Summary Landscape Assessment – North of Stevenage

The site is partly within LCA 216 Arlesey – Great Wymondley and partly within LCA 219 Baldock Gap. It is a rolling arable landscape of large scale fields there is limited woodland generally in the form of small copses which would be vulnerable to removal.

Overall the Arlesey – Wymondley LCA is **low sensitivity** due to significant urban influence and landscape detractors. (LCA 216)

In visual terms it is considered to be of **low – moderate sensitivity** due to relatively open views which would be sensitive to the introduction of further urbanising features or elements. (LCA 216)

Overall the area is considered to be **low landscape value** due to adverse aspects such as roads and transport routes and presence of settlement fringes. (LCA216)

Overall Baldock Gap is considered to be of **moderate to high sensitivity**. The large scale steeply sloping chalk scarp creates a dramatic landscape with limited urban influence. (LCA219)

In visual terms, Baldock Gap is considered to be of **high sensitivity**. Views to the open undeveloped skyline are an important feature both within the character area and from adjacent areas. These would be sensitive to the introduction of built and urbanizing features. (LCA219)

Overall Baldock Gap is considered to be of **moderate landscape value**. The intactness of the landscape, the recognisable sense of place and sense of openness are some of the aspects of particular value

Date June 08	Area name – 133 Field S/O Gravely Cricket Ground.
Surveyors PS	OS grid ref
LCA & PLANNING POLICIES	
LCA No: 216 Condition: Moderate Robustness: Moderate LCA Evaluation: Improve and Conserve	Key Characteristics & Distinctive features. Rolling arable landscape of large scale fields in the south defined by urban development of Letchworth and Hitchin.
LP2A policies: Green belt Landscape development area.	Photographs
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER SENSITIVITY	
Landform: Rolling / undulating Landcover: Crops Tree cover: Boundary trees / hedgerow along North road & northern boundary. Settlement form and pattern: Sparse	Land Use: Agriculture Enclosure & pattern: Large open rolling landscape.
Edge of settlement: Not really Completeness of edge: Discernable edge	Sense of enclosure: Not really – more so on the lower ground.
VISUAL SENSITIVITY	
Prominence of site from surrounding area Short views in: Not really, slightly from North Road, and adjoining fields. Short views out: to adjoining fields. Long views out: Panoramic depending on which part of the site Long views in: Panoramic to various parts of the site.	Presence & size of populations: Low Mitigation potential of visual impacts: Low for any development to the higher ground
VALUE	
National designations:	Local designations

Visual sensitivity

Visibility sensitivity matrix

	Sloping	2 Moderate	3 High	4 V High
Landform	Rolling/undulating	1 Low	2 Moderate	3 High
	Lowlying / flat	0 Very Low	1 Low	2 Moderate

Large woods Small woods Unwooded

Tree cover

People visibility matrix

Tooling manning							
Views in	0 Low	1 Moderate	2 High				
	Few people	Moderate number of people	Many people				

Viewed by number of people

Overall visual sensitivity = visibility sensitivity + people visibility

Ecological Sensitivity

	Other	2 Moderate	1 Low	0 Very Low	0 Very Low
Woodland	Wooded	3 High	2 Moderate	1 Low	0 Very Low
	Trees and woods	4 Very High	3 High	2 Moderate	1 Low
		Marginal pasture	Good pasture	Marginal arable	Good arable
		Landuse			

Continuity matrix	(High = Ancient, Moderate = Historic, Low/Very Low = Planned)
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	Large	3 High	2 Moderate	1 Low	0 Very Low
Landscape Scale	Medium	3 High	2 Moderate	Low 1 Moderate	1 Low
	Small	3 High	3 High	2 Moderate	2 Moderate

Unsettled Ancient Pastoral Arable

Landscape Pattern

Consistency matrix

(0 = Unified, 1 = Coherent, 2 = Variable)

2 1 2 Varied U / VLand use 1 1 2 0 1 1 Uniform Uniform U/VVaried

Tree Cover

Continuity Vs Consistency matrix

	Planned	2 Moderate	1 Low	0 Very Low
Continuity	Historic	3 High	2 Moderate	1 Low
	Ancient	4 Very High	3 High	2 Moderate
		Unified	Coherent	Variable

Consistency

Visual sensitivity	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Ecological sensitivity	0	1	2	3	4	х	x
Cultural sensitivity	0	1	2	3	4	Х	x

Total 5

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Rating

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1-4	5-6	7-8	9-12
Low Sensitivity	Moderate Sensitivity	High Sensitivity	No development

Landscape Value Assessment Rating

Α	В	Landscape value
Score 1 point for each	Score 1 point for each	A + B
Tranquillity or	Conservation Interests	0 points = Low
Scenic beauty or		1 point = Moderate
Contribution to Settlement.		2 points = High
Presence of pylons in view		

Landscape capacity assessment rating

Euroscape capacity assessment rating				
	High	Moderate	Low	Low
Landscape Sensitivity	Moderate	Moderate to High	Moderate	Low
	Low	High	Moderate to High	Moderate

Low Moderate High

Date June 08	Area name S 134a – Field east of North Road
Surveyors PS	OS grid ref
LCA & PLANNING POLICIES	
LCA No: 216 Condition: Moderate Robustness: Moderate LCA Evaluation: Improve and Conserve	Key Characteristics & Distinctive features. Rolling arable landscape of large scale fields in the south defined by urban development of Letchworth and Hitchin.
LP2A policies: Green belt Landscape development area.	Photographs
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER SENSITIVITY	
Landform: Rolling / undulating Landcover: Crops Tree cover: Boundary screen along north road Settlement form and pattern:	Land Use: Agriculture Enclosure & pattern: Integral to large scale field pattern.
Edge of settlement: Completeness of edge:	Sense of enclosure: fair sense of enclosure on lower ground for a field of this size
VISUAL SENSITIVITY	
Prominence of site from surrounding area Short views in: From housing on southern boundary. And when travelling northwards along North Road Short views out: To the above and adjoining fields Long views out: Views out to the south and west from higher northern boundary and to the east and north from southern high ground. Long views in: Only to higher northern boundary	Presence & size of populations: Urban fringe Mitigation potential of visual impacts: Moderate
VALUE	
National designations:	Local designations

Visual sensitivity

Visibility sensitivity matrix

	Sloping	2 Moderate	3 High	4 V High
Landform	Rolling/undulating	1 Low	2 Moderate	3 High
	Lowlying / flat	0 Very Low	1 Low	2 Moderate

Large woods Small woods Unwooded

Tree cover

People visibility matrix

Views in	vs in Low		2 High	
	Few people	Moderate number of people	Many people	

Viewed by number of people

Overall visual sensitivity = visibility sensitivity + people visibility

Ecological Sensitivity

	Other	2 Moderate	1 Low	0 Very Low	0 Very Low
Woodland	Wooded	3 High	2 Moderate	1 Low	0 Very Low
	Trees and woods	4 Very High	3 High	2 Moderate	1 Low
		Marginal pasture	Good pasture	Marginal arable	Good arable
		Landuse			

Continuity matrix	(High = Ancient, Moderate = Historic, Low/Very Low = Planned)
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	Large	3 High	2 Moderate	1 Low	0 Very Low
Landscape Scale	Medium	3 High	2 Moderate	Low 1 Moderate	1 Low
	Small	3 High	3 High	2 Moderate	2 Moderate

Unsettled Ancient Pastoral Arable

Landscape Pattern

Consistency matrix

(0 = Unified, 1 = Coherent, 2 = Variable)

2 1 2 Varied U / VLand use 1 1 2 0 1 1 Uniform Uniform U/VVaried

Tree Cover

Continuity Vs Consistency matrix

	Planned	2 Moderate	1 Low	0 Very Low
Continuity	Historic	3 High	2 Moderate	1 Low
	Ancient	4 Very High	3 High	2 Moderate
		Unified	Coherent	Variable

Consistency

Visual sensitivity	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Ecological sensitivity	0	1	2	3	4	х	x
Cultural sensitivity	0	1	2	3	4	Х	x

Total 6

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Rating

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1-4	5-6	7-8	9-12
Low Sensitivity	Moderate Sensitivity	High Sensitivity	No development

Landscape Value Assessment Rating

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A	В	Landscape value
Score 1 point for each	Score 1 point for each	A + B
Tranquillity or	Conservation Interests	0 points = Low
Scenic beauty or		1 point = Moderate
Contribution to Settlement.		2 points = High
Electricity pylons		

Landscape capacity assessment rating

Lanuscape capacity assessment rating				
	High	Moderate	Low	Low
Landscape Sensitivity	Moderate	Moderate to High	Moderate	Low
	Low	High	Moderate to High	Moderate

Low Moderate High

Date June 08	Area name S 134b – Field to horizon west of Rooks Farm Nest.
Surveyors PS	OS grid ref
LCA & PLANNING POLICIES	
LCA No: 216 Condition: Moderate Robustness: Moderate LCA Evaluation: Improve and Conserve	Key Characteristics & Distinctive features. Rolling arable landscape of large scale fields in the south defined by urban development of Letchworth and Hitchin.
LP2A policies: Green belt Landscape development area.	Photographs
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER SENSITIVITY	
Landform: sloping up to marry with flatish plateau Landcover: Crops Tree cover: no Settlement form and pattern: edge of settlement	Land Use: Agriculture Enclosure & pattern: Integral to larger scale field pattern.
Edge of settlement: yes Completeness of edge: no	Sense of enclosure: low
VISUAL SENSITIVITY	
Prominence of site from surrounding area Short views in: From housing on southern boundary. And from the east and north east Short views out: To the above and adjoining fields Long views out: Views out to the east and north from higher northern boundary Long views in: From the east and north	Presence & size of populations: Urban fringe Mitigation potential of visual impacts: Low
VALUE	
National designations:	Local designations

Visual sensitivity

Visibility sensitivity matrix

	Sloping	2 Moderate	3 High	4 V High
Landform	Rolling/undulating	1 Low	2 Moderate	3 High
	Lowlying / flat	0 Very Low	1 Low	2 Moderate

Large woods Small woods Unwooded

Tree cover

People visibility matrix

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Views in	0 Low	1 Moderate	2 High			
	Few people	Moderate number of people	Many people			

Viewed by number of people

Overall visual sensitivity = visibility sensitivity + people visibility

Ecological Sensitivity

	Other	2 Moderate	1 Low	0 Very Low	0 Very Low
Woodland	Wooded	3 High	2 Moderate	1 Low	0 Very Low
	Trees and woods	4 Very High	3 High	2 Moderate	1 Low
		Marginal pasture	Good pasture	Marginal arable	Good arable
		Landuse			

Continuity matrix	(High = Anci	ent, Moderat	e = Historic,	Low/Very Lov	w = Planned)
	Large	3 High	2 Moderate	1 Low	0 Very Low
Landscape Scale	Medium	3 High	2 Moderate	Low 1 Moderate	1 Low
	Small	3 High	3 High	2 Moderate	2 Moderate
		Unsettled	Ancient	Pastoral	Arable
			Landsca	pe Pattern	

Consistency matrix

(0 = Unified, 1 = Coherent, 2 = Variable)

 Land use
 1
 2
 2

 U/V
 1
 1
 2

 Uniform
 0
 1
 1

 Uniform
 U/V
 Varied

Tree Cover

Continuity Vs Consistency matrix

	Planned	2 Moderate	1 Low	0 Very Low
Continuity	Historic	3 High	2 Moderate	1 Low
	Ancient	4 Very High	3 High	2 Moderate
		Unified	Coherent	Variable
		Cor	sistency	

Visual sensitivity	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Ecological sensitivity	0	1	2	3	4	х	х
Cultural sensitivity	0	1	2	3	4	Х	х

Total 7

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Rating

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1-4	5-6	7-8	9-12
Low Sensitivity	Moderate Sensitivity	High Sensitivity	No development

Landscape Value Assessment Rating

Α	В	Landscape value
Score 1 point for each	Score 1 point for each	A + B
Tranquillity or	Conservation Interests	0 points = Low
Scenic beauty or		1 point = Moderate
Contribution to Settlement.		2 points = High
Electricity pylons		

Landscape capacity assessment rating

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	High	Moderate	Low	Low			
Landscape Sensitivity	Moderate	Moderate to High	Moderate	Low			
	Low	High	Moderate to High	Moderate			

Low Moderate High

Date June 08	Area name S 134c – Sloping field west of Rooks Farm Nest
Surveyors PS	OS grid ref
LCA & PLANNING POLICIES	
LCA No: 216 Condition: Moderate Robustness: Moderate LCA Evaluation: Improve and Conserve	Key Characteristics & Distinctive features. Rolling arable landscape of large scale fields in the south defined by urban development of Letchworth and Hitchin.
LP2A policies: Green belt Landscape development area.	Photographs
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER SENSITIVITY	
Landform: Sloping down to south east Landcover: Crops Tree cover: Settlement form and pattern:	Land Use: Agriculture Enclosure & pattern: Integral to large scale field pattern.
Edge of settlement: yes Completeness of edge: partial	Sense of enclosure: slight
VISUAL SENSITIVITY	
Prominence of site from surrounding area Short views in: From housing on southern boundary. And from field and cemetery to the south east and from PROW Short views out: To the above and adjoining fields Long views out: Views out to the south east and to Rooks Nest Farm from higher northern boundary Long views in: Only to higher northern boundary	Presence & size of populations: Urban fringe Mitigation potential of visual impacts: Low
VALUE	
National designations:	Local designations

Visual sensitivity

Visibility sensitivity matrix

	Sloping	2 Moderate	3 High	4 V High
Landform	Rolling/undulating	1 Low	2 Moderate	3 High
	Lowlying / flat	0 Very Low	1 Low	2 Moderate

Large woods Small woods Unwooded

Tree cover

People visibility matrix

Views in	0 Low	1 Moderate	2 High				
	Few people	Moderate number of people	Many people				

Viewed by number of people

Overall visual sensitivity = visibility sensitivity + people visibility

Ecological Sensitivity

	Other	2 Moderate	1 Low	0 Very Low	0 Very Low
Woodland	Wooded	3 High	2 Moderate	1 Low	0 Very Low
	Trees and woods	4 Very High	3 High	2 Moderate	1 Low
		Marginal pasture	Good pasture	Marginal arable	Good arable
		Landuse			

Continuity matrix	(High = Anci	ent, Moderat	e = Historic,	Low/Very Lov	w = Planned)
	Large	3 High	2 Moderate	1 Low	0 Very Low
Landscape Scale	Medium	3 High	2 Moderate	Low 1 Moderate	1 Low
	Small	3 High	3 High	2 Moderate	2 Moderate
		Unsettled	Ancient	Pastoral	Arable
Landscape Pattern					

Consistency matrix

(0 = Unified, 1 = Coherent, 2 = Variable)

2 1 2 Varied U / VLand use 2 0 1 1 Uniform Uniform Varied

U/V

Tree Cover

Continuity Vs Consistency matrix

	Planned	2 Moderate	1 Low	0 Very Low
Continuity	Historic	3 High	2 Moderate	1 Low
	Ancient	4 Very High	3 High	2 Moderate
		Unified	Coherent	Variable
Consistency				

Visual sensitivity	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Ecological sensitivity	0	1	2	3	4	х	х
Cultural sensitivity	0	1	2	3	4	Х	Х

Total 8

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Rating

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1-4	5-6	7-8	9-12
Low Sensitivity	Moderate Sensitivity	High Sensitivity	No development

Landscape Value Assessment Rating

Α	В	Landscape value
Score 1 point for each	Score 1 point for each	A + B
Tranquillity or	Conservation Interests	0 points = Low
Scenic beauty or		1 point = Moderate
Contribution to Settlement.		2 points = High
Electricity pylons		-

Landscape capacity assessment rating

Landscape capacity assessment rating						
	High	Moderate	Low	Low		
Landscape Sensitivity	Moderate	Moderate to High	Moderate	Low		
	Low	High	Moderate to High	Moderate		

Low Moderate High

Date June 08	Area name S 136b Field north and west of Rooks Farm Nest
Surveyors PS	OS grid ref
LCA & PLANNING POLICIES	
LCA No: 219 Condition: Good Robustness: Weak LCA Evaluation: Strengthen and reinforce	Key Characteristics & Distinctive features. Undulating chalk scarp, large arable fields, small occasional plantations, or shelter belts, small sunken lanes and footpaths. Rooks Nest House (setting for Howards End) is identified with an area known as Forster Country.
LP2A policies: Green belt Landscape development area.	Photographs
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER SENSITIVITY	
Landform: Undulating / sloping Landcover: Crops Tree cover: Boundary trees screen along southern, eastern, and north eastern boundaries Settlement form and pattern: Urban fringe	Land Use: Agriculture Enclosure & pattern: Fairly well screened on three sides but open in character and part of larger field pattern.
Edge of settlement: yes Completeness of edge: North western edge not well defined	Sense of enclosure: Slight / partial
VISUAL SENSITIVITY	
Prominence of site from surrounding area Short views in: Partial – from adjacent field and from cemetery Short views out: Presence of housing visible to the west Long views out: To sky line to the north Long views in: Not really	Presence & size of populations: Urban fringe but presence not very impingeing Mitigation potential of visual impacts: Moderate
VALUE	
National designations:	Local designations

Visual sensitivity

Visibility sensitivity matrix

	Sloping	2 Moderate	3 High	4 V High
Landform	Rolling/undulating	1 Low	2 Moderate	3 High
	Lowlying / flat	0 Very Low	1 Low	2 Moderate

Large woods Small woods Unwooded

Tree cover

People visibility matrix

Views in	0 Low	1 Moderate	2 High
	Few people	Moderate number of people	Many people

Viewed by number of people

Overall visual sensitivity = visibility sensitivity + people visibility

Ecological Sensitivity

		2	1	0	0
	Other	Moderate	Low	Very Low	Very Low
		3	2	1	0
Woodland	Wooded	High	Moderate	Low	Very Low
		4	3	2	1
	Trees and woods	Very High	High	Moderate	Low
		Manainal	0	Manainal	0
		Marginal	Good	Marginal	Good
		pasture	pasture	arable	arable
		Landuse			

Continuity matrix	(High = Anci	ent, Moderat	e = Historic,	Low/Very Lov	w = Planned)
	Large	3 High	2 Moderate	1 Low	0 Very Low
Landscape Scale	Medium	3 High	2 Moderate	Low 1 Moderate	1 Low
	Small	3 High	3 High	2 Moderate	2 Moderate
		Unsettled	Ancient	Pastoral	Arable
Landscape Pattern					

Consistency matrix

(0 = Unified, 1 = Coherent, 2 = Variable)

2 1 2 Varied U / VLand use 2 0 1 1 Uniform Uniform Varied

U/V

Tree Cover

Continuity Vs Consistency matrix

	Planned	2 Moderate	1 Low	0 Very Low	
Continuity	Historic	3 High	2 Moderate	1 Low	
	Ancient	4 Very High	3 High	2 Moderate	
		Unified	Coherent	Variable	
		Consistency			

Visual sensitivity	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Ecological sensitivity	0	1	2	ε	4	х	x
Cultural sensitivity	0	1	2	3	4	Х	х

Total 7

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Rating

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	1-4	5-6	7-8	9-12	
	Low Sensitivity	Moderate Sensitivity	High Sensitivity	No development	

Landscape Value Assessment Rating

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Α	В	Landscape value
Score 1 point for each	Score 1 point for each	A + B
Tranquillity or	Conservation Interests	0 points = Low
Scenic beauty or		1 point = Moderate
Contribution to Settlement.		2 points = High
Electricity pylons		

Landscape capacity assessment rating

Landscape capacity assessment rating							
	High	Moderate	Low	Low			
Landscape Sensitivity	Moderate	Moderate to High	Moderate	Low			
	Low	High	Moderate to High	Moderate			

Low Moderate High

OS grid ref
Key Characteristics & Distinctive features. Undulating chalk scarp, large arable fields, small occasional plantations, or shelter belts, small sunken lanes and footpaths. Rooks Nest House (setting for Howards End) is identified with an area known as Forster Country.
Photographs
Land Use: Agriculture Enclosure & pattern: Open in character
Sense of enclosure: not really
Presence & size of populations: Low Mitigation potential of visual impacts: Low
Local designations

Visual sensitivity

Visibility sensitivity matrix

	Sloping	2 Moderate	3 High	4 V High
Landform	Rolling/undulating	1 Low	2 Moderate	3 High
	Lowlying / flat	0 Very Low	1 Low	2 Moderate

Large woods Small woods Unwooded

Tree cover

People visibility matrix

Views in	0 Low	1 Moderate	2 High
	Few people	Moderate number of people	Many people

Viewed by number of people

Overall visual sensitivity = visibility sensitivity + people visibility

Ecological Sensitivity

	Other	2 Moderate	1 Low	0 Very Low	0 Very Low
Woodland	Wooded	3 High	2 Moderate	1 Low	0 Very Low
	Trees and woods	4 Very High	3 High	2 Moderate	1 Low
		Marginal pasture	Good pasture	Marginal arable	Good arable
		Landuse			

Continuity matrix	(High = Anci	ent, Moderat	e = Historic,	Low/Very Lov	w = Planned)
	Large	3 High	2 Moderate	1 Low	0 Very Low
Landscape Scale	Medium	3 High	2 Moderate	Low 1 Moderate	1 Low
	Small	3 High	3 High	2 Moderate	2 Moderate
		Unsettled	Ancient	Pastoral	Arable

Landscape Pattern

Consistency matrix

(0 = Unified, 1 = Coherent, 2 = Variable)

	Varied	1	2	2
Land use	U/V	1	1	2
	Uniform	0	1	1
		Uniform	U / V	Varied

Tree Cover

Continuity Vs Consistency matrix

	Planned	2 Moderate	1 Low	0 Very Low
Continuity	Historic	3 High	2 Moderate	1 Low
	Ancient	4 Very High	3 High	2 Moderate
		Unified	Coherent	Variable

Consistency

Visual sensitivity	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Ecological sensitivity	0	1	2	3	4	х	х
Cultural sensitivity	0	1	2	3	4	Х	х

Total 7

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Rating

		~		
1-	4	5-6	7-8	9-12
Low Se	nsitivity	Moderate Sensitivity	High Sensitivity	No development

Landscape Value Assessment Rating

-u							
В	Landscape value						
Score 1 point for each	A + B						
Conservation Interests	0 points = Low						
	1 point = Moderate						
	2 points = High						

Landscape capacity assessment rating

Landscape capacity assessment rating									
	High	Moderate	Low	Low					
Landscape Sensitivity	Moderate	Moderate to High	Moderate	Low					
	Low	High	Moderate to High	Moderate					

Low Moderate High