

WEST OXFORDSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

CARTERTON LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT 2009

APPENDIX A
WOLA/AHLC ASSESSMENT SUMMARY TABLES

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TABLE A AREA A: NORTH OF CARTERTON	
WOLA ASSESSMENT	AHLC ASSESSMENT
Landscape characteristics	
Open limestone wolds farmland and rural fringe landscapes	Area unchanged, but major new development area to south, separated from countryside to north in east of area (A2) by country park. Divided into 3 areas based on topography/landuse.
mostly large-scale, gently rolling farmland mostly arable	Unchanged
large rectilinear fields, weak landscape structure	Unchanged
plateau location	Minor shallow valley in east of area (A2)
land forms an important buffer between Carterton and Shilton	Plateau land in west of area (A1) important part of gap. Area A2 plays little role in this. The vegetation in Area A3 is important in softening views of the town from the north west.
part of area allocated for development	Part of rural fringe land to south allocated for development; proposed link road taken as new southern boundary of assessment.
small area of rural fringe including 'horsiculture'	Largely unchanged.
small area of recreational land	Has extensive visual impact due to lighting.
urban/rural edge untidy and 'straggly'	Agreed, but small scale small holding landscape is typical of Carterton, and provides generally soft edge to town.
Visual characteristics	
high intervisibility over most of the area to the north, views limited within fringe area, hidden pockets of land	High intervisibility in Area A1 (plateau), views more limited in Areas A2 (minor valley) and A3 (rural fringe).
ridgeline east of Shilton carrying the B4020 - very sensitive to landscape change	Unchanged
urban edge softened by vegetation but scruffy appearance	Unchanged in Areas A1 and A3, but new Shilton Park development visible on skyline from Area A2.
intrusive features such as floodlighting	Unchanged
Key sensitivities and considerations	
need to strengthen landscape edge	Landscape edge relatively robust, opportunity to improve in west with construction of new link road. Country park planting will soften Shilton Park development in time, but it is important to complete planting in the west of the park.
need to improve overall landscape quality and ensure that new development on allocated land strengthens the landscape edge and maintains buffer between Carterton and Shilton	Unchanged

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TABLE B AREA B: EAST OF CARTERTON	
WOLA ASSESSMENT	AHLC ASSESSMENT
Landscape characteristics	
open limestone wolds farmland, rural fringe farmland and airfield	West of area now developed within strong landscape structure. Area B1 covers remainder of area, with Area B2 covering minor valley running through Brize Norton, not previously assessed.
mostly large-scale, gently rolling farmland mostly arable	Apart from new development area and addition of playing fields, unchanged.
large rectilinear fields, weak landscape structure	Unchanged within majority of B1, but edge of new development has new strong landscape structure.
plateau location	Unchanged
small area of rural fringe including 'horsiculture'	No longer applies.
large part of the area allocated for development	Now built up, with large country park to north.
urban rural edge quite distinct except along the Carterton Road corridor where urban edge is more 'straggly'	Unchanged
perimeter buildings, structure and boundary treatment of Brize Norton Airfield adversely affect the landscape gap separating Carterton and Brize Norton village	Unchanged, but this does not diminish importance of gap
Visual characteristics	
high intervisibility, extensive, uninterrupted views across open land	Unchanged
views out over countryside to the north largely unspoilt by urban influences	Unchanged
views east in and out of Carterton dominated by intrusive presence of airfield	Unchanged
prominent urban edge to Carterton, highly visible on the skyline	Increased by new development on skyline, though gradually being partly softened by planting.
dreary urban character of approach road from the east, numerous intrusive urban elements	Largely unchanged, strong contrast to vernacular character of Brize Norton
Key sensitivities and considerations	
need to substantially raise environmental quality throughout the whole area and ensure that new development strengthens landscape edges	Still applies, though planting around new development is strengthening landscape edge to town, and planting around playing fields improves eastern approach to Carterton
need to soften existing harsh urban edges and to improve the landscape quality of the main approach into Carterton from the east	Still applies, though planting around new development is strengthening landscape edge to town, and planting around playing fields improves eastern approach to Carterton; but airfield still intrusive presence
need to strengthen landscape structure of farmland, more hedgerows/stone walls and more hedgerow trees	Still applies, though planting alongside new road around edge of Shilton Park, and country park planting, are providing new landscape structure
need to maintain strategic gap between Carterton and Brize Norton village	Unchanged

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NOTE:
 AREA C BLACK BOURTON (LAND SOUTH OF BRIZE NORTON AIRFIELD) NOT REVISITED IN THIS STUDY

TABLE D AREA D: WEST OF CARTERTON	
WOLA ASSESSMENT	AHLC ASSESSMENT
Landscape characteristics	
enclosed, minor valley and open limestone wolds farmland	Unchanged, but divided into Area D1 (plateau) and Areas D2 and D3 (upper and lower Shill Brook valley)
attractive, steep, well-vegetated minor valley immediately to the west of Carterton, provides a very strong landscape edge	Unchanged. Valley widens and shallows in south of area (Area D3)
open, elevated, large scale rectilinear fields beyond the valley to the west	Unchanged, within Area A1
strong landscape edge reinforced by topography	Unchanged
rural character largely unaffected by urban influences	Unchanged
Visual characteristics	
generally high intervisibility except in the river valley where views in and out are limited by topography and intervening vegetation	Unchanged
urban edge strongly silhouetted in views from the west and very sensitive to change	Generally soft edge, except along parts of Shilton Road
mature vegetation generally softens urban edge	As above
good unspoilt views out from urban edge	Views from Upavon Way screened by trees/scrub. Some views out from Shilton Road area
good landscape approach from the west along B4020.	Unchanged
Key sensitivities and considerations	
minor valley an important landscape resource and sensitive to change	Unchanged. Willow meadows an important local resource
western edge of Carterton sensitive to change - particularly sensitive skyline	Unchanged, though generally well screened at present
need to maintain landscape strength along western fringe and particularly within the minor valley	Unchanged