PROOF OF EVIDENCE: LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

IAN LANCHBURY BA Hons BLandArch CMLI

(APP/H4315/V/20/3253230 - A49-A573 LINK ROAD (St Helens)
APP/M0655/V/20/3253232 - A49-A573 LINK ROAD (Warrington))
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1.0 Introduction

1.1 My name is Ian Lanchbury, I have been a Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute since June 2011. The Landscape Institute is the chartered body for the landscape profession. I hold a Bachelor of Arts with Honours degree in Landscape Architecture (2007) and a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (2008), both from Manchester Metropolitan University and accredited by the Landscape Institute. Since completing my university studies, I have worked continually in full-time employment as a landscape architect at Arup from August 2008 to December 2014 (Graduate to Senior Landscape Architect), at Atkins from December 2014 to January 2020 (Senior to Associate Landscape Architect), and at Ramboll from January 2020 (Senior Managing Consultant).

1.2 I have experience in landscape design and landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) across a range of project types. Highways experience includes the LVIA and an Expert Witness for the M4 Corridor around Newport project, LVIA and landscape design for the A26 and A8 dualling projects in Northern Ireland, option assessment for A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down, and input to various LVIA s within the Highways England Road Investment Strategy 1 programme. I have experience in LVIA and landscape design for other linear infrastructure projects including rail and flood defences, and was landscape Expert Witness for the Felixstowe Branch Line Improvements – Level Crossings Closure project.

1.3 During the update of Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Guidance last year, I was part of the review and feedback process through the drafting of LA 107 Landscape and visual effects and LD 117 Landscape design on behalf of Welsh Government. Examples of my work are included within the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA), Third Edition (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013) (Figure 3.6, Figure 5.9, Figure 6.2, Figure 6.5, and Figure 8.4) and I also drafted a number of the illustrative diagrams (Figure 1.2, Figure 1.3, Figure 3.1, and Figure 4.1).

1.4 My involvement in Parkside Link Road (PLR) commenced in September 2020 to undertake landscape and visual review and provide expert opinion and evidence. I have held discussions with members of the team who prepared the 2018 ES, 2019 Addendum ES, LVIA and landscape design to inform this evidence.
1.5 The scope of this evidence includes items related to the landscape design and landscape and visual impact of PLR. The structure covers Relevant Policy and Guidance (Section 2.0), Assessment and Design (Section 3.0), Consultation (Section 4.0), Rule 6 Parties’ Representations and Statements of Case (Section 5.0), Other Representations (Section 6.0) and Conclusion (Section 7.0).

1.6 The evidence which I have prepared and provide for this public inquiry (References APP/H4315/V/20/3253230 and APP/H4315/V/20/3253232) in this proof of evidence is true and has been prepared and is given in accordance with guidance of my professional institute and I confirm the opinions expressed are my true and professional opinions.
2.0 Relevant Policy and Guidance

2.1 The following planning policies are relevant for landscape and visual impact assessment and landscape design:

- National Planning Policy Framework, February 2019 – Paragraphs 90, 127, 141, and 170. (Core Document (CD.1.1)
- Planning Practice Guidance; Design Process and Tools (CD.3.6), Natural Environment (CD.3.7), and Open Space, Sport and Recreation facilities, Public Rights of Way and Local Green Space (CD.3.8).
- St Helens Local Plan Core Strategy, October 2012 (CD.2.2) – Policy CP 1, CAS5, CQL 1, CQL 2, and CQL 4.
- Warrington Local Plan Core Strategy, 2014 (CD.2.7) – Policy QE 3, QE 6, QE 7, and CC 2.
- Wigan Local Plan Core Strategy, 2013 (CD.4.143) – Policy CP 8, CP 9, CP 10, and CP 17.

2.2 The policies, as relevant to landscape and views, are described in the 2018 Environmental Statement (ES), Volume 1 (CD.5.1), Chapter 7, Section 7.2 and aim to preserve and enhance the landscape character of the area, expand on green infrastructure provision, and deliver appropriate landscape schemes.
3.0 Assessment and Design

**Method**

3.1 The PLR LVIA and associated technical information was produced in line with guidance set out in the DMRB Interim Advice Note (IAN) 135/10 Landscape and Visual Effects Assessment (Highways Agency, 2010) (CD.4.137). General guidance has been taken from GLVIA3 (CD.4.131) and the assessment has been undertaken by Chartered Members of the Landscape Institute. Visualisations followed recommendations from Advice Note 01/2011: Photography and photomontage in landscape and visual assessment (Landscape Institute, 2011) (CD.4.139), GLVIA3, and Visual Representation of Windfarms Version 2 (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2014) (CD.4.141). The full methodology is provided in the 2018 ES, Volume 2 (CD.5.2), Technical Appendix 7.1 (Method for the Landscape and Visual Assessment) and Appendix 7.2 (Verified Photomontage Methodology).

3.2 The LVIA clearly distinguishes between the assessment of landscape effects, (considering changes to the landscape as a resource), and the assessment of visual effects (considering changes in views and visual amenity). The landscape and visual assessments have been undertaken for the following scenarios:

- On a winter’s day during the construction period, assuming a maximum visibility or maximum perceived change situation (i.e. when construction activity is at its peak) and when mitigation will be restricted;
- A winter’s day in the year that the project would open to traffic or be fully operational. This is usually a reflection of the operationally non-fully mitigated or maximum effect scenario; and
- A summer’s day in the fifteenth year after project opening, taking account of the completed project and the traffic using it. This is usually a reflection of the near fully mitigated scenario under normal conditions.

3.3 A cumulative landscape and visual assessment has been undertaken (2018 ES Volume 1, Chapter 14) and considers the potential cumulative landscape and visual effects arising from the interaction of the Proposed Scheme and other major development proposals in the vicinity of the site.

3.4 2018 ES Volume 1, Chapter 4, states that residual effects of very large, large and moderate may be considered significant. Significance criteria for landscape and visual
effects are provided within the 2018 ES Volume 2, Technical Appendix 7.1, Table 5 and 8 respectively.

3.5 Since the assessment was completed, the following changes in guidance or methods have been made:
- DMRB IAN 135/10 has been replaced by LA 107 (CD.4.138)
- Landscape Institute Advice Note 01/2011: Photography and photomontage in landscape and visual assessment has been replaced by TGN 06/19 Visual Representation of development proposals (CD.4.140)
- Visual Representation of Windfarms Version 2 (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2014) was updated to Version 2.2 in 2017 (CD.4.142)

3.6 A review of the above changes in guidance or methods has concluded that whilst some suggested methodologies may have changed, the PLR LVIA and associated technical information remains valid and overall landscape and visual conclusions on significance of effects would not change as a result of updated methodologies.

Baseline

3.7 The baseline landscape and visual information presented in the 2018 ES Chapter 7, Section 7.3 (landscape) and 7.4 (visual) is still considered to be valid. Potential landscape and visual receptors were identified within the study area following a process of mapping, desk-study analysis, site visits, consultation with stakeholders, review of local policy, and review of published landscape character assessments. Relevant baseline plans in the 2018 ES Volume 2 are:
- Figure 7.1 – Planning Policy Relevant to Landscape and Views
- Figure 7.2.1 – Published Landscape Character Assessments and Mersey Forest Landscape Units
- Figure 7.2.2 – Published Landscape Character Assessments
- Figure 7.2.3 – Mersey Forest Landscape Units
- Figure 7.3 – Topography
- Figure 7.4 – Site Context
- Figure 7.5 – Local Landscape Character Areas Defined for Landscape Assessment of Proposed Scheme and Photograph Viewpoint Locations (Shown with Published Landscape Character Areas)
- Figure 7.6 – Environmental Designations Relevant to Landscape
3.8 The Proposed Scheme area comprises part of the former Parkside Colliery site accessed off the A49 Winwick Road to the west; arable farmland rising southwards towards Wood Head Farm, (between the colliery spoil heap and the A573 Parkside Road); part of the A573 Parkside Road to the west and east of the M6; relatively flat, generally open arable farmland between the A573 Parkside Road and the A579 Winwick Lane to the south-east; and the southern-most part of the A579 where it meets the M6 at junction 22.

3.9 Settlement within the context of the Proposed Scheme includes Newton-le-Willows to the immediate west and north-west; the village of Winwick to the south; Croft to the south-east partly within the 2km study area; and Golborne to the north beyond the 2km study area.

3.10 The landscape within the 2km study area is bisected by the M6 motorway corridor, which is partly at grade and partly in cutting. The A49 Winwick Road, A573 Parkside Road, and the Winwick Link Road and A579 Winwick Lane that run northwards from Winwick dissect the landscape within the assessment study area. The West Coast Main Line railway runs south-west from Golborne (north of the 2km study area) at grade along the eastern edge of Newton-le-Willows before heading southwards through the Sankey Brook flood plain. The Manchester to Liverpool railway line also runs south-west north-east through the northern part of the study area. There is substantial filtering and screening by mature vegetation along these railway lines.

3.11 Land across the western extent of the Proposed Scheme area through part of the former Parkside Colliery site is relatively flat and lower lying, (between 25m and 30m above ordnance datum (AOD)), compared to land within the rest of the Proposed Scheme area. The land rises northwards towards a localised high point at Newton Park Farm (at 36m AOD), and falls southwards towards St Oswald’s Brook to the immediate north of Hermitage Green Lane. The eastern extent of the Proposed Scheme area within the former Parkside Colliery site encompasses part of the vegetated spoil heap that extends along the eastern boundary of the former Parkside Colliery site. The raised landform of the vegetated spoil heap encloses the colliery site and is a man-made feature that is apparent from the surrounding landscape to the north, east and south.

3.12 Land within the Proposed Scheme boundary to the east of the vegetated colliery spoil heap includes arable farmland that rises southwards from the M6 motorway (which is
in a cutting) to localised high ground at and surrounding Wood Head Farm (at 35m AOD).

3.13 To the south of this high ground, the land falls southwards towards Hermitage Green and south-west towards St Oswald’s Brook, between 30m and 20m AOD. The land to the south of Hermitage Green Lane and west of the A573 Parkside Road is undulating. The land rises southwards from Hermitage Green towards an area of high ground (at a similar elevation to the land at Wood Head Farm) between Hermitage Green and Winwick. There is also localised high ground to the south-west at Cop Halt Farm, beyond the A49 Winwick Road, at approximately 33m AOD. Beyond Cop Halt Farm to the west and south, the land falls towards and within the Sankey Brook flood plain (LCA 5C) and within the Sankey Valley (LCA RV2) (see 2018 ES Figures 7.2.1 and 7.2.2). There is no inter-visibility between the Proposed Scheme area and the Sankey Brook flood plain and valley within the 2km study area.

3.14 To the east of the M6, the landform is relatively flat, generally between 30m and 35m AOD, across the Proposed Scheme area and the surrounding agricultural landscape.

3.15 Within the south-eastern part of the Proposed Scheme, there is lower lying land to the immediate west of part of the A579 Winwick Lane, which extends to the east of the A579 along Cockshot Brook and into the WBC ‘undulating enclosed farmland’ landscape (LCA 1C). Lower lying land extends north along Cockshot Brook towards Sandy Bank Farm and beyond Kenyon Hall.

3.16 To the north of the eastern part of the Proposed Scheme, within the WMC ‘undulating enclosed farmland’ landscape (LCA 1A), there is lower lying land to the north-west of Kenyon Hall, encompassing a moss pit and Highfield Moss beyond.
3.17 To the north of Highfield Moss and the Manchester to Liverpool railway line, there is an area of localised high ground, which reaches 40m AOD at Highfield Farm, where a mast is visible. The land then falls generally northwards towards the A572, Lowton Heath and the Town of Lowton.

3.18 Four local landscape character areas were identified for the purpose of the LVIA (shown on 2018 ES Figure 7.5):
- LLCA 1 – Newton-le-Willows
- LLCA 2 – Former Parkside Colliery Site
- LLCA 3 – Undulating and Generally Enclosed Arable Farmland
- LLCA 4 – Generally Flat and Open Arable Farmland
3.19 Within 500m of PLR, 31 separate visual receptors across the following groups were identified, alongside ten photograph viewpoint locations (shown on 2018 ES Figure 7.13):

- Persons on PRoWs
- Persons on roads
- Persons living in properties
- Workers at businesses
3.20 Between 500m and 2km eight representative viewpoints were identified and agreed with officers at SHMBC, WBC and WMC (shown on Figure 7.14).
3.21 Photographs taken from the viewpoint locations within 0.5 km identified on Figure 7.13 and representative viewpoint locations between 0.5km and 2.0km are presented on 2018 ES Figure 7.15.

3.22 The public and private views experienced within and surrounding the Proposed Scheme boundary are of community value, as they are valued by residents and workers within the community, or people passing through the area, and there is no particular indication that these views are of a higher value.

Sources of Effects

3.23 Landscape and visual effects arise primarily as a result of the aspects of PLR described below. The full scheme description is provided within the 2018 ES Volume 1, Chapter 2.

3.24 During construction:
- Site clearance, demolition, and vegetation removal
- Construction vehicles
- Site compounds and material management areas
- Activities associated with construction of earthworks and structures

3.25 During operation:
- The presence of the road and associated infrastructure
- Vehicles using the road
- Lighting

3.26 To seek to avoid, reduce or mitigate potential landscape and visual impacts, a Landscape Strategy (CD.5.7) and Environmental Masterplan (EM) (CD.5.8) was prepared. The Landscape Strategy was developed to take account of the findings of the Arboricultural Impact Assessment; the LVIA; the Ecological Assessment, and the archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation. In addition, reference has been made to the St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council (SHMBC) Street Design Guide (November 2009).

3.27 The Landscape Strategy is intended to demonstrate how the landscape proposals can provide a robust and structured landscape setting for PLR, having regard to views from the surrounding area, and in the context of existing wooded areas and hedgerow field boundaries within and surrounding the Proposed Scheme area. Design objectives were prepared to ensure the scheme minimises the impact on the environment and that the Proposed Scheme integrates into its location.

Assessment of Effects

3.28 The identification of landscape and visual effects was informed through a combination of site visits, analysis of the design proposals, and production of digital zone of visual influence maps (2018 ES Figure 7.8 to 7.12) and verified photomontages Figure 7.17.1 - 7.17.14.

3.29 Residual effects for landscape and visual receptors have been assessed in the long-term after 15 years when embedded mitigation planting would have reached maturity and would provide screening of the Proposed Scheme. The anticipated height of planting after 15 years is identified below and uses a growth height model, which is
based on professional judgement and experience, taking account of the individual species, planted size and likely local growing conditions:

- Native woodland planting up to 8m high;
- Scattered tree planting in grassland up to 10m high; and
- Hedgerow tree planting up to 9m high.

3.30 The residual significance of effects for local landscape character areas during construction and operation was assessed as no greater than moderate to slight adverse.

3.31 The following significant residual visual effects (moderate adverse significance or greater) were noted in the 2018 ES:

- Significant residual effects on views during construction were identified for users of the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Barrow Lane (Reference F1), residents at properties on the west side of the A49 Winwick Road at Newton-le-Willows (Reference H3), Sycamore Lodge and Monk House (Reference H11), Parkside Farm, Barrowcliffe Cottage and The Stables (Reference H12), and at properties along Winwick Lane (References H14 to H17).
- Significant residual effects on views during operation (at year 15) were identified for users of the PRoW Barrow Lane (Reference F1) and residents at properties along Winwick Lane (References H14 to H17).
Throughout the landscape and visual assessment process, potential adverse effects have been avoided or reduced where possible through careful planning, siting and design of the proposed scheme. Embedded mitigation proposals are illustrated on the EM, drawings PD-RAM-02-XX-DR-EN-1001 to PD-RAM-02-XX-DR-EN-1006 (CD.5.8) and discussed in the Landscape Strategy (CD.5.7). Specific examples of this approach include, but are not limited to:

- A 5m wide landscape buffer incorporating linear woodland planting along the southern edges of the PLR, to screen northerly views from residential properties within Hermitage Green.
- A 10m wide landscape buffer incorporating woodland set beyond an open linear swale to connect with existing tree cover along the A573 Parkside Road and connect to the local green infrastructure network.
- Woodland planting with wildflower areas are proposed on land between the new roundabout and Barrow Lane to the north, in order to screen the new road in views from Barrow Lane and the Public Right of Way.
- On the north-west side of Winwick Lane, to the north of the roundabout, the seeded swale and verges would be bordered by native hedgerow planting and scattered trees, which would help soften the appearance of the realigned section of A579 Winwick Lane in views from the road and from the wider landscape.

Since the 2018 ES, the realignment of Winwick Lane North at the eastern end of the amended Proposed Scheme would provide space for mitigation hedgerow and tree planting adjacent to visual receptor H17 (Oven Back Farm), where previously no space for mitigation planting was available. The addition of mitigation planting would not alter the visual effects reported in the 2018 ES during construction, or during operation in Winter at Year 1 as planting would not be established. However, in the long-term (after 15 years) the residual magnitude of impact and significance of effect would reduce from the moderate adverse effect reported in the 2018 ES. Overall, the residual significance of effect would be reduced to moderate to slight adverse.

Due to a combination of the local landscape character and context, and embedded mitigation within the PLR design, there would be no significant residual visual effects for receptors situated beyond 500m from the PLR (ES Figures 7.18 and 7.19).
4.0 Consultation

4.1 Consultation on LVIA and landscape design aspects was undertaken with a range of stakeholders including: St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council; Warrington Borough Council, and; Wigan Metropolitan Council. Discussions on study area, methodology, receptors, representative viewpoints, photomontage locations, and the environmental masterplan were held. Summaries of consultation undertaken on landscape and views matters with the relevant stakeholders are provided in the 2018 ES Volume 1, Chapter 7, Table 7.1. Public consultation was undertaken for a 12-week period between June and September 2017, Table 6.1 in the Public Consultation Report (CD.5.5) sets out the project team’s responses and proposed actions for each comment raised.
5.0 Main Issues Identified

5.1 Within the issues listed in the First and Second Case Management Conference Summary and Directions, the Inspectors have identified the design, visual appearance and landscape as one of five aspects under the environmental and amenity effects of the PLR. No specific concerns or questions around the design, visual appearance and landscape were raised, therefore the content of this Proof as a whole provides a response on that aspect.

5.2 Relevant matters in Local Planning Authority and Rule 6 parties' representations are grouped and summarised below, followed by a presentation of my judgement on the matter raised.

5.3 Parkside Action Group (Response to Parkside Phase 1 Planning Application, March 2018, Paragraph 5.29) states "With regards openness and visual amenity, the applicant presents a picture of a partially brown field site with a spoil heap. This picture is far from accurate with much of the site returned to its natural habitat supporting a wide range of wild life. The previous Parkside hard standing area is a small proportion of the overall site. The spoil heap has also evolved to appear as a natural hill and can no longer be recognised as spoil heap."

5.4 I consider that the presented landscape baseline of the PLR site and its context is reflective of the existing situation (ES Volume 1, Chapter 7, Section 7.3). It reflects the nature of the landscape through which the PLR is proposed, and is based on the Landscape Character Types and Areas identified within the published Landscape Character Assessments by St Helens, Warrington, and Wigan, and has been supplemented by site visits during the course of the LVIA.

5.5 Parkside Action Group (Response to Parkside Phase 1 Planning Application, March 2018, Paragraph 5.30) states "There are good open views from Parkside East and West providing an appreciation of the North West landscape embracing Runcorn Bridge to the West and Winter Hill to the East. The location is used by many walkers in the community. The construction of a vast area of 50m high sheds would depreciate openness and visual amenity of the area."

5.6 This matter relates to Parkside Phase 1, and similar points could also be made in relation to potential cumulative developments of Parkside Phase 2 and the Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI). Regarding the PLR I consider that the effect of the
PLR on all relevant visual receptors has been fully assessed. Where potential impacts arise, they have been avoided or reduced where possible through careful planning, siting and design of the proposed scheme and through embedded mitigation proposals. Cumulative landscape and visual effects of PLR in combination with Parkside Phases 1 and 2, the SRFI were reported and acknowledged in the 2018 ES Cumulative Assessment and are summarised below.

5.7 For Parkside Phase 1 and the PLR in combination, the greater source of effect on landscape character within LLCA 2, during construction and operation, would be Parkside Phase 1. The predicted landscape effects of the Proposed Scheme cumulatively with Parkside Phase 1 would not give rise to a greater significance of adverse effect on LLCA 2 than that caused by Parkside Phase 1 alone. The operational landscape effects in combination with Parkside Phase 1 would be no greater for LLCA 1, LLCA 3, and LLCA 4 than with PLR in isolation. The majority of predicted residual visual effects of the PLR, when considered in combination with Parkside Phase 1 would not give rise to greater significances of visual effect. For other visual receptors, it is anticipated that mitigation planting to the perimeter of Parkside Phase 1 would reach sufficient height to filter or screen views of the rooflines of the Parkside Phase 1 buildings by year 15. Cumulative visual effects would be reduced, although the upper part of proposed buildings within Parkside Phase 1 would still be visible above intervening vegetation.

5.8 For Parkside Phases 1 and 2, the SRFI, and the PLR in combination, the greater source of effect on landscape character during operation within LLCA 2 and LLCA 4, would arise from the cumulative developments rather than the Proposed Scheme. The schemes would combine to result in a cumulative landscape effect on LLCA 1 and LLCA 3, but which would not increase the significance compared to operation of the Proposed Scheme in isolation in the short to long term. Potential significant cumulative visual effects are anticipated for some visual receptors as a result of the schemes in combination. A very large to large adverse cumulative visual effect is anticipated for Receptors F1, H14, H15, H16 and H17, large to moderate adverse for Receptor H11, and moderate adverse for Receptor R3.

5.9 Within the Statement of Case (CD.5.68), St Helen’s Metropolitan Borough Council state that the LVIA “has been produced in line with guidance set out in the DMRB and general guidance has been taken GLVIA3, which are appropriate methodologies for undertaking this kind of assessment. […] The LVIA has also been reviewed by the Countryside and Woodlands Officer who considers that the LVIA is accurate and
acceptable. […] The applicant’s description of the effects of the operational phase of the development are reasonable; that the development would cause harm to landscape character and the appearance of the area, but should be viewed in the context of the M6, Parkside Road and Winwick Lane.”

5.10 St Helen’s Metropolitan Borough Council state that “Whilst the applicant considers that the harm caused by the development would be moderate [to] slight adverse, the Council considers that the harm caused would be moderate adverse due to the scale and nature of the proposed development.” To clarify this reference, I consider that the moderate to slight adverse effect reference relates only to the residual effect on LLCA 4 (Relatively Flat and Open Arable Farmland) only. The LVIA states that this LLCA 4 is of low-moderate sensitivity, with moderate adverse magnitude of impact, resulting in a moderate to slight adverse significance of effect in accordance with the LVIA methodology. The residual effects for other LLCA’s are neutral (LLCA 1), slight beneficial to neutral (LLCA 2), and slight adverse (LLA 3).

5.11 Within the Statement of Case (C.5.69), Warrington Borough Council state that they “commissioned consultants (Aecom) to consider the applicant’s submission in relation to landscape and visual impacts. Aecom has confirmed that the landscape and visual impact assessment was carried out with an approved method of assessment, appropriate level of consultation and reference and due regard to current planning policy. […] Aecom agrees with the assessments and conclusions made. The landscape strategy and environmental masterplans are considered to show a comprehensive consideration of the landscape scheme that could be achieved. […] The proposed level and type of landscaping would more than compensate for the small number of trees lost and would also soften the impact of the proposed road within the landscape, although it is acknowledged that the new planting would take time to grow and therefore it is inevitable that the softening of the impact may not be fully realised for a number of years.”
6.0 **Other Representations**

6.1 Topics raised within representations to SHMBC and WBC in relation to landscape and visual or landscape design topics are addressed below.

6.2 CPRE stated that land to the east of the M6 is particularly rural and isolated, and that intrusion of a road will harm the rural setting. The effect of PLR on landscape character of the area east of the M6 is recognised and reported within the 2018 ES LVIA within LLCA 4 (moderate to slight adverse residual effect). The effect of PLR on visual receptors using land to the east of the M6 is illustrated on the 2018 ES Figures 7.18 and 7.19 and reported within the 2018 ES LVIA and associated Visual Effects Schedules.

6.3 The visual impact of a 2.5m high noise barrier along the westbound carriageway of A579 Winwick Lane, between the proposed roundabout at the new Parkside Link Road East, was queried and also suggested as missing (Tree & Countryside Officers, Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council, and Local Resident). The visual impacts of the barrier are considered and reference in the visual effects schedules (CD.5.10 Appendix 7.3), in particular for receptors H14 and H15.

6.4 Local residents raised the issue of visual impact from Newton-le-Willows and Winwick. The effect of PLR on visual receptors in those locations is illustrated on the 2018 ES Figures 7.18 and 7.19 and reported within the 2018 ES LVIA and associated Visual Effects Schedules. The associated photographs, ZVIs and photomontages further assist in understanding where PLR would be visible from, where it would be situated within the view, and how it would look.

6.5 Local residents raised concerns on the visual impact of PLR on H3 and R1 in particular with regards to the effectiveness of trees in winter. It is acknowledged that trees drop their leaves in the winter, however the Planting Strategy (PD-RAM-02-XX-REP-L-0001, Section 5) detailed proposed species mixes which include evergreen species such as holly, pine and yew. This approach associated with a depth of retained and proposed planting will continue to provide visual screening of PLR.

6.6 Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council and Croft Parish Council queried consideration of static views, and the effect on people travelling through the landscape. The 2018 ES LVIA considers and reports on the effects of PLR on people travelling through the
area using PRoW and road corridors, they are mapped on the Visual Effects plan (ES Figure 7.18) and described in the Visual Effects Schedules.
7.0 Summary and Conclusion

7.1 My name is Ian Lanchbury, I have been a Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute since June 2011. The Landscape Institute is the chartered body for the landscape profession. I hold a Bachelor of Arts with Honours degree in Landscape Architecture (2007) and a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (2008), both from Manchester Metropolitan University and accredited by the Landscape Institute. Since completing my university studies, I have worked continually in full-time employment as a landscape architect at Arup from August 2008 to December 2014 (Graduate to Senior Landscape Architect), at Atkins from December 2014 to January 2020 (Senior to Associate Landscape Architect), and at Ramboll from January 2020 (Senior Managing Consultant).

7.2 The PLR LVIA and associated technical information was produced in line with guidance set out in the DMRB Interim Advice Note (IAN) 135/10 Landscape and Visual Effects Assessment (Highways Agency, 2010) (CD.4.137). General guidance has been taken from GLVIA3 (CD.4.131) and the assessment has been undertaken by Chartered Members of the Landscape Institute. Visualisations followed recommendations from Advice Note 01/2011: Photography and photomontage in landscape and visual assessment (Landscape Institute, 2011) (CD.4.139), GLVIA3, and Visual Representation of Windfarms Version 2 (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2014) (CD.4.141). The full methodology is provided in the 2018 ES, Volume 2 (CD.5.2), Technical Appendix 7.1 (Method for the Landscape and Visual Assessment) and Appendix 7.2 (Verified Photomontage Methodology).

7.3 The 2018 ES LVIA and landscape design is compliant with industry best practice and responds to the requirements and considerations of national and local planning policy. The LVIA clearly distinguishes between the assessment of landscape effects, (considering changes to the landscape as a resource), and the assessment of visual effects (considering changes in views and visual amenity).

7.4 Four local landscape character areas were identified for the purpose of the LVIA (shown on 2018 ES Figure 7.5):

- LLCA 1 – Newton-le-Willows
- LLCA 2 – Former Parkside Colliery Site
- LLCA 3 – Undulating and Generally Enclosed Arable Farmland
- LLCA 4 – Generally Flat and Open Arable Farmland
7.5 Within 500m of PLR, 31 separate visual receptors across the following groups were identified, alongside ten photograph viewpoint locations (shown on 2018 ES Figure 7.13):
- Persons on PRoWs
- Persons on roads
- Persons living in properties
- Workers at businesses

7.6 Between 500m and 2km eight representative viewpoints were identified and agreed with officers at SHMBC, WBC and WMC (shown on Figure 7.14).

7.7 The identification of landscape and visual effects was informed through a combination of site visits, analysis of the design proposals, and production of digital zone of visual influence maps (2018 ES Figure 7.8 to 7.12) and verified photomontages Figure 7.17.1 - 7.17.14.

7.8 The residual significance of effects for local landscape character areas during construction and operation was assessed as no greater than moderate to slight adverse.

7.9 The following significant residual visual effects (moderate adverse significance or greater) were noted in the 2018 ES:
- Significant residual effects on views during construction were identified for users of the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Barrow Lane (Reference F1), residents at properties on the west side of the A49 Winwick Road at Newton-le-Willows (Reference H3), Sycamore Lodge and Monk House (Reference H11), Parkside Farm, Barrowcliffe Cottage and The Stables (Reference H12), and at properties along Winwick Lane (References H14 to H17).
- Significant residual effects on views during operation (at year 15) were identified for users of the PRoW Barrow Lane (Reference F1) and residents at properties along Winwick Lane (References H14 to H17).

7.10 The PLR will result in both beneficial and adverse landscape and visual effects, however the landscape strategy and embedded mitigation have reduced these as far as practical and reasonable for a development of this nature in this location.
7.11 Significant residual impacts are limited to visual receptors in close proximity to the Proposed Scheme, for users of the PRoW Barrow Lane and residents at properties along Winwick Lane.

7.12 For Parkside Phases 1 and 2, the SRFI, and the PLR in combination, the greater source of effect on landscape character during operation within LLCA 2 and LLCA 4, would arise from the cumulative developments rather than the Proposed Scheme. The schemes would combine to result in a cumulative landscape effect on LLCA 1 and LLCA 3, but which would not increase the significance compared to operation of the Proposed Scheme in isolation in the short to long term. Potential significant cumulative visual effects are anticipated for some visual receptors as a result of the schemes in combination. A very large to large adverse cumulative visual effect is anticipated for Receptors F1, H14, H15, H16 and H17, large to moderate adverse for Receptor H11, and moderate adverse for Receptor R3.

7.13 The conclusions of the 2018 ES LVIA and 2019 Addendum ES remain valid and have not changed in light of the matters considered in this Proof of Evidence in response to representations made and Rule 6 parties’ Statements of Case.