

Appendix 2: Summary of the scoping exercise

Source: Forestry Commission

Executive summary

The Forestry Commission requires that an Environmental Impact Assessment is undertaken to assess the likely environmental impacts of the proposed community greenspace at Jeskyns Farm, Cobham, Kent. This document details the proposed approach and scope of issues to be covered by the assessment.

Table 1 overleaf provides a summary of the main issues that will be covered by the environmental impact assessment and a proposed significance rating which reflects the level of assessment proposed for each topic. A 'Low' significance rating indicates that impacts are not considered to be significant and will be considered only briefly within the ES, a 'Medium' significance rating indicates a likelihood of moderately significant impacts and will be given general consideration within the ES and a 'High' significance rating indicates impacts that are potentially of high significance which will be covered by a specialist assessment.

Main issue and author	Significance rating	Sub-issues
Material assets including the architectural and archaeological heritage <i>(Gifford)</i>	High	Assessment of the archaeological potential of the site.
		Assessment of potential impacts upon archaeological remains.
		Suggestions for further archaeological investigations.
		Impact on Listed Buildings eg Owletts
		Historic field boundaries
Landscape and Visual Environment <i>(The Landscape Partnership)</i>	High	Character and quality of the Kent Downs AONB
		North Downs Special Landscape Area
		Metropolitan Green Belt
		Landscape features – hedgerows, veteran trees
		Landscape character
		Views from surrounding properties and public rights of way towards the site
		Views from the site of the surrounding area (particularly long distance views)
Views from the CTRL and A2		
Policy Context <i>(The Landscape Partnership)</i>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International designations/policies
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National designations/policies/PPGs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Planning Guidance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure plan policies
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local plan policies
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies in the emerging LDF
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry policies

Main issue and author	Significance rating	Sub-issues
Population <i>(The Landscape Partnership and Odyssey Consulting Engineers)</i>	High	Impact on character of local settlements
	High	Impact on security and amenity of adjacent properties
	Low	Impact on health and fitness of the local population
	Medium	Impact on accessibility to the countryside
	Medium	Impact on local facilities (including schools)
	High	Impact on traffic and highways
Fauna and flora <i>(The Landscape Partnership)</i>	High	Relationship to Biodiversity Action Plans and Habitat Action Plans
		Impact on existing wildlife: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breeding birds • Mammals • Invertebrates • Reptiles • Amphibians
		Impact on existing habitats
		Impact of proposed habitats
Soils and Land use <i>(Land Research Associates)</i>	High	Non-farming use of 'best and most versatile' agricultural land
		Impacts on soil quality
Water quality and hydrology <i>(The Landscape Partnership)</i>	Low	Groundwater recharge
Air quality <i>(The Landscape Partnership)</i>	Low	Potential for air quality improvement
Climate <i>(The Landscape Partnership)</i>	Low	Impact on local climate and possibility of acting as a carbon sink. Impact of climate change upon species choice and plant provenance.