

Appendix H7

Assessment carried out for the Land to the South and East of Adastral Park

Natural Beauty Indicators

Landscape Quality	Intactness of the landscape in visual, functional and ecological perspectives	Characteristic natural and man-made elements are well represented throughout	The site has been substantially altered due to the mineral extraction operations over the majority of the site which includes built heritage features pill boxes. However, the site lies to the west of the AONB and there is limited intervisibility due to the existing intervening mature vegetation and development.
	The condition of the landscape's features and elements	Landscape elements are in good condition	The overall landscape character is poor as the majority of the historic site landscape has been removed due to the onsite mineral extraction and the previous activities associated with Martlesham Heath WWII Airfield.
	The influence of incongruous features or elements (whether man-made or natural) on the perceived natural beauty of the area.	Incongruous elements are not present to a significant degree, are not visually intrusive, have only localised influence or are temporary in nature.	A small number of large scale and long established elements lie within the local landscape and have direct impact on the surrounding area which can be viewed as both a detractor and a local landmark; for example the BT complex to include Orion Building and Pegasus Tower, the apparent surrounding landform and mature vegetation provide a degree of separation and partially mitigate the adverse visual impacts.
Scenic quality	A distinctive sense of place	Landscape character lends a clear and recognisable sense of place	Extensive mineral extraction provide a landscape that contrasts with the surrounding landscape within the AONB.

	Striking landform	Landform shows a strong sense of scale or contrast	The site has a strong sense of place due to the nature of the onsite activities that contrast with the surrounding higher quality landscape within the AONB.
		There are striking landform types or coastal configurations	The site contains a degraded landscape as a result of the ongoing mineral extraction operations.
	Visual interest in patterns of land cover	Land cover and vegetation types form an appealing pattern or composition in relation to each other and/or to landform which may be appreciated from either a vantage point or as one travels through a landscape	Varied habitats and land cover over the site, to include bare ground, arable fields and restored grassland. The landscape is a mosaic of land cover and one that contrast with the wider AONB.
	Appeal to the senses	Strong aesthetic qualities, reflecting factors such as scale and form, degree of openness or enclosure, colours and textures, simplicity or diversity, and ephemeral or seasonal interest	Boundary vegetation encloses the majority of the site from the wider landscape. The site has a grain and texture which is related to the mineral extraction and the bare earth contrasting with the change landscape cover within the arable field to the south and east.
		Memorable or unusual views and eye-catching features or landmarks	Limited views into and out of the site from the adjacent landscape with the BT Orion Building and Pegasus Tower, forming a distinct landmark.
		Characteristic cognitive and sensory stimuli (e.g. sounds, quality of light, characteristic smells, characteristics of the weather)	Sensory stimuli are reduced due to the close proximity to local detractors to include existing development to the site boundary and the A12 transport corridor.
Relative wildness	A sense of remoteness	Relatively few roads or other transport routes	The site is bound to the west by the A12 which forms a major transport route within the area, to the south is Ipswich Road with constant HGV traffic to and from the onsite quarry. Newbourne Road to the west is a busy country lane with traffic using the road to access the wider landscape and the existing amenities located to the east of the site.

		Distant from or perceived as distant from significant habitation	Martlesham Heath residential area lies to the west of the site with Adastral Park adjacent to the northern boundary. The eastern boundary is defined by leisure and business development with further business development to the southern boundary. The site can therefore be considered to lie in close proximity to habitation.
	A relative lack of human influence	Extensive areas of semi-natural vegetation	There is little semi-natural habitat evident on site due to the ongoing mineral extraction operations. However, there are notably areas of habitat on site as part of the restored slopes that are located around the central waterbody.
		Uninterrupted tracts of land with few built features and no overt industrial or urban influences	An open landscape with substantial areas effected by the onsite mineral extraction. Mature vegetation to the site boundaries which enclose the site from the wider landscape. A number of large scale industrial elements lie on the periphery of the site with in Adastral Park, these include BT Orion Building and Pegasus Tower which creates an imposing form within the local landscape with the array of large white satellites further to the north.
	A sense of openness and exposure	Open, exposed to the elements and expansive in character	Views out to the wider countryside as only possible through a break in the boundary vegetation to the south east of the site.

	A sense of enclosure and isolation	Sense of enclosure provided by (e.g.) woodland, landform that offers a feeling of isolation	The site is enclosed by mature vegetation and earth bunds to the majority of the boundaries, the internal landform undulates both naturally and as a result of the mineral extraction. This provides a sense of enclosure from the surrounding landscape. However, adjacent development at Adastral Park and Martlesham Heath, as well as the A12 and local roads reduce any sense of isolation.
	A sense of the passing of time and a return to nature	Absence or apparent absence of active human intervention	There is little semi-natural habitats evident on site due to the ongoing mineral extraction operations, however, there are notably areas of habitat which are part of the restoration process following mineral extraction located around the central waterbody.
Relative tranquillity	Contributors to tranquillity	Presence and / or perceptions of natural landscape, birdsong, peace and quiet, natural – looking woodland, stars	The mature boundary woodland creates a strong natural backdrop to the site. The landscape is heavily disturbed by the existing onsite mineral extraction operations.
	Detractors from tranquillity	Presence and/or perceptions of traffic noise, large numbers of people, urban development, overhead light pollution, low flying aircraft, power lines and similar influences	The area is currently worked for mineral with constant plant moving within the site moving material with frequent HGV movement to and from the site itself. Further activity on the site include a small car garage located within the central valley feature. The A12 transport corridor to the west screens views of the road, however, noise from this busy transport route is still evident within the site. Frequent large HGV movement along Ipswich Road the south of the site breaks the perceived tranquillity. The imposing presence of the BT Orion Building and Pegasus Tower which during the night time are illuminated are a constant presence and clear indicator that the site lies on the urban fringe.

Natural heritage features	Geological and geomorphological features	Visible expression of geology in distinctive sense of place and other aspects of scenic quality	The site natural undulated with a valley feature which runs from the central large water body to the southern boundary where is continues into the wider landscape.
		Presence of striking or memorable geomorphological features	Due to the site landscape being substantial altered through mineral extraction the substrate has been exposed with a small section of the soil strata being listed as a geological SSSI.
	Wildlife and habitats	Presence of wildlife and / or habitats that make a particular contribution to distinctive sense of place and other aspects of scenic quality	The majority of the habitat on site has been lost through the mineral extraction. However, there are a few features of note. The central waterbody and surrounding restored landscape provide valuable habitat on site which are used by notable species.
		Presence of individual species that contribute to sense of place, relative wildness or tranquillity.	Beyond the scope of this chapter
Cultural heritage	Built environment, archaeology and designed landscapes	Presence of settlements, buildings or other structures that make a particular contribution to distinctive sense of place and other aspects of scenic quality	<p>A Bowl Barrow and Pill Box Scheduled monument are located to the north west of the site with two other pill boxes within the local landscape forming distinctive features in the local landscape with is otherwise featureless.</p> <p>The close proximity to the existing built edge to include Martlesham Heath to the west and Adastral Park influence the sense of place. In particular the northern site boundary which is bounded by a high security fence and BT complex.</p> <p>The eastern boundary is bound by further development holiday parks and business units being glimpsed through the boundary vegetation. A telecommunication mast and large are of caravan storage is located in close proximity of the southern boundary associated with Sheep Drifts Farm.</p>

	Presence of visible archaeological remains, parkland or designed landscapes that provide striking features in the landscape	No designated landscape present within the site.
Historic influence on the landscape	Visible presence of historic landscape types or specific landscape elements or features that provide evidence of time depth or historic influence on the landscape	The site landscape has been substantially altered to the ongoing mineral extraction. A Bowl Barrow and Pill boxes relating the former Martlesham Heath WWII Airfield lie to the north west of the site
	Perceptions of a harmonious balance between natural and cultural elements in the landscape that stretch back over time	The existing features within the north west with a wooded back drop created by the mature boundary vegetation and are viewed in relation to Adastral Park which lies in close proximity to the north. Bowl Barrows within the site and local landscape suggest that there has been historic activity within the site.
Characteristic land management practices	Existence of characteristic land management practices, industries or crafts which contribute to natural beauty	The landscape character across the site is heavily influenced by the existing mineral extraction. A small area of arable land lies to the south east of the site, this reflects the wider landscape use within the Estate Farmlands Landscape Character.
Associations with written descriptions	Availability of descriptions of the landscape in notable literature, topographical writings or guide books, or significant literature inspired by the landscape.	The site has associations with Martlesham Heath WWII Airfield that was located to the north.
Associations with artistic representations	Depiction of the landscape in art, other art forms such as photography or film, through language or folklore, or in inspiring related music	Martlesham Heath WWII Airfield records to include Photographs.
Associations of the landscape with people, places or events	Evidence that the landscape has associations with notable people or events, cultural traditions or beliefs	There are features within the site to include pill boxes that are associated with Martlesham Heath WWII Airfield that was located to the north.

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Health and Well-being	Access along defined routes for walking and cycling	Presence of network of local and strategic access routes	PRoW within and crossing the site, connecting settlement with wider countryside and AONB.
	Open access to areas of semi natural landscape	Presence of designated areas for open access	There are no areas of designated open access within the site.
	Opportunities for active and passive recreation	Presence of range of facilities and opportunities for diverse recreational pursuits	There are possibly opportunities for bird watching on site within the restored landscape to the centre of the site. The large centre waterbody is currently used by the fishing club. The current mineral operations restricts the use of the site.
Community	Relationship between people and place	Evidence that communities have a long established connection to the places in which they live and work	The landscape lies adjacent to an established place of work within Adastral Park. Further to the west lies Martlesham Heath residential development with a clearly defined sense of place which is highly regarded in the local area.
		Evidence that communities have a close relationship to their surroundings	Local independent shops and an increasing number of community-led initiatives, particularly within Martlesham Heath to the west.
		Evidence of local food culture	N/A
Economy	Landscape, community and economy closely intertwined	Evidence that the landscape and community forms an important part of the local economy	The site wide landscape does not play a role in local economy as it of limited access.
		Evidence of Community	N/A

		conservation schemes through which funding for grass-roots community and conservation projects within the AONB is secured	
		Evidence of clearly defined 'brand' that is underpinned by the local landscape	N/A
Ecosystem Goods and Services	Landscape delivers broad range of ecosystem goods and services	Evidence that the landscape performs a diverse range ecosystem services	The landscape is currently worked, however, the areas of restored landscape have an increased diverse range of ecosystems.