

HORN CRAG QUARRY

Silsden, West Yorkshire

LANDSCAPE & VISUAL APPRAISAL

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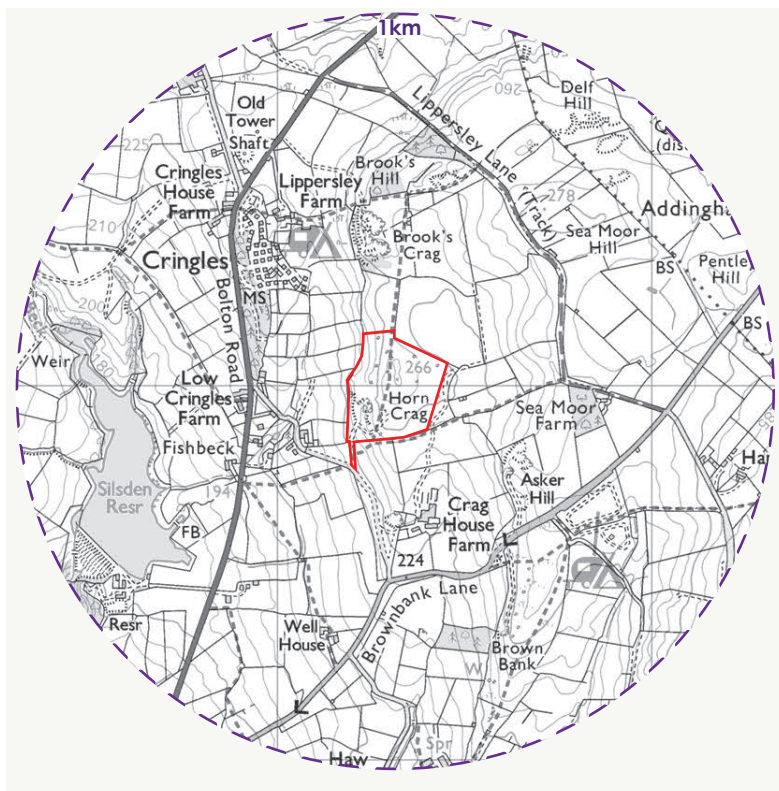
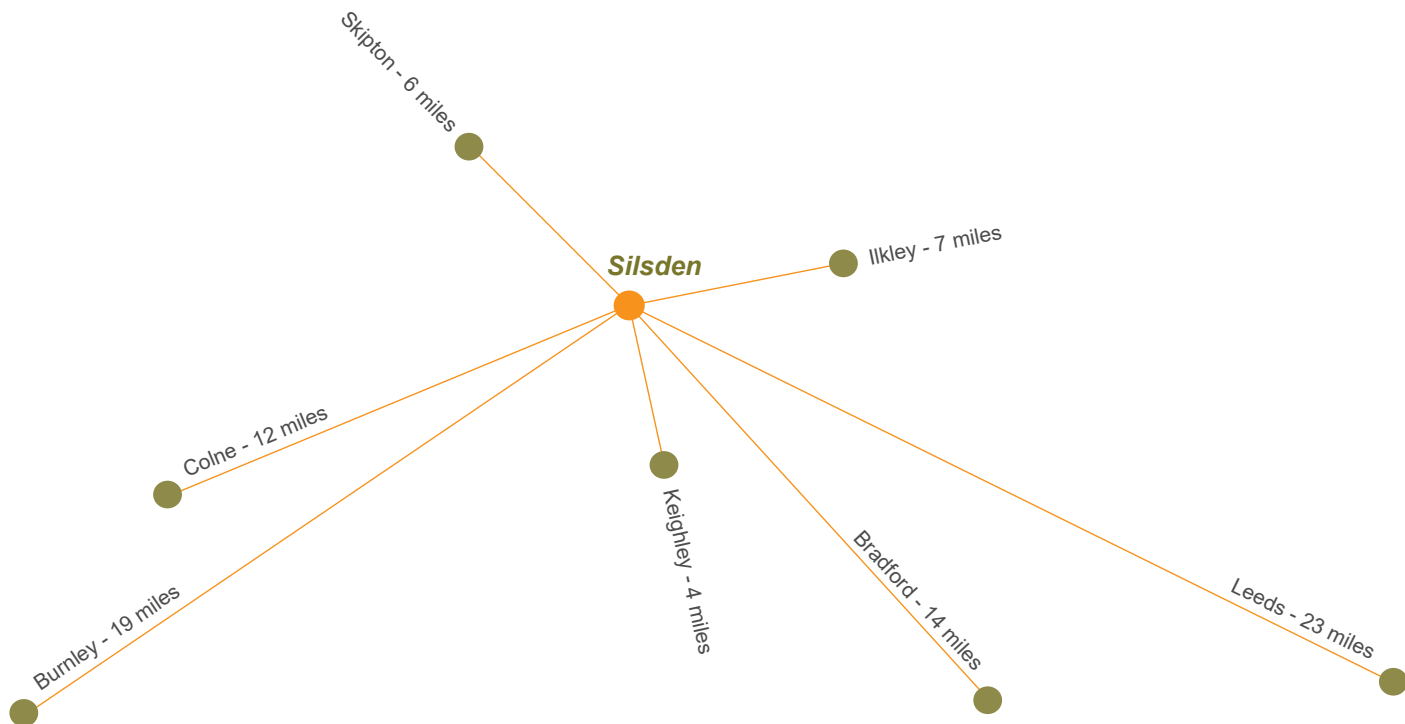


Figure 1: Application Site Location.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 SCOPE & PURPOSE

- 1.1.1 Collington Winter Ltd was commissioned by A. D. Calvert to prepare a Landscape & Visual Appraisal (LVA) to support an application to Bradford Metropolitan District Council (BMDC) to work the application site at Horn Crag Quarry, Silsden, as a dimension stone quarry, with the extracted block to be taken by road to the applicant's processing facilities. This LVA is designed to be read in conjunction with other material considerations and provides an overview of the current landscape and visual baseline for the application site in relation to the current application.
- 1.1.2 LVA is a tool used to identify and assess the likely significance of the effects of change resulting from development both on the landscape, as an environmental resource in its own right, and on people's views and visual amenity. LVAs seek to inform and shape the development proposals in order to minimise and mitigate impacts on landscape and visual amenity. The LVA will assess the landscape which surrounds the application site and will establish a landscape and visual baseline context for the site.

Aims of the Landscape and Visual Appraisal

- Consider, in outline, the **landscape character** of the application site, within the wider landscape setting and the likely effects of the proposal upon landscape character;
- Assess the **visual sensitivities** of the application site, from key public receptors and identify the potential for visual effects upon landscape character and visual amenity;
- Assess the potential for the scale and nature of the proposal to be successfully accommodated within the landscape and
- Establish **mitigation of landscape and visual sensitivities**, to aid the overall scheme proposals, where necessary.

- 1.1.3 This LVA was undertaken through desktop review of landscape character and relevant planning policy, combined with a site assessment of landscape and visual sensitivities. The field assessment was carried out by a Landscape Architect CMLI, on 31st March in dry and hazy weather conditions and 1st April 2021, in dry and overcast weather conditions and has been prepared according to the '*Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*, Third Edition (GLVIA3)', published by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013. In accordance with this guidance, it is good practice to undertake visual assessments during the winter months, when the trees are bare. This is because leaves and vegetation filter views, and winter views therefore present a 'worst case scenario' for visual impacts. An LVA would be considered as only a 'baseline study' within the context of the guidelines and does not amount to a full Environmental Impact Assessment of landscape issues.

1.2 LOCATION

- 1.2.1 The application site at Horn Crag Quarry is located to the north east of the village of Silsden and to the east of the A603, Bolton Road, within the administrative boundary of Bradford Metropolitan District Council. See *Figure 1*.

1.3 THE PROPOSAL

- 1.3.1 The proposed development of approximately 5.9ha of the application site, including the short access track off Fishbeck Lane, is for the extraction of the remaining high-quality, dimensional sandstone. It is understood that the extraction would be progressive and any subsequent materials not removed to the client's processing facility will be used to restore the landscape to a sensitive and sympathetic final landform.
- 1.3.2 The *Proposed Extraction Boundary* plan 32/5 - 3 (The Mineral Planning Group Ltd) illustrates the proposed extraction boundary and direction of operations, from west to east and then north, with a progressive restoration

of the landscape following two phases behind the extraction. The western margin of the application site will remain extant.

- 1.3.3 A diversion, around the eastern boundary of the application site, is proposed for footpath Silsden 18 and illustrated on the *Proposed Footpath Diversion* plan 232/5 - Footpaths (The Mineral Planning Group Ltd)

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 **36: South Pennines** (<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/511867>).

- 2.2.3 The Key characteristics typical of landscape area include:

- *Large-scale, open, sweeping landscape with high flat-topped hills providing extensive views, cut into by narrow valleys with wooded sides.*
- *Mosaics of moorland vegetation on the plateaux, including blanket bog and heathland, supporting internationally important habitats and assemblages of upland birds, invertebrates and breeding waders.*
- *Enclosed upland pastures and hay meadows enclosed by drystone walls on the hillsides, and narrow valleys with dense gritstone settlements in the valleys, with steep slopes often densely wooded, providing strong contrast with open moorlands.*
- *Many reservoirs on the moors, supplying drinking water to adjacent towns, wintering and breeding habitats for birds and high quality recreation experiences.*
- *Medieval villages and smallholdings on the higher shelves of land above the valleys, with small fields and a dense network of lanes and paths.*
- *Local stone buildings, with stone flags on roofs, bring a high degree of homogeneity to towns, villages, hamlets and farmsteads.*
- *Rich time depth, from prehistoric features such as carved rocks, to medieval boundary stones, old mineral extraction sites and more recently, mills, factories and non-conformist chapels.*
- *Historic packhorse routes traversing the moorlands, with more recent road, rail and canal routes located along valleys.*

- *Prominent features, including Stoodley Pike, Darwen Jubilee Tower, Rivington Pike, wind farms and communications masts, visible from afar.*

2.2.4 DISTRICT LANDSCAPE CHARACTER - The Local Development Framework for the Bradford District, *Landscape Character Supplementary Planning Document* (SPD), combines and formalises the existing Landscape Character Assessment documents of 2000 and sets out an “*existing statement of the landscape of the Bradford District along with its distinctive attributes and features, which are desirable to preserve and enhance. There are 10 landscape character areas within the Bradford District. Each Landscape Character Assessment details the condition of the landscape and the sensitivity of the landscape to change, along with providing a set of policy guidelines for development. These documents form the basis of this Supplementary Planning Document. Bradford Council will expect developers who wish to submit a planning application for a development within a landscape character area, to take account of this SPD*” (Local Development Framework for Bradford Landscape Character Supplementary Planning Document, October 2008).

2.2.5 The ten Landscape Character Areas (LCA) are geographic areas with a consistent character and identity. These ten LCAs are subdivided into smaller Landscape Character Types (LCT), which characterises a particular type of landscape (e.g: Floodplain, wooded valleys etc).

2.2.6 The application site at Horn Crag Quarry is located at the western edge of the **Rombalds Ridge** LCA and the **Upland Pasture** LCT. The landscape to the west of Horn Crag Quarry lies within the **Airedale** LCA and the **Enclosed Pasture** LCT.

2.2.7 The **Rombalds Ridge** LCA is described as “*a primarily high level plateau with an upland character dominated by moorland. Strong cultural association, archaeological interest, ecological importance and recreation value add depth and meaning to this Character Area.... The main landscape type in Rombalds is moorland covering approximately 60% of the area, with upland pastures, mixed upland pastures and small wooded valleys making up the remainder*”. The key characteristics typical of the **Rombalds Ridge** landscape include:

- *Wild open exposed moorland*
- *Fields enclosed by stone walls*
- *Plantation woodland*
- *Rock outcrops*
- *Simple structure with few landscape elements.*

2.2.8 The **Upland Pasture** LCT is described as:

- *The Rombalds Ridge upland pastures occur exclusively in the north west of the character area on the ‘saddle’ of high land separating Airedale and Wharfedale below the gritstone moorland and dissected by the A6034 road from Silsden to Addingham.*
- *The upland pastures to the west of Cringles are gently undulating and the rolling landform is beginning to show characteristics of the limestone Yorkshire Dales which lie to the north. The farm units in this area are larger and less numerous, consisting of mixed dairy and sheep grazing units; there are some remnants of hedgerows.*
- *The upland pasture to the east of Cringles lie on the steeper, concave slopes below Addingham Moorside. The farmsteads here are smaller and more frequent, based more on sheep grazing.*
- *Generally the upland pastures all display the characteristic simplicity of well managed field systems although the grasslands are substantially improved and therefore not ecologically rich. An intimate network of minor roads connect the farmsteads.*
- *The upland pastures are virtually treeless except for a few small shelter belt woodlands, consisting of mixed or coniferous species.*
- *The general lack of tree cover and elevated views from within the area give a strong sense of remoteness.*

2.2.9 The Airedale LCA is described as “*the largest and most complex character area in the district. It is a distinctive broad U shaped valley, with dramatic contrasts between the open exposed upland pastures above 250m A.O.D. and the busy settlements and industrial areas of the valley floor. There is also a contrast between the valley sides with the south facing side containing enclosed pastures with settlements and the north facing steeper slopes dominated by woodlands.... The Rombalds Ridge character area forms the whole of the northern boundary and dominates the skyline*”. The key characteristics typical of the Airedale landscape include:

- *Broad U shaped valley.*
- *Well wooded throughout Airedale.*
- *Pastures.*
- *Major settlements of Keighley, Bingley, Shipley, Baildon and Silsden.*
- *Busy transport corridor in the valley floor.*

2.2.10 The *Enclosed Pasture* is described as “*the largest landscape type in Airedale. Divided into two main areas it covers the greater part of the land area on the northern side of the valley. The characteristics of the pastures vary as you travel from the district boundary in the west to the surrounds of the settlement of Bingley in the east. The area around Silsden in the west consists of gentle undulating slopes with a relatively open aspect; displayed many of the characteristics of the upland pastures. It is, however, distinct in the hedges and hedgerow trees are more prominent in the landscape than dry stone walls*”.

2.3 THE APPLICATION SITE & LOCAL LANDSCAPE SETTING

2.3.1 The landscape within the study area is a predominantly rural and pastoral, with the villages of Addingham in Wharfedale to the north east and Silsden in Airedale to the south west, connected by the A6034. The application site lies on higher ground between the two valleys and to the east of the A6034. This is a landscape of upland pastures defined by dry stone walls, dominated by open and exposed moorland, with millstone grit outcrops and a number of small, active quarries and the extant remains of former mineral extraction activity, especially within the study area. Occasional isolated trees and small wooded plantations predominantly nestle within sheltered valleys.

2.3.2 Addingham High Moor is a distinctive east - west escarpment ridge standing to the south east of the application site, on rising ground to 381m AOD. This is a landscape that has traditionally been quarried for its high quality sandstone and evidence of former extraction land use are frequent along the escarpment. From the ridgeline there are expansive, panoramic views across the landscape of both Wharfedale to the north and Airedale to the south. To the west of Addingham High Moor is Windgate Nick, site of a WW2 aircraft crash site and a popular vantage point to take in views to the west across Cringles and beyond to High Bradley Moor and Skipton Moor.

2.3.3 Settlement across the study area and beyond the villages of Silsden and Addingham is predominantly sparse and comprises isolated vernacular farmsteads, set within a mosaic of small and medium sized fields which are defined by dry stone walls and a network of narrow lanes. Both Addingham and Silsden developed a distinctive vernacular architecture, using locally sourced materials, which is noted in the Silsden Conservation Area Appraisal (BMDC) as the ‘*abundance of vernacular buildings reflects a style that is distinct to the area and provides a record of past regional building patterns and techniques..... The continuity in the use of construction materials offers a visual harmony throughout the conservation area ... Vernacular architecture is thus essential to the sense of place of the settlement and its identity, in addition to being an irreplaceable record of past craftsmanship. In Silsden, the main building material is an attractive cream coloured local sandstone that weathers to a black finish and the traditional roofing material is stone slate, which has a particularly chunky profile*’.

2.3.4 Caravan Parks are becoming a feature of this landscape with sites at Cringles and Brown Bank Lane visible within the study area. Domestic wind turbines are also becoming a feature of the landscape and are often associated with the isolated farmsteads.

2.3.5 Horn Crag Quarry has been previously worked for sandstone and has a landscape characteristic of many former sandstone quarries in the area, with rough and tussocky moorland grasses with heather at the higher elevations above the former quarry face and an abundance of scrub and succession vegetation at the lower elevations. To the west of the application site is the former quarry face, which is predominantly hidden from view from the west, by a line of maturing, self set trees which have established along the western boundary of the application site.

2.3.6 Whilst Horn Crag forms a visually prominent feature within the local landscape, when viewed from certain directions, especially at close quarters, it is often subsumed into a predominantly open and panoramic upland landscape when viewed at a distance. The mosaic of vegetation supported at the application site is characteristic of local landscapes and bleeds across the wider study area, rooting Horn Crag firmly within the its landscape setting. The current land use at the application site is upland pasture.

2.4 LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS

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* on page 25.

2.4.2 SCHEDULED MONUMENTS - Under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (1) the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport is required to keep a Schedule of Monuments. The Schedule is administered by Historic England. A Scheduled Monument is a nationally important historic site or monument which is given legal protection by being placed on a list, or 'schedule'. Scheduling is the only legal protection specifically for archaeological sites.

2.4.3 There are no scheduled monuments within 1km of the application site.

Within 2km and to the north of the application are two scheduled monuments:

- *Late prehistoric enclosed settlement with an outlying bank and ditch on Counter Hill, 220m north east of Moorcock Hall;*
- *Round barrow 500ft (150m) NNW of Marchup Plantation in Parson's Lane.*

The site assessment found that there is **no intervisibility** between the scheduled monuments and/or the landscape settings of the sites and the application site, due to distance, intervening landform and vegetation.

2.4.4 Within 3km and to the north of the application are two scheduled monuments:

- *Late prehistoric enclosed settlement known as Round Dykes Camp on Addingham Low Moor;*
- *Low Moor round barrow.*

The site assessment found that there is **no intervisibility** between the scheduled monuments and/or the landscape settings of the sites and the application site, due to distance, intervening landform and vegetation. Within 3km and to the south east of the application are four scheduled monuments:

- *Two prominent cup marked rock outcrops known as Doubler Stones;*
- *Cup marked rock between Doubler Stones and Gawk Stones;*
- *Cup and ring marked rock on moor east of Gawk Stones;*
- *Cup and ring marked rock next to wall NNW of Black Pots.*

The site assessment found that there is **no intervisibility** between the scheduled monuments and/or the landscape settings of the sites and the application site, due to distance, intervening landform and vegetation.

- 2.4.5 CONSERVATION AREAS - Local authorities have a statutory duty to identify, designate, preserve and enhance conservation areas within their administrative areas. The aim in a conservation area is to preserve or enhance not merely individual buildings but all those elements, which may include minor buildings, trees, open spaces, walls, paving materials etc, which together make up a familiar and cherished local scene. Once adopted, conservation area appraisals become a material planning consideration in any planning decisions.
- 2.4.6 There are two conservation areas within the study area. These are:
- Silsden Conservation Area*, located to the south west of the application site;
Addingham Conservation Area, located within 3km to the north east of the application site
- 2.4.7 The site assessment found that there is **no intervisibility** between the Addingham Conservation Area and the application site, due to intervening vegetation, buildings in the landscape and local topography. There is however some **limited intervisibility** between the Silsden Conservation Area and the application site, where views out across the landscape to the north of the village are afforded from the A6034. Horn Crag forms a part of the moorland and agricultural landscape setting of Silsden, although may not be immediately obvious as a landscape feature in its own right, it contributes to the character and appearance of the conservation area.
- 2.4.8 COUNTRYSIDE AND RIGHTS OF WAY (CROW) ACT 2000 - Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW), the public can walk freely on mapped areas of mountain, moor, heath, downland and registered common land, without having to stick to paths.
- 2.4.9 The desktop survey found that there are two designated areas of CROW land within the study area. On rising ground to the south east of the application site is *Addingham High Moor*. This is a popular landscape for outdoor recreation and has a number of well used footpaths which traverse the moorland landscape. The site assessment found that the western edges of *Addingham High Moor* and in particular views from footpath Silsden 36 and the high ground at Windgate Nick have **direct intervisibility** with the application site at Horn Crag Quarry. *High Bradley Moor* lies predominantly beyond 3km, to the north west of the application site. The site assessment found that as this area of CROW land is predominantly beyond 3km from the application site, there is **no direct intervisibility** with the application site at Horn Crag Quarry.
- 2.4.10 SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSI) - SSSIs are the country's very best wildlife and geological sites and they include some of our most spectacular and beautiful habitats. The current legal framework for SSSIs is provided in England and Wales by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, amended in 1985 and further substantially amended in 2000 (by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000). SSSIs are also covered under the Water Resources Act 1991 and related legislation.
- 2.4.11 There is one SSSI within the study area. The *South Pennine Moors SSSI* is the '*largest area of unenclosed moorland within West Yorkshire and contains the most diverse and extensive examples of upland plant communities in the county....*' (<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/PDFsForWeb/Citation/1007196.pdf>).
- 2.4.12 The site assessment found that there is **limited intervisibility** between the north western edges of the *South Pennine Moors SSSI* and the application site at Horn Crag Quarry.
- 2.4.13 SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SAC) - is a strictly protected site, designated under the EC Habitats Directive. Article 3 of the Habitats Directive requires the establishment of a European network of important high-quality conservation sites that will make a significant contribution to conserving the 189 habitat types and 788 species identified in Annexes I and II of the Directive (as amended). The listed habitat types and species are those considered to be most in need of conservation at a European level (excluding birds).

The listed habitat types and species are those considered to be most in need of conservation at a European level (excluding birds). Of the Annex I habitat types, 78 are believed to occur in the UK. Of the Annex II species, 43 are native to, and normally resident in, the UK.

- 2.4.14 There is one SAC within the study area. The *South Pennine Moors* SAC is an upland dry heath at the southern end of the Pennine range, with blanket bog, which is the most south-easterly occurrence of the habitat in Europe and blocks of old sessile oak woods (<https://sac.jncc.gov.uk/site/UK0030280>). The site assessment verified that there is **limited intervisibility** between the north western edges of the of the SAC and the application site.
- 2.4.15 SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA) - is a designation under the European Union Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds. Under the Directive, Member States of the European Union (EU) have a duty to safeguard the habitats of migratory birds and certain particularly threatened birds.
- 2.4.16 There is one SPA within the study area. The *South Pennine Moors Phase 2* SPA supports the southernmost assemblage in Britain of breeding merlin, red grouse, golden plover, dunlin, short eared owl and twite on an upland habitat considered to be of international importance. The site assessment verified that there is **limited intervisibility** between the north western edges of the of the SPA and the application site.
- 2.4.17 LISTED BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES - Listed buildings of all grades I, II* and II are defined as being of national importance. There are a number of Listed Buildings located within the study area, which are illustrated at *Figure 3*. The site assessment found that there is **no direct intervisibility** between the listed buildings and/or the landscape settings of the listed buildings and the application site, due to intervening vegetation, buildings in the landscape and local topography.
- 2.4.18 GREEN BELT - The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence (NPPF Feb 2019). The Green Belt has five purposes:
- *to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;*
 - *to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;*
 - *to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;*
 - *to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and*
 - *to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict & other urban land.*
- 2.4.19 The Green Belt was first established within West and South Yorkshire through the West Riding County Development Plan in 1966. The *Liverpool, Manchester and West Yorkshire Greenbelt* boundary washes over the application site and the wider landscape of the study area.
- 2.4.20 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (PRoW) - PRoW are highways that allow the public a legal right of passage. The highway authorities keep definitive maps of public rights of way. They provide conclusive evidence of the existence of a public right of way.
- 2.4.21 Public rights of way within 3km of the site are shown in *Figure 4: Rights of Way and Viewpoint Locations* on page 26. To gain an understanding of the visual context for the area, for the purposes of this LVA, an assessment has been conducted from likely receptors within 3km of the site. Therefore, footpaths and highways which have the potential for visibility of the application site, were walked. The potential for intervisibility with the site was verified. Viewpoints no.1 to 16 illustrate the potential visibility of the application site from public rights of way. Where there was no view, a photograph was not taken.

2.5 ASSESSMENT OF LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY, CONDITION AND VALUE

- 2.5.1 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 *Table A.1a*). The following section considers, in outline, the sensitivity of landscape receptors, identified in the Landscape Baseline and illustrated in *Figures 2 and 3*, to change resulting from the development of the barn at the application site.

Landscape Receptor - National Character Areas (NCA) - 36: South Pennines

NCA 36 washes over the application site and is described as being a 'large-scale, sweeping landscape of exposed upland moorland and pastures contrast strongly with deeply incised valleys with wooded sides'. The sensitivity of the NCA character to change from certain types of development is high as this is a recognisable and visually distinctive landscape, however due to the scale of the proposal, there will be no effects on the scale or character of the landscape of NCA 36 and it has therefore been scoped out of this assessment of sensitivity.

Landscape Receptor - District Character Area - Rombalds Ridge

Sensitivity of Receptor	Landscape Condition	Landscape Value
High	Good	High

The *Rombalds Ridge* character area is a high level plateau, with an upland landscaper character, which is predominantly dominated by moorland. Settlement within the character area predominantly comprises isolated and dispersed farmsteads with associated agricultural buildings and small clusters of residential properties with associated outbuildings. The landscape character assessment for *Rombalds Ridge* describes the key sensitivities to change within the character area as:

- **STRENGTH OF CHARACTER - Strong.** Based primarily on landform the upland ridge has a distinct identity; it has a uniform open and exposed character, acting as a formidable barrier between the Aire and Wharfe Valleys.
- **HISTORIC CONTINUITY - High.** Much archaeological evidence of continuous occupation on the uplands, with no significant changes to land use.
- **REMOTENESS - Remote.** Displays a lack of urbanising features; the moorland has a 'safe' feeling of remoteness with views of the settled Wharfe and Aire valleys on either side – a doorstep wilderness with easy access. Landform of upland pastures gives a sense of remoteness, although civilisation is rarely out of sight. The remoteness of the mixed upland pastures is gradually being eroded by new and more frequent buildings.
- **SIGNIFICANCE OF NEW DEVELOPMENT - Medium.** Generally characterised by lack of twentieth century settlement. However, occasional modern dwellings and infrastructure of Graincliffe Reservoir and Whetstone Gate radio mast have a significant impact – acceptable only as landmarks where frequency is not an issue.
- **PRESSURE ON INTEGRITY OF LANDSCAPE UNIT - Immediate.** Changes in traditional farming are leading to large, modern farm buildings. Decline in farming is also leading to more recreational based after uses, the removal or neglect of stone walls and prevailing urban influences such as riding stable, especially in the mixed upland pasture. The pastures that adjoin Eldwick and Baildon are under immediate pressure for expansion and settlement.

Key detractors within the character area are described as:

- Vertical intrusions – radio mast at Whetstone Gate; pylons in the mixed upland pastures.
- Inappropriate development – large modern farm buildings within the upland pasture.
- Landscape management – poorly maintained stonewalls.

The sensitivity of *Rombalds Ridge* character to change from certain types of development is **High**. This is a recognisable landscape, with a strong sense of place and high historic land use continuity. Larger-scale modern agricultural buildings,

domestic wind turbines and caravan parks are detracting features. This is a landscape which is enjoyed for recreation and used extensively for walking, cycling and horse riding. A number of very well used public rights of way provide an accessible network across the landscape and the CROW land to the south east of the application site is a well used area. Landscape value is therefore considered to be **High**.

Landscape Receptor - District Character Type - Upland Pasture

Sensitivity of Receptor	Landscape Condition	Landscape Value
High	Good	High

The *Upland Pasture* landscape type occurs to the north west of the Rombalds Ridge character area and the landscape within which the application site lies is characteristic of and consistent with the key characteristics of this character type. The landscape character assessment for *Upland Pasture* describes the key sensitivities to change within the character area as:

- **STRENGTH OF CHARACTER - Strong.** *A uniform simplicity of the gently rolling landform managed pastures and stonewall boundaries give this landscape type a strong character.*
- **HISTORIC CONTINUITY - High.** *The pastoral land use would appear to have been continuous for along time. Recent expansion of some of the farm units has not altered the general character of the area.*
- **VISUAL EXPOSURE AND ENCLOSURE - Prominent & open.** *The upland pastures have an open character and are notably prominent from the A6034 giving a pleasing visual framework to Addingham High Moor to the south east and Skipton Moor to the north west. The area to the west of Woofa Bank is less prominent from the surrounding area.*

The landscape character assessment describes the condition of this character type as **Good**, with “*the relative simplicity of the landscape type, the absence of any development or vertical structures, corporate land ownership and the long term management regimes of sheep grazing and burning have ensured the quality of the landscape. Footpath erosion, although problematic in places, has not resulted in any visual detriment overall. However, the gritstone moorland ecosystem is a fragile habitat requiring careful management*”.

The *Upland Pasture* LCT is a visually distinctive landscape, with a strong sense of place and historic continuity of land use, which has a **High** value for recreation, scenic beauty and a sense of tranquillity. There is a **High** sensitivity to change from certain types of development.

Landscape Receptor - Application Site

Sensitivity of Receptor	Landscape Condition	Landscape Value
High	Good	High

The landscape setting of the application site is characteristic of the historical land use as a quarry and subsequent upland pasture grazing. The application site is defined to the north, west and south by dry stone walls and the boundary to the east is open to pasture. The extant quarry face and bowl is visible to the west of the site and is accessed via a narrow grassed track. The lower elevations to the west of the site, which have a sheltered aspect, have abundant developing scrub and self set trees along the boundary.

The sensitivity of the application site to change from certain types of development is **High**, as even though this is a former quarry, the mosaic of vegetation supported at the application site, is characteristic of local landscapes and bleeds across the wider study area, rooting Horn Crag firmly within the its landscape setting. The historic land use of the site, providing local building materials and the panoramic views afforded from the footpath which traverses the site provide a **High** landscape value.

Landscape Receptor - Conservation Areas and Heritage Assets

Sensitivity of Receptor	Landscape Condition	Landscape Value
Medium	Good	Moderate to Good

The heritage assets which lie within the study area and the Addingham Conservation Area have been scoped out of this assessment of sensitivity due to intervening vegetation, intervening landform and their distance from the application site.

The north eastern boundary of the Silsden Conservation Area lies approximately 1.5km to the south west of the application site and whilst there is little direct visual connection, Horn Crag is part of the wider upland agricultural landscape setting which makes a contribution to the character and appearance of the conservation area and '*offers a backdrop of green hills to many of the views through the settlement*'.

Landscape Receptor - CROW

Sensitivity of Receptor	Landscape Condition	Landscape Value
High	Good	High

The sensitivity of the CROW/Registered Common Land to change from certain types of development is considered to be **High**, as there is a strong and recognisable structure and landscape is in good condition, with a mosaic of upland heathland habitats. This is a visually distinctive landscape, which accords with local landscape character and has a strong sense of place. This is a highly valued landscape for recreation, scenic beauty and a sense of tranquillity, even though it is located close to a number of settlements and urban areas.

Landscape Receptor - SSSI/SAC/SPA

The SSSI/SAC/SPA which lie within the study area have been scoped out of this assessment of landscape sensitivity due to intervening vegetation, intervening landform and their distance from the application site. It should however be noted that the application sites lies within 1.5km of the South Pennine Moors SSSI/SAC/SPA and as both curlew and lapwing were observed at Horn Crag at the time of the site assessment, it is recommended that an ecological assessment is carried out to determine the ecological sensitivity of the application site.

Landscape Receptor - Green Belt

Sensitivity of Receptor	Landscape Condition	Landscape Value
High	Good	High

The Green Belt designation washes over the landscape of the application site. The sensitivity of the Green Belt to certain types of development is **High** as certain types of development may be harmful to the purposes of the Green Belt, however the NPPF (paragraph 146) states that:

Certain other forms of development are also not inappropriate in the Green Belt provided they preserve its openness and do not conflict with the purposes of including land within it. These are:

- a) *mineral extraction;*

'Openness' is defined as the extent to which green belt land could be considered open from an absence of built form and urbanising influences, rather than from a landscape character or visual perception sense. Whilst the proposal for extraction of the remaining known mineral resource may not be a visually attractive use of land at the application site, it will be nonetheless temporary in nature and will maintain the openness of the Green Belt.

2.6 ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS ON LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

- 2.6.1 Landscapes contain a range of elements which will respond differently to change from development and Judgements are made regarding the specific changes which arise from the type of development being considered, upon landscape character and visual amenity, according to guidance as set out within the '*Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*' Landscape Institute (LI) & Institute of Environmental Management and Awareness (IEMA), Third Edition, 2013 and the methodology set out at Appendix A.
- 2.6.2 The potential causes of impact which may occur upon landscape character, in relation to the extraction of the remaining dimension stone and the restoration, making use of only material from the application site, during the construction, operational and restoration phases are:
- Site clearance as necessary and mobilisation works required for the small-scale operation, with the stone extracted incrementally according to demand;
 - No additional, parking areas and material storage areas will be necessary;
 - Security fencing; and
 - Operational use of the facility and ongoing restoration works.
- 2.6.3 The application site has historically been used as a stone quarry and the proposed activity will therefore accord with this previous land use and character.
- 2.6.4 In relation to landscape character, the effects during the operational phase are considered to be of **Medium** magnitude, where there will be an alteration of one or more key elements characteristic of the landscape, however these changes may not necessarily be considered to be substantially uncharacteristic when set within the context of the historic land use of the application site and wider study area. Whilst the removal of the dimension stone will change the current landform, the ongoing restoration of the site will restore a sympathetic and characteristic landform, which will, over time, become colonised with a mosaic of vegetation which is characteristic of the local landscape.

3.0 PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

3.0.1 The following section provides a brief overview of relevant planning policy.

3.1 NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

3.1.1 The revised National Planning Policy Framework was updated on 19 February 2019 and sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. The NPPF sets out the Government's economic, social and environmental planning policy. The main theme of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development which should be viewed as "*a golden thread running through both plan making and decision-taking*". The NPPF is a material consideration in planning decisions. The NPPF sets out the three dimensions for underpinning sustainable development: economic, social and environmental considerations, which "*contributes to the protection and enhancement of our natural, built and historic environment...*", with the requirement for high quality design, which respects and enhances local character, reappearing throughout the core planning principles. Key considerations of relevance to landscape and visual matters include:

3.1.2 PROTECTING THE GREEN BELT

The Government attaches great importance to Green Belts. The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence (Paragraph 133).

3.1.3 *Green Belt serves five purposes:*

- a) to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;*
- b) to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;*
- c) to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;*
- d) to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and*
- e) to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land (Paragraph 134).*

3.1.4 *Certain other forms of development are also not inappropriate in the Green Belt provided they preserve its openness and do not conflict with the purposes of including land within it. These are:*

- a) mineral extraction; (Paragraph 146)*

3.1.5 CONSERVING AND ENHANCING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);*
- b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland (Paragraph 170).*

3.1.6 FACILITATING THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF MINERALS

It is essential that there is a sufficient supply of minerals to provide the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods that the country needs. Since minerals are a finite natural resource, and can only be worked where they are found, best use needs to be made of them to secure their long-term conservation (Paragraph 203).

3.1.7 *When determining planning applications, great weight should be given to the benefits of mineral extraction, including to the economy. In considering proposals for mineral extraction, minerals planning authorities should:*

- b) ensure that there are no unacceptable adverse impacts on the natural and historic environment, human health or aviation safety, and take into account the cumulative effect of multiple impacts from individual sites and/or from a number of sites in a locality;*

- e) provide for restoration and aftercare at the earliest opportunity, to be carried out to high environmental standards, through the application of appropriate conditions.....;
- f) consider how to meet any demand for small-scale extraction of building stone at, or close to, relic quarries needed for the repair of heritage assets, taking account of the need to protect designated sites; and
- g) recognise the small-scale nature and impact of building and roofing stone quarries, and the need for a flexible approach to the duration of planning permissions reflecting the intermittent or low rate of working at many sites (Paragraph 205).

3.2 LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

3.2.1 The City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council's proposals for promoting, coordinating and controlling future development and use of land are set out in the Local Plan, which is gradually replacing the Replacement Unitary Development Plan (RUDP), which is, to some extent, still relevant for planning decisions. The local plan will cover the period up to 2030 and the Core Strategy will ensure "a comprehensive set of up to date planning policies to support development and growth. It will also give some certainty to communities and development industry in particular provide the local planning policy framework for communities that are producing Neighbourhood Plans". Policies relevant to this LVA are:

3.2.2 POLICY EN4: LANDSCAPE (Paragraph 5.4.80 - 5.4.103)

A. Development Decisions as well as Plans, policies and proposals should make a positive contribution towards the conservation, management and enhancement of the diversity of landscapes within the District of:

- Rombalds Ridge - This should use the approach set out in the Landscape Character Assessment SPD.
- B. The following criteria will also be used to assess whether change can be considered acceptable:
 1. The potential for adverse landscape and/or visual effects
 2. The importance of cultural associations, historic elements in the landscape and the setting of settlements and heritage assets
 3. The opportunity to contribute towards positive restoration of landscapes, particularly in the urban fringe, achieve greater habitat connectivity, enhancement of characteristic semi-natural vegetation and accessible natural greenspace

In circumstances where impacts can be managed and the degree of change made acceptable, contributions need to relate to the scale of the project under consideration, and the significance of any assets affected. Where there is potential for adverse landscape and/or visual effects, a landscape and visual impact assessment or appraisal will be required. Proposals also need to fulfil the criteria set out in Policy DS2 Working with the Landscape.

3.2.3 POLICY EN9: NEW AND EXTENDED MINERALS EXTRACTION SITES (Paragraph 5.5.4)

B. Proposals to open up a new minerals extraction site on previously developed land, re-open a disused minerals extraction site, or extend an existing minerals extraction site, will be supported in principle provided that all of the following criteria are met:

3. The development would not result in unacceptable adverse impacts on people or the environment in terms of pollution, flooding or land stability risks, or harm to amenity, heritage assets or their setting, or harm the character of the landscape, taking into account the cumulative effects associated with all existing or approved developments affecting the area and the environmental criteria set out in other Local Development Plan Policies.

3.2.4 POLICY DS2: WORKING WITH THE LANDSCAPE (Paragraph 5.7.18)

Planning Decisions including Plans and development proposals should take advantage of existing features, integrate development into the wider landscape and create new quality spaces. Wherever possible designs should:

- B. Work with the landscape to reduce the environmental impact of development.
- C. Take opportunities to link developments into the wider landscape and green space networks.

4.0 VISUAL BASELINE

4.1 ASSESSMENT CONTEXT

4.1.1 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. 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 would most notably affect.

4.1.2 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.

4.2 VISUAL ASSESSMENT

*"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).

4.2.1 A visual assessment has been carried out according to guidance set out in *Appendix A*. All photoviewpoints are restricted to publicly accessible locations. Views from privately owned properties, where there is a likelihood of a view, have been considered within the scope of this report. *Figure 4* at page 26 sets out the viewpoint locations illustrated and described in this section.

4.2.2 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 assessment acknowledges that there may be other views afforded of the application site, within proximity to these receptors, however for the purpose of this LVA, the following views are considered to best represent the baseline visual context. In accordance with guidance, it is good practice to undertake visual assessments during the winter months, when the trees are predominantly bare. This is because leaves and vegetation filter views, and winter views therefore present a 'worst case scenario' for visual effects.

4.3 VISUAL ENVELOPE

4.3.1 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 16 (pages 27 - 34) illustrate the potential for visibility of the proposal. The sensitivity of these viewpoints is discussed below.

4.4 VISUAL CONTEXT

4.4.1 The application site at Horn Crag is visible from a number of viewpoint locations within the study area, however it is not always visually prominent within the landscape and it is seen within the context of a wider, panoramic

upland pastoral scene. From viewpoints at a higher elevation, the mosaic of vegetation supported on site enables Horn Crag to blend into the landscape scene, whereas from views at a lower elevation, Horn Crag appears as a prominent feature on the skyline.

4.4.2 There is a superb network of public rights of way across the study area, which, together with the Addingham High Moor CROW open access land, to the south east of the application site, afford opportunities for users to enjoy the visual amenity of the landscape. There are also views across the landscape from some of the minor roads which cross the study area, however these views are largely glimpsed and transient in nature and the application site is seen within the context of the wider landscape scene.

4.5 ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS ON VISUAL AMENITY

4.4.1 The potential causes of impact which may occur upon visual amenity, in relation to the extraction of the remaining dimension stone and the restoration, making use of only material from the application site, during the construction, operational and restoration phases are:

- Site clearance as necessary and mobilisation works required for the small-scale operation, with the stone extracted incrementally according to demand;
- No additional, parking areas and material storage areas will be necessary;
- Security fencing; and
- Operational use of the facility and ongoing restoration works.

4.4.2 This assessment has considered the potential causes of impact resulting from the development of the proposal upon visual amenity. We acknowledge there may be other viewpoints for with views of the application site however the ones set out below best represent the visual context. The visual baseline concludes the following:

VIEWS FROM THE EAST

DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEWS - The application site is seen in views from the east within a rolling, upland pastoral landscape, with a series of small fields defined by dry stone walls. Beyond the application site is the rising ground to the west and south west. A line of telegraph poles cross the landscape from viewpoint No.1 and modern agricultural buildings can be seen on the rising slopes beyond Horn Crag to the rear of the view. From both viewpoints, Horn Crag is a slightly prominent landscape feature and the nature of the vegetation upon the application site creates a slight variation in the landscape scene, however only a small part of the application site is visible from these viewpoints.

VIEWPOINT NO. 1	Receptor - Looking west from Footpath Silsden 19	
Grid Ref: SE 05754 48017	Direction of View - 248°	Sensitivity of Visual Receptor - Low to Medium
Magnitude of Change - Low to Medium		Significance of Effects - Minor to Moderate
VIEWPOINT NO. 2	Receptor - Looking south west from Bridleway Silsden 17	
Grid Ref: SE 05622 48464	Direction of View - 217°	Sensitivity of Visual Receptor - Low to Medium
Magnitude of Change - Low to Medium		Significance of Effects - Minor to Moderate

VIEWS FROM THE SOUTH EAST

DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEWS - The application site can be seen in the middle distance from the higher elevations to the south east at viewpoints No.3 to 6. The most prominent feature within each of the views from the south east is Brown Bank Caravan Park, as the pale coloured caravans stand out against the green backdrop of the pastoral landscape. The Cringles Park Home Estate is also visible to the rear of the application site. Horn Crag is visible, but not prominent within these views and the mosaic of vegetation blends into the wider landscape setting. Views from the elevated viewpoints to the south east are panoramic and the distant moorland provide visual focus. Smaller wooded plantations, isolated trees, vernacular farmsteads, drystone walls and variations in vegetation enhance landscape character.

VIEWPOINT NO. 3	Receptor - Looking north west from Footpath Silsden 36/CROW Access Land	
Grid Ref: SE 06952 47091	Direction of View - 300°	Sensitivity of Visual Receptor - Low to Medium
Magnitude of Change - Low		Significance of Effects - Minor
VIEWPOINT NO. 4	Receptor - Looking north west from Footpath Silsden 36/CROW Access Land	
Grid Ref: SE 06330 47078	Direction of View - 309°	Sensitivity of Visual Receptor - Low to Medium
Magnitude of Change - Medium		Significance of Effects - Minor
VIEWPOINT NO. 5	Receptor - Looking north west from Light Bank Lane	
Grid Ref: SE 06133 47047	Direction of View - 318°	Sensitivity of Visual Receptor - Low
Magnitude of Change - Low		Significance of Effects - Minor
VIEWPOINT NO. 6	Receptor - Looking north west from Footpath Silsden 39	
Grid Ref: SE 06031 46591	Direction of View - 330°	Sensitivity of Visual Receptor - Medium
Magnitude of Change - Low		Significance of Effects - Minor
VIEWS FROM THE SOUTH		
DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEWS - Views from the south are afforded from a lower elevation than Horn Crag and therefore the crag appears as a prominent feature within the landscape. Viewpoint No.7 comprises a network of drystone walls which dissect the foreground pasture. A shelterbelt of trees provides the skyline view to the right of the view with Horn Crag prominent above. Agricultural buildings and Cringles Park Home Estate are visible, nestled amongst trees. Viewpoint No.8 is a more direct view of the application site, with Horn Crag prominent to the centre of the view, flanked by dry stone walls. The full extent of the application site is not visible in views from the south.		
VIEWPOINT NO. 7	Receptor - Looking north from Footpath Silsden 39	
Grid Ref: SE 05482 46926	Direction of View - 350°	Sensitivity of Visual Receptor - Medium
Magnitude of Change - Medium		Significance of Effects - Moderate
VIEWPOINT NO. 8	Receptor - Looking north from Fishbeck Lane at the junction with Brown Bank Lane	
Grid Ref: SE 05299 47494	Direction of View - 348°	Sensitivity of Visual Receptor - Medium
Magnitude of Change - Medium		Significance of Effects - Moderate
VIEWS FROM THE WEST		
DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEWS - Views from the west are of a panoramic, pastoral landscape, with White Crag prominent on the skyline. Horn Crag is visible within these views, however it is not a prominent feature as the vegetation assimilates with the surrounding landscape. Elements such as the dry stone walls, isolated trees and wooded shelterbelts, vernacular buildings and the mosaic of vegetation all combine to create the landscape character. The existing quarry face is not visible due to on-site vegetation.		
VIEWPOINT NO. 9	Receptor - Looking west from Horn Lane	
Grid Ref: SE 02880 48231	Direction of View - 100°	Sensitivity of Visual Receptor - Low
Magnitude of Change - Low		Significance of Effects - Minor
VIEWPOINT NO. 10	Receptor - Looking west from Footpath Silsden 25	
Grid Ref: SE 03775 47866	Direction of View - 104°	Sensitivity of Visual Receptor - Medium
Magnitude of Change - Low		Significance of Effects - Moderate
VIEWPOINT NO. 11	Receptor - Looking west from Footpath Silsden 24	
Grid Ref: SE 03529 47665	Direction of View - 78°	Sensitivity of Visual Receptor - Medium
Magnitude of Change - Low		Significance of Effects - Moderate
VIEWS FROM THE NORTH		
DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEWS - From the north and at a distance from the application site, Horn Crag is seen within the context of an upland landscape, blending into the scene with the mosaic of vegetation supported bleeding across the		

landscape. The looking south from Bank Lane (viewpoint No.12), Horn Crag is seen in the centre of the view, flanked to the left and right by woodland and set below the rising ground of White Crag. An abundance of dry stone walls, vernacular buildings and the old tower shaft add to the character of the landscape. Horn Crag appears to be more visually prominent in viewpoint No.13, however it is still seen within the context of the wider, rolling upland landscape and beyond a series of dry stone walls and wooded vegetation. The full extent of the application site is not visible in views from the south.

VIEWPOINT NO. 12	Receptor - Looking south from Bank Lane/Footpath Silsden 8	
Grid Ref: SE 04435 49633	Direction of View - 152°	Sensitivity of Visual Receptor - Low
Magnitude of Change - Low		Significance of Effects - Minor
VIEWPOINT NO. 13	Receptor - Looking south from Footpath Silsden 18/Silsden 16	
Grid Ref: SE 05340 48521	Direction of View - 180°	Sensitivity of Visual Receptor - Low to Medium
Magnitude of Change - Low		Significance of Effects - Minor

CLOSE PROXIMITY VIEWS

DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEWS - Viewpoint No.14 is located to the west of the application site and is representative of views from footpaths, the A6034, Fishbeck Lane and residential properties which stand to the west. Horn Crag appears as a dominant landscape feature - a crag covered with a mosaic of upland grasses, heathland and gorse etc together with emerging scrub and succession vegetation. Beyond the crag, the landscape is upland pasture, defined by dry stone walls. Viewpoints No.15 and 16 are located at the boundary of the application site, as footpath Silsden 18 enters the site and comprise upland vegetation across a rolling landform. There is a wide-scale panoramic 360° view across the study area, afforded from the centre of the application site from footpath Silsden 18. The proposal includes for the diversion of footpath Silsden 18 to the eastern edge of the application site, together with appropriate screening as necessary.

VIEWPOINT NO. 14	Receptor - Looking north east from Footpath Silsden 19.	
Grid Ref: SE 05006 47742	Direction of View - 58°	Sensitivity of Visual Receptor - High
Magnitude of Change - High		Significance of Effects - Major
VIEWPOINT NO. 15	Receptor - Moor Lane Looking north from Footpath Silsden 18 (also representative of views from Silsden 19)	
Grid Ref: SE 05305 47864	Direction of View - 10°	Sensitivity of Visual Receptor - Medium
Magnitude of Change - High		Significance of Effects - Major
VIEWPOINT NO. 16	Receptor - Looking south from Footpath Silsden 18	
Grid Ref: SE 05320 48127	Direction of View - 182°	Sensitivity of Visual Receptor - Medium
Magnitude of Change - High		Significance of Effects - Major

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.0.1 This landscape and visual appraisal (LVA) has been prepared to support an application to Bradford Metropolitan District Council (BMDC) for the potential to work the application site at Horn Crag Quarry, Silsden, as a dimension stone quarry, with the extracted block to be taken by road to the applicant's processing facilities. This LVA has therefore considered the likely landscape and visual effects of the proposal and 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 **36: South Pennines** and the district landscape character of **Rombalds Ridge** landscape character area and the **Upland Pasture** landscape character type, as defined by the Local Development Framework for Bradford, Landscape Character Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). To the west of the application site lies the **Airedale** landscape character area, with the **Enclosed Pasture** landscape character type.
- 5.1.2 **Rombalds Ridge** is a high level plateau, with an upland pasture landscaper character, which is predominantly dominated by moorland. Settlement within the character area predominantly comprises isolated vernacular farmsteads set within a mosaic of dry stone wall defined fields. The application site lies within the Upland Pasture LCT, which has upland pasture across a gently rolling landform. The sensitivity to change for the **Rombalds Ridge** and **Upland Pasture** landscape character, which washes across the application site, to change from certain types of development is **High**. This is a recognisable and visually distinct landscape, with a strong sense of place and high historic continuity. This is a landscape which is well used and enjoyed by the public for outdoor recreation, walking, cycling and horse riding. There is a superb network of public rights of way which cross the study area, leading to a **High** landscape value.
- 5.1.3 The proposal to extract the remaining dimension sandstone at Horn Crag, which is anticipated to be a small-scale operation, it likely to incrementally and slowly change the landform at the application site over time, however as the dimension stone is removed, material from the site will be used in a sympathetic manner to restore the landform. It is therefore anticipated that there will be a **Negligible to No Change** magnitude of effects on the wider scale, pattern or character of the **Rombalds Ridge** and **Upland Pasture landscape**.
- 5.1.4 Horn Crag Quarry has historically been worked as a dimension sandstone quarry, providing building materials for the construction of local buildings and as such, the extraction of the remaining sandstone is an activity that will accord with the historic land use of the area and landscape character. If the application site is worked in a sensitive manner and areas of vegetation on the site are retained as far as practically possible, effects throughout the operations phases of the extraction are considered to be of **Medium** magnitude, where there will be a gradual alteration of one or more elements characteristic of the landscape, however these changes may not necessarily be considered to be substantially uncharacteristic when set within the context of the previous historic land use and the wider context of quarrying within the character area/type. With a slow and incremental extraction and progressive restoration, using only site won material, the landform will be restored to a suitable profile. It is anticipated that the residual change in landscape character of the application site, 15 years post restoration will be **Major Beneficial**, with the landform and the mosaic of upland vegetation restored and enhanced.
- 5.1.5 Policy guidelines for the **Rombalds Ridge: Upland Pasture** landscape character type, relevant to the proposals and recommended by the Local Development Framework for Bradford, Landscape Character Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) are to conserve and include:
- *Conserve the simple patchwork of field systems bounded by stone boundary walls. Restore hedges as boundaries where applicable;*
 - *Large scale tree planting is not appropriate to the character of the area, although small mixed shelter belts around farmsteads would be acceptable; and*

- *Encourage the traditional management of grasslands as hay meadows to improve the biodiversity of the area.*

5.1.6 This LVA therefore finds that whilst there will be limited and localised effects upon the landscape character of the application site, these effects will be temporary (in landscape terms) and seen within the context of a wide-scale and panoramic landscape which is able to accommodate change without significant impacts upon the wider landscape character.

5.2 CONCLUSIONS OF THE VISUAL BASELINE

5.2.1 Viewpoints no.1 to 16 (pages 27 - 34) illustrate the 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 LVA, viewpoints no.1 to 16 are considered to best represent the baseline visual context.

5.2.2 Where views are afforded from public rights of way with a clear, open and direct view of the entire application site, or a significant section of the site, the sensitivity of the visual amenity to change from development is high, whereas where a view is afforded from a public right of way with a restricted view, at a distance from the application site and where only a partial view of the site is afforded, the sensitivity is reduced to medium and in some cases, to low. Views from narrow, minor roads in the countryside are considered to be of a medium or low sensitivity, where views of the application site are often glimpsed and transient in nature and where the attention of the road user is predominantly focused upon the road ahead.

5.2.3 The site assessment found that Horn Crag is visible from a number of viewpoint locations within the study area, however it is not always visually prominent within the landscape and it is seen within the context of a wider-scale, panoramic upland pastoral scene. From viewpoints at a higher elevation, the mosaic of vegetation supported at the application site enables Horn Crag to blend into the landscape scene, whereas from views at a lower elevation, Horn Crag appears as a prominent feature on the skyline

5.2.4 In views from the east, Horn Crag is seen within a rolling, upland pastoral landscape, with a series of small fields defined by dry stone walls. In views from the south east, Horn Crag is seen in the middle distance from the higher elevations at Addingham High Moor, Light Bank Lane and from footpath Silsden 39. The most prominent feature within each of the views from the south east is Brown Bank Caravan Park, as the pale coloured caravans stand out against the green backdrop of the pastoral landscape, whilst Horn Crag assimilates with the wider landscape due to the mosaic of vegetation supported on site. The entire boundary of the application site is only partially visible within these views, with the existing quarry face looking west below the crag, therefore the sensitivity of the visual receptor is considered to be **Low to Medium**. With only a partial view of the entire boundary of the application site, the extraction operations are likely to be of a **Low to Medium** magnitude, where there may be a partial change to the elements/characteristics of the site, yet those changes are not uncharacteristic when set within the wider landscape.

5.2.5 Views from the south are afforded from a lower elevation than Horn Crag and therefore the crag appears as a prominent feature within the landscape, giving rise to a **Medium** sensitivity to change, with the extraction operations likely to be of a **Medium** magnitude, where there may be a partial change to the elements/characteristics of the site, yet those changes are not considered to be substantially uncharacteristic when set within the wider landscape. Views from the west are considered to be of a **Low and Medium** sensitivity, where White Crag is prominent on the skyline in a panoramic, pastoral landscape. Horn Crag is visible within these views, however it is not a prominent feature as the vegetation assimilates with the surrounding landscape. With only a partial view of the application site, the extraction operations are likely to be of a **Low** magnitude. When seen from the north and at a distance from the application site, Horn Crag is seen within the context of an upland landscape, giving rise to a **Low** sensitivity and magnitude.

- 5.2.6 The close proximity views are the most sensitive and would have a higher magnitude, where there will be a higher degree of alteration to landscape elements, seen a close quarters. Whilst the entire application site may not be seen as an open and direct view, the effects are considered to be **Major**.
- 5.2.7 It is anticipated that as the extraction of the remaining dimension sandstone will be a gradual process, with a small-scale extraction operation, which will result in a very gradual removal of stone, changes to the visual appearance of Horn Crag will also be gradual, with a slow and incremental removal of stone and redeposit of site won material, to ensure that the landform remains sympathetic to local character. The existing self set trees and succession vegetation which is developing at lower elevations to the west of the application site, filters views from the west, of the existing quarry face. In views from the east, the quarry face is concealed from view, with the top of the cliff covered by a mosaic upland grasses and health.
- 5.2.8 The restoration of the application site, to assimilate with the surrounding upland pasture habitats, is considered to have an overall **Moderate Beneficial** significance of effects, with the potential for biodiversity net gain making a positive contribution to a landscape-wide habitat structure.

5.3 CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.3.1 Following a review of baseline information, together with consideration of the potential landscape and visual effects arising from the proposal to work the application site at Horn Crag Quarry, Silsden, as a dimension stone quarry, with the extracted block to be taken by road to the applicant's processing facilities, it is considered that the application site and wider landscape is able to successfully accommodate the proposals, in landscape and visual terms, without having an unacceptable effect or loss of landscape character or visual amenity.
- 5.3.2 It is recommended that the self set trees, scrub and succession vegetation which are emerging to the west of the application site, at a lower elevation than the crag, are retained and protected from extraction operations, wherever practically possible, as they provide a green screen, filtering views of the existing quarry face in views from the west. In views from the east and south east, the existing quarry face is concealed beneath the crag and is not visible. If the direction of operations continues to work from west to east, with vegetation retained beneath the crag, operations could be visually less sensitive than if the direction of extraction is east to west.
- 5.3.3 The dry stone walls which define the application site should be maintained in good order and repaired as necessary, to strengthen landscape character

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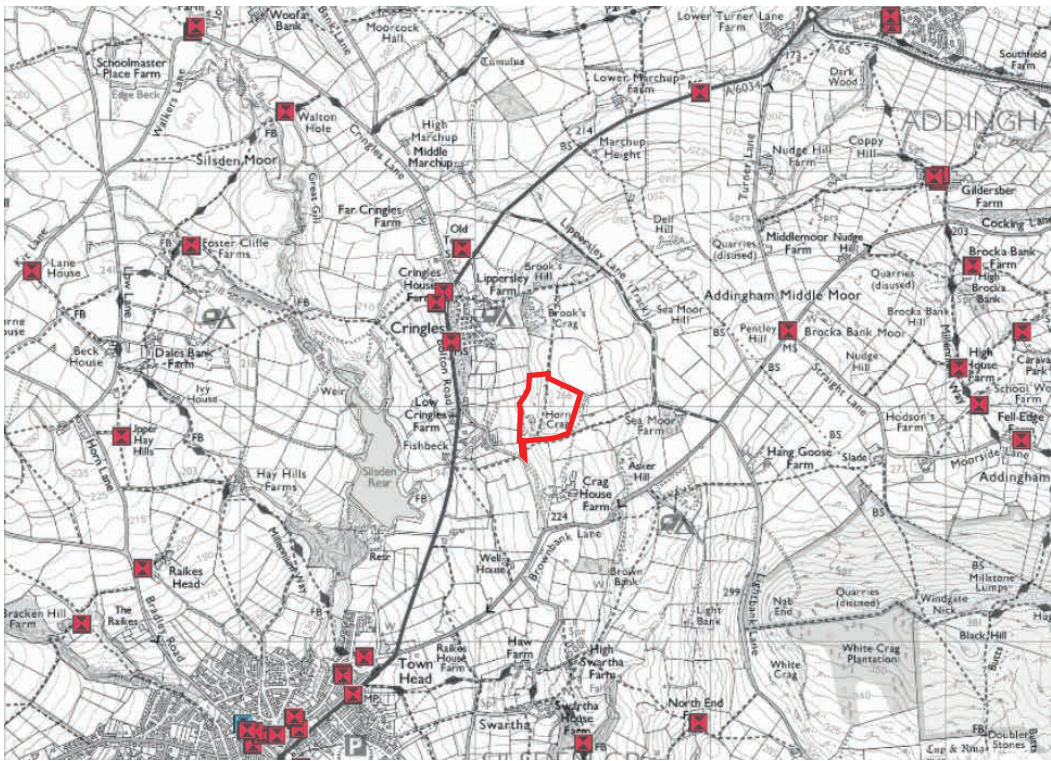
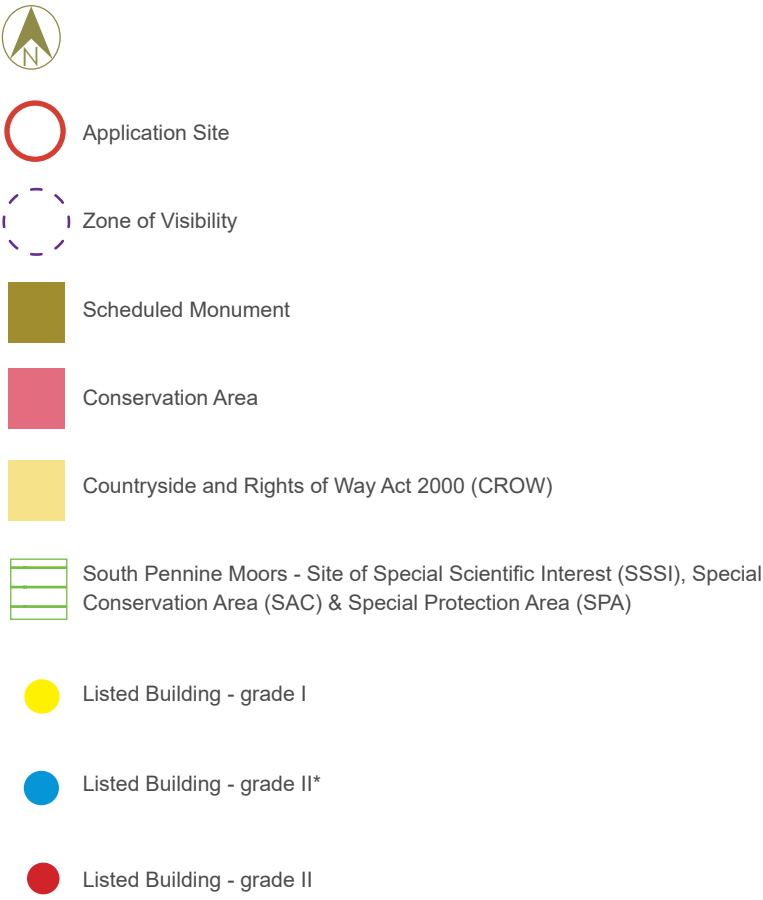
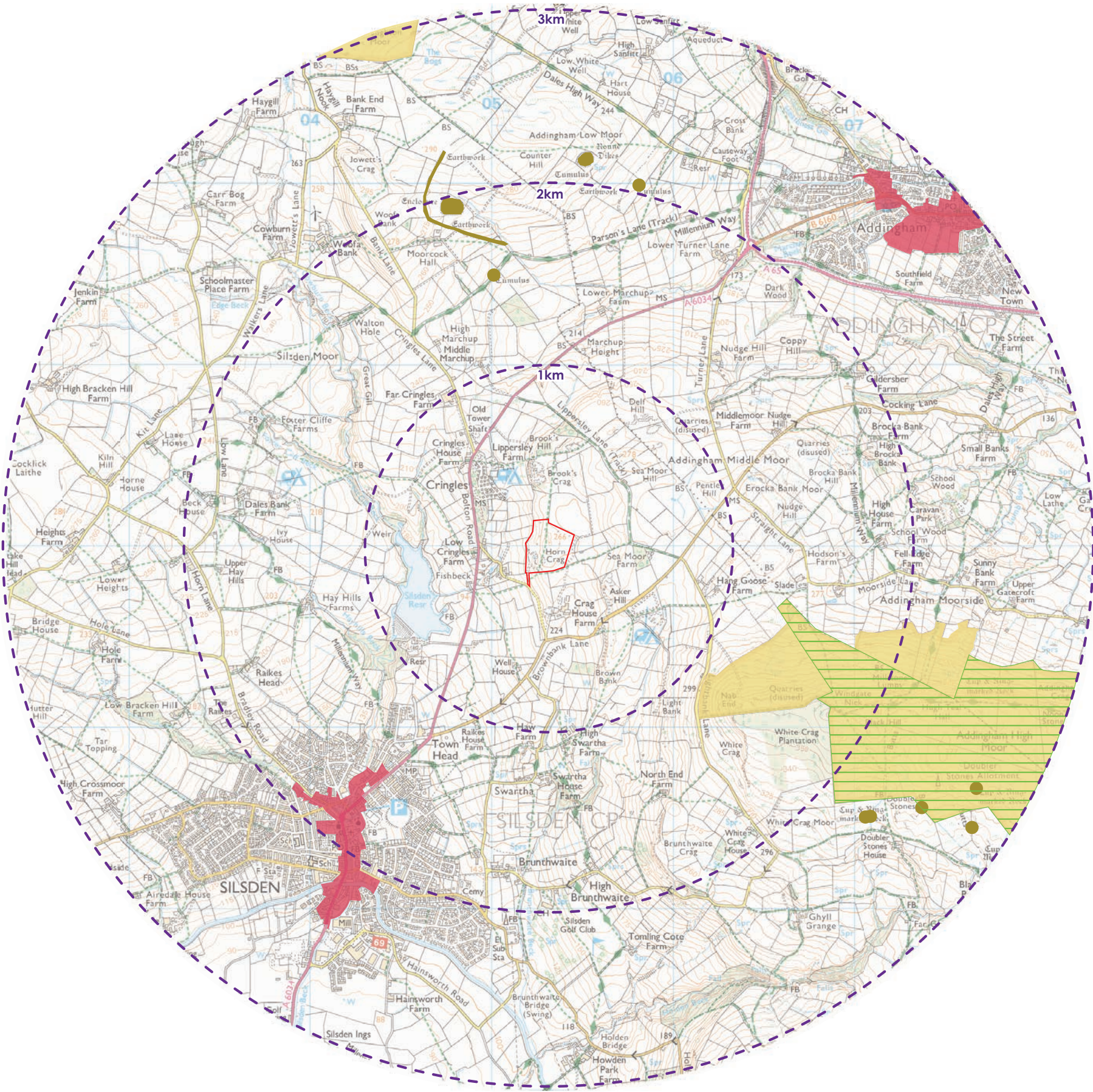
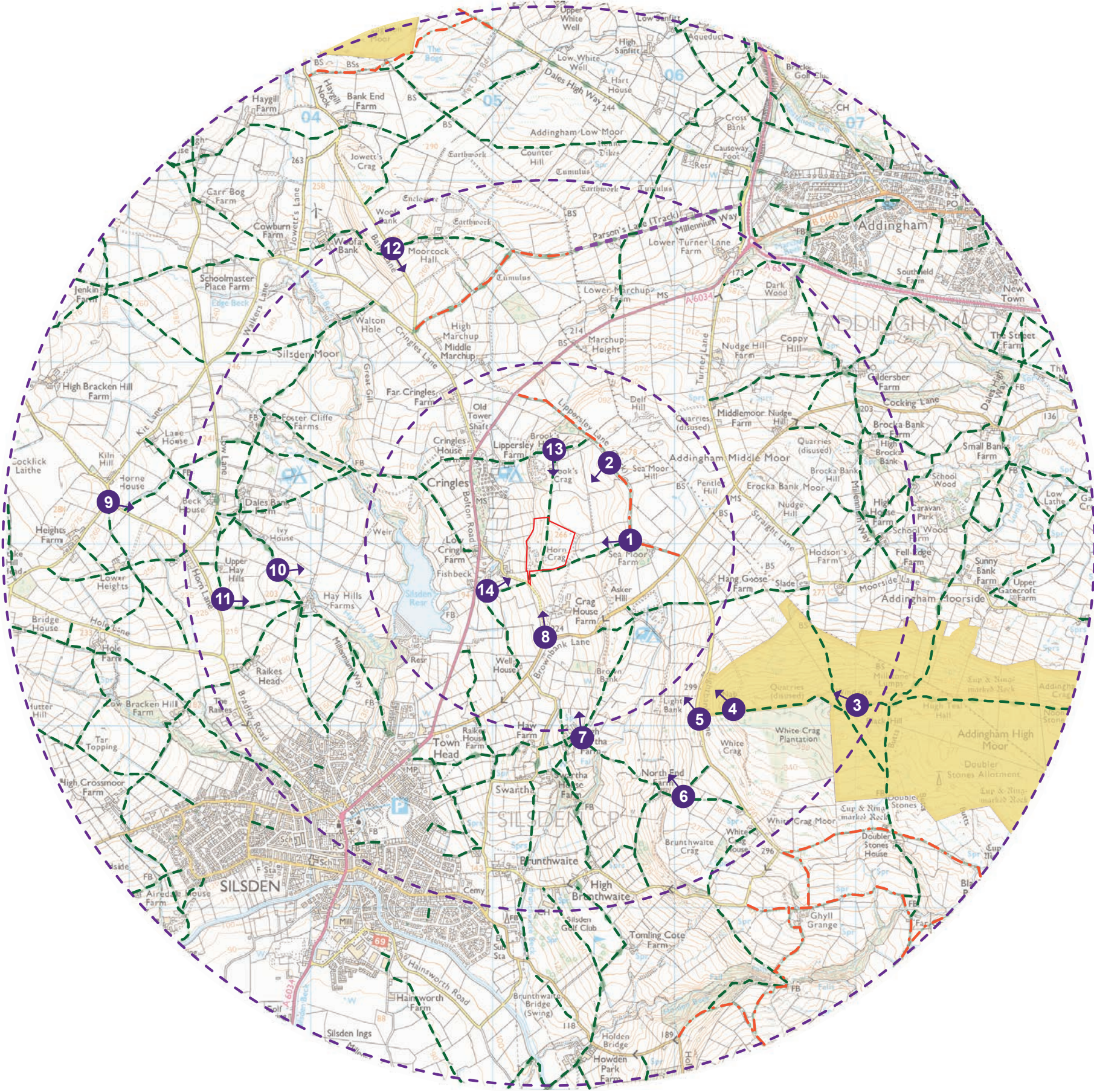









Figure 2: Landscape Designations

Figure 3: Listed Buildings (Source: <https://magic.defra.gov.uk>)

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-  North
-  Application Site
-  Zone of Visibility
-  Public Footpath
-  Public Bridleway
-  Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW)
-  Public Receptor Viewpoints

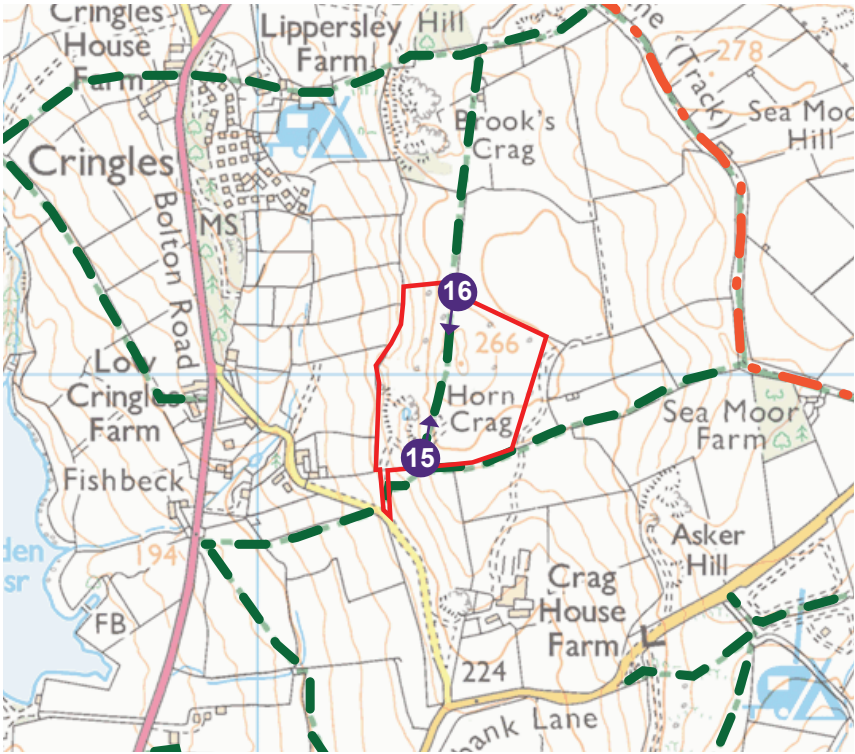
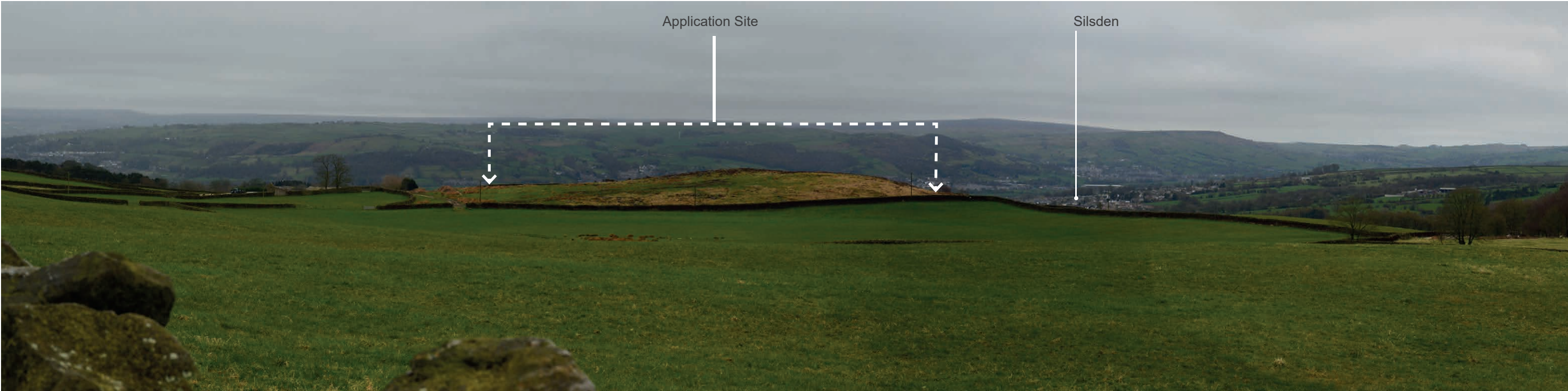


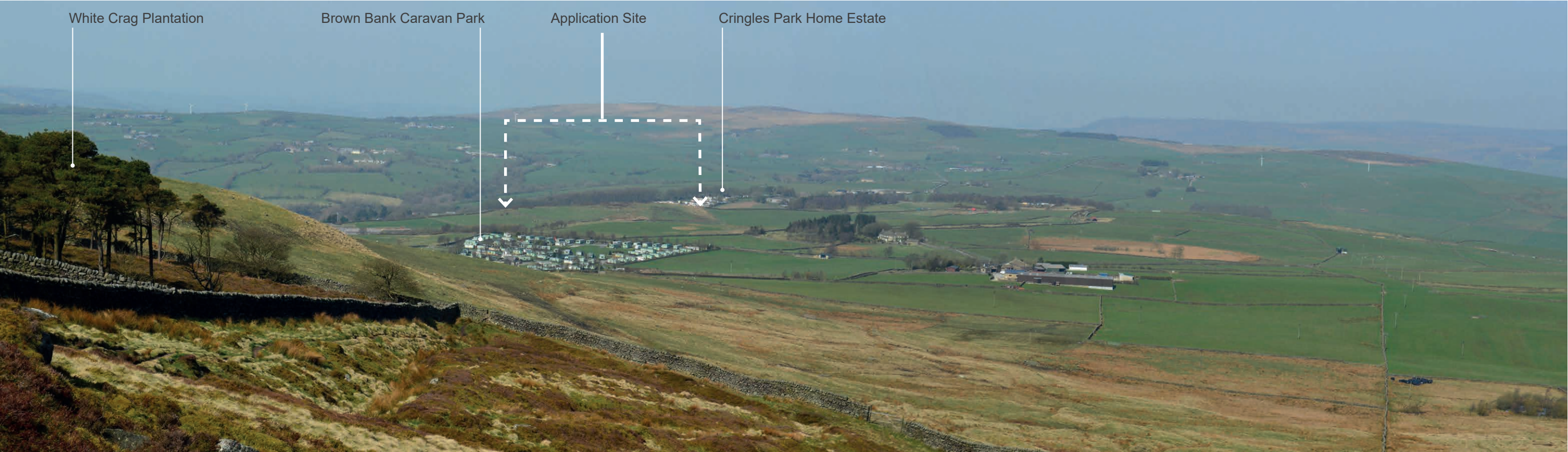
Figure 4: Rights of Way & Viewpoint Locations.



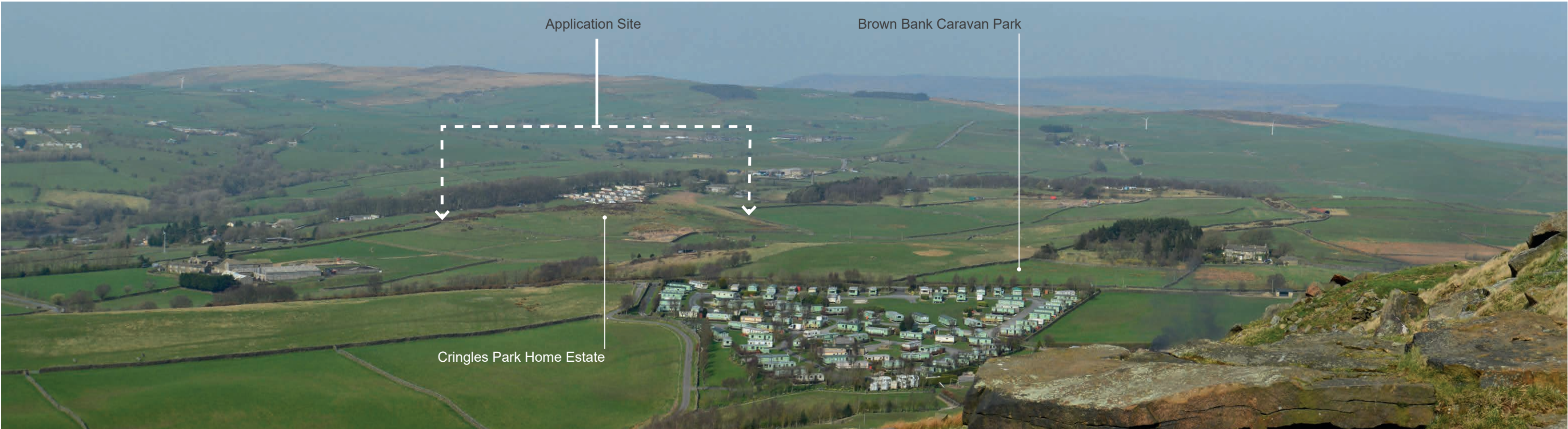
Viewpoint - No.1 Looking west from Footpath Silsden 19.	Grid Reference - SE 05754 48017	Image - Stitched panorama of multiple photographs
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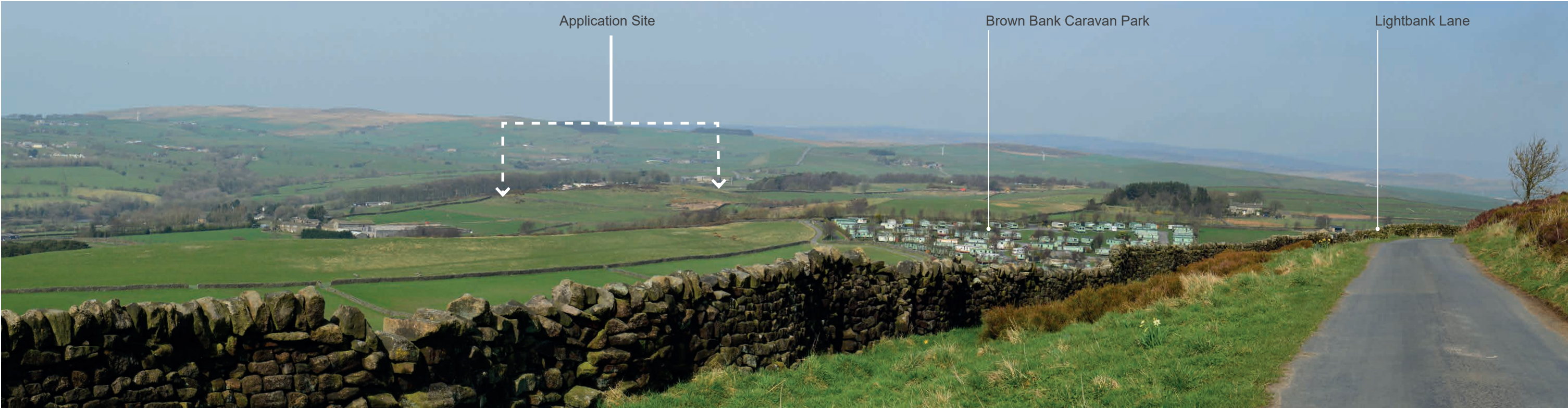
Viewpoint - No.2 Looking south west from Bridleway Silsden 17	Grid Reference - SE 05622 48464	Image - Stitched panorama of multiple photographs
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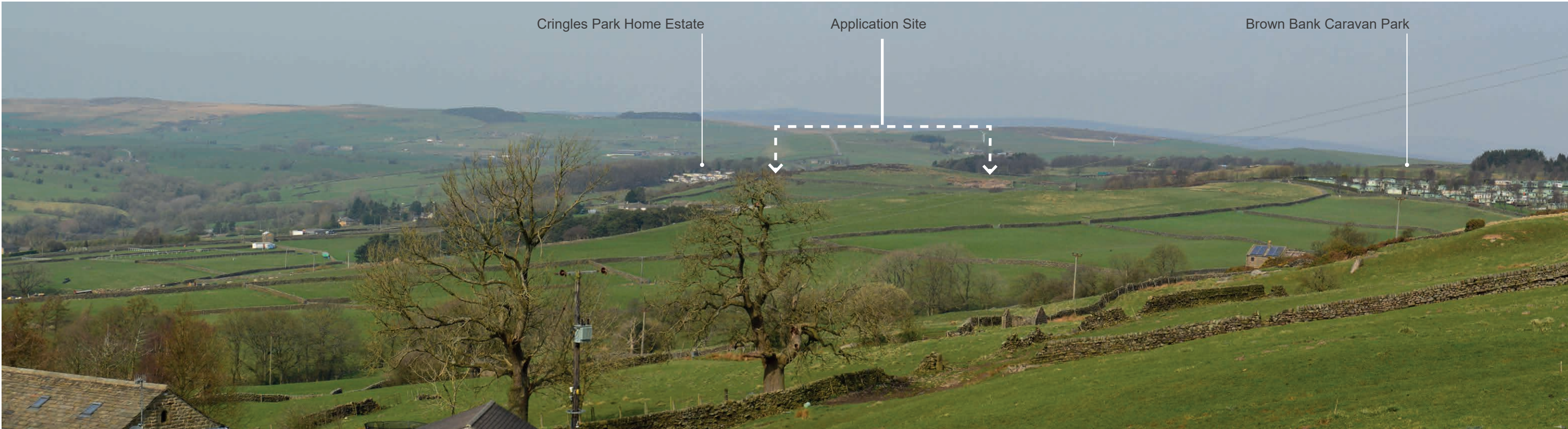
Viewpoint - No.3 Looking north west from Footpath Silsden 36/CROW Access Land	Grid Reference - SE 06952 47091	Image - Stitched panorama of multiple photographs
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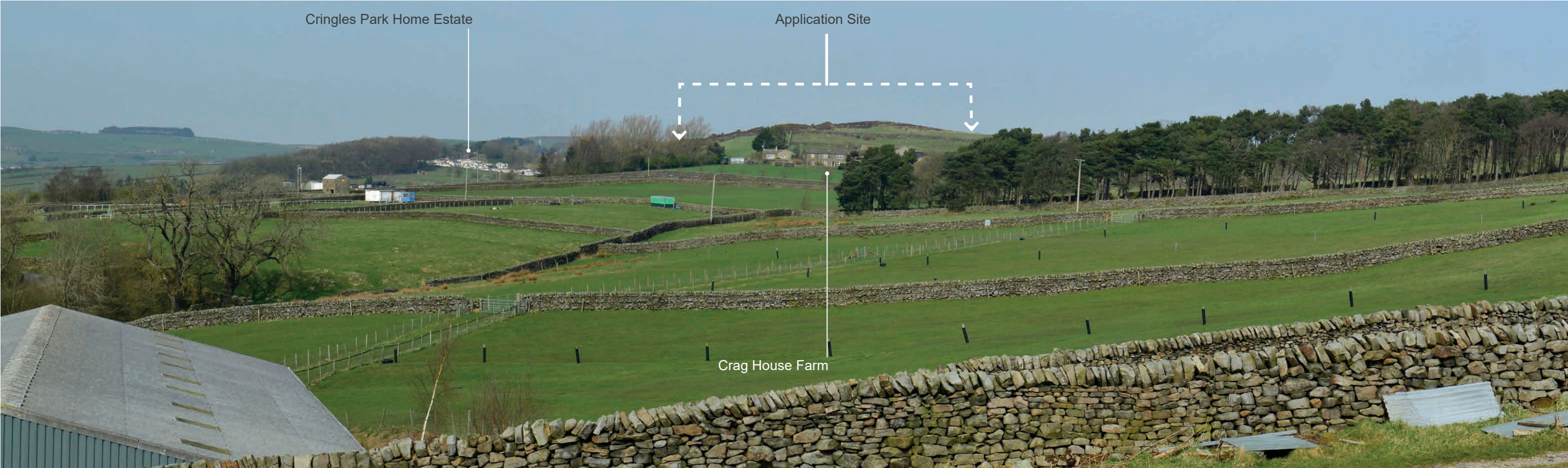
Viewpoint - No.4 Looking north west from Footpath Silsden 36/CROW Access Land.	Grid Reference - SE 06330 47078	Image - Stitched panorama of multiple photographs
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Viewpoint - No.5 Looking north west from Light Bank Lane.	Grid Reference - SE 06133 47047	Image - Stitched panorama of multiple photographs
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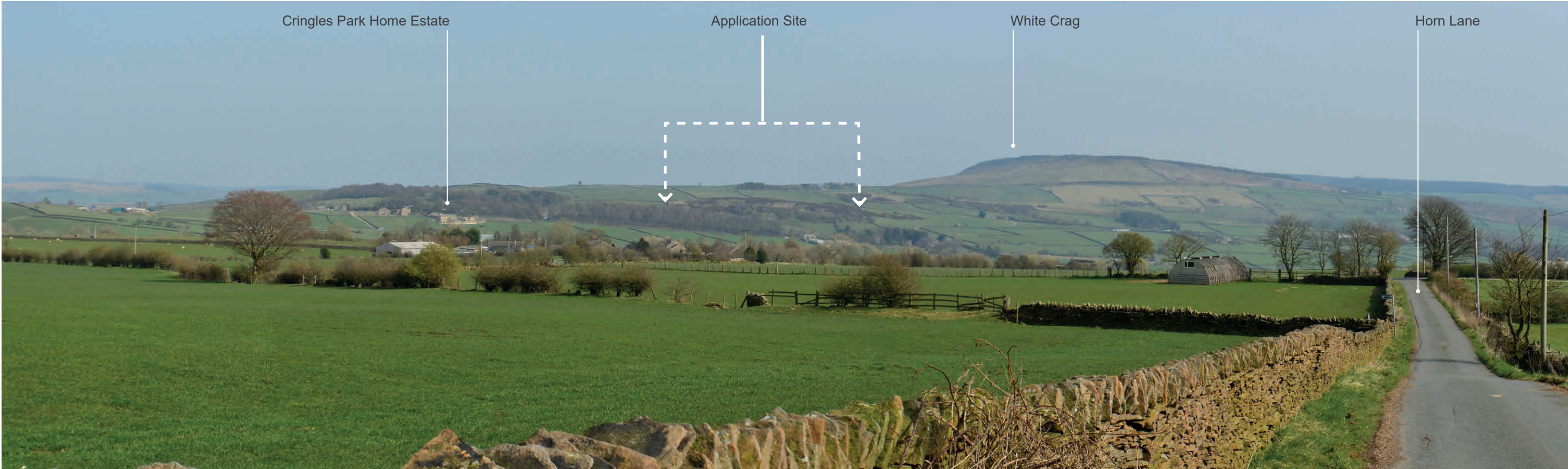
Viewpoint - No.6 Looking north west from Footpath Silsden 39.	Grid Reference - SE 06031 46591	Image - Stitched panorama of multiple photographs
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Viewpoint - No.7 Looking north from Footpath Silsden 39.	Grid Reference - SE 05482 46926	Image - Stitched panorama of multiple photographs
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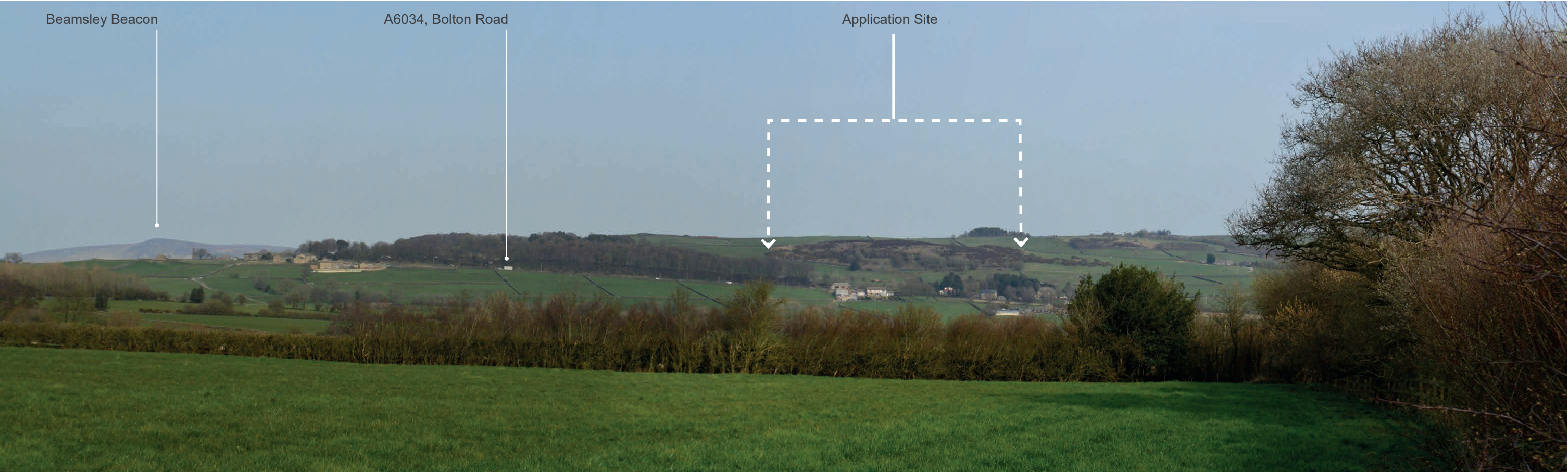
Viewpoint - No.8 Looking north from Fishbeck Lane at the junction with Brown Bank Lane.	Grid Reference - SE 05299 47494	Image - Stitched panorama of multiple photographs
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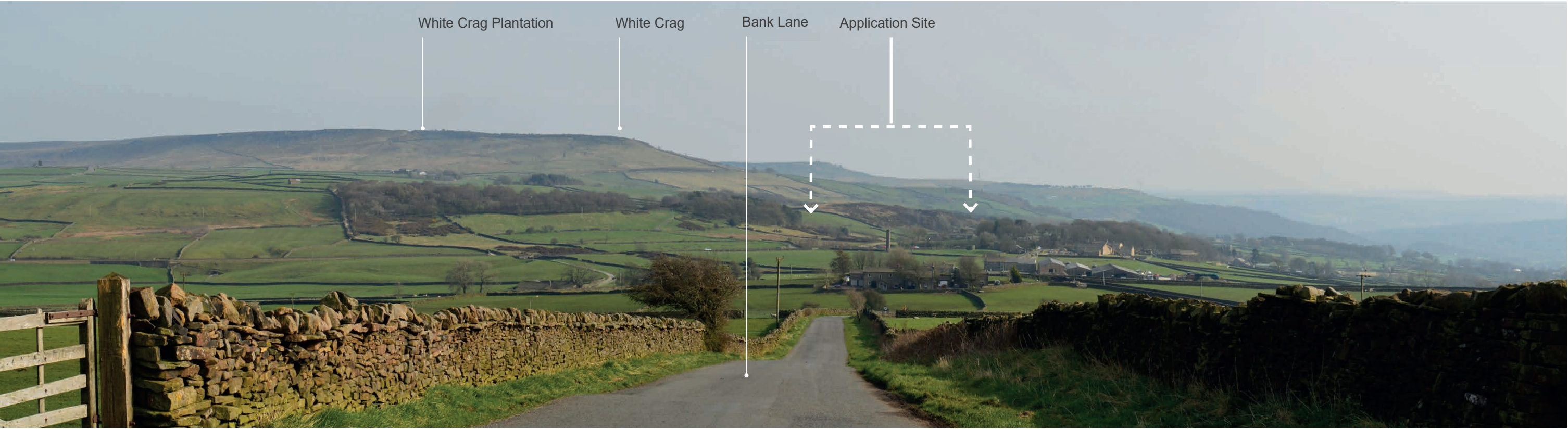
Viewpoint - No.9 Looking west from Horn Lane.	Grid Reference - SE 02880 48231	Image - Stitched panorama of multiple photographs
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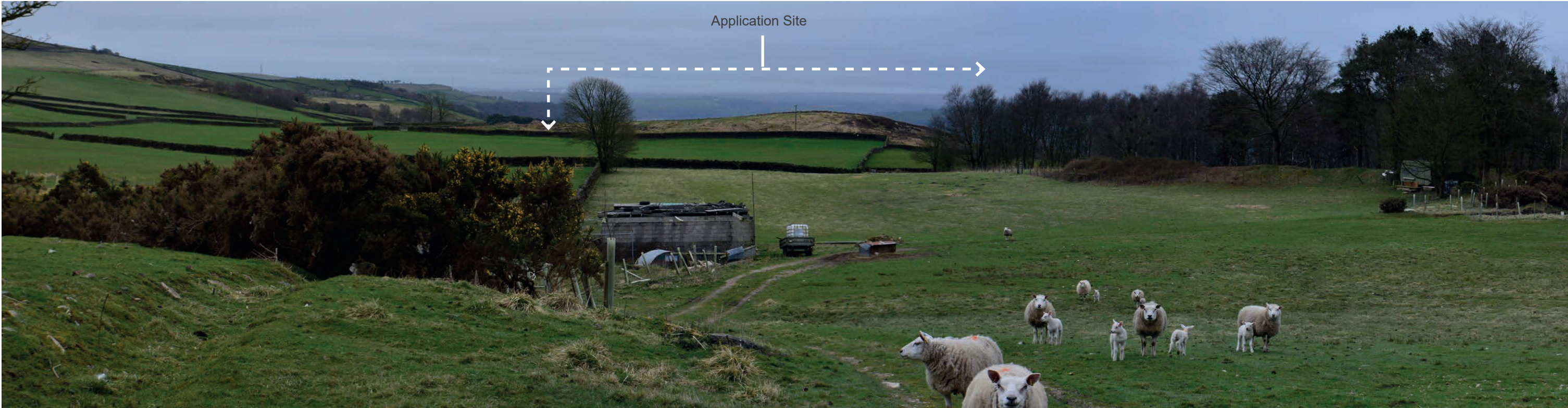
Viewpoint - No.10 Looking west from Footpath Silsden 25.	Grid Reference - SE 03775 47866	Image - Stitched panorama of multiple photographs
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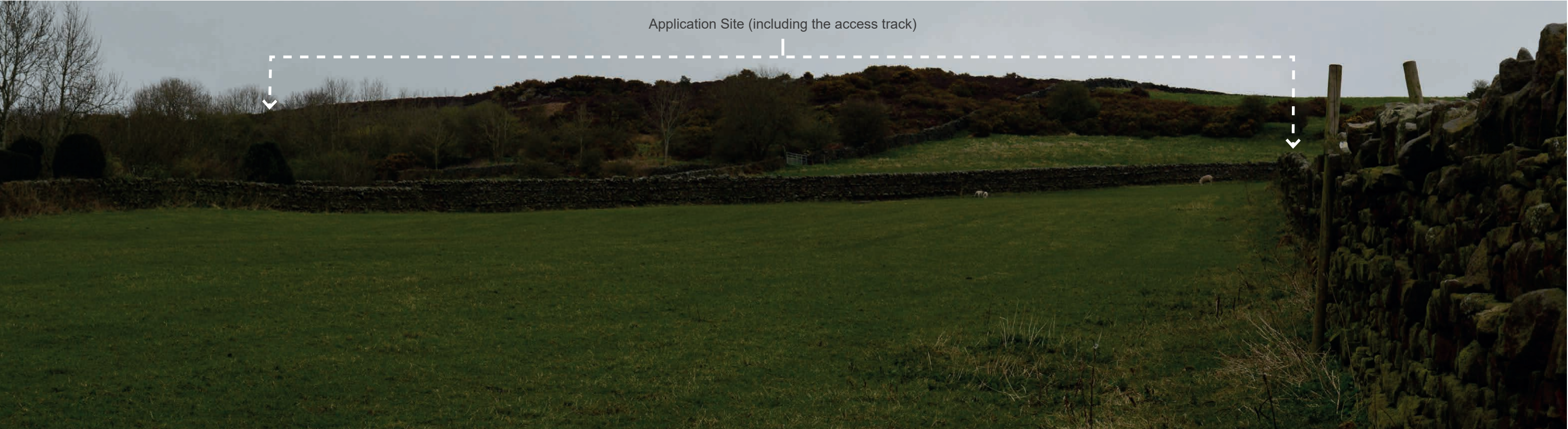
Viewpoint - No.11 Looking west from Footpath Silsden 24.	Grid Reference - SE 03529 47665	Image - Stitched panorama of multiple photographs
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Viewpoint - No.12 Looking south from Bank Lane/Footpath Silsden 8.	Grid Reference - SE 04435 49633	Image - Stitched panorama of multiple photographs
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Viewpoint - No.13 Looking south from Footpath Silsden 18/Silsden 16.	Grid Reference - SE 05340 48521	Image - Stitched panorama of multiple photographs
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Viewpoint - No.14 Looking north east from Footpath Silsden 19.	Grid Reference - SE 05006 47742	Image - Stitched panorama of multiple photographs
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Viewpoint - No.15 Looking north from Footpath Silsden 18 (also representative of views from Silsden 19).	Grid Reference - SE 05305 47864	Image - Stitched panorama of multiple photographs
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Viewpoint - No.16 Looking south from Footpath Silsden 18.	Grid Reference - SE 05320 48127	Image - Stitched panorama of multiple photographs
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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 the landscape will be able to successfully accommodate the development this LVA will:

- 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:

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

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

SENSITIVITY	VISUAL RECEPTORS
HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Users of Public Rights of Way with predominantly open views and of recreational use. • Non-motorised users of minor or unclassified roads in the countryside. • Visitors to recognised viewpoints or beauty spots. • 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.
MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Users of Public Rights of Way with restricted views, in less sensitive areas or where there are significant existing intrusive features. • Schools and other institutional buildings, and their outdoor areas. • Motorised users of minor or unclassified roads in the countryside. Where attention is focussed upon often narrow and winding routes.
LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People in their place of work. • Users of main roads or passengers on public transport on main routes. • Users of outdoor recreational facilities with restricted views and where the activity is focussed within the area. • Occupants of industrial premises.

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

*“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”.*

- 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.

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"> Strong landscape structure, characteristic landscape character with a balanced combination of landform & land cover; Appropriate management of land use and land cover; Distinct features worthy of conservation; Strong sense of place; No detracting features 	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"> Strong landscape structure, with characteristic landscape character and a balanced combination of landform & landcover; Appropriate management of land use and land cover, with potential scope to improve; Distinct features worthy of conservation; Sense of place; Occasional detracting features. 	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"> Recognisable landscape structure, characteristic patterns and combinations of landform and land cover are still evident; Scope to improve management for land use and land cover; Some features worthy of conservation; Sense of place; Some detracting features. 	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"> Distinguishable landscape structure, characteristic patterns of landform and landcover often masked by land use; Scope to improve management of vegetation; Some features worthy of conservation; Some detracting features. 	
POOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak landscape structure, characteristic patterns of landform and landcover are often masked by land use; Lack of management and intervention has results in degradation; Frequent detracting features. 	
VERY POOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degraded landscape structure, characteristic patterns and combinations of landform and land cover are masked by land use; Lack of management / intervention has resulted in degradation; Extensive detracting features. 	
DAMAGED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damaged landscape structure; Disturbed or derelict land requires treatment; Detracting features dominate. 	
DERELICT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land so damaged by industrial or other development that it is incapable of beneficial use without treatment. 	

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.
NEGLECTIBLE	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
MAJOR ADVERSE	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.
MODERATE ADVERSE	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.
MINOR ADVERSE	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.
NEUTRAL	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.
MINOR BENEFICIAL	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.
MODERATE BENEFICIAL	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.
MAJOR BENEFICIAL	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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8.0 ROMBALDS RIDGE: UPLAND PASTURE



8.1 DESCRIPTION

- The Rombalds Ridge upland pastures occur exclusively in the north west of the character area on the 'saddle' of high land separating Airedale and Wharfedale below the gritstone moorland and dissected by the A6034 road from Silsden to Addingham.
- The upland pastures to the west of Cringles are gently undulating and the rolling landform is beginning to show characteristics of the limestone Yorkshire Dales which lie to the north. The farm units in this area are larger and less numerous, consisting of mixed dairy and sheep grazing units; there are some remnants of hedgerows.
- The upland pasture to the east of Cringles lie on the steeper, concave slopes below Addingham Moorside. The farmsteads here are smaller and more frequent, based more on sheep grazing.
- Generally the upland pastures all display the characteristic simplicity of well managed field systems although the grasslands are substantially improved and therefore not ecologically rich. An intimate network of minor roads connect the farmsteads.

- The upland pastures are virtually treeless except for a few small shelter belt woodlands, consisting of mixed or coniferous species.
- The general lack of tree cover and elevated views from within the area give a strong sense of remoteness.

8.2 LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

8.2.1 Analysis

• **Strength of Character** **Strong**

A uniform simplicity of the gently rolling landform managed pastures and stonewall boundaries give this landscape type a strong character.

• **Condition** **Good**

The improved pasture grasslands are in good condition with traditional sheep and cattle grazing predominating. Stone boundary walls are in good repair.

Condition	Good	STRENGTHEN	Strengthen and Conserve	CONSERVE
	Declining	Strengthen and Enhance	Conserve and Enhance	Conserve and Restore
	Poor	CREATION	Restore and Enhance	RESTORE
		Weak	Moderate	Strong
	Character			

8.2.2 Policy Guidelines

Conserve

- Conserve the simple patchwork of field systems bounded by stone boundary walls. Restore hedges as boundaries where applicable.
- Large scale tree planting is not appropriate to the character of the area, although small mixed shelter belts around farmsteads would be acceptable.
- Encourage the traditional management of grasslands as hay meadows to improve the biodiversity of the area.

8.3 POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT

8.3.1 Sensitivity Analysis

- **Strength of character** **Strong**
See above]

- **Historic continuity** **High**
The pastoral land use would appear to have been continuous for along time. Recent expansion of some of the farm units has not altered the general character of the area.

- **Visual exposure & enclosure** **Prominent & open**
The upland pastures have an open character and are notably prominent from the A6034 giving a pleasing visual framework to Addingham High Moor to the south east and Skipton Moor to the north west. The area to the west of Woofa Bank is less prominent from the surrounding area.

8.3.2 Traditional Settlement Pattern

- Isolated farmsteads in traditional gritstone.

8.3.3 Policy Guidelines

- With a strong character, high historic continuity, open character and a prominent position in the countryside, this landscape can be considered to be very sensitive to development.
- The character of the upland pastures is based upon the single traditional farmstead and any change to this pattern would weaken its strength.

- Large 'specimen' size sycamores are often associated with isolated farm buildings and are an important landscape component. Thinning of smaller self-set groups with the replanting of oaks would be appropriate.
- Small-scale expansion of farm units should be related to proven agricultural need. Large modern buildings and silos should be discouraged where possible or mitigated with local small scale tree planting.
- Major changes to the traditional road network of narrow lanes and dry stonewalls would significantly weaken the character.

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