Valley from the western edges of the area contribute to recognisable sense of place;
- Pockets of mature single deciduous trees, such as those close to Beatrix Farm, contribute to landscape pattern;
- The dilapidated field barn at Back of Hill is also a landscape feature;
- The landscape is incised by a network of cloughs and sykes which add variety and texture to the landscape;
- Sled tracks (relating to past quarrying and peat cutting activities) are a key historic landscape feature on Dunsop and Burn Fells, which are still visible today, set against the smooth moorland backdrop;
- Beatrix hamlet (an ancient settlement, which is older than Dunsop Bridge), is a feature of the lower end of the valley;
- Hedgerows are a feature of the landscape in places (for example at Burn House).

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